

THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL, STATESMAN FOR THE AGES

Session Two / Chapter Two
Wednesday, January 10, 2018

THE DREAM OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

WORLD HISTORY FORETOLD

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Daniel 2:31-45

Head of Gold
BABYLON
B.C. 605-539

Breast of Silver
PERSIA
B.C. 539-331

Thighs of Brass
GREECE
B.C. 331-168

Legs of Iron
ROME
B.C. 168- A.D. 476

Feet of Iron and Clay
REVIVED ROMAN
EMPIRE
A.D. 476 - 2nd Advent
The European Union



This week our study concerns one of Scripture's most incredible prophecies, one that involves everyone of us! An understanding of Daniel 2 reveals clearly that the Word of God is a supernatural book, not one composed of human acumen. We will see clearly where we stand tonight - right now - in God's plan for the ages. The day of our Lord's appearing must not be far off!

1 Somewhere around 605 B.C., Babylon became the leading power in the known world
2 with Nebuchadnezzar in charge of the empire. He ruled from 605 B.C. until 562 B.C.
3

4 On the next two pages, I have included an article by Dr. Joshua J. Mark, professor of
5 Philosophy at Marist College in New York and a well-known write about ancient history.
6 One of his chief counselors during those decades was the Jewish prophet Daniel. While
7 Daniel was the author of the book of the Old Testament that bears his name, it is possible
8 that Nebuchadnezzar himself wrote chapter 4, which we will study in several weeks.
9

10 NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

11
12 Daniel 2:1-13

13 **And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed**
14 **dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. [2] Then**
15 **the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers,**
16 **and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before**
17 **the king. [3] And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit**
18 **was troubled to know the dream. [4] Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in**
19 **Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the**
20 **interpretation. [5] The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone**
21 **from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation**
22 **thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. [6] But if**
23 **ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and**
24 **rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation**
25 **thereof. [7] They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream,**
26 **and we will shew the interpretation of it. [8] The king answered and said, I know of**
27 **certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. [9]**
28 **But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you:**
29 **for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be**
30 **changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the**
31 **interpretation thereof.**

32 **[10] The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon**
33 **the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler,**
34 **that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. [11] And it is a**
35 **rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before**
36 **the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. [12] For this cause the**
37 **king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of**
38 **Babylon. [13] And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they**
39 **sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.**
40

Nebuchadnezzar II

Definition



by **Joshua J. Mark**
published on 20 July 2010

King **Nebuchadnezzar II** (634-562 BCE) was the greatest king of ancient **Babylon**, succeeding his father, Nabopolassar. King Nabopolassar had defeated the Assyrians with the help of the Medes and liberated **Babylonia** from Assyrian rule. In this way he provided for his son (as **Philip II** would do for his son **Alexander** later) a stable base and ample wealth on which to build; an opportunity for greatness which Nebuchadnezzar took full advantage of. He married Amytis of Media (630-565 BCE) and so secured an alliance between the Medes and the Babylonians (Amytis being the daughter or granddaughter of Cyaxerxes, the king of the Medes) and, according to some sources, had the Hanging Gardens of Babylon built for her to remind her of her homeland in **Persia**.



Upon ascending to the throne, Nebuchadnezzar spoke to the gods, in his inaugural address, saying, "O merciful **Marduk**, may the house that I have built endure forever, may I be satiated with its splendor, attain old age therein, with abundant offspring, and receive therein tribute of the kings of all regions, from all mankind" and it would seem the gods heard his prayer in that, under his reign, Babylon became the most powerful **city-state** in the region and Nebuchadnezzar II himself the greatest warrior-king and ruler in the known world. He is portrayed in unflattering light in the **Bible**, most notably in the Book of Daniel and the Book of Jeremiah (where he is seen as an 'enemy of God' and one whom the deity of the Israelites intends to make an example of or, conversely, the agent of God used as a scourge against the faithless followers of **Yahweh**). Those portraits notwithstanding, Nebuchadnezzar II was most certainly responsible for the so-called Babylonian Exile of the Jews and, so, for the formation of modern-day Judaism (in that, the **temple** destroyed, the Priestly class of the Levites of the Jews had to re-create their **religion** "in a foreign land" as recounted famously in Psalm 137 from the Bible, and elsewhere).

