***Daniel 2***

***SUNDAY NIGHT STUDY****[[1]](#footnote-1)*

1. **Nebuchadnezzar’s Unsettling Dream**
	1. ***Introduction***
		1. Daniel chapters two and seven paint the most complete picture of human \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in all of Scripture.
		2. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream gives a comprehensive overview of the *times of the Gentiles* with an emphasis on the four empires that would dominate world history, relating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Israel until the time Messiah would set up His earthly kingdom. Luke 21:24
		3. God used the sudden occasion of Nebuchadnezzar’s disturbing dream to establish Daniel’s reputation as a wise man in Babylon and to place him strategically in a high position in the government.
		4. We should note that after Daniel 2:3, Daniel switched to write in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the language of the Babylonians, and continued to write in Aramaic until chapter 7:28. This is significant for a few reasons:
			1. This Aramaic section of Daniel foretells *the times of the Gentiles*. Luke 21:24.
			2. During the times of the Gentiles, four world powers will dominate Jerusalem and Israel. This period will last until God’s kingdom, headquartered in Israel, is established on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
			3. The times of the Gentiles started around 600 BC and will last all the way until Christ’s second coming.
	2. ***Daniel 2:1-3* –** In 602 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which sets the stage for the rest of the chapter.
		1. Daniel 2:1 –Since the Babylonians believed dreams were messages from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Nebuchadnezzar was very desirous to know what the dream meant.
			1. It is very amazing to consider that God chose a pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, to receive this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ revelation, in the form of a repeated dream. This dream accurately previewed looming human history. Jeremiah 27:4-8
		2. Daniel 2:2 –Nebuchadnezzar called in his elite staff of wise men and demanded they explain his distressing dream.
			1. The book of Daniel describes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ groups of “wise men” that practiced their crafts within the Babylonian empire. These groups represented separate occult societies. Each wielded influence in his particular field.
				1. Magicians: These scholars were occult specialists and were considered masters of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Daniel 1:20, 2:2
				2. Conjurers (enchanters): These were individuals who used incantations and practiced exorcism. Daniel 2:27
				3. Sorcerers: These individuals bewitched people and cast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These would be called witches and warlocks in today’s world. Daniel 2:2
				4. Chaldeans (astrologers): This was the elite cast of priests of the ancient Babylonian religions. Among other practices, these individuals looked to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to discover the future. Men from this group comprise the “wise men” of the Christmas story, most likely trained by Daniel to “look for” the coming Messiah! Daniel 2:2
				5. Diviners: This religious sect specialized in foretelling or decreeing a person’s fate. These would be called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in today’s world. Daniel 2:27
			2. These were the wise men Nebuchadnezzar called to explain his dream. They were part of the world system and were squarely under Satan’s control. They were portrayed as having much more wisdom than the ordinary citizen.
	3. ***A Short Explanation of Dreams and Visions***
		1. God used both dreams and visions to communicate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ revelation to His people, but that communication stopped when the Bible was completed. Daniel 2, Matthew 1
		2. Dreams and visions differed in ***THREE*** ways:
			1. Dreams emphasized what was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Visions emphasized what was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Numbers 12:6
			2. Only believers had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A possible exception is Cornelius, a God-lover, in Acts 9 - 10. Both believers and unbelievers received \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Genesis 37, 40-41
			3. In every dream in the Bible, the dreamer was passive and asleep; however, during a vision, the recipient was always mentally and spiritually alert.
		3. God used dreams only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to reveal His plan; eventually He sent HisSon Jesus Christ to speak directly to mankind. Hebrews 1:1-2
			1. There are only twenty-two dreams recorded by God the Holy Spirit in Scripture, not a large number considering the Bible spans 4,000 years of human history (Average 1 dream every 181 years).
