

Daniel Chapter 2

Pastor Mike Wells Study Notes

Chapter 2 Overview:

Nebuchadnezzar's dream is set forth in verses 1-13. It is revealed to Daniel in verses 14-23. Daniel is brought to the king in verses 24-30. Daniel interprets the dream in verses 31-45. And, Nebuchadnezzar honors Daniel and friends in verses 46-49.

Daniel 2 : 1 - *And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.*

- After arriving in Babylon, three years had passed before Daniel was brought before Nebuchadnezzar.
- However, here, Nebuchadnezzar had his disturbing dream in second year of his reign.
- Nebuchadnezzar first ruled as subordinate to his father Nabopolassar, to which time the first chapter refers (Daniel 1:1); whereas 'the second year' in the second chapter is dated from his sole sovereignty."
- So, in the second year of his full sole reign, God gave him a very disturbing dream which woke him up at night.
- In the Babylonian culture, emphasis was placed upon the meaning of dreams.

Daniel 2 : 2 - *Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

- Nebuchadnezzar called in his usual suspects: his magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans to interpret his dream.
- The magicians and astrologers were described in Daniel 1:20 as those practicing witchcraft and sorcery.
- The titles Sorcerers and Chaldeans are added here.
- Chaldeans, in this context, refers to some priest-magicians from the region of Chaldea.
- They all came and stood before the king.

Daniel 2 : 3 - *And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.*

- Nebuchadnezzar must have believed some of these guys if not all were fakes.
- So he only told them that he had had a troubling dream and wouldn't tell them what he dreamed.

Daniel 2 : 4 - *Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.*

- The assembled group urged the king to tell them his dream and they would then interpret it for him.
- Syriack is otherwise known as Aramaic or Syrian.
- It apparently was the official language of official Babylon.

- From Daniel 2:4 through chapter 8, the Book of Daniel is written in Aramaic.
- It is similar to Hebrew, though not identical.

Daniel 2 : 5 - *The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.*

- Nebuchadnezzar told his assembled ‘wise men’ that he had forgotten the dream.
- There likely was a little truth in that.
- Rarely does anyone remember all the details of unusual dreams when they wake up.
- Implied though is that Nebuchadnezzar was suspicious of his advisors being fakes.
- So he tells them to recall his dream for him.
- Then he tells them that if they failed to do so, he promised he would cut them in pieces and make their houses piles for garbage and manure.

Daniel 2 : 6 - *But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.*

- However if any of these so called fortune tellers could first tell the king what he dreamed and then interpret it correctly, the king promised to reward them handsomely.
- He then ordered them to recall the dream and interpret it.
- It is apparent that Nebuchadnezzar had little patience with his arrogant and fake advisors.

Daniel 2 : 7 - *They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.*

- The flustered advisors to the king again pled for him to tell them his dream.
- Then they would interpret it for him.

Daniel 2 : 8 - *The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.*

- The reply of the king basically is something like this, ‘I certainly knew that you would try and buy time (stall) but the thing has slipped my mind.’

Daniel 2 : 9 - *But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.*

- Nebuchadnezzar had little regard for his advisors.
- If they would not tell him his dream, there was one decree for them—death.
- The king accused them of preparing lying and corrupt words to speak to him “till the time be changed.”
- The king was aware that they hoped they could stall until he forgot the matter and changed the subject.
- He again order them to reveal his dream as a proof they could give a proper interpretation thereof.

Daniel 2 : 10 - *The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.*

- The flustered Chaldeans and magicians protested that there was no one upon the earth who could do what the king demanded.
- They also protested that no ruler had ever asked such a thing before.

Daniel 2 : 11 - *And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.*

- The word translated as **rare** (*yaqqiy*) also has the sense of 'difficult.'
- They accused the king of requiring an impossible thing.
- As far as they were concerned, no one could perform his request except the gods.
- They were partially right.
- No mortal man could so do what Nebuchadnezzar required alone.
- However, the true God of heaven could and would.

Daniel 2 : 12 - *For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.*

- Nebuchadnezzar was enraged at their resistance and ordered *all* the wise men of Babylon executed.
- He had had it with them all.
- He considered them all fakes.

Daniel 2 : 13 - *And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.*

- A warrant or decree was issued for all the 'wise men' of Babylon to be rounded up and killed.
- Daniel and his three associates were also included in that decree.

