

Dream Catcher  
Daniel 2: 10-16, 24-26, 29, 31-45, 48  
2<sup>nd</sup> in Series on Daniel  
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Everyone dreams. Everyone dreams every night, especially during that part of our sleep, which is the deepest, called Rapid Eye Movement (REM) Sleep. But, not everyone remembers their dreams, or if they remember some, they don't remember all. Some say dreams are the way the brain sorts out all it has taken in, sorting out the trash and saving the good stuff. Others argue it usually involves moving short term memory stuff to long term. But, these two simple explanations don't begin to cover everything that happens in dreams. What about nightmares? I can remember dreaming as a kid of being carried off. My mother always comforted me with a line, "they'll let you go at the first street light—not much comfort really. And, what about dreams of precognition -Kathleen Middleton repeatedly dreamed of Robert Kennedy's assassination, and reported her dreams. And, it happened.

Today, we are going to look at a dream in the Bible, a dream of precognition, a dream God used to answer King Nebuchadnezzar's wonder at what was coming after him? No one in the Kingdom could solve the dream, especially the way the king was presenting it to them. First, he said, you must guess what my dream is, and if you are right, then you must tell me what it means. And, to make matters worse, if you couldn't tell the king what he was dreaming, without his help, you and all the failures would be put to death. Bad time to be a dream interpreter! At least it was until Daniel asked to be given a crack at the King's dream.

Let's listen to the rest of the story from Daniel 2:

10 The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one who can do what the king asks? No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer.

11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.

12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.

13 So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact.

15 He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel.

16 At this Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. The Daniel praised the God of heaven.

24 Then Daniel went to Arioch.....and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

25 Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah, who can tell the king what his dream means."

26 The king asked Daniel, "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?"

27 Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come"

29 "As your majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries has shown you what is going to happen.

31 "Your majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling, statue, awesome in appearance.

32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

34 While you were watching a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.

35 Then, the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 This was the dream and now we will interpret it to the king.

37 Your majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory.

38 in your hands he has placed all mankind....You are that head of gold.

39 After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next a third kingdom, one of bronze will rule over the whole earth,

40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break the others.

41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so there will be a divided kingdom, yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.



43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united any more than iron mixes with clay.

44 In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a new kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

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 Word Of The Lord!

A dream of precognition, a picture of the future God had in store for the world! But, what did it mean? Four kingdoms—world powers, one already there—Nebuchadnezzar's, three to come! But, who were they? And what was this one kingdom hewn from a rock at the end? In 605 BC who knew? But, as time passed, the vision took shape, the kingdoms became obvious. Nebuchadnezzar—the head of gold, was first. His kingdom dominated the world from 625 to 539 BC; it was followed by a great but slightly lesser kingdom—Cyrus and the Medes and Persians, whose kingdom and dynasty dominated the world from 538-330 BC. Next came Alexander, and the Greeks, who conquered the world and ruled from India to France from 333 to 31 BC. Then, the Greeks were overcome by the Romans, who ruled from 31 BC to 476 AD, but split into two parts, Eastern and Western in 330 AD. And when Rome was splintering, the final kingdom came, the one carved out of a rock, but not by human hands, a kingdom that would never end

this was Christ's kingdom, begun when Christ was here, and having no ending—ever. It's now our job to see to that. Nebuchadnezzar had seen the future, and God, through Daniel, had told him what it meant.

Is this a story we should leave buried in a book little read today? Is it just an anecdote to way back when that no longer counts? No and no. God had placed Daniel there for a lot of reasons, the greatest which are to follow in Daniel 7 and 9 and 11. But, for those dreams and visions to have credibility, Daniel's abilities to see visions and interpret dreams had to be established, a given. So, here is Daniel, able to do something no one else in the land could do—he not only could interpret dreams with God's help, but he could know the dreams of another without the dreamer having ever shared one word of them with him. Daniel rose from this incident to be the Administrative Head of Babylon, based at its Capitol, being in daily contact with its King.

