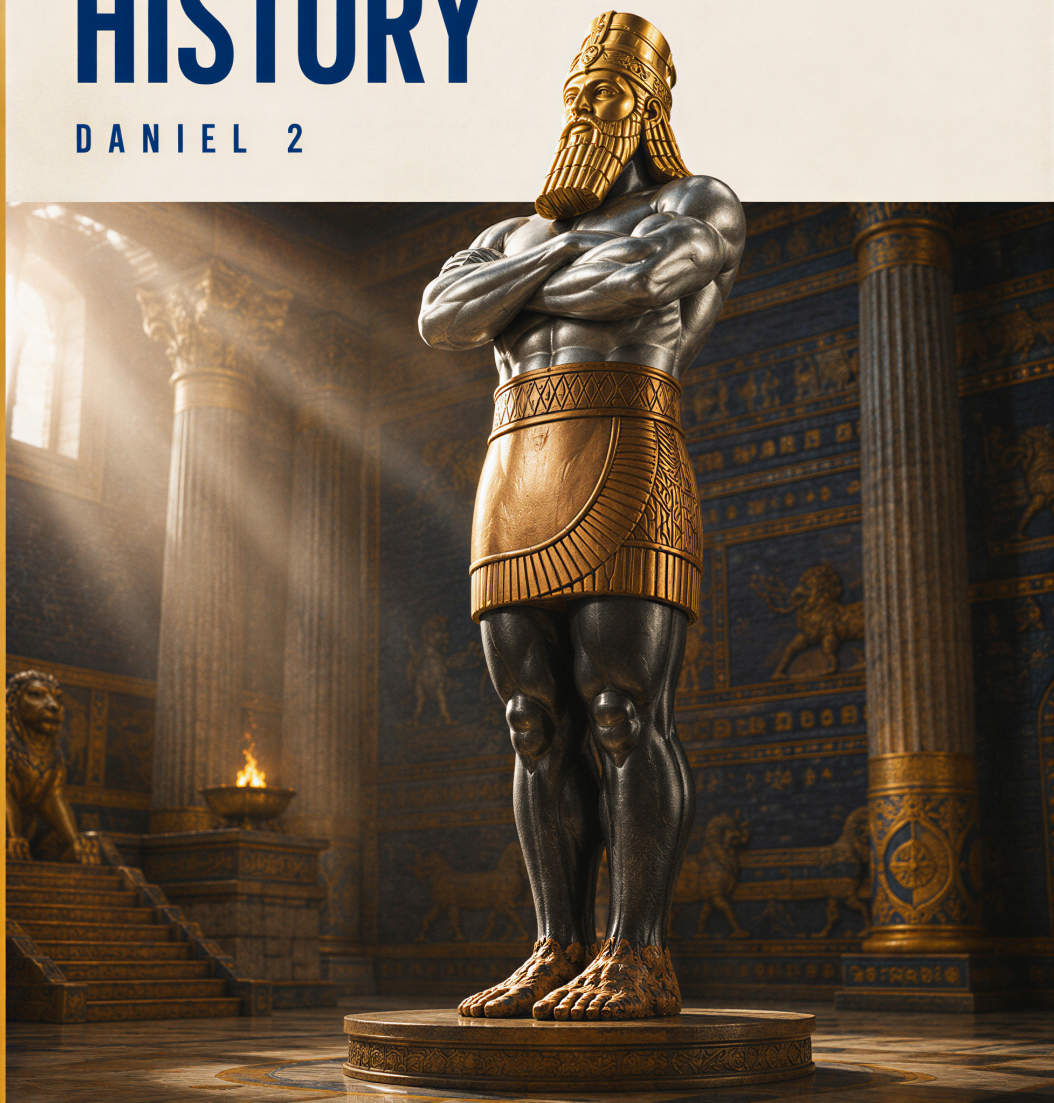


BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

THE DREAM THAT FORETOLD HISTORY

DANIEL 2

2



LESSON 2

The Dream That Foretold History: Daniel 2

*Can one ancient dream trace the course of empires and reveal
what comes next?*

KEY VERSE

*“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 2:44

Introduction

Daniel 2 presents a sweeping prophecy in one unforgettable image. Given to a pagan king, revealed through a praying servant of God, and explained by Scripture itself, the dream traces the succession of earthly kingdoms and directs our hope toward the everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Question-and-Bible-Answer Study

1. What unique ability does God claim concerning the future?

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”

— Isaiah 46:9-10

2. How should we regard the sure word of prophecy?

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:”

— 2 Peter 1:19

Study note. Prophecy is not given to satisfy curiosity. God gives it as light in a dark place, so that fulfilled prophecy strengthens confidence in His word and His saving purpose.

