

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 34

Daniel 2

INTRODUCTION: Here is one of the key chapters in all of the Bible. King Nebuchadnezzar, in the second year of his reign, dreamed dreams. When he awoke, he could not remember the dream that he dreamed. He called all his own astrologers, sorcerers, etc. to come before him, not only to give him the interpretation of the dream he had dreamed, but also to tell him what the dream actually was, as he had forgotten. Of course, none of his men could tell him what the dream was, and certainly there was no way they could tell him the interpretation of the dream if they could not even know the dream itself.

Among the king's men there was a young man whose name was Daniel. Daniel was a foreign boy from Israel who was there with the Israelites in captivity. He had risen to a place of height and importance in the kingdom because of his brilliance. God marvelously revealed the forgotten dream to Daniel. He also revealed the interpretation of this dream. In this dream we have the future of the entire world from that time until the end of the millennium. Let us notice something of the chapter.

- I. THE WISE MEN OF THE WORLD FAILED. Read Daniel 2:13. This is always the case. The world cannot give the answer; the world does not have the answer. Man keeps trying to find the answer from the scholars of the world, but they have no answer; they have no solution. (Teacher, stress to the class the importance of living for God and seeking our answers and solutions from Him and from His men.)
- II. GOD REVEALED THE DREAM TO DANIEL. See Daniel 2:19, 20. Why did God reveal the dream to Daniel? The answer is very simple: Daniel had stood for right in the face of the most difficult temptations. There are several things about Daniel that prepared him for this crisis:
 1. Daniel would not defile himself. Notice Daniel 1:8a. He stood clean.
 2. Daniel would not drink the wine from the king's table. Read Daniel 1:8b. Ah, what a young man!
 3. Daniel and the others who stood true excelled in every way. This is found in Daniel 1:11-20. You will notice, at the end of ten days the children of God who would not defile themselves were better to look at, Daniel 1:15; were healthier, Daniel 1:15b; had more knowledge, Daniel 1:17a; had more skill, Daniel 1:17b; had more wisdom, Daniel 1:17c; had more understanding in visions and dreams, Daniel 1:17d; and, in fact, were the best among all the king's men, Daniel 1:20. (Teacher, remind the pupils that it pays to stand for right and live a clean life!)
- III. THE DREAM. Read Daniel 2:31-35. The king had dreamed of a great image. This image had a head of fine gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet that were iron and clay. Then there was a stone cut out without hands which came and smote the image on his feet and brake them into pieces, destroying, of course, the image. This stone became a big mountain and filled the whole earth. (Teacher, draw a picture of such an image—just a picture of a big man will do, showing the different materials.)

Daniel told the king that this image represented the future of the Gentiles on earth. In fact, these five materials represented the five world empires that would exist until the coming of Jesus Christ to establish His own kingdom. Including the stone cut out without hands, these materials represent the six world empires that the world will ever know from Daniel's time through the millennium.

Notice several things about these materials.

1. They started at the top with great value and decreased downward through the image. This teaches us that the world will not get better and better, but it will get worse and worse. It teaches us the degeneration of the world's empires. Notice that each material was weaker than the one above it. Gold is the strongest of all; silver is stronger than brass; brass is stronger than iron; iron is stronger than clay. The kingdoms of this world will get worse and worse until Jesus comes.
2. The head was made of gold. The Babylonian empire was represented by the head of gold. In Daniel 2:37, 38, notice the last phrase, "Thou art this head of gold."
3. The breast and arms were of silver. See Daniel 2:39. This was the world empire of the Medes and Persians.

4. The thighs were made of brass. Read Daniel 2:32, 39. We now have the third kingdom which conquered the world—the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great.
5. The legs were made of iron. Notice Daniel 2:40. This kingdom of iron, which was the Roman Empire, conquered the known world and ruled at the time of Christ.
6. The feet and the ten toes were made of iron and clay. This is the final empire which will rule the world during the Tribulation Period.
7. The stone cut without hands is the Lord Jesus Christ coming back at the end of the Tribulation Period to establish His kingdom on earth. See Daniel 2:44, 45. This stone will break in pieces man's kingdoms. Jesus will be that stone establishing His kingdom on earth for 1,000 years when He shall rule and reign on earth. (Teacher, tell the pupils something about this 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth. He will reign from Mount Zion. We shall be kings, mayors, governors, city councilmen, etc. We shall be in our glorified bodies, and righteousness shall prevail. Wild animals shall be tame, and the entire world shall be as the Garden of Eden before the fall of man.)