

On-Line Sermon Notes

DATE	SERIES	SERMON TITLE	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	TEACHER
09/25/16	Resolve	God of the Impossible	Daniel 2	Fred Hennes

RESOLVE

- Under penalty of death Daniel is asked to do something humanly impossible
- Daniel prays & God's answers

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. ~ 2 Chronicles 16:9

God of the Impossible (Daniel 2)

- Nebuchadnezzar's Dream → his demand, Daniel's prayer, God's revelation

¹ In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. ² So the king summoned the magicians, enchanter, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.

When they came in and stood before the king, ³ he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means."

⁴ Then the astrologers answered the king, "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

⁵ The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.

⁶ But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."

⁷ Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it." ⁸ Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided:

⁹ If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me."

¹⁰ The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one on earth 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.

- True – unless empowered by God

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."

- Not true – there are no "gods" there is only one true God

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.

- Nebuchadnezzar interested in supernatural disclosure
- Reasoning - if they could not recall the past, could they predict the future?
- Second year – took over his father's empire
- He accused them of stalling

Daniel Prays

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. ¹⁷ Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

¹⁸ He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

- After getting time, priority # 1 → gather friends & plead for mercy

¹⁹ During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰ and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.

²¹ He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. ²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

- Priority # 2 → praise

²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

- Priority # 3 → gratitude (all done in humility)
- Theology → God is approachable, God listens, God cares, God is merciful, God controls events (times & seasons), God is the revealer of mysteries, God is light, God is gracious, God shares his power and wisdom, God controls the destiny of nations
- How many of us take BIG problems to a SMALL God?
- We should take SMALL problems to a BIG God!

Daniel Reveals the Dream

²⁴ Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, 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."

- Not just saving his own hide. God loves all!

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 (also called Belteshazzar), "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,

- He takes no personal credit

²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

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

³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.



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.

- Daniel response puts the focus on God, not on himself
- With two characters (Rock & Statue) we now have a plot

Daniel Interprets the Dream

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 and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. 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 all the others.

⁴¹ Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this 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.

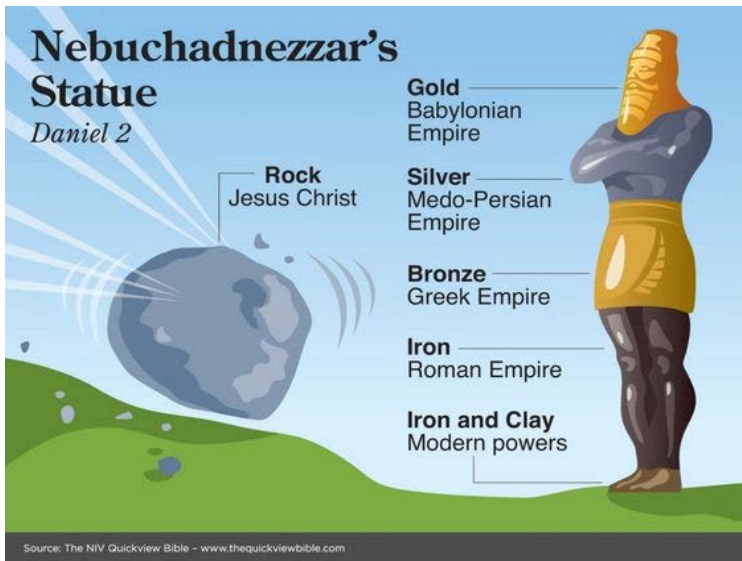
⁴³ And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

- Can we still be called the UNITED STATES? EU? World?
- Hillary vrs Trump // BLM vrs Police // bathroom use // Pro-life vrs Pro-choice // Gay rights vrs Traditionalists // Christian vrs Muslim // multiculturalism

⁴⁴ “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a 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 great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”



Gold – Absolute Monarchy (87 years)

Silver Chest – Constitutional Monarchy - arms of silver
= two nations of Media & Persia (200 years)

Bronze Waist – Oligarchy (rule by a small group of men) Greek Empire, Alexander the Great. (300 years)

Iron Legs – Republic - Roman Empire – tyranny that crushed opposing powers.
Divided into two legs - it never could unite the peoples to form a united empire.

Clay & Iron Feet & Toes - May 1948 Israel became a nation. May 1957 six countries signed the treaty of Rome, reestablishing Roman Empire EU

Rock - the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

Lessons from Daniel's Prayer

1. **He Honored God**
 - He resolved not to eat the Royal Food & Wine
 - He lived to fully please God // surrendered
 - QUESTION: Do I need to rededicate my life to the Lord?

Lessons from Daniel's Prayer

2. **He Knew God**
 - Vs 20-22 at least 10 theological truths stated
 - He was taking a little problem to a big God!
 - He had complete confidence in God
 - QUESTION: Do I need to reprioritize my time to practice spiritual disciplines?

Lessons from Daniel's Prayer

3. **He Proclaimed God**
 - He was humble, never took any credit
 - He made certain the King knew who the revelation came from
 - QUESTION: Do I need to be more public in the praising of my Lord?