Daniel 2 : 14 - *Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon.*

- The captain of the king's guard, Arioch, showed up to arrest Daniel and associates.
- However, Daniel replied to him "**with counsel and wisdom**"—wisely and discreetly.
- Again Daniel showed wisdom and respect for authority.

Daniel 2 : 15 - *He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.*

- Daniel then asked Arioch about what was going on.
- He asked why the decree was so hastily ordered.
- Arioch then told the whole story to Daniel.

Daniel 2 : 16 - *Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.*

- Daniel talked Arioch into allowing him to meet with the king

- He informing the king with a little time to pray that he would reveal the dream and rightly interpret it.
- It is obviously that Nebuchadnezzar had a lot of respect for Daniel.
- He knew that Daniel had no political axe to grind and he was a man of integrity.
- As the following verse indicates, Daniel was granted his request.

Daniel 2 : 17 - *Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions.*

- Daniel immediately went home and told his companions Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah the news.

Daniel 2 : 18 - *That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.*

- Daniel desired time to go home and pray and ask God to reveal the secret of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the interpretation thereof.
- They had an added incentive because if God was so gracious to answer their prayer, their lives would be spared.
- If not, they would dead men.
- I bet that added fervency and effectiveness to their prayer. See James 5:16.
- On their knees they therefore went.
- Men never pray as hard as they do when the consequences are most serious.

Daniel 2 : 19 - *Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

- God hears the prayer of the upright. See Proverbs 15:8.
- That night, God revealed to Daniel the entire dream and interpretation in a vision.
- Then, Daniel proceeded to praise and bless God as recorded below.

Daniel 2 : 20 - *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his.*

- When God answered Daniel's prayer, Daniel praised Him.
- He blessed the name of God in the source of all wisdom and power.

Daniel 2 : 21 - *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.*

- It is God who the seasons of the year
- He puts rulers on their throne and removes them at His will.
- He gives additional wisdom to those already wise and increases knowledge of them already given to understanding.

Daniel 2 : 22 - *He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*

- Daniel spoke from firsthand experience.
- God had just revealed to him the details of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- The omniscience of God is clear.

- He knows the secrets of the darkest recesses of the human heart.
- He knows what goes on under the cover of darkness.
- In fact, He is light, the source of light, and light dwells with him.

Daniel 2 : 23 - *I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.*

- He concluded his praise by thanking God and praising God.
- Thanks and praise are go hand and hand.
- God had answered his prayer and Daniel thanked God for it.
- God had given him wisdom to know and understand the dream of Nebuchadnezzar as they had asked.
- God had revealed not only the details of the king's dream but the interpretation of it as well.
- Daniel thanked and praised God on the spot.
- We likewise need to thank and praise God as He answers our prayers.

Daniel 2 : 24 - *Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.*

- Upon receiving the dream and its interpretation, Daniel rushed over to the quarters of Arioch, the captain of the guard and directed him to not kill any of the wise men of Babylon.
- He was ready to stand before the king and explain his dream to him.

Daniel 2 : 25 - *Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.*

- Arioch rushed before the king and informed him that one of the captives of Judah was about to explain the king's dream to him.
- It may be that Arioch was not aware of Daniel's personal petition for time in 2:16.
- Most likely he wished to edify himself to the king by implying that he personally had found someone who could interpret the king's dream.

Daniel 2 : 26 - *The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?*

- The king asked if Daniel could make known both the dream itself and the interpretation of it.

Daniel 2 : 27 - *Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king.*

- Standing before the most powerful man in the world of that day, Daniel made clear that the pagan wise men, astrologers, magicians, and soothsayers of Babylon could not reveal to the king as he demanded.

Daniel 2 : 28 - *But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these.*

- Notice that Daniel took no credit for the revelation he was about to reveal.
- Instead he sought to glorify the God of heaven and testify of Him.
- The God of heaven and He alone would make known to Nebuchadnezzar his dream and its significance.
- Daniel also made clear that the dream about to be revealed was a revelation of the last days— a prophecy of things to come.

Daniel 2 : 29 - *As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.*

- Daniel informed the king that God had showed him what he was about to reveal and all that God would reveal to Nebuchadnezzar would come to pass.

Daniel 2 : 30 - *But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.*

- Daniel made clear to the king that what he was about to reveal was not from him.
- Daniel let it be known that he had no more wisdom than others.
- His honesty, modesty, and genuine humility are refreshing.
- Daniel with God's help was about to reveal to the king his very thoughts and dreams.
- Though he had forgotten or could not remember, Daniel would refresh his memory with God's help.

