

## ***Daniel 2 & The Foundations of Daniel's End Time Message***

### **I. Daniel's Forerunner Lifestyle**

- a. The prophet Daniel lived a life consecrated (intentionally set apart) for the purposes of God in His life. Despite the fact that Daniel had a lot going for him (**Daniel 1:3-6**), he chose to “not defile” himself with the king's food or wine (**Daniel 1:8**). Daniel quite literally forsook the wine of this world in order to enjoy a deeper fellowship with God. Because Daniel set out to live a consecrated lifestyle, God showed Daniel favor and compassion with the governmental officials (**Daniel 1:9**).

***(Daniel 1:3-6 NASB) “Then the king told... the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, 4 youths in whom there was no impairment, who were good-looking, suitable for instruction in every kind of expertise, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability to serve in the king's court; and he ordered Ashpenaz to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5 The king also allotted for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and ordered that they be educated for three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service. 6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.”***

***(Daniel 1:8-9 NASB) “But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials.”***

- b. Even throughout his later years in life, Daniel was steadfast in his commitment to God. When the Medes captured Babylon, King Darius set up a statue, and demanded that he be worshiped, while also having those who did not worship him thrown into the lions den for 30 days (**Daniel 6:6-9**). Though Daniel knew the repercussions, he continued to openly pray three times a day to God. When he was thrown into the lions den, God sent an angel to shut the lions mouths (**Daniel 6:22**) sovereignly protecting Daniel in this midst of his tribulation.

***(Daniel 6:10 NASB) “Now when Daniel learned that the document was signed, he entered his house (and in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and offering praise before his God, just as he had been doing previously.”***

- c. Daniel's lifestyle was saturated with prayer and fasting. Much of the end time revelation that he received was a direct result of his commitment to pray and fast on a regular basis. Prophetic messengers at the end of the age will model a lifestyle similar to Daniel, where prayer and fasting is a common reality in their lives. Fasting is privilege to mourn for Jesus that we've been invited into in this age. In the age to come, when Jesus is on earth, we will not fast.

***(Daniel 9:2-6 NASB) “In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. 3 So I gave my attention to the Lord God, to seek Him by prayer and pleading, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed, and said, “Oh, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and faithfulness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned, we have done wrong, and acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. 6 Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our leaders, our fathers, and all the people of the land.”***

***(Daniel 10:2-3 NASB) “In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3 I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed.”***

***(Matthew 9:15 NASB) “And Jesus said to them, “The attendants of the groom cannot mourn as long as the groom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the groom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.”***

***(Matthew 5:4 NASB) “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”***

- d. Because of this lifestyle that Daniel lived, he was strategically positioned, by God, in areas of influence in order to specifically declare and demonstrate the power and authority of the Messiah’s coming everlasting kingdom. Having a forerunner “calling” or assignment means that there is a lifestyle attached to the message we proclaim.

***(Isaiah 40:3-5 NASB) “The voice of one calling out, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the uneven ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”***

***(Matthew 3:1-4 NASB) “Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “The voice of one calling out in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!’” 4 Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.”***

## II. Nebuchadnezzar’s troubling dream revealed to Daniel

***(Daniel 2:1-3, 5-6, 12-13 NASB) “Now...Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king gave orders to call in the soothsayer priests, the conjurers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 The king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream.... 5 The king replied...“The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be turned into a rubbish heap. 6 But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation.... 12 Because of this, the king became angry and extremely furious, and he gave orders to kill all the wise men of Babylon. 13 So the decree was issued that the wise men be killed; and they looked for Daniel and his friends, to kill them.”***

- a. The king’s troubling dreams caused him to seek out the interpretation. Being so troubled by the dream, the king set out to kill all the wise men if they couldn’t tell him the dream and its interpretation. I believe that at the end of the age, the body of Christ will be brought before kings and authorities (***Luke 21:12-15***) and be led to speak by a spirit of prophecy (***Joel 2/Acts 2***) in order to win over the attention and affection of governmental leaders.
- b. Daniel requested a “grace period” from the king in order to declare the dream and its interpretation. So Daniel gathered his friends together for a prayer meeting to seek out the dream and its interpretation in order that they would all not be killed. The point is, corporate prayer meetings play a vital role in getting hastened revelation and understanding from God.

***(Daniel 2:17-18 NASB) “Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his friends would not be killed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.”***

- c. In the middle of the night, God revealed the “secret” to Daniel in a “night vision”. Daniel then went on to declare/sing of the willingness of God to answer his requests and to give wisdom to wise men and knowledge to people of understanding despite his appointed changing of times, seasons, and kings. If we set our lives to pursue God through consecration, fasting, and prayer (both corporate and personally), we can be confident that God will reveal profound and hidden things (meaning “biblical mysteries related to the end of the age”) to us.

***(Daniel 2:19-23 NASB) “Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; 20 Daniel said, “May the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. 21 It is He who changes the times and the periods; He removes kings and appoints kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, And knowledge to people of understanding. 22 It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. 23 To You, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”***

### III. The Dream’s Interpretation

***(Daniel 2:27-29 NASB) “Daniel answered before the king and said, “As for the secret about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, sorcerers, soothsayer priests, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. 28 However, there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. 29 As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will take place.”***

***(Daniel 2:31-35 NASB) “You, O king, were watching and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary radiance, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its chest and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You continued watching until a stone was broken off without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed to pieces all at the same time, and they were like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the entire earth.”***

- a. Daniel immediately tells us that the context of the dream is related to the “latter days” or “would take place in the future”. This clearly means that the dream is an end times dream. Understanding that the end time revelations that Daniel receives in **Chapter 2 & 7-12** are about future events is critical to cultivating a right understanding of the end of the age. It’s important to remember that the dream is centered around Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire, it’s not symbolic for other unnamed nations, or peoples. The dream is essentially about successive empires that would conquer the Babylonian empire. Jesus even pointed to the events of Daniel’s prophesies being future events.