Nebuchadnezzar II defeated the Egyptians and their allies the Assyrians at Carchemish, subdued Palestine and the region of Syria and, consolidating his power, controlled all the trade routes across Mesopotamia from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. Remaining true to the vision of his inaugural address, the great king spent the tolls he collected and the taxes he gathered in creating a **city** which, he hoped, would be recognized as a wonder of the world (and, indeed, his hopes were realized in later writers adding the walls of Babylon and, in particular, the **Ishtar gate** to the list of **the Seven Wonders** of the World). In the forty-three years of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar II made the most of the time employing a vast army of slave labor to surround his city with walls so thick that **chariot** races were conducted around the tops and which stretched fifty-six miles in length, encircling an area of two hundred square miles. The bricks of the walls were faced with a bright blue and bore the inscription, "I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon."

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Lion of Babylon

Surviving an apparent seven-year bout with insanity (the cause of which is still not known today) Nebuchadnezzar II created a city which was not only wonderful to behold but also a center for the arts and intellectual pursuits. Women enjoyed equal rights with men under Nebuchadnezzar's rule (though, certainly, not completely equal in status nor opportunity by any modern-day standard) schools and temples were plentiful and literacy, mathematics and craftsmanship flourished along with a tolerance of, and interest in, other gods of other faiths. The great king died, as he had hoped, in the magnificent city he had built, an old man.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joshua J. Mark

A freelance writer and former part-time Professor of Philosophy at Marist College, New York, Joshua J. Mark has lived in Greece and Germany and traveled through Egypt. He has taught history, writing, literature, and philosophy at the college level.

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1 *** Several times in that passage you find the word *Chaldean*. These were people who
2 lived in southern Babylon, which would be the southern part of Iraq today. You will
3 remember perhaps that Abraham came from that neck of the woods originally, Ur of
4 Chaldea. That city was about 100 miles southeast of the capital, Babylon, and was
5 situated on the River Euphrates. In Genesis 11:27, Scripture records the beginning of a
6 single family chosen by God to bring redemption to the human race. Abram's story
7 begins. His name was changed in Genesis 17:5 to Abraham. He lived around 2100 B.C.
8 At the height of the Babylonian Empire (during Daniel's lifetime), the Chaldeans were an
9 influential and highly-educated group of people.

10
11 As this saga begins, Nebuchadnezzar has had a terrifying dream. He wanted to know
12 what it meant. He had a group of counselors around him who advised him on all or most
13 matters. He apparently trusted them. But now he gives them an impossible task: Not
14 only did he want the interpretation of the dream, but to make sure they were not just
15 giving him a lot of baloney, he demanded that they even tell him **WHAT THE DREAM**
16 **HAD BEEN!** Or....it is possible Nebuchadnezzar could not remember the actual details
17 of his dream himself as he said, "This thing has passed from me...." (Verse 8)

18
19 Obviously they could not do that, even though threatened with death if they did not come
20 through. How could they know what someone else had dreamed? Impossible! So the
21 king signed their death warrants – including Daniel's (who probably was not aware of
22 what had occurred). The prophet (still young at this point) did not panic.

23
24 Daniel 2:14-20

25 **Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the**
26 **king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: [15] He**
27 **answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the**
28 **king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. [16] Then Daniel went in, and**
29 **desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the**
30 **interpretation. [17] Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to**
31 **Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: [18] That they would desire**
32 **mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows**
33 **should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.**

34 **[19] Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel**
35 **blessed the God of heaven. [20] Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of**
36 **God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:**

37
38 Here is an insight into Daniel's sterling character: He saved the lives of those false
39 counselors. This is despite the fact that the charges against Daniel later, that resulted in
40 his being thrown into a den of lions, probably came from this very segment of "leaders."