			2. The Old Testament records sixteen dreams.
				1. Eleven of these dreams occurred before any of the Old Testament was written. Genesis 20:3, 6; 28:12; 31:10-11, 24; 37:5, 9; 40:5; 41:1, 5; Judges 7:13; 1 Kings 3:5; Daniel 2:1, 4:5, 7:1
				2. Although dreams sometimes involved individuals (Genesis 20:3; 28:12; 31:24; 37:5,9; 40:8), every dream was about either the advancement of God’s greater plan for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or about the role of Gentile nations in the completion of His plan. Genesis 41:1, Daniel 2
			3. The New Testament recorded six dreams. Matthew 1:20, 2:12–13, 19, 22, 27:19
				1. All six of the New Testament dreams occurred before the New Testament was completed.
				2. The last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dream was a nightmare that Pilate’s wife had about his involvement with Jesus.
			4. God used dreams as one way to reveal truth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a man. Genesis 37, 40-41; Hebrews 1:1a
				1. False prophets \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ told everyone their false dreams, but true prophets were faithful to tell only those words they received directly from God. Jeremiah 23:28-32, 29:8-9; Daniel 2:29-30, 47
				2. The correct interpretation of a dream came from the Lord, not from any man. Genesis 41:16, Daniel 2:28, 2 Peter 1:20-21
			5. Today, God communicates to us through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Word of God. Colossians 3:16, Romans 10:17
			6. Studies show that everyone dreams while they sleep. Many factors influence our dreams.
		4. Visions, in contrast, were God's special revelation given to someone who was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, either at night or during the day. Genesis 46:2; Job 4:13, 20:8, 33:15; Isaiah 29:7; Daniel 2:19
			1. A biblical vision was radically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from pagan trances or modern ecstatic or mystical experiences. Daniel 8:1
			2. Often a vision was like looking through a window to watch a scene unfold. Zechariah 1:7-10, Acts 10:11, Revelation 1:1
			3. During a vision, the recipient was able to think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and interact with angels or God. Zechariah 4:5-6
			4. If God wanted a vision understood, He revealed its interpretation. He did not allow people to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ interpret a vision. 2 Peter 1:20-21
			5. Sometimes, people took part in a vision. For example, Cornelius and an angel interacted in a vision early in the Church Age (Acts 10:3). Jesus personally encouraged Paul through a vision (Acts 18:9).
			6. The apostle John received a revelation while in the spirit and recorded God's final words to us. Revelation 1:10-20
			7. The Old Testament recorded \_\_\_\_\_\_ visions. Daniel 8:1-2
			8. The New Testament recorded several visions, including Ananias’ (Acts 9:10, 12), Peter’s (Acts 10:17, 11:5), John’s (Revelation 9:17) and Paul’s Macedonian call (Acts 16:9-10).
		5. Dreams and visions will return during the dark days of the Tribulation just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord’s return to set up His kingdom (Joel 2:28-32) and inaugurate the New Covenant with Israel. Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:8-12
	4. ***Daniel 2:4-13*** – A gruesome job for a royal executioner
		1. Daniel 2:4 – At this point in the book, Daniel began writing in Aramaic, a Gentile language. This indicated a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shift in emphasis away from Israel to the rule of man.
			1. The Chaldeans, being scholars, were probably confident they could search their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and explain the meaning behind the king’s dream.
			2. Even still, these men could not interpret the dream without first knowing the details of the dream.
		2. Daniel 2:5-6 - Nebuchadnezzar was part of the same culture as his advisors; he knew their pagan techniques for interpreting dreams.
			1. Generally, the king would explain the dream first and then books and other resources might be consulted to give the interpretation.
			2. It may be that the king was beginning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his wise men. We don’t know.
		3. Daniel 2:7 –When King Nebuchadnezzar declined to describe the dream for his advisors a second time, they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
			1. This also shows Satan’s limitations, as he worked in and through these pagan advisors - Satan does not know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		4. Daniel 2:8-9 – The king recognized their delay tactics and became angered by their attempts to deceive him. He demanded once more that they first disclose his dream to him.
		5. Daniel 2:10-11 – The advisors’ words confirmed the king’s suspicions about their lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They themselves condemned their own pagan practices and confirmed the weakness of their religious system.
			1. This statement set the stage for Daniel to be revered and for His God to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and proven to be the only true deity. God would do what no other gods could do.