***(Matthew 24:15-16 NASB) “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand— 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.”***

- b. Daniel defines Nebuchadnezzar/The Babylon Empire (Ancient Babylon is located in Southern Iraq) as the “head of Gold”. Gold is known as a superior and malleable metal. Nebuchadnezzar and his Empire are referred to as Gold because of the dominance and superiority of his/its “rulership”. Perhaps he’s also referred to as the head of gold because in **Chapter 3** he makes a stature of gold and demands worship from people in his empire.

***(Daniel 2:36-38 NASB) ““This was the dream; and now we will tell its interpretation before the king. 37 You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the honor; 38 and wherever the sons of mankind live, or the animals of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has handed them over to you and has made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold.”***

- c. The chest and arms of silver speak of the Medo-Persian Empire, which conquered Babylon. The two arms speak of the “dual empire” (Media & Persia – Modern Day Iran). The Silver, might have additional meaning, but represents the “inferiority to gold”, stating that the Medo Persian Empire would be “inferior” to the Babylonian Empire. That inferiority could be seen in the depravity of the Medo-Persian Empire, or

the lack of strong rulership. We know for sure that this second empire is the Medo-Persian Empire because it is mentioned by name in *Daniel 8:20-21* and *Daniel 10:20*.

***(Daniel 2:39a NASB) “And after you another kingdom will arise inferior to you...”***

- d. The belly & thighs of bronze speak of the Greek Empire (Alexander the great), which conquered the Medo-Persian Empire and the ancient city of Babylon. Perhaps the bronze speaks of the armor in which the Greek army used. Some have also suggested that the “belly” speaks of Alexander the Great’s drunkenness. This kingdom would “rule over all the earth”, in which the Greek empire greatly expanded from Greece, to the most of the middle east (including the ancient city of Babylon) and even into north Africa. We know for sure that this third empire is the Greek empire because it is mentioned by name in *Daniel 8:20-21* and *Daniel 10:20*.

***(Daniel 2:39b NASB) “Then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.”***

- e. The next section of the statue speaks of a fourth empire that would exist in two parts. It would be a mixed and divided kingdom that would be, like iron that crushes, a crushing kingdom. The legs of iron represent the historical Ottoman Empire or Islamic Caliphate (*though it’s commonly taught that it’s a Roman Empire, the roman empire does not fit the biblical criteria – see series on “the Middle East, Islam, and the End of the Age”*). The feet partly of iron and clay speak of the revived end of the age Islamic Caliphate. The Islamic Caliphate is known historically for being a crushing force to the peoples and nations it conquered. The Caliphate conquered more territory than the other empires did (including the ancient city of Babylon). The 4<sup>th</sup> empire is never named in scripture, but we’re given a biblical criterion to help us connect the dots.

***(Daniel 2:40-43 NASB) “Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; just as iron smashes and crushes everything, so, like iron that crushes, it will smash and crush all these things. 41 And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have within it some of the toughness of iron, since you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 And just as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong, and part of it will be fragile. 43 In that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in their descendants; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not combine with pottery.”***

- f. The Stone broken off without hands speaks of the Millennial Kingdom under the leadership of Jesus. At the second coming, Jesus will crush the feet of iron and clay (the revived Islamic Caliphate) and by virtue of its destruction; the other kingdoms will also be destroyed “at the same time”. Jesus will then establish His kingdom on the earth and will reign for 1,000 years unto the New Jerusalem. An important point for us to grasp is, though Jesus has made His kingdom accessible to us in this age, He has not established His rule on the earth yet. There will be a literal future day where Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on the earth. The church does not and will not possess all dominion on the earth, only Jesus will possess all dominion in the age to come.

***(Daniel 2:44-45 NASB) “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. 45 Just as you saw that a stone was broken off from the mountain without hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is certain and its interpretation is trustworthy.”***

#### IV. Daniel’s promotion

- a. Perhaps one of the greatest realities of this story is that Daniel was able to be a faithful witness to a pagan king of the Coming Everlasting Kingdom. King Nebuchadnezzar declared the God of Daniel to be a “God

of gods and Lord of kings, and revealer of secrets”. This was huge for a pagan king to acknowledge another God, of another people, in this sort of way.

***(Daniel 2:47 NASB) “The king responded to Daniel and said, “Your God truly is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, since you have been able to reveal this secret.”***

- b. Daniel then received a promotion from the king and was given governmental influence over the province of Babylon and the wise men of Babylon. I’m convinced that people with end time understanding will be promoted and positioned in strategic places at the end of the age because they’ve cultivated understanding.

***(Daniel 2:48 NASB) “Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon, and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.”***

- c. Daniel’s promotion help give his friends a seat of influence and important governmental roles in the province of Babylon. I believe in these last days God is strategically promoting people so that those who are promoted and open doors of opportunity and influence for those that have also been faithful in prayer, consecration, and fasting.

***(Daniel 2:49 NASB) “And Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king’s court.”***