

"Revealer of Mysteries"
Daniel 2:1-49
Wednesday, July 8, 2026
Assistant Pastor Scott Hart

Daniel 2 is one of Scripture's greatest prophetic chapters. In it, God reveals the future of Gentile world rule. These prophecies lead to the Return of Jesus Christ.

Main Thought of Chapter: "God sovereignly reveals and accomplishes His kingdom purposes, humbling earthly rulers while exalting faithful servants who trust Him."

Chapter Outline:

- 1. Vv. 1-13: The Failure of Human Wisdom**
- 2. Vv. 14-30: The Revelation of Divine Wisdom**
- 3. Vv. 31-49: The Triumph of God's Kingdom**

1. Verses 1-13: The Failure of Human Wisdom

V. 1: "Second year of Nebuchadnezzar" (603 B.C.). Babylonian king who destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC. He assumed his father's growing kingdom.

"Nebuchadnezzar had dreams." God disturbed the king through dreams. Several visions in a recurring dream. **Genesis 20:3; Genesis 41:1-8**
"His spirit was troubled": hammer struck. **"Sleep left him"**: sleep-deprived.

Vv. 2-4: Babylon's Wise Men: Magicians, conjurers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans could not reveal God's truth. Human wisdom assumes man has the answers. **Aramaic**: language of the Gentile nations.

Vv. 5-9: The Impossible Challenge: Reveal both the dream and its interpretation. The stakes were life or death. Failure meant death; success brought honor. The king demanded certainty.

Vv. 10-11: Human Wisdom Fails: **"There is not a man on earth..."** Their confession exposed the emptiness of Babylon's wisdom and idolatry. Only God reveals mysteries and wisdom. **Isaiah 41:21-23; James 1:5**

V. 12: "The king... gave orders to destroy all the wise men."
These men confirmed the king's suspicion: they were incompetent and fraudulent. Human wisdom alone fails to grasp divine revelation.

V. 13: "...they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them." Daniel and his three friends were Jewish hostages. They refused to defile themselves with the king's food.

God blessed their faithfulness with knowledge, intelligence, and wisdom
Daniel 1:17. King Nebuchadnezzar appointed them as new counselors.
The four are under this death sentence too.

2. Verses 14-30: The Revelation of Divine Wisdom

V. 14: "King's bodyguard": a unit serving as executioners. Daniel displayed spiritual discernment in a crisis. We have two choices in times of crisis: act in the Spirit or react in the flesh.

V. 15: "For what reason is the decree... so urgent?" Daniel asked a strategic question. By using tactful questions, we can gain control of a crisis situation. **"Arioeh informed Daniel."** This dream challenge has exposed the false counselors. Holy Spirit gives guidance.

V. 16: "Daniel went in and requested of the king": God is giving Daniel boldness. His confidence rests in God, not in himself. He requested time.

V. 17: "Daniel went to his house": a place of prayer. He gathered Hananiah, Mishaal, and Azariah and sought mercy from God.

V. 18: Prayer should be our first response in every crisis. Daniel resorted to prayer, not panic. **"God of Heaven"** contrasts with the Babylonians' worship of the starry hosts. They cried out for mercy and salvation.

V. 19: "The mystery was revealed in a night vision." Daniel was not asleep but awake. The vision unfolded in his mind as a supernatural revelation. **"Blessed":** kneeling in prayer.

V. 20: "Name of God" symbolizes His Person, embodying His glory. He deserves worship above all. **"Wisdom and power belong to Him."** God's Word: wisdom. Power: sovereign over history.

V. 21: "The times and the epochs": God knows the end from the beginning and controls the destinies of nations. **"Removes kings... Establishes kings":** God used Nebuchadnezzar to fulfill His will.

"He gives wisdom... And knowledge": He grants it to those who seek it on their knees. Babylon's "wise men" were not truly wise; they did not humble themselves to seek God.

V. 22: "He reveals profound [deep] and hidden things": God's revelations are beyond human understanding. **Job 12:22; Ps 25:14**

"Darkness": the limits of human comprehension. **"Light"** symbolizes God's wisdom. He is the only true source of revelation. Scripture is the ultimate truth.