			2. Even though Satan rules in the kingdom of men and even presided over Babylon, he did not know what was ultimately going on in God’s plan. God was still in control.
		6. Daniel 2:12 –The king’s impassioned anger moved him to demand the death of all his advisers, including Daniel and his friends – this was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and furious reaction!
		7. Daniel 12:13 – This looked bad for Daniel and his friends, butGod is always in control. He was going to \_\_\_\_\_\_ this crisis to glorify Himself. Psalm 76:10
	5. ***Daniel 2:14-18*** – Daniel’s response in the crisis
		1. Daniel 2:14 –This man, Arioch, one of the king’s bodyguards, was commanded to function as an executioner. Daniel’s response is truly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
			1. Without panicking, Daniel wisely spoke to Arioch. He *replied with discretion*, meaning he made a careful, guarded and humble inquiry; and with *discernment*, meaning he replied with good judgment and understanding.
			2. Because of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in God, Daniel was able to have great tact and self-control in a life and death situation.
		2. Daniel 2:15 – Daniel politely, yet boldly asked about the urgency (or extreme harshness) of the king’s death sentence for the wise men.
			1. Arioch unquestioningly obeyed the king’s decree. The fact that he took the time to listen to Daniel showed God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
			2. By Daniel’s actions, he not only prevented the death of his fellow advisors, he also obtained Arioch’s cooperation.
		3. Daniel 2:16 –Daniel’s success in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the executions ordered by the king was yet another proof of God’s gracious intervention.
			1. Daniel asked for time to consider the dream. He trusted the Lord to make it known to him. In an interesting turn of events, Daniel’s request for more time was granted, when the other wisemen’s request had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		4. Daniel 2:17-18 – Daniel’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ task was prayer. Daniel and his friends made specific requests of God.
			1. First, they prayed for God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This request stood in stark contrast with the king’s lack of compassion.
			2. They also prayed concerning the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This clearly showed they were confident God knew the contents of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The fact that they knew God was omniscient reflects the depth of their spiritual upbringing.
			3. They prayed they would not be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the rest of the wise men. This statement may imply that the executioners had already killed some of the advisors.
			4. Even though these were young men, not seasoned statesmen, they already knew how to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.
	6. ***Daniel 2:19-23*** – The secret is revealed to Daniel and he praises the Lord.
		1. Daniel 2:19 – God answered Daniel and his three friends’ prayers by means of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This vision was God’s way of giving special revelation to Daniel. James 5:16
			1. Daniel did not explain the specifics of how God made the vision know to him, but Daniel 1:17 clearly says that God was the one who gave Daniel the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to understand visions and dreams. Daniel 7:15-16, 8:15-16, 9:21-22
			2. Amazingly in this passage, God used four inexperienced Hebrew youths to refute the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wisdom of the godless intellectual elite. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29
		2. Daniel 2:19b-23 –Daniel responded to God's grace with an amazing prayer of praise.
			1. In this prayer of thanksgiving, he quoted from several Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, including Exodus 3, Psalm 75, Psalm 139, and 2 Samuel 14.
			2. The mention of his biological lineage in verse 23 brings to mind God’s contract with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob.
	7. ***Daniel 2:24-30* –** Daniel’s personal audience with the king, and his introduction to revealing the king’s dream.
		1. Daniel 2:24 – Daniel followed correct protocol by asking Arioch, the executioner, to secure an audience for him with the king. This in and of itself was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – this man presently had orders to kill all the wise men in Babylon, including Daniel.
		2. Daniel 2:25 – In a somewhat comical fashion, Arioch took \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for finding Daniel, saying, “*I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king*.”
		3. Daniel 2:26 –Despite his youth (still a teenager, or low 20’s), Daniel spoke boldly to the most powerful potentate on earth at that time. This took great confidence in God. 1 Timothy 4:12
		4. Daniel 2:27-28 – This dream had to do with what would take place in the *latter days*, or the remaining days of human rule on earth, especially concerning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ domination of Israel.
