




Daniel 07 – Reality of Rule Sans God

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Daniel 2:25-35



Daniel's Meekness Continually Revealed

- Daniel reports to Arioch, Commander of the King's Guards and reports that he has the interpretation Nebuchadnezzar seeks
 - As mentioned previously, Daniel asks that the lives of Satan's wisemen be spared rather than simply ask for the lives of his three friends: Grace and mercy in action
 - Daniel does not demand to be brought to the King; he does not demand nor does he amplify his own importance at the expense of others (Pharisee)
 - Arioch announces Daniel by his given Chaldean name, Belshazzar, noting that he was from the Jewish captives; i.e., he was not in the original group
 - King pointedly asks if Belshazzar truly knows the dream as his experienced, aged advisors did not know
 - Daniel said he did not know the dream; as his advisors said, "...no one can show it to the king except the gods (God), whose dwelling is not with flesh..." (Dan 2:11)



The Thoughts of God Revealed

- Nebuchadnezzar wanted to understand the future of his kingdom when he received the vision from God
 - Satan, chief of sinners, has rejected God to be as god; he also cannot know the mind of God as it is anathema to him
 - Sinners will not, cannot, know the mind of God as they are asebeia, ungodly; they reject everything of God substituting their own sinful worldview (Rom 1:17-22)
 - Daniel was born a sinner also, but he was saved by faith like Abram (Gen 15:6)
 - It was God's will to reveal to Daniel, via the Spirit, the truth of the vision so Daniel could answer Nebuchadnezzar's desire; however, God gives more than the king asked; God reveals the truth of **all** governments (Dan 2:11-45; 109-12; 102-20-44; 109-44)
 - All governments since Cain culminate in Satan's final government: Antichrist; Satan is not God and has been learning how to achieve his ruling government

Revelation of the "Latter/Last Days"

- Daniel reveals another element of the context of his ministry: he will be used to show Satan/people what will come of his government in the latter days
 - Latter/Last Days – Technical term referring to the time period bounded by Christ's first Coming and the final destruction of this creation (19:13, 21:3-4; He 12:26-28-30)
 - Latter Days were being increasingly revealed via the Prophets in the Aged Age; Daniel was adding to this body of knowledge (24:23-4; 24:27-32; 8:20-23; 12:10; 14)
 - From the Captivity onward, Israel ceased to exist as a theocracy; the people existed within Gentile authority, which they rebel against, until they ceased to have any political identity
 - God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar the development of Satan's, and man's, rule in a simple metaphor of the body; and its demise
 - God unveiled the mysteries hidden in ages past: fullness of sin (10:1; 24:2)

Comparing Two Bodies

Christ's – Believers



Satan – Governments



Satan Imitates God: Christ's Body revealed in these Last Days (11:19-10; Col 1:24-25)

Christ's Body (10:12-34)

- Christ the Head: In the body
- Infinite Christ: intimate relationship with every person simultaneously
- Spirit brings each person into the body to fulfill function in the body
- Body unified: Worth based on relationship to Christ
- Christ rules by leading, suffering in His body to help with our suffering; He submits to the Father (10:1; 10:21-26)

Satan's Body

- Satan; Separate from the statute
- Finite Satan: No intimacy; rule is from without and autocratic
- Each person born into rigid wall, captive to one's sin nature
- Statute divided: Worth based only on the outward; nothing inward
- Satan rules without, top-down no regard to sinner's life; only Satan's goal matters – Power (illusion)

This Vision from Gentile Perspective

- As God gave Nebuchadnezzar this vision to answer his question as to what the future holds, it must be interpreted from this perspective
 - Satan is developing man's rule, governments, to achieve his goal of top-down dominance to eliminate all knowledge of God from the World
 - Each of these governments are not separate but are part of an integral totality of Satan's governmental body; he has never deviated from this goal; he cannot
 - Whereas Satan, and sinners, believe they are improving or evolving superiorly compared to past peoples; but from God's perspective, Satan, and man, are devolving: Gold to Iron and Clay
 - Though God reveals His truth openly, it remains hid because sinners' minds are darkened, rejecting His truth see 11:25-27, 32:4-17, 34

Gentiles Integral to Last Days

- When Christ ascended into Heaven, He sent believers into all the World to preach the Gospel: Mercy and Grace
 - Since the 2nd century A.D. the Church, first fruits of His body, has primarily been Gentile with some saved Jews like Paul; Dispensation of first fruits see 4:11, 34:21-34
 - Christ has hid His called-out True Jews in the World until the Church is removed; they will evangelize during the Great Tribulation, persecuted by Antichrist and False Jews see 27:12, 34:10-14, 12:1-12, 13:1-14, 15:1-17, 12:10-14
- With this vision God shows His will, set forth in eternity past, will come to fruition despite Satan see 11:2-4
 - All things work together for God's good for those who are called see 4:26, 33
- Daniel describes the vision to Nebuchadnezzar: Accurately! (He lives)

Nebuchadnezzar's Vision Terrible Statute

- The visage of the statute was such that it was terrible to behold; though Nebuchadnezzar saw his kingdom as good, it was built on war and death
 - All sinners measure themselves by themselves, other sinners, to highlight their supposed goodness and maximize the evilness of competitors see 27:11, 32:10-12
 - God showed us the truth of Satan's government: Terrifying, Merciless, Death
 - Each empire contributed an essential element to Satan's final kingdom that is still yet to come; these elements are at work in today's governments also
 - The Last can never, and will never, advocate for a godly nation as they are asebeia; to expect such is to ignore Scriptures
 - Satan's main occupation is violence and death; it is expected that his rule will also exhibit these same traits; it is only way he knows how to rule see 26:13, 15, 32:8-14




Elements of the Vision

- The single statute is composed of several materials and then destroyed
 - Head – Gold
 - Chest and Arms – Silver
 - Abdomen and Thighs – Bronze
 - Legs – Iron
 - Feet – Iron and Clay
- Stone (cf. clay) cut out without hands will strike the image's feet, Satan's completed kingdom, causing it to shatter, scattering as dust on the wind
 - The stone then became a mountain and fills the World
 - The metaphor is a representation of Satan's governmental history as related to the True Jews



Interpretation to Follow

- Daniel accurately described the King's vision; he will explain its meaning within the historical context and understanding of Nebuchadnezzar
 - God will give Daniel a later vision from a different perspective filling in other details; we will not include those details until studying that portion of Daniel
 - One must allow Scripture to interpret Scripture and not read one's beliefs into the text and arrive at a faulty interpretation; many have been deceived thereby
 - Later Scripture is built on earlier portions; if one does not understand the earlier Scriptures then the later portions are incomprehensible; again, leading to error
 - Though Daniel does deal with Eschatology, end times or last days, this is not our primary focus; we study Daniel to understand what is occurring in our time so that Christians are not deceived (9:23-12)



Study the Parts to Understand the Whole

- God gave the vision as a statute, body, composed of five diverse materials to highlight different facets of Satan's government(s) which will culminate in both the Antichrist's rule and the final rebellion against Christ's direct reign
 - We will study each material separately from Scripture and history expecting the Bible will guide us by providing context to such facts
 - We will see how each section influenced history and is shaping our time
 - We will look at eschatological events only as necessary to explain the final kingdom and its destruction by the stone and avoid the sensational and flights of fantasy which pervades the study of Eschatology
 - Purpose is to give hope as the world waxes worse and worse which Christ warned would occur until He returns; to expect otherwise ignores the Bible (4:14-17, 23:12-13)