3. What crisis followed Nebuchadnezzar’s troubling dream?

“And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.”

— Daniel 2:3

“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. 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.”

— Daniel 2:10-11

4. What did Daniel and his companions do when their lives were threatened?

“Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: 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. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.”

— Daniel 2:17-19

Study note. Daniel did not claim natural insight or occult power. He prayed with fellow believers, received the revelation from God, and immediately gave God the praise.

5. Whom did Daniel identify as the true Revealer of the dream?

“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; 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;”

— Daniel 2:27-28

6. What did Nebuchadnezzar see in the dream?

“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 2:31

7. Of what materials was the image composed?

“This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.”

— Daniel 2:32-33

8. What happened when the stone struck the image?

“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.”

— Daniel 2:34

“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.”

— Daniel 2:35

9. Which kingdom was represented by the head of gold?

“Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 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.”

— Daniel 2:37-38

10. What would arise after Babylon, and how does Scripture identify it?

“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 2:39

“PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

— Daniel 5:28

11. What third kingdom would follow Medo-Persia?

“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 2:39

“The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.”

— Daniel 8:20-21

12. How was the fourth kingdom described, and which power ruled in Christ’s day?

“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.”

— Daniel 2:40

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.”

— Luke 2:1

Study note. This study follows the four kingdoms as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Daniel names the first kingdom; the later passages identify Media, Persia, and Greece, while Luke places Christ’s birth under Roman rule. The feet and toes portray a divided kingdom.

13. What did the feet and toes of iron and clay signify?

“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. 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.”

— Daniel 2:41-42

14. Would the divided kingdoms become one lasting empire again?

“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.”

— Daniel 2:43

Study note. The prophecy does not say that divided nations would never make alliances or cooperate. It says they would not cleave together as one enduring universal kingdom.

15. What kingdom will finally replace every earthly kingdom?

“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 2:44

Study note. The stone is cut out without hands: God’s kingdom is not another human empire. It brings the rule of earthly kingdoms to an end and fills the whole earth.

16. How certain is the interpretation God gave?

“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.”

— Daniel 2:45

17. Whose appearing is connected with the everlasting kingdom?

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;”

— 2 Timothy 4:1

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

— Luke 1:32-33

Study note. The Father gives the kingdom to His Son. Jesus Christ returns as King, judges the world, and reigns in a kingdom that will never end.

18. What heavenly announcement declares the transfer of earth’s kingdoms?

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

— Revelation 11:15

19. How widely must the gospel of the kingdom be proclaimed?

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

— Matthew 24:14

20. What invitation will Christ extend when He comes in glory?

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:”

— **Matthew 25:31**

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

— **Matthew 25:34**

21. What prayer expresses the believer’s response to this prophecy?

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

— **Matthew 6:10**

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

— **Revelation 22:20**

Lesson Summary

- God alone can declare the end from the beginning, and fulfilled prophecy confirms the reliability of His word.
- God revealed Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in answer to the united prayer of Daniel and his companions.
- The image traced four successive world kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- The feet and toes foretold a divided condition whose kingdoms would not cleave into one lasting universal empire.

- The stone cut out without hands represents God's everlasting kingdom, which will replace every earthly kingdom.
- Jesus Christ, the Son of the Highest, will appear as King and invite His people to inherit the kingdom prepared for them.

Personal Response

Consider these questions quietly and answer them in your own words:

1. What part of Daniel 2 gives you the strongest confidence that God knows and directs the course of history?
2. How does the certainty of Christ's everlasting kingdom affect the way you view today's changing nations and events?
3. Are you willing to receive the gospel of the kingdom and ask God to prepare you for the return of Jesus Christ?