Daniel 2 : 31 - *Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.*

- Daniel proceeded to inform Nebuchadnezzar, step by step and detail by detail, precisely what he had seen in his dream.
- The king had seen a great image (statue) which was brilliant in its brightness.
- The word translated as **terrible** (*dechal*) has the sense of 'dreadful' or 'awesome.'
- The towering statue (image) seen by Nebuchadnezzar in his dream was terrifying.

Daniel 2 : 32 - *This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass.*

- The head of the towering statue seen in Nebuchadnezzar's dream was made of highly refined gold.
- The breast and arms of the image were made of silver.
- The belly and thighs were made of brass.

Daniel 2 : 33 - *His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

- The legs of this great statue (image) were made of iron.
- Finally, the feet were made of iron and clay.
- Notice how the value of the metals decreased from the head downward.

- With the exception of the feet, the strength of the metals increased from the head downward.
- So, the basic statue (or image) of the vision was described by Daniel to the king.

Daniel 2 : 34 - *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

- The revelation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream now took action.
- Nebuchadnezzar viewed the image for a season in his dream.
- Then big events came to pass.
- A large stone (such as used in building construction) yet “cut *out without hands*” smote the image upon its feet.
- The supernatural nature of this *stone* is noted in that it was cut out without hands.
- This Stone is none other than Jesus Christ.
- The Stone struck the statue (image) on its feet made of iron and clay and smashed them.
- The rest of the image came crashing down also.

Daniel 2 : 35 - *Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

- The image or statue made of gold, silver, brass, and iron shattered to pieces.
- It was completely destroyed to such a degree that it became like chaff—like dust blowing off a threshing floor in the summer.
- When all was said and done, no trace of the image remained.
- In the place of the image seen by Nebuchadnezzar, the Stone became a great mountain which filled the entire earth.
- Again that the Stone is Jesus Christ.
- At his return, He will smash the world system, setting up His kingdom which will encompass the entire earth.

Here is an outline of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and Daniel’s interpretation.

The vision itself: (Daniel 2:31-35)

Nebuchadnezzar saw a great image in his dream.

The word *terrible* has the sense of frightening or awesome.

1. The Image itself:
 - The head of the image was gold
 - The arms were of silver
 - The belly and thighs were of brass
 - The legs were of iron
 - The feet were part of iron and part of clay.
2. A “*stone cut out without hands*” smote the image and broke it to pieces.
3. The residue of the image was destroyed and dispersed.
4. The stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The interpretation of the dream: (Daniel 2:36-45)

1. The head of the image was in fact Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire. (Daniel 2:37-38)
2. The next portion (silver being inferior to gold) was the next empire to arise and “bear rule over all the earth.” History shows that this was the Media-Persian Empire. (Daniel 2:39)
3. The next portion (brass being even more inferior to the preceding) would be an empire that would arise and rule over the earth. (Daniel 2:39) History again has demonstrated that this was the Greek Empire.
4. The fourth part of the image represented a fourth kingdom which would be strong as iron. But its feet of iron mixed with clay represented the division of this kingdom into two parts. And the final form of this empire would in part be strong, and yet at the same time weak. In fact its final form would have ten divisions and not have great unity. (Daniel 2:40- 43)
5. At the time of those ten final kings God will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, and this kingdom will destroy the culmination of human kingdoms. This divine kingdom will stand for ever. The stone cut out without hands showed the supernatural quality of the final kingdom.

Daniel 2 : 36 - *This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.*

- Daniel now proceeded to explain and interpret the dream for Nebuchadnezzar.
- The plural *we* indicates that Daniel’s buddies, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were there with him.

Daniel 2 : 37 - *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.*

- God revealed to Daniel that Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold.
- At that point in history, Babylon was the lone superpower in the world.
- The Babylonian empire ruled over many other lesser kingdoms of the Middle East.
- Nebuchadnezzar therefore was in fact a king of kings.
- Daniel also revealed to Nebuchadnezzar that it was the God of heaven who had given him his kingdom, his power, his strength, and his glory.

Daniel 2 : 38 - *And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.*

- All the wealth and possessions that Nebuchadnezzar possessed were in fact given to him by God.
- It was God who had made Nebuchadnezzar ruler.
- Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold.
- In looking at the overview of the greater prophecy, Babylon, under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar at that time, was the primary manifestation of the world system.
- The prophecy of the Nebuchadnezzar’s image is a prophecy of the world system looking forward from that point forward.
- At that point in history, Babylon was the “golden” representation of the world system and its worldly glory.

