

## Daniel 2:44-45

### A Universal Kingdom

**Text: Daniel 2**

#### **Introduction:**

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Daniel showed that the Messiah would establish a universal kingdom...

#### **I. THE BACKGROUND**

- A. Daniel prophesied during the captivity of Judah in the land of Babylon.
- B. He was taken to Babylon with the first group of captives and remained in the courts of Babylon throughout the captivity.
- C. The name Daniel means, "God is my judge" or "God will judge."
- D. Much of the book of Daniel is classified as apocalyptic literature.
  1. This means that it was written in signs and symbols - something that had to be uncovered or revealed.
  2. This style of writing is fitting for a people in exile and enduring persecution.
  3. Understanding the book of Daniel is very helpful in understanding the New Testament book of Revelation.
- E. The ultimate goal of Babylon was the destruction of Egypt.
- F. To defeat that great nation, they had to conquer the smaller kingdoms that lay between Babylon and Egypt.
- G. However, more than Nebuchadnezzar's ambition was involved - God had raised up this man and the nation to bring judgment upon the world.
- H. Thus, Ezekiel prophesied that even as Jerusalem lay under siege, the nations around her would begin to fall to Babylon - including Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon, and finally Egypt (Ezekiel 25 - 32).
- I. The message was clear:
  1. God rules in the kingdoms of men.
  2. The wicked - whoever they are - will be judged righteously.
  3. Man should not place his trust in the nations of the world.
- J. The principle was expounded upon by Daniel in his prophetic interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the rise and fall of future world empires.

## Prophecy of Jesus

- II. THE DREAM (DANIEL 2:1-24)
- A. Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by his dream, but he could not remember the details of it.
  - B. Thus, he wanted his wise men to tell him both what he had dreamed and what the dream meant – requiring them to know both the past and the future.
  - C. Of course, they could not do this and proclaimed that no man on earth could – acknowledging that only God could answer such a request.
  - D. Thus, the king came up with a plan – he would reward them richly if they interpreted his dream or he would kill them if they could not interpret his dream.
  - E. Daniel made a plea to the king, assuring him that he would give the interpretation.
  - F. Daniel and his friends prayed to God for mercy and help.
  - G. God responded by giving Daniel the interpretation of the dream in the form of a vision.
- III. THE INTERPRETATION (DANIEL 2:25-49)
- A. Daniel declared boldly that “there is a God in Heaven” who reveals secrets.
  - B. He informed the king that his dream was actually a prediction of future events.
  - C. Finally, Daniel stated that he was not able to interpret the dream by his own wisdom, but only by the revelation of God.
  - D. In verses 31-36, Daniel revealed to the king what he had dreamed.
  - E. In verses 37-43, Daniel revealed the interpretation of the dream.
    - 1. Each section of the image represented a worldly kingdom that would arise to power.
    - 2. The first was Babylon, followed by Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
    - 3. The stone represented the kingdom of God which would consume all the previous kingdoms of men and would fill the entire earth.
  - F. The head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar and the nation of Babylon; for, God was the source of Nebuchadnezzar’s power and kingdom (vs. 37-38; cf. Jeremiah 27:1-7).
  - G. The breast and arms of silver represented the Medo-Persian Empire – inferior to Babylon but still a world power (vs. 39a).
  - H. The belly and thighs of brass represented the Greek Empire – inferior to the previous two, but still a world power (vs. 39b).
  - I. The legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay represented the Roman Empire (vs. 40-43).
    - 1. This fourth nation would be as strong as iron – a fact demonstrated by the ability of Rome to crush, conquer, and dominate nearly the entire world.
    - 2. But, for all its strength, Rome contained a notable weakness – it was a divided empire (represented by the potter’s clay).
  - J. The stone represented the kingdom of God (vs. 44-45).
- IV. THE UNIVERSAL KINGDOM (DANIEL 2:44-45)
- A. God’s purpose in giving the dream to Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation to Daniel was to foretell the establishing of His kingdom – the church (cf. Ephesians 3:11).
  - B. God’s kingdom would be set up during the days of the Roman Empire (cf. Acts 2; Luke 2:1; 3:1; Acts 11:28; 25:11; Philippians 4:22).
  - C. God’s kingdom would not be established by man, but by God Himself (Ephesians 3:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:9; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 3:3-4).
  - D. God’s kingdom would never be destroyed (Luke 1:32-33; Hebrews 1:8; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Hebrews 12:28).
  - E. God’s kingdom would not be passed down from one group to another.
  - F. God’s kingdom would fulfill, complete, and bring to an end the previous kingdoms.
  - G. God’s kingdom will stand forever.