			* 1. Through his statement in verses 27b-28a, Daniel faulted the wise men of Babylon by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ showing the bankruptcy of the Babylonian religious system, which was incapable of knowing or revealing the dream.
				2. He shielded them by wisely pointing out that only the God of heaven, someone they did not know or worship, could reveal mysteries.
		5. Daniel 2:29 –No doubt Nebuchadnezzar was surprised Daniel knew what he had been thinking at the time of his dream. Daniel knew the king had been thinking about the future.
		6. Daniel 2:30 – It is important to see Daniel’s humility, He did not want Nebuchadnezzar to exalt him personally. He wanted to make sure the king understood who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the glory.
			1. Daniel was used because he trusted God and willing presented himself for service. Romans 6:13, 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
	8. ***Daniel 2:31-35*** – Daniel gives an accurate and spot on description of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream
		1. Daniel 2:31 – This dream described the coming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of humankind by various world empires until the end of fallen man’s rule on earth.
			1. The word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Aramaic means to fear. The statue Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream was *large and of extraordinary splendor*; meaning it was huge and dreadful.
		2. Daniel 2:32-33 – Daniel proceeded to revealed the details of the statue.
			1. The statue portrayed both diversity and unity. It was a single statue made of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ substances.
				1. The head was made of gold.
				2. The chest and arms were made of silver.
				3. The abdomen and thighs were made of bronze.
				4. The legs were made of iron.
				5. The feet were made of iron mixed with clay.
			2. The four metals in the statue declined in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from top to bottom. The weight of the upper metals was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the weight of the lower metals. The metals also transitioned from softer metals at the top to harder more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ metals at the bottom.
			3. The head was one solid piece of gold; it was the least divided part of the statue.
			4. All the other sections were comprised of left and right sides or even two body parts, additionally the feet were made of two non-mixing substances: iron and clay.
			5. The feet were the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ part of the statue because they were composed of two incompatible materials.
		3. Daniel 2:34 –The statue was destroyed with a crushing blow to the feet.
			1. The statue, as we will see, represents succeeding world \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, known as the kingdoms of men.
			2. The stone that destroyed the statue represents the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and His eternal kingdom.
		4. Daniel 2:35 –Christ will become the universal and perfect ruler of all time. After his arrival fallen humanity will never again rule humankind.
	9. ***Daniel 2:36-45*** – Daniel’s accurate interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream
		1. Daniel 2:36 – Daniel (and his friends? – “we”) perfectly described the dream Nebuchadnezzar had never previously disclosed to anyone. This fact would have fully validated his ensuing interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar.
	10. ***Daniel 2:46-49* –** Daniel gets promoted, as well as his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
		1. Daniel 2:46 – Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. In that moment, Nebuchadnezzar was overwhelmed.
			1. In a manner totally uncharacteristic of any king, Nebuchadnezzar fell down and paid homage to Daniel.
			2. Nebuchadnezzar rewarded Daniel just as he promised to do for the person who interpreted his dream. (Daniel 2:6)
		2. Daniel 2:47 – Although Nebuchadnezzar praised Daniel’s God, we will see going forward that his mind was NOT yet completely changed about Daniel’s God.
		3. Daniel 2:48 – In reality, it was God who moved the king to promote Daniel to the position of governor of Babylon. Genesis 41:39-44, 1 Samuel 2:8
			1. Daniel also became the chief leader of all the \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Babylon.
			2. This was significant in that Daniel was able to set up a new sect of wise men in Babylon who came to be called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In Matthew 2:1-2 we read about Magi who came from the east to Jerusalem to celebrate the birth of the *king of the Jews*.
		4. Daniel 2:49a – In His foreknowledge, power and grace, God put these four men in influential positions in government.
		5. Daniel 2:49b – …*while Daniel was at the king’s court*. The fact that Daniel was specifically governing in *the king’s court* and *ruler over the whole province* (vs. 48) put him in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ position than Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. This could explain why Daniel was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the event where his three friends were cast into the fiery furnace.
1. A big thank you to DM2 ([www.dm2usa.org](http://www.dm2usa.org)) for many of these notes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)