Daniel 2 : 39 - *And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.*

- Daniel continued to explain to Nebuchadnezzar how that after the demise of the Babylonian empire, another kingdom would rise to power and then another.
- Just like silver is inferior to gold and brass is inferior to silver, so the coming empires would be inferior to Babylon.
- Later prophecies of Daniel as well as history show that the inferior empire which rose to power after Babylon was Media-Persia.
- It was followed by Greece under Alexander the Great.
- Though various nations have come and gone as world powers, the world system has continued in one form or another through the ages.

Daniel 2 : 40 - *And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.*

- The fourth and final form of the world system would be strong as iron and in fact would use iron for many things.
- Though inferior in value to gold, silver, or brass; iron certainly is stronger than the others.
- Prophecy and history show that the fourth manifestation of the world system after Nebuchadnezzar was Rome.
- Although the Roman Empire has long passed away, we continue to this day to live in the Roman era of history.
- Iron (and steel made from iron) has been the empire-building metal of this era of human history.

Daniel 2 : 41 - *And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.*

- In the dream, the twin legs of the image were made of iron.
- The Roman Empire did split into western and eastern divisions.
- Its final form will be partly of iron and partly of clay.
- The thought is of lessened strength.
- The influence and form of Rome would still be present, but its power greatly diminished.

Daniel 2 : 42 - *And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.*

- Based on ten toes, the final form of the Roman era of the world system will have ten subdivisions.
- They will be strong, but not as strong as the original empire as they will be ten parts instead of one whole.
- Other prophecies about the day of the Lord make clear the final form of the Roman world era will be comprised of ten nations and ten kings. (See Daniel 7:7, 20, 24 and Revelation 13:1, 17:3-16).

Daniel 2 : 43 - *And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.*

- The original form was the Roman Empire (which later divided into two divisions), the final form will represent more of an era than an empire.
- Notice how this final form of Rome will be mingled and mixed among the human race and will not be cohesive.
- Implied is a Roman influence upon culture, politics, values, and philosophy, but short of an actual empire.
- Today, the western world is largely a descendant of the old Roman Empire.
- The west is not cohesive, but certainly is the dominant force in the world economically, politically, culturally, religiously, and philosophically.
- It is no longer an empire, but rather an era.
- It is strong in its persuasion, but weak in also because there is no cohesiveness.
- The western world today doesn't cleave to one another (each is a free bird)
- However, western influence persuades most of the world even today.

Daniel 2 : 44 - *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

- Daniel continued to interpret the dream to Nebuchadnezzar.
- At the time of the final ten nation coalition, God will establish a kingdom which will never be destroyed.
- We can see the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ here which will eventually be transformed into the eternal kingdom of God.
- The coming Kingdom of God will not pass on to other people as Babylon was superseded by Media-Persia or the Persians were superseded by the Greeks.
- The coming Kingdom of God will destroy the world system (politically, militarily, economically, philosophically, and certainly religiously).
- It will stand for ever.
- The world system began long ago.
- It existed in Daniel's day.
- From his day on, God set it forth as one monolithic system in the image seen in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- It continues to this day, though we are getting close to the end.

Daniel 2 : 45 - *Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*

- The stone cut out without hands is a reference to Jesus Christ when He returns in power and great glory.
- He will smash this old world's grasp on planet earth.
- He will destroy the final form of the Roman era of the world system and set up the Kingdom of God on earth.

- God had revealed to Nebuchadnezzar what was coming.
- The vision of the image of Daniel 2 is an overview of the end times from that day unto the end of the ages.
- The majority of the prophecy has already been fulfilled.
- We today remain in the final stages of the Roman world era, awaiting the Stone cutout without hands to return. (We are awaiting the return of Jesus!)
- Daniel concluded his explanation to Nebuchadnezzar noting this is what the king had dreamed.
- Nebuchadnezzar knew Daniel was correct.
- Daniel was also certain in his interpretation of the dream because God had given it to him.

