

NEBACHADNEZZAR'S FIRST DREAM: A SOVEREIGN GOD

(Daniel 2:24-45)

- I. REPORTING to the King (Dan. 2:24-28)
 - A. Daniel STOPS the EXECUTIONS (2:24)
 - 1. Indicates his CONFIDENCE
 - 2. Indicates his COMPASSION
 - B. Arioch SHARES the CREDIT (2:25)
 - C. Nebuchadnezzar QUESTIONS Daniel/Belteshazzar
 - 1. “Can you TELL ME the dream?”
 - 2. “Can you INTERPRET the dream?”
 - D. Daniel GLORIFIES God (2:27-28)
 - 1. Asserts the IMPOTENCE of the WISE MEN
 - 2. Affirms the POWER of GOD
 - 3. Reveals that the dream concerns “the LATTER DAYS”
 - a. Distinct from the “LAST DAYS” for the CHURCH
 - b. Broader than “the TIME of the END” (Dan. 11:35)
 - c. Spans from 600 BC to Christ's SECOND COMING
- II. REVEALING the Dream (Dan. 2:29-45)
 - A. WHY Nebuchadnezzar dreamed (2:29-30)
 - 1. He was PONDERING the FUTURE

2. God PROVIDED INFORMATION
- B. WHAT Nebuchadnezzar dreamed—a HUGE statue of a MAN (2:31-35)
1. It was DAZZLINGLY bright
 2. Seen up close, it was TERRIFYING
 3. It was made of materials diminishing in VALUE, diminishing in WEIGHT, and increasing in HARDNESS
 4. It was confusing because it was TOP-HEAVY and WEAK at the BASE
 5. It was DESTROYED by a STONE cut without HANDS from a MOUNTAIN (cf. v. 45)
 6. The STONE grew into a MOUNTAIN and filled the EARTH
- C. What the dream MEANT (2:36-45)
1. The golden head is BABYLON
 - a. Attributes supreme HUMAN AUTHORITY to Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. Asserts his authority was a GIFT from GOD
 2. Silver and bronze parts are two more EMPIRES to follow
 - a. Identified as MEDO-PERSIA and GREECE (5:28; 8:20-21; 11:2)
 - b. Would be inferior in QUALITY but not in SCOPE
 3. Iron part understood to represent ROME
 - a. Power to BREAK in PIECES
 - b. Power to SUBDUE all OPPONENTS
 4. Feet of IRON and CLAY—to be considered in next lesson