



Daniel 2:1-49

7/19/20 AM

DECIPHERING A DREAM

Introduction:

I. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DISTRESSING DREAM (vs. 1-13)

A. Sleepless in Babylon (vs. 1-3)

“in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar”

“dreams and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him”

“the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans”

B. Clueless in Babylon (vs. 4-11) (Note: Daniel 2:4b - 7:28 is in Aramaic.)

“tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation”

“you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap”

“you are bargaining for time...you have agreed together”

“there is not a man on earth who could declare the matter...except gods”

C. Helpless in Babylon (vs. 12-13)

“indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all”

“they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them”

II. GOD'S DISCLOSURE OF THE DREAM (vs. 14-30)

A. Daniel's Request (vs. 14-18)

“Daniel...requested of the king that he would give him time”

“Daniel...informed his friends...so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven”

B. Daniel's Revelation (vs. 19-23)

“the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision”

“Daniel blessed the God of heaven”

C. Daniel's Report (vs. 24-30)

“I have found a man among the exiles from Judah...”

“there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries”

“this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man”

III. DANIEL'S DECIPHERING OF THE DREAM (vs. 31-49)

A. The Elements of the Dream (vs. 31-35)

“a single great statue...head of fine gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, feet partly of iron and partly of clay”

“a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them”

“the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth”

B. The Explanation of the Dream (vs. 36-45)

1. Man's Kingdoms (vs. 36-43)

Babylon (vs. 38) - “you are the head of gold” (Jeremiah 27:6-7)

Medo-Persia (vs. 39) - “another kingdom inferior to you”

Greece (vs. 39) - “another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth”

Rome (vs. 40) - “a fourth kingdom as strong as iron”

Revived Rome (vs. 41-44) - “toes...iron mixed with clay” (Revelation 13:1; 17:12)

2. Messiah's Kingdom (vs. 44-45)

“God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed” (Revelation 19)

“a stone was cut out of the mountain and...crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold” (Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1)

“God has made known to the king what will take place in the future”

C. The Elevation of Daniel (vs. 46-49)

“King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel”

“surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries”

“the king promoted Daniel...gifts...ruler...chief prefect...appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego”

“Daniel was at the king's court”

Conclusion:

- 1) The faithful witness of God's humble servants can bring about change in the hearts of arrogant and powerful people.
- 2) The believer's most effective source of stability is prayer.
- 3) God is in control of history.
- 4) God illuminates the future to believers who believingly search out the prophetic revelation found in the Scriptures.
- 5) God's kingdom will one day be established on earth with Jesus Christ ruling as King of kings.

Food for Thought:

- 1) How do we see God setting up and deposing kings in our day? How do we respond to what we see?
- 2) Where and how can we find courage to speak out like Daniel did in this chapter?
- 3) How should we respond when others try to praise us for what God has done through us?
- 4) Why is it important that we not ignore biblical prophecy? What principles can we draw from this passage?