

## Recall the Major Themes from Chapter 1

1. Babylon
2. Jerusalem
3. What caused Jerusalem to fall
4. Temple
5. Suffer for righteousness' sake
6. God is the judge
7. What defiles
8. How to relate to authority
9. Excellent spirit

## Overview of Daniel 2

- 1-13 Dream Failure (Nebuchadnezzar and Wise Men)
- 14-23 Daniel's Inquiry (3 levels), the Spirit of Prophecy, and Praise
- 24-30 To the King, from the King of Kings
- 31-36 The Dream
- 37-45 The Interpretation: the Rest of Earth's History
- 46-49 The Immediate Aftermath in Nebuchadnezzar's Court

### Dream Failure (Nebuchadnezzar and Wise Men)

Human limitations meeting human limitations:

Nebuchadnezzar: demands, threats, accusations

Wise men: request was impossible, unprecedented, rare; "except the gods" (same word in 10 verses)

### Daniel's Inquiry, the Spirit of Prophecy, and Praise

Level 1 captain - Level 2 king - Level 3 God of heaven (group intercession)

This Secret Revealed ("secret" used in 18, 19, 27-30, 47); Spirit of Prophecy

Praise

**Major theme: God removes and sets up kings**

**Major theme: Light dwells with God** ("God of my fathers")

### To the King, from the King of Kings

Human impossibility is not that for the God in heaven

What shall be in the latter days

### The Dream

Structure (4 main divisions)

"Till" is the transition

**Major theme: "till" will introduce the major transition in all of Daniel's overviews**

Action: "without hands," destruction, replacement

### The Interpretation: the Rest of Earth's History

First kingdom: 2 verses

Second and Third kingdoms: 1 verse

Fourth kingdom: 4 verses; iron; divided, mixed

God's Kingdom: 2 verses; "for ever" = key word

**Major theme: 4 kingdoms, transition, God's kingdom = "what shall come to pass hereafter"**

### The Immediate Aftermath in Nebuchadnezzar's Court

God of gods, Lord of kings, Revealer of secrets

**Major theme: the God in heaven in Whom dwells light shines into a king's dark mind and heart**

## Major Themes So Far

1. *Babylon*: kingdom God used to punish Judah; destroyed Jerusalem and the temple; took captives
2. *Jerusalem*: city of God where His people lived; Josiah was the last good king
3. *What caused Jerusalem to fall*: had become defiled; refused to hear the prophets; hard heart
4. *Temple*: God's house in Jerusalem; where He demonstrated His giving nature in face of sin
5. *Suffer for righteousness' sake*: Daniel suffered (loss of home, captive, eunuch) though he was righteous
6. *God is the judge*: Daniel's parents acknowledged God's role as judge as their nation faced its doom
7. *What defiles*: living as God did not design; not humbling self before God; body also God's dwelling
8. *How to relate to authority*: no earthly leader is perfect; submission to God first, then to earthly leader
9. *Excellent spirit*: understanding God's character, role of suffering (purify, witness), no bitterness, excel
10. *The testimony of Jesus*: the spirit of Christ speaks through messengers to reveal secrets
11. *God removes and sets up kings*: earthly domains defiled by Satan's principles, but God is still in charge
12. *Light dwells with God*: God's core character is giving; His energy is the universal paradigm of life
13. *4 kingdoms, transition, God's kingdom*: pattern for rest of earth history after Daniel's time, "hereafter"
14. *"Till" will introduce the major transition*: in all of Daniel's overviews we will see this word as a key
15. *God shines into darkness*: God's light of giving shines in the darkness of no giving and of taking
16. *"Everlasting" describes God's kingdom*: this key word points to eternity; giving overcomes taking

## Thought on Everlasting

(1) God's kingdom is everlasting. *Prophecy*: 2:44 (x2); 7:14, 18 (x3), 27; 12:2, 3; *Story*: 4:3, 34; 6:26

(2) Everlasting in the future only?

