

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 187--Daniel 2:1-49

Introduction: In this chapter, God, by means of a dream to Nebuchadnezzar and by means of the interpretation of His servant Daniel, revealed the general course of world history to the coming of the kingdom of Christ. In so doing He demonstrated His knowledge of and sovereignty over the development of political world power. Moreover, the consequent promotion of Daniel and friends to high places in the Babylonian government did much to provide for the preservation of God's people in captivity.

Lesson aim: To show that the kingdom of God was established during the days of the Roman empire, and that it will never be destroyed.

The dream received by Nebuchadnezzar--Daniel 2:1-13

1. With what experience of Nebuchadnezzar is this chapter concerned? (v. 1) What did the king ask his advisors to do? (v. 2-6)
2. Were the king's advisors able to reveal the dream? (v. 7-13) What reasoning did they offer to the king? How did Nebuchadnezzar respond?

The dream revealed to Daniel--Daniel 2:14-23

1. What request did Daniel make of Arioch, the king's body-guard? (v. 14-16)
2. What did Daniel and His friends do? (v. 17)
3. How was the dream revealed to Daniel? (v. 19)
4. Analyze Daniel's prayer. What did He acknowledge about God? For what did he give thanks?

The dream recited and interpreted to Nebuchadnezzar--Daniel 2:24-45

1. Did Daniel save the lives of all the wise men of Babylon? (v. 24) Did Arioch take credit for "finding" Daniel? (v. 25) What do these things reveal about Daniel?
2. Who alone did Daniel say could reveal a dream such as Nebuchadnezzar's? (v. 28) The dream had to do with what time period?
3. Describe the dream as Nebuchadnezzar had seen it (v. 31-35).
4. Who did the head of gold represent? (v. 36-38) What things did Daniel affirm about the Babylonian kingdom in his interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar?
5. Daniel revealed that the next two sections of the image represented what? (v. 39) What did Daniel reveal about these kingdoms?
6. The fourth kingdom was described how? (v. 40) What did Daniel say would contribute to its weakness? (v. 41-43)
7. What did Daniel reveal would be established in the days of the kings of the fourth kingdom? (v. 44) How would it differ from the previous ones?
8. What historical kingdoms do each of the parts of the image represent?
9. What facts about the kingdom of God are made known in this dream? Why was it important that Nebuchadnezzar know these things? Why was it important for Daniel and friends to know them?

The promotion of Daniel--Daniel 2:46-49

1. What benefits did Nebuchadnezzar bestow on Daniel? (v. 46-48) What did he acknowledge about God?

2. Did Daniel forget his fellow-Hebrews in his moment of exaltation? (v. 49)