

The Dream of the King

Daniel 2; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-10-2021

Context

- *Timing:* This occurred in the late 7th century BC (603-602).
- *A Divine Judgment:* God brought judgment on Israel through Assyria and then upon Judah through Babylon because of their idolatry.
- *A Believer:* Daniel, a believer in Yahweh, has been exiled to Babylon.
- *A Government Position:* He has been trained to work for the king in his court as one of the kings' 'wise men.' (Daniel 1)
- *A Cruel Tyrant:* The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 BC), is a dictator, a despot, a demigod, a tyrant who does whatever he wants and forces his will upon the people.
- *A Promised King:* God had promised to bless the seed of Abraham and to seat a descendant of David on an everlasting throne.

1. The Unreasonable Demand (1-11)

- 'In the ancient world, dreams were thought to be shadows of future events. A king's dreams had significance for the nation as a whole and the interpretation was important so that the king might take steps to be ready for the events the dream anticipated or even to counteract them.' (ESVSB)
- The magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans = 'staff of specialists in dream interpretation; special group, known for their expertise in magic lore and interpreting dreams.' (ESVSB)
- 'The cruelty herein depicted was widespread in the ancient world.' (Young) – Psalm 137:8-9
- 'Tyrants, indeed, often give the reins to their lust and think all things lawful to themselves.' (Calvin)

Application: Expect the pride and fear of the world to make unreasonable demands on others.

1 Peter 2:13-20; Genesis 30:1-4

2. The Reasonable Request (12-23)

- 'Urgent' (v. 15) in Aramaic means 'harsh, severe, cruel.' (Young)
- 'God of heaven' – this designation of the true God came into prominence at the time of the exile. He is the God who is over the heavens, i.e., over the sun, moon and stars which the Babylonians worshiped. (Young)
- 'God, I say, so changes empires and times and seasons, that we should learn to look up to him.' (Calvin)

- ‘Perhaps this description [of God] is intentionally employed to refute the notion prevalent among the Babylonians that their deities were givers of light.’ (Young) – Deuteronomy 29:29

Application: Pray for the Glory of God and the Coming of the Kingdom as you pray for specific needs.

Matthew 6:9-13; James 5:13

3. The Revelation of the Future (24-45)

- ‘God therefore wished, under this figure, to represent the future condition of the world till the advent of Christ.’ (Calvin)
- ‘Head of Gold’ = Babylon [605-539 BC]
- ‘Breast and Arms of Silver’ = Medo-Persia [539-331 BC]
- ‘Belly and Thighs of Bronze’ = Greece [331-63 BC]
- ‘Legs and Feet of Iron and Clay’ = Rome [63 BC – 476 AD; ‘strong as iron yet also an unstable composite of different peoples who would not hold together’ (ESVSB)]
- ‘Stone’ = the Kingdom of Christ (established at His resurrection and ascension, consummated at His return) – Isaiah 9:6-7; Genesis 41:26-28

Application: Don’t forget that all we experience is part of the process to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth.

Acts 14:8-22; 1 Peter 3:13-22

4. The Divine Reversal (46-49)

- ‘Nebuchadnezzar at the feet of Daniel represents the Gentile power humbled before Israel.’ (Young) – Revelation 3:9

Application: Expect God to bring ‘grand reversals’ (good out of evil) in this life and especially in the life to come.

Proverbs 26:27; Genesis 41:39-43; Esther 7:9-8:2; Esther 10:24-28; Acts 2:36; Jeremiah 31:13; Zephaniah 3:19; Deuteronomy 23:5; Nehemiah 13:2; Revelation 21:3-4

We need to be prepared for the future and hopeful at the same time!

Luke 21:29-36

We are to prepare by seeing things from God’s perspective and seeking God for what we need in the days ahead.