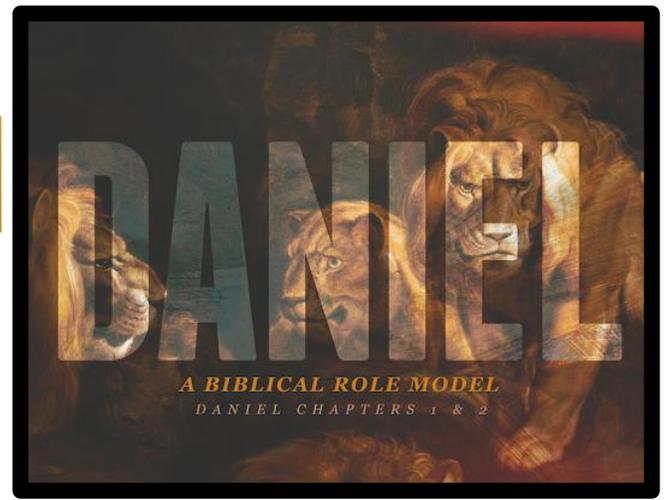


HEROES OF THE FAITH

DANIEL: Nebuchadnezzar's Dreams

4 November 2020



Chapter 2

➤ Nebuchadnezzar's dreams. (vv. 1-11)

- ❖ Daniel provides another historical marker (604 B.C.) – second year of the king's reign (v. 1)
- ❖ He knew these dreams were different. Deeply troubled by them he could not sleep.
- ❖ *Dreams given by God can only be interpreted by God.*
- ❖ The meaning of dreams.
 - In antiquity, dreams were thought to foreshadow future events.
 - For a king, it was believed his dreams held kingdom implications.
- ❖ The king called the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, & the Chaldeans before him. (vv. 2-3)
- ❖ The Chaldeans followed the logical protocol in these matters. (v. 4)
- ❖ ***NOTE: The text from here through chapter seven is in Aramaic.***
- ❖ *Nebuchadnezzar drastically turned the tables on the spiritual leadership in his court.* (vv. 5-6)
- ❖ These leaders pleaded with the king to tell them the dream. (v. 7)
- ❖ Spiritual Warfare (vv. 8-11)
 - Nebuchadnezzar seemingly had been down this road before. (vv. 8-9)
 - His angst indicated how deeply troubled he was about the dream. (vv. 1, 3, 5-6)
 - He needed absolute certainty he knew what the dream meant.
 - He had seen his magical court fail him too many times before. (vv. 8-9)
 - Spiritual impact. The magical court had to tell him the dream. Then, interpret it. (v. 9)
 - The Chaldeans answered the king correctly. (vv. 10-11)
 - KEY: In spiritual matters...

- ...where man cannot, God can.
- ...where man will not, God will.
- ...when man does not, God does.
- ...when man is silent, God speaks.

"How big is your God?"

- | | |
|------|-------|
| i. | Yes |
| ii. | No |
| iii. | _____ |

➤ The king's decree. Daniel's faith in God. (vv. 12-16)

- ❖ God gives us a look into Nebuchadnezzar's character. (vv. 12-13)
- ❖ God provides more insight into Daniel's character. (vv. 14-16)
- ❖ NOTE: Daniel's faith in God. (vv. 15-16)

- Psalm 23:1-4; 91:1-2
- Isaiah 41:10

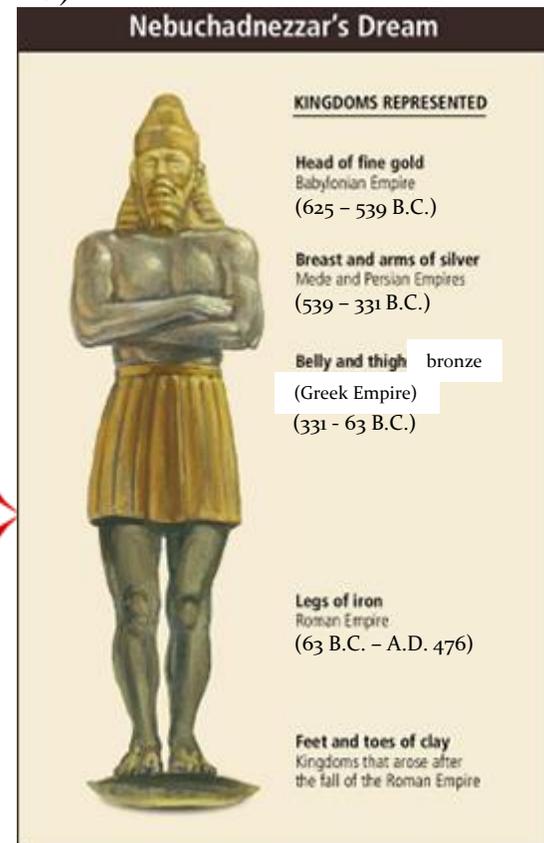


➤ God reveals Nebuchadnezzar's dream. (vv. 17-30)

- ❖ Daniel told Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah – friends, servants of God, & prayer warriors. (vv. 17-18)
- ❖ God revealed the dream to Daniel in a vision. (v. 19)
- ❖ Daniel praised God for His revelation to him. (v. 20) God was, & is, sovereign. (vv. 21-23)
- ❖ Daniel went to Arioch. (v. 24) Arioch quickly him to see the king. (v. 25)
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar's question. (v. 26)
- ❖ Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar no mere man could meet his demand. But, God could. (vv. 27-28)
- ❖ Only the God of heaven is sovereign. He alone has made known the dream's future implications. (vv. 28-29)
- ❖ Daniel's humility. His praise to God. The king understood own thoughts. (vv. 29-30)

➤ God interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, via Daniel. (vv. 31-45)

- ❖ God revealed the dream. (vv. 31-33)
- ❖ God establishes His Messianic kingdom. (vv. 34-35)
- ❖ God's kingdom will be eternal. (v. 35)
- ❖ The dream's interpretation. (vv. 36-45)
 - ❑ God alone made the king great. (vv. 36-38)
 - ❑ Nebuchadnezzar is the head of gold. (v. 38)
 - ❑ Another inferior kingdom (silver) would rise after the king is gone. (v. 39)
 - ❑ A third kingdom (bronze) would follow, & rule all the earth. (v. 39)
 - ❑ A fourth kingdom (iron) would follow. (v. 40)
 - ❑ Divided kingdoms (iron & clay) would follow. It would be partly strong & partly brittle. These kingdoms will not hold. (vv. 41-43)
 - ❑ God of heaven establishes His eternal kingdom. This great God has made His plans known to Nebuchadnezzar in this dream. It is true, prophetic, & certain. (vv. 44-45)



➤ Nebuchadnezzar's response. (vv. 46-49)

- ❖ The king humbled himself before Daniel. The king did what most kings never did. (v. 46)
- ❖ The king acknowledges Daniel's God is the only true God. (v. 47)
- ❖ **NOTE:** *The difference between belief in God & faith in God.* (James 2:19)
- ❖ The king promoted Daniel within the kingdom (ruler over the Babylonian province), and, his court (chief prefect over all wise men). (v. 48)
- ❖ Per Daniel's request, the king also promoted Daniel's friends. (v. 49)
- ❖ Daniel remained in the king's court. (**)