1 Daniel certainly knew who his enemies were. But he never railed against them or tried to
2 undermine them before the king. In this particular situation he most certainly saved their
3 lives - at least for the time being!
4

5 Verse 17 informs us that Daniel told his three Jewish buddies, Hananiah, Mischael and
6 Azariah the situation. They obviously sought God for the knowledge of the king's
7 dream. It is wonderful to have friends who will help you, who will pray with you, and
8 who will believe in God's intervention in your life.
9

10 CHOOSE CAREFULLY YOUR ADVISORS! 11

12 Before Daniel's arrival, the counselors, advisors, staff of Nebuchadnezzar were all highly
13 touted in that society, but were totally fake. They were sorcerers, magicians who used
14 occult powers, enchanters. They were known to use herbs, charms and various potions
15 and were considered to be in league with evil forces. The Old Testament condemned
16 them soundly:
17

18 Exodus 22:18

19 **Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.**
20

21 Deut. 18:10

22 **There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to**
23 **pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an**
24 **enchanter, or a witch,**
25

26 Isaiah 47:9

27 **But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of**
28 **children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the**
29 **multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.**
30

31 Jeremiah 27:9

32 **Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your**
33 **dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you,**
34 **saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon:**
35

36 Scripture cannot make it stronger than that. Yet today there are millions whose lives are
37 controlled by astrology (a fake science), fortune tellers, tarot cards, etc. Christian, your
38 life is in the hands of the living God, not people who trick people into believing things
39 about their lives that simply aren't true. Hypnosis is another thing to avoid! Choose your
40 advisors well. At first, Nebuchadnezzar's life was directed by fakes.

DANIEL'S WITNESS

Daniel's life was on the line when he was brought before the King.

Daniel 2:25-26

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. [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?

Daniel denied having such powers - simply because he did not have them. His response was fabulous:

Daniel 2:27-28

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; [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.

Does it require courage to make such a stand for God in the face of paganism? Perhaps But the Holy Spirit spawns courage! Read the book of Acts carefully and see how many times God's heroes faced injury, prison, torture and even death by their stand for God
"Nebuchadnezzar....I cannot tell you the information you seek....BUT....THERE IS A GOD WHO CAN!"

THE DREAM

The drawing on the face page of your notes and the painted figure on the stage will help you visualize what the king saw in his dream.

Daniel 2:31-35

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. [32] This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, [33] His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. [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. [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

1 **place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great**
2 **mountain, and filled the whole earth.**

3
4 The King must have been stunned! The young Jewish captive in front of him had truth
5 that all his formerly-trusted advisors did not! Daniel was right! That was exactly what
6 the King had seen in his dreams.

7
8 Friend, this study is not a mere mental exercise or lesson from ancient history. The
9 amazing truth is that **YOU ARE IN THIS VISION...YOU ARE PART OF WHAT THE**
10 **KING SAW!** The dream reveals to us by God's wisdom exactly where we are in the
11 entire scheme of man!

12
13 Now Daniel unfolds the meaning of the apparition the King saw in the night:

14
15 Daniel 2:36-38

16 **This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. [37]**
17 **Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom,**
18 **power, and strength, and glory. [38] And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the**
19 **beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath**
20 **made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.**

21
22 God revealed that Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian realm constituted THE HEAD OF
23 GOLD. God did not deny that Babylon was a massive power. We know from history
24 that Nebuchadnezzar's covered the most important parts of the then-known world,
25 extending from Egypt to the Persian Gulf. Symbolized as the head of the image and
26 made of gold, Nebuchadnezzar was designated as the leading ruler of everything at that
27 time.