The predictions of the future Daniel renders are astounding, Cyrus and the Persians are coming, Alexander and the Greeks are coming, and Caesar and the Romans are coming. The

next 1000 years are right there in the dream. And listen to what that it all means, beyond the prediction:

God knows! God knows what is coming—all of it ---omnipotent is the theological word. Omnipotent about what must happen in mere seconds in God's life, but 1000 years for us.

And second, take comfort earth, God not only knows what's coming, but God tells us he is in the one in charge, that these kings serve at his pleasure..

In the time of the fourth world power—Rome—God tells Nebuchadnezzar that a fifth kingdom is coming. One that will not end! Ever! It will be made by God—carved out of rock, not by human hands. It will ultimately smash all of those that preceded it. Maybe you have seen pictures of ancient Babylon as it appears today—under the sand, nothing but ruins, not much left, long forgotten. Same for Cyrus and his Persians, and the Greeks. Even mighty Rome is gone—its great forum, nothing but ruins, its coliseum and senate ----ruins. Rome is gone, so is Constantinople, the Eastern Roman Empire Capitol. Gone, forgotten! But, the fifth kingdom came and its still here. It is the kingdom of God!

And Daniel was put there in Nebuchadnezzar's court to announce it.

But, what about today, what else can we draw from this stunning revelation of the future?

God is in charge? Yes!

God has a plan? Yes.

God knows what's coming? Yes.

But, what else?

God is going to win in the end. And,

God's kingdom will never end, until at the last, God is God over all, over kings, over all countries, even over all of our events and schemes..

Another wonderful point for us today"

God hears our prayers and answers. In what I didn't read specifically, Daniel asked the king's guard if he could tell the king his dream and then interpret it. When the commander of the guard said yes, Daniel went home and prayed for mercy from God, as he and his friends were included in the group to be killed for not telling the king what his dream was. Daniel prayed. God listened, then God revealed all of it to Daniel. God answers prayer, even the ones we raise when the world is crashing around us. As soon as the revelation came, Daniel went to his knees and praised and thanked God. I want you to hear his words:

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;

Wisdom and power are his.

He changes times and seasons,

He deposes kings and raises up others.

He gives wisdom to the wise.



He gives discerning to the discerning.  
He reveals deep and hidden things,  
He knows what lies in darkness  
Light dwells with Him  
I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors  
You have given me wisdom and power  
You have made known to us, what we asked of you.  
You have made known to us the dream of the king.

Daniel is a voice from long ago, a voice passing on what God revealed, a voice telling us:  
to rely on God,  
to be committed to God,  
to turn to God with all that besets us,  
to listen to God, and  
to give God the praise, when God reaches into our lives.

May we never forget whose world this is and whose we are –Daniel walked with God  
and said, do it this way.

Daniel is an echo of what is coming –Christ is coming. And Christ's Kingdom will have no end! God promised it, and we know from looking back, that it did come, and it has continued, and, no matter what we do or fail to do, that kingdom will have no end.

Our native American friends on the plains are aware of dreams and their significance. To protect them from their dreams, they use a talisman, called an OJIBUE. It is a circular hoop with threads across it, and feathers hanging off. You can buy these and if purchased, you hang them off the bed post. Its purpose is to catch bad dreams when they come and prevent them from reaching you and hurting you. Daniel was a dream catcher. He caught a recurring dream Nebuchadnezzar couldn't shake or make any meaning of. No one could. But God let Daniel know the dream, and then let him tell the king what it meant. He caught the king's dream and in a vision saw its meaning. Christ was coming, Christ's kingdom was coming, God was in charge, even of kings, God was planning for us, big things, that we might have a safe place, a place without the wickedness of the world, whether from Cyrus or Alexander or Rome. God was coming. As a boy I thrilled when all seemed lost in the western movie, and as I feared the worst, in the distance I could hear a bugler playing. "Charge!" The cavalry was coming. Help was on its way. Today, I have heard the bugle again. I can hear Daniel playing the bugle, and his song is: God is coming. We will be saved! Praise God.

Joel 2:12-13, 28-32

12      "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

13      Rend your heart, not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he will relent from sending calamity

28      And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions

29      Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

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