

Daniel 2- The King of Kings



To start off

Why do you think God made us with the capacity to dream?

To recap on last study

Despite appearances in Babylon, who is calling the shots with God's people?

Read Daniel 2:1-12

What is Nebuchadnezzar's request of the wise-men of Babylon?

What seems to be unusual about it?

Think it through

What does the astrologers' complaint reveal as the real dilemma here?

Who could the Babylonian wise-men blame for their predicament?

What does Nebuchadnezzar's request and subsequent rage reveal about the Babylonian gods?

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Read Daniel 2:13-28a

What significance (if any) is there in God being called the 'God of heaven' in verses 18-19?

What does Daniel praise God for in verses 20-23?

Who is this God?

Why do you think the detail of Daniel's Babylonian name Belteshazzar, is mentioned in verse 26? [note: the name Belteshazzar is based on the principle Babylonian god, Bel or Marduk, and means something to do with this god protecting the king]

How do verses 27 and 28a both confirm and answer the astrologers' earlier complaint?

Read Daniel 2:28b-45

What's the significance (if any) of the kingdoms being seen as a statue?

As the head of gold, how is Nebuchadnezzar described in verse 37-38?

What does this remind you of?

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Chapters 7 and 8 of Daniel provide the best way to identify the four ‘kingdoms’ mentioned in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and will be touched on in more detail in later studies. As a bit of a teaser though, fill in the table below by noting the parallels between the chapters

Daniel 2	Daniel 7
head	first beast
chest and arms of silver	second beast
belly and thighs of bronze	
legs of iron and feet part iron	
a rock cut out not by human hands	

In the light of Daniel 7 and the ‘rock cut out but not by human hands’ here in chapter 2, what is the nature of true human kingship?

Read Daniel 2:46-49

What does Nebuchadnezzar get right and wrong here in his response?

How might we make the same mistake?

Think it through

How did God exert his sovereign rule in a foreign land?

How might he still do this?

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Link to Jesus

In linking Daniel 2 to Jesus it's important to establish that Daniel 2:28-29a, and 45 are better read as the following:

Dan. 2:28-29

“... but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what things must take place in the last days. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these: “As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to what must take place in the last days, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. ...””

Dan. 2:45

“This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands – a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king the things which will be in the last days. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.””

Think it through

The reason for this [reading] is because it would seem that, what Nebuchadnezzar dreamed and Daniel came to see as something for the 'last days', the apostle John understood as being at least inaugurated with the coming and going of Jesus Christ. We can see this in the book of Revelation which references and alludes to the book of Daniel extensively, and to chapter 2 in particular. Indeed, it would seem that what Daniel understood as 'the things that must take place in the last days', John understood in places like Revelation 1:1, 19; 4:1; and 22:6, to have in an 'already-and-not-yet' end-time sense. The 'last days' being those which had begun but were not yet consummated. The 'last days' we are still in.

As such, John's vision of Jesus is current for us today.

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Read Revelation 1:1-8 and think it through

How might we understand the kingdom of God come in Jesus, as the 'rock cut out not by human hands' (Dan 2:34), crushing all the kingdoms of the earth?

Being in God's kingdom, what is the believer's part in this action? (think about what Daniel did)

Read revelation 1:9-18

How should we respond to this Jesus?

If we are not moved this way, what might that be a failure of?

Think about (and discuss if you are in a growth group) what captures your imagination and gets you dreaming. Do you need to repent of it being an idol?

Discuss how we might go about capturing our own imaginations with Jesus, and for His Glory.