V. 23: Daniel praised God's wisdom. God's revelation has saved them from death.

V. 24: "Daniel went in to Arioch ... appointed to destroy the wise men." Daniel boldly trusts in God. **"Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon!"** Daniel takes charge of the situation.

"I will declare the interpretation to the king." God's hand is upon Daniel, so he remains calm and confident in the face of danger. He is in God's will. God's purpose is to reveal His prophetic plan (**Genesis 41**).

V. 25: "I have found a man..." Arioch claims credit. Daniel gives credit where it's due: God, the revealer of mysteries.

V. 26: "Belteshazzar" Babylonian: "Bel protects his life." False Babylonian god. Daniel trusts in God alone (**Isaiah 46:9-10**). **"Are you able...?"** Daniel gives God all the glory.

Vv. 27-28: Men's wisdom failed. **"... there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries."** God's purpose: to reveal the **"latter days,"** the closing period of God's prophetic program.

First part of the challenge: **"This was your dream... visions in your mind."** The king's dream contains multiple visions or images. Dreams can be God's revelation, but not all dreams come from God.

Vv. 29-30: While on his bed, the king pondered the future of his kingdom. God answered those thoughts through the dream. Daniel emphasized that the revelation was not due to his own wisdom, but so that the king would understand God's purpose. God alone receives the glory.

3. Verses 31-49: The Triumph of God's Kingdom

V. 31: The great statue: **"extraordinary splendor"**: dazzling brightness. **"Awesome"**: radiated terror.

Vv. 32-33: Head of Gold; Breast and Arms of Silver; Belly and Thighs of Bronze; Legs of Iron; Feet of Iron and Clay.

Vv. 34-35: "A Stone cut": hewn bedrock. **"Without hands"**: no human instrumentality or agency. **"Struck the... feet of iron and clay and crushed them"**: "to smash or pulverize."

"...became like chaff...": small husks of grain separated during threshing; blown away. **"Stone... became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."**

V. 36: "This was the Dream." Nebuchadnezzar was stunned into silence. This was his exact dream. **"We will tell its interpretation"** Daniel humbly includes his three Hebrew companions.

Second part of the challenge: interpretation. Metal image represents the "Times of the Gentiles", **Luke 21:24**. A time of Gentile rule beginning 605 BC with Jerusalem's destruction until Christ returns, **Luke 21-25-27**.

Vv. 37-38: "Head of Gold": Babylon. God gave Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom, power, strength, and glory. God raises rulers for His purposes.

V. 39: "Breast and Arms of Silver": Medo-Persia. **"Belly and Thighs of Bronze":** Greece. Bronze was widely used in weaponry. The value of the metals declined, illustrating the moral decline of Gentile rule.

V. 40: "Legs of Iron": Rome (East/West). Immense military power: it crushes, shatters, and breaks into pieces. Rome collapsed: moral decline.

Vv. 41-43: "Feet of Iron and Clay": a future divided kingdom (Rome 2.0). Iron strength without lasting unity. Human alliances cannot accomplish what only God's Kingdom can accomplish.

"They": Ten Toe Kings/kingdoms. **"Seed of men":** offspring. Three major interpretations: Political Intermarriage, Diverse Coalition, Angel-Human Hybrid.

Vv. 44-45: "In the days of those kings": God will establish an everlasting kingdom. The Stone cut without hands pictures Jesus Christ. His Kingdom will crush the kingdoms of men and will never be destroyed.

Psalms 118:22; Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6-8

Vv. 46-49: Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself before Daniel's God. Daniel and his friends were promoted, but Daniel gave God all the glory. God honors faithful servants who trust Him.

Summary:

God alone rules history and reveals truth. We trust Him in crisis, seek Him in prayer, give Him glory, remain faithful in every circumstance, and live for His eternal kingdom rather than for the passing kingdoms of this world. He grants victory over death as we place our faith in Jesus Christ.

Application:

1. Human wisdom reaches its limit where God's wisdom begins.
2. Prayer should be our first response in every crisis.
3. God removes kings and establishes kings.
4. Christ's Kingdom alone will endure forever.