

DANIEL

Lesson 5: Daniel 2:36-49
Repair by Replacement

WHAT DO PREVAILING SAINTS KNOW?

- Daniel 11:32: *“And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but **the people who know their God** will display strength and take action.”*
- Daniel (chp 2) declares what prevailing saints know about God – 5 insights from Neb’s Dream Reveal.
- **PLUS: 1st future reveal**

WHAT DO PREVAILING SAINTS KNOW?

- God has a plan.
- God knows what transcends human wisdom.
- God reveals mysteries.
- History is headed where God intends.
- God’s plan rocks. The Rock **is** His plan!

REVIEW

- In year two, Nebuchadnezzar had a nightmare.
- Not one Babylonian wise-guy could convincingly interpret it.
- Nebuchadnezzar threatens staff with death.
- Daniel secured time for he and his prayer partners to request compassion from the “God of heaven.”

REVIEW

- God revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel in a night vision.
- So Daniel praised the God of his fathers.
- Then Daniel came, via Arioch, to Nebuchadnezzar.
- He explained God's motive (reveal future) and then perfectly recounted the king's dream.

REVIEW

- In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a large statue.
- It was composed of four layers, gold at the top, then silver, then bronze, then iron, which was mixed with china in the toes.
- A stone, not of man's making, struck and crushed the feet which, in turn, set off a chain reaction that obliterated the statue!

REVIEW

- The gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay were reduced to dust particles and completely dissipated by the wind. No trace left whatsoever of the large statue.
- The stone remained and became a massive mountain.
- So, now Daniel is ready to explain what it means.

I. THE EMPIRE OF MAN

- Daniel 2:37–38: *“You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.”*

A. THE HEAD OF GOLD

- This single extraordinary statue depicts the stages of the empire of man.
- This covers key stages leading to the return of Jesus.
- “Neb, you are the head of gold!”
- Was this a relief? Did Neb wonder if the destruction of the image was about his own destruction?

A. THE HEAD OF GOLD

- You have God to thank for your position. Power, strength, glory, rule – all have been given to you by God. God did this. (Lesson will need reaffirmation)
- Babylon’s heyday was short, about 70 years.
- Why Gold?

A. THE HEAD OF GOLD

- Herodotus: (90 years after Neb) is struck with astonishment by amount of gold. Recounts that 800 talents (1 talent = 75 pounds, therefore about 720,000 ounces of gold) used for religious objects in Babylon alone. The “India House Inscription” recounts Neb’s desire to beautify Babylon. The cell of Merodach must “glisten like suns.”

A. THE HEAD OF GOLD

- The chapel which a former king had fabricated in silver must be overlaid with bright gold. He writes that he intends to impress his subjects. Of the Northern Citadel: “That house I caused to be made for gazings, and for the beholding of the multitudes of the people with sculptures I had it filled. The awe of power, the dread of the splendor of sovereignty, its sides begird.”

A. THE HEAD OF GOLD

- Gold was lavished in art and architecture in Babylon.
- It's apparent purpose was to inspire and impress.
- Think of this as the wow factor. "Babylon is so amazing, who wouldn't want to be part of the Babylon movement?"
- Who wouldn't want to call Babylon his home?

B. THE BREAST & ARMS OF SILVER

- Daniel 2:39: "After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth."
- Medo-Persia's supremacy lasted about 200 years
- Xerxes riches: 127 provinces from Ethiopia to India. Hosts a 180 day banquet!

B. THE BREAST & ARMS OF SILVER

- Why silver? Denotes the power of wealth through trade and tribute.
- Again from Herodotus: 20 satrapies established. All tribute was paid in silver (except India which paid in gold).
- In Ezra 4:13, Artaxerxes is cautioned to keep the tribute noose to Israel's neck.

B. THE BREAST & ARMS OF SILVER

- If Babylon is about using the "wow" factor to inspire the allegiance of men, Medo-Persia is about "wealth."
- "Give your allegiance to Medo-Persia if you want to live large and enjoy the good life." You might not be inspired but you will be satisfied.

C. THE BELLY & THIGHS OF BRONZE

- Greek dominance lasted about 300 years
- Bronze denotes the power of arms
- Psammetichus (664-610 BC) (King of Egypt) consults an oracle when banished. “Vengeance would come from the sea when brazen men appear.”

C. THE BELLY & THIGHS OF BRONZE

- Carians and Ionians landed in Egypt equipped with brazen armor: “Brazen men had come from the sea, and were plundering the plain.”
- Liddell-Scott: 5 columns of compound words with “brass.” (1¾ columns with iron.)
- Standard issue bronze helmets and some body armor for Alex the Great army.

C. THE BELLY & THIGHS OF BRONZE

- The Greek army fielded by Alexander the Great was unstoppable. Nothing left to conquer!
- Ezekiel 26 provides a remarkable prophecy (against Tyre) that was fulfilled by AlexTG’s army.
- Bronze is a good metal to depict an empire maintained by force of arms. Motto: “Win!”