28
29 What we are seeing in the image is the sequence of Gentile world powers. In sheer
30 perfection, the succeeding strong nations would be less and less. As we now see:

31
32 Daniel 2:39

33 **And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third**
34 **kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.**

35
36 Babylon was represented in the image as gold. The second kingdom, or power, was
37 silver in its breast and arms. This would be the succeeding MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE,
38 which will come to play even in this book of Daniel. And the third power in the image,
39 also represented by lesser quality, would be Greece, which in truthful history, did indeed
40 follow the Persians. This is a fantastic prophecy, found in no other book or writing!

1 So what happened with these three empires? We know from reading history that Babylon
2 lasted less than a century (605-539), Medo-Persia continued for 208 years (539-331) and
3 Greece 185 years (331-146). At this point, shown clearly in the image, came the fourth
4 major kingdom: Rome!

5
6 There you have it - in the dream, in the interpretation and in historical fact:

- 7 1. Babylon
- 8 2. Medo-Persia
- 9 3. Greece
- 10 4. Rome

11
12 The Roman section of the image rests upon two legs. Once again, an astounding
13 prophecy. Within several hundred years of Christ, the once-unified empire was divided,
14 east and west. Rome remained the capital of Western Rome with Istanbul the center of
15 Eastern Rome. Always a constant lessening, a weakening, from head to toe.

16
17 The Weak Foundation Or Base Of The Image:

18
19 Daniel 2:41

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

23
24 Remember: each succeeding empire was comprised of lesser valued material. And the
25 very base, the foundation of this massive image was CLAY!

26
27 The legs of Rome were iron, according to the King's dream. But the feet were clay and a
28 mixture of the former iron.

29
30 Daniel 2:42-43

31 **And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall**
32 **be partly strong, and partly broken. [43] And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with**
33 **miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not**
34 **cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.**

35
36 In the last days of Gentile rule (our day!) there will be little unity. Ten toes. Ten factions.
37 (Verse 32) *They shall mingle themselves.* With today's global communication and ease of
38 travel, the mingling is just a normal part of our lives. Jesus was only in three nations, as
39 far as we know: Egypt, Israel and Phoenicia (Lebanon). Paul was in a few countries
40 around the Mediterranean. Today many have been in scores of nations (mingling).

1 Now this incredible prophecy tells us of a phenomenon that will happen at the very end of
2 the Gentile period:

3
4 Daniel 2:44

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

8
9 What will break up the final division of nations into smithereens? That stone, not cut
10 from the mountains by human hand but by the decree of God:

11
12 Daniel 2:34

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

15
16 Who is the stone? Christ Jesus who returns to earth to set up His millennial thousand-year
17 reign! Daniel 2:45 **Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the**
18 **mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the**
19 **silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to**
20 **pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.**

21
22 The upshot of this prophecy, this interpretation of the God-sent dream to the King, is this:
23 God laid out the plan for the next 2500 years of human life on this planet. The prophecy
24 has been fulfilled! Now we are living in the “toe period.” The next thing to occur is for
25 the stone, not cut with human acumen or talent, Jesus Christ Himself to come to earth to
26 establish His global kingdom. My friend, just as all the early parts of this supernatural
27 prophecy have occurred exactly as Daniel prophesied, so will the final part: the return of
28 Christ!

29 30 REACTION FROM NEBUCHADNEZZAR TO THE DREAM

31
32 Daniel 2:46-48

33 **Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and**
34 **commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. [47] The**
35 **king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods,**
36 **and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.**
37 **[48] Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and**
38 **made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over**
39 **all the wise men of Babylon.**

1 As we will see in subsequent studies in Daniel, the King's "conversion" to the true God
2 was temporary at first. Later, the King's pride brought him down to ruin for seven years
3 and he lived as a wild animal.

4
5 Daniel 2:49

6 **Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego,**
7 **over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.**

8
9 Daniel was now an exalted ruler in the foreign land of Babylon and his three buddies as
10 well. But in the next chapter, their courage and commitment will be tested to the nth
11 degree!