God's kingdom will never end (everlasting, for ever). It appears that it will begin "in the days of these kings" (2:44), but that is only in the sense of on this earth and of replacing all of what has been here. Both in the sense of the rest of the universe, and in the sense of the hearts of those of faith (to see the unseen), it already exists, has always existed, and will never end. When all else collapses related to the kingdom of darkness, it will remain. For evidence of this immediate dimension of everlasting, see both Daniel's and Nebuchadnezzar's confessions of immediate dominion of God (2:21; 4:3).

(3) Why does God's kingdom last forever?

It is based on a different principle. This is the underlying truth of all of Daniel, and all of Scripture. Daniel 8 will most clearly touch on it. This is the root to the great conflict, and is in contrast to that which the earthly

kingdoms are based on. These two contrasting principles are what EGW calls in Ed190 both "the two principles that are contending for supremacy" and "the two antagonistic motives." Consider by contrast this amazing, current description of the great principle of the worldly empires and nations:

"Like Thucydides, Patton appreciated that **the emotions** that sophisticated people sometimes think are so unimportant—such as **fear, pride** and honor—are in fact **what drives us humans**, and therefore must be addressed in any total war. ... **Soldiers are proud** and sensitive beings, and **must be rewarded and punished in visible ways, war being the essence of human of emotion.** ... A modern Patton ... would make sure that he had **not only defeated the terrorists and their supporters, but had done so in such damaging fashion** that none in the Middle East might find such a repugnant cause at all romantic, bringing as it did **utter ruin as the wage of the wrath of the United States.**

"Patton, who was both learned and yet not smug about **the power of the primordial emotions**, understood perfectly the irrational nature of warfare and the effect that utter defeat or glorious victory has upon an otherwise rational people. No wonder he hated war defined as a purely bureaucratic enterprise or a purely material and industrial challenge, inasmuch as neither can **change the hearts of men that need to be changed.** Instead, they usually increase the body count and rarely **lead to lasting peace.** We should remember wild-eyed George Patton in our Fallujahs to come."

--Victor David Hanson, "What Would Patton Say About the Present War?" *Imprimis*, October 2004, Vol. 33, Number 10, p. 7; emphasis supplied)

#### (4) Perpetual Earthly Government?

Consider the implications of Abraham Lincoln's words from his First Inaugural Address. The South started Civil War the next month. According to Rev. 12 & 13, this nation is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom. Ask yourself the question, in light of Rev. 13:11, "Is this describing the lamb or the dragon?"

"I hold, that in contemplation of universal law, and of the Constitution, the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper, ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination. Continue to execute all the express provisions of our national Constitution, and the Union will endure forever -- it being impossible to destroy it, except by some action not provided for in the instrument itself." (<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/1inaug.htm>)

#### Thoughts on Cosmic Dimensions

1. The earthly kingdoms are replaced by God's kingdom. But it is really God versus humans?
2. Isaiah some generations before showed who was really behind Babylon: a rebellious Lucifer (Isa. 14:4, 12).
3. So the earthly kingdoms are really manifestations of Lucifer's rebellion, embodying his lie.
4. Abraham, and his people (the children of Israel) and their sanctuary were called to be witnesses to God, his truth, but they succumbed to the lie, like the first man and woman who were made to reflect God's image, but bought the lie.
5. So the earthly Jerusalem became Babylon twice and fell, and will be replaced with the heavenly Jerusalem, for which Abraham himself looked (Heb. 11:10).
6. The earthly kingdoms could be used by God to punish each other (e.g., Isa. 10:5; Jer. 50:17, 18), but when "all the world" worships the beast (Rev. 13:3, 4), who is left to be the rod of God? He will have to take it up Himself (Rev. 11:17, 18; 19:15).
7. These dimensions must be seen in these visions, or we don't grasp how big they are. The earthly are only types of the heavenly, the seen of the unseen.