D. THE LEGS OF IRON

- Daniel 2:40: *“Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.”*
- The fourth empire is Rome.
- Rome (in its iron iteration) lasted about 500 years.

D. THE LEGS OF IRON

- Iron has the lowest value but highest strength.
- Descriptions – “strong,” “crushes,” “shatters,” “breaks.”
- Trajan (98-117AD) = Apex of expansion.
- Rome wasn’t just interested in winning, but in crushing all opposition. Z.b. Jerusalem, 70 AD

D. THE LEGS OF IRON

- How to build an empire:
- Wow – inspire them – awe!
- Wealth – make them rich – comfort!
- Win – make them surrender – peace!
- Whack – beat them into submission – despair!

D. THE LEGS OF IRON

- Daniel 2:41: *“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 in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.”*
- A final iteration of the iron phase will mix iron with fired clay / ceramic – divided but still strong.

D. THE LEGS OF IRON

- Daniel 2:42-43: *“And 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 brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.”*

D. THE LEGS OF IRON

- “They” (verbs = 3rd pers. plural used of toes) – Call the iron the dominators; pottery the brittle (or brits).
- There will be some sort of mixing that brings these two groups of people together.
- But the dominators and brits won’t be truly blended. Think of this as perhaps a superficial “oneness.”

II. THE ENDURING KINGDOM

- Daniel 2:45: *“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.”*
- “Those kings” suggests that the iron and clay toes are rulers. Neb = only prev. referenced king.

II. THE ENDURING KINGDOM

- This fifth kingdom will not be in any way an extension of the previous four.
- It will put a decisive end to the entire span of the kingdoms of men.
- This kingdom will have a defined starting point established by God.
- Unlike the previous four, it will endure forever.

II. THE ENDURING KINGDOM

- Daniel 2:45: *“Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of 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 true, and its interpretation is trustworthy.”*
- “In the future” is “after this” i.e., after four KDs.

II. THE ENDURING KINGDOM

- The stone not created by human hands is unlike gold, silver, bronze, iron, or clay which are created by man-hands.
- This stone comes from a mountain (2:45) and becomes a mountain (2:35).
- “Mountain” is a synonym for “Kingdom.”

II. THE ENDURING KINGDOM

- Isaiah 11:9: “They will not hurt or destroy **in all My holy mountain**, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”
- In this passage, “mountain” (Heb *har*, not Aramaic *tur*) is a future earthly kingdom that is “full of the knowledge of God.”

A QUESTION OF TIMING

- Phases 1-4A are history. Has phase 4B and the coming kingdom happened or is it yet future?
1. The stone replaces the kingdom of men suddenly, “all at the same time” (Daniel 2:35), not gradually.
 2. In his first advent, Jesus did not crush the Roman Empire.

A QUESTION OF TIMING

3. During Christ’s time on earth the Roman Empire did not have 10 kings (10 toes) at once.
4. The stone (Messiah and His coming Kingdom) will crush and end all the kingdoms of the world. But the church has been given a clear and present witnessing assignment (Acts 1:8) not a conquest assignment (Acts 1:6).

A QUESTION OF TIMING

- “The world will be delivered from evil, not by a process, but by a crisis, the promised return of Jesus Christ. Whatever remains of the four Gentile kingdoms, passed from one kingdom to the next, will be destroyed and turned into chaff. Then Christ will establish His kingdom which will fill all the earth.” –
Warren Wiersbe

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- God will not repair man-ware, but replace it.
- His initiative will conclude phase 4B.
- This will be earthly and physical and will endure.
- Appears suddenly and decisively, established by God
- This kingdom will be global.
- This is our starting template.

III. THE KING'S RESPONSE

- Daniel 2:46-49 records Nebuchadnezzar's response.
- There is much good in his response: Fell on his face, did homage, offerings and presents.
- Your God is amazing (≠ God alone)
- Promotion for Daniel and Friends
- This is progress, but we are not there yet.

APPLICATIONS

I. God is Our Difference Maker

- Think about how this story started - Daniel and his three friends are facing imminent death. This looked tragic - four young men sacrificed for a King's ego. But God has a way of giving very different endings to situations than what we think possible. What looked like a dead end (literally) became the means of their promotion.

APPLICATIONS

2. Serving God is our non-negotiable.

- The fact that Nebuchadnezzar does not believe in God as they do, is not a deterrent to serving in his court. But they do draw the line wherever they must choose God or men (cf. Chp 3). They are committed to representing God well in a workplace where He is not known.

APPLICATIONS

3. What Loves Does

- The empires of men use wow, wealth, win, and whack to secure our allegiance. The kingdom of the Rock is driven by something entirely different.
- James 2:5: *Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

APPLICATIONS

4. Hope as a Helmet / Jesus is our Rock.

- Our knowledge of what the future holds helps us process the day to day. When everything is coming unglued, we know where Jesus is taking us.
- This is the helmet of salvation – our sure hope of rescue from a world that is broken and getting worse.

APPLICATIONS

5. Do you have your new Birth Certificate?

- Jesus says that you don't get into this kingdom without a new birth certificate.
- John 3:5: *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*