A Summary of the Prophecy

- In the latter portion of Daniel is a prophetic overview of the remainder of human history from the time of Daniel onward.
- To date it has been remarkably accurate in its fulfillment.
- The majority of it has already been precisely fulfilled.
- The final act is yet to happen.
- History has shown that the Babylonian empire was conquered and superseded by the Medes and the Persians.
- Though they defeated the Babylonians militarily, they were an inferior empire.
- The Greeks under Alexander the Great then proceeded to conquer the known world, including the Persian Empire and the world entered in the Greek era of history.
- Though the Greeks had much sophistication and 'culture,' they were not strong politically and once Alexander died, their military might waned.
- Eventually, the Greeks fell to the powerful and rising Roman Empire who were masters of the use of iron.
- They without a question were the most powerful empire in human history to that time.
- Later in the Roman era, the empire split into the Western (or Roman) Empire and the Eastern (or Byzantine) Empire headquartered at Constantinople.
- This much of the prophecy we know to be an accurate overview of human government from the time of Daniel to that time.
- We still live today in a western or Roman world, though Rome itself no longer has any political or military might.
- Nevertheless the dominant civilization of the world today has its origins in Roman tradition, with influence extending even to the orient, Russia, as well as the third world.
- The nations of the world today, for the most part, have republican forms of government, often with a senate.
- That is from Roman influence.
- The nations of the world have university systems which were something founded by Rome.
- The world's science and medical terminology is rooted in Latin, the ancient language of Rome.
- Even American money has Latin words printed upon it.
- The world's judicial systems are for the most part Roman in form.

- All in all, we still live in the Roman era of human history.
- The rest is still future for us.
- The final form of this Roman era will have ten loosely linked kings or countries, probably in the areas which once were a geographical part of the old Roman Empire.
- At that time, a supernatural **Stone** will destroy the final form of human government and its remnants.
- In its place will arise a government and a kingdom which will last forever—the Kingdom of God.
- As we will see later in Daniel and elsewhere in the Bible, the **Stone** is none other than **Jesus** Christ.
- When he returns he will destroy human government and establish his kingdom on this earth which will last forever.

Daniel 2 : 46 - *Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.*

- Nebuchadnezzar knew that what Daniel had told him was the truth.
- He knew Daniel had accurately revealed his dream.
- The king therefore fell down and worshiped Daniel.
- He ordered that special offerings be made unto Daniel.

Daniel 2 : 47 - *The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.*

- Implied is that Daniel stopped the king from worshipping Daniel
- Notice that the king **answered** him.
- If he could not worship Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar decided to direct glory to the God of Daniel which is where it belongs.
- Indeed, God is a God of gods.
- He is over all spirits, holy or unclean.
- He indeed is Lord of lords and King of kings. (See Revelation 17:14 and 19:16)
- He is omniscient.
- God knows the secrets of the hearts of men and can reveal them at His pleasure.
- That is exactly what he did with Daniel. See Psalm 44:21.

Daniel 2 : 48 - *Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.*

- Here is another classic illustration of Romans 8:28.
- There are lots of parallels between the life of Daniel and that of Joseph in Genesis.
- Though Daniel had suffered when he was taken captive to Babylon, God had greater things in mind for Daniel.
- Through the providence of God, Daniel was highly exalted.
- Daniel went from being a lowly Jewish '**wise man**' in Babylon to essentially the prime minister of Babylon.
- In addition, he was made chief of the governors of the '**wise men**' of Babylon.

- God had highly exalted him.

Daniel 2 : 49 - *Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.*

- Daniel then requested of Nebuchadnezzar that his three close associates, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, also be appointed as his deputies to take care of the administrative affairs of the province of Babylon.
- Daniel sat in the gate of the king.
- He was basically second in command to Nebuchadnezzar.
- To sit in the gate of the king made Daniel the prime minister or chief justice or the empire, or perhaps both.
- Either way it was a position of high rank.
- This elevation of Daniel took place in about 602 or 601 B.C.
- Of interest is that Jeremiah the prophet was still preaching back in Jerusalem.
- Babylon would make two more incursions against Judah with the final one utterly destroying Jerusalem and the Temple.
- At the second incursion, Ezekiel was deported to Babylon, though perhaps not in the province of Babylon.
- He there uttered his prophecies.
- There is no record of any interaction between Daniel or Ezekiel.
- God continued to use Nebuchadnezzar to chasten Judah and finally remove them from their land in about 586 B.C.
- Where Daniel was in all of this is not recorded.
- At the least, he was an underling who had no authority over Nebuchadnezzar and his final decisions.
- Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel make clear that God used Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army as instruments of His chastisement against Judah and Jerusalem because of their un-repentant sin.
- More than twenty years go by before the story of Daniel picks up again in the chapter 3.