

Daniel 1 of 2

Fort Payne

#0538

Study given by W.D. Frazee—September 18, 1976

Jesus is seated on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem. Four disciples, Peter, John, James, and Andrew are seated around Him. They have asked Him some questions, and He is answering them. And in the middle of His answer comes this wonderful prediction:

“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.

Before the end can come, the Gospel must be preached to all the world. It is a specific gospel. It is the Gospel of the kingdom.

The word Gospel means good news. It is good news that Jesus is coming to establish His kingdom. None of the kingdoms of this world have fully satisfied the needs of men. Too often earthly governments fail to meet the needs of the people. Perhaps there is corruption. Perhaps there is dictatorship. But it takes more than the best human beings to meet the needs of humanity. It takes God.

The good news is that God is going to set up His kingdom. I wonder when it will be? In the next verse Jesus speaks of Daniel, the prophet, and says:

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)” Matthew 24:15.

There is light in the book of Daniel for those who read with understanding hearts. Christ Himself in this important passage directs us to Daniel’s prophecies. So let’s go to Daniel and see what we can find out about the coming kingdom.

As a young man in his teens, Daniel was carried captive from his home in Judea to Babylon. As a captive he witnessed for God. He was faithful. He would not yield where principle was concerned. Because he was true and faithful God gave him an understanding heart.

After he had been there for a while, God saw that it was time to do the thing for which He had allowed Daniel to go there as a captive. He gave King Nebuchadnezzar a dream. But it is interesting that the king forgot the dream. Yet it had made a great impression upon him.

The next morning the king called in his wise men. He said, You men know the secrets. There is a secret I want to know. I want to know what that dream was I dreamed last night. I want to know what it means.

They did not know. After talking back and forth they frankly acknowledged they could not do what he asked. They said that if he would tell them the dream they would tell him what it meant. But they could not read the king's dream, and the king could not remember it.

All this was in God's providence. He was seeking to show the king of Babylon that he could not depend upon his wise men who claimed to have methods on how to get secrets.

Are there men and women today who claim to tell secrets, hidden things? By the thousands. And people are paying literally billions of dollars every year to all sorts of mediums trying to find out hidden things.

The king of Babylon had the best, but not one of them could tell the secret. So being an oriental monarch, strong in feeling, and powerful, he said, I am going to put an end to all this. I am going to have you all executed. And the command went forth to destroy all the wise men in Babylon.

Interestingly, Daniel, a young fellow, was reckoned among the wise men. He had not been called by the king because he was so young, but they were going to kill him along with all the rest.

He said to the man in charge, May I say a word to the king? And to the king he said, If you will give me time, I will tell you the secret. The king was so anxious to know the secret that he said, All right.

Daniel did what you and I ought to do. When he had a problem he took it to the Lord in prayer. You can read all about it in the second chapter of Daniel. He not only prayed himself, he had a prayer band. There were three other men who shared his burden, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They got down on their knees and pled with God. Their lives were at stake. But more than this they wanted to see the honor of God glorified.

God answered their prayers and gave to Daniel that night the dream that the king had the night before. He also gave Daniel something that He had not given the king. He gave Daniel the meaning of it all.

The next morning Daniel was on his way to the king's palace. He was brought in. As the king looked at him, I suppose he thought, I wonder if this young man can really tell the secret that all the wise men of my kingdom had been baffled by.

Daniel said, King, before I tell you, I want you to know it is not because of any special wisdom of mine. It isn't that I am wiser than all your wise men. But there is a God in Heaven that reveals secrets and makes known to the king what shall come to pass in the latter days.

Oh, God was going to get the glory. The dear Lord says, Them that honor Me, I will honor. Daniel was honoring the God of Heaven and giving glory to Him. And God could work with him.

With that introduction Daniel said to the king, You were lying on your bed wondering what was going to come to pass hereafter.

Sure enough, the king said, That is just what I was thinking about. Although a heathen, Nebuchadnezzar did not know about the true God in Heaven. He worshiped many gods. He was in some ways a very efficient ruler. In some ways he sought to do good for the people in his kingdom. And naturally he was thinking what all men ought to think—What is going to happen to Babylon after I am gone? What is going to happen to my kingdom? So with those thoughts he went to sleep.

Now Daniel said, God gave you a dream to answer your question. Notice that God spoke to him in this dream in a language that he could understand. The king was full of the ideas of images. So God showed him an image. It was a very interesting image. It was an image of various metals.

Daniel said, You saw in this dream the head of the image of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet part of iron and clay. Wasn't that an interesting image? Like a jigsaw puzzle.

Daniel said, As you were looking at this image you saw a stone that was cut out of the mountain without any hands. It came hurling at the image's feet, and broke the image to pieces. Gold, silver, brass, iron and clay all broken to pieces until they were like chaff. Then the wind carried it all away. That stone grew and grew until it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This is the dream. Now I will tell the interpretation. My, how interested Nebuchadnezzar must have been. Surely he recalled the whole dream with vivid outline. What does it mean?

Daniel said, King, you are that head of gold. You have been wondering what would come to pass after your death. You are the head of gold. After you will arise another kingdom inferior to you. And a third kingdom of brass will bear rule over all the earth. The fourth kingdom will be strong as iron. Four great kingdoms. The golden kingdom, the silver kingdom, the brass kingdom, and the iron kingdom. Then where you saw the feet and toes, the kingdom will be divided. But there will be in it the strength of iron, mixed with clay. Then Daniel told the king:

“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. 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 2:44-45.

The kingdom of our God is represented by that stone. That is the real universal kingdom.

We can do what Nebuchadnezzar couldn't do. We can look over the fulfillment of his dream. He was convinced that God had spoken to him. Nobody but God knew the dream that the king had dreamed. God had given it to him. But you and I can look back over 2,500 years and see how it has all been fulfilled.

We see that the kingdom of Medo-Persia followed the golden kingdom of Babylon. We watch Cyrus with his army as he marched in the drained Euphrates River under the walls of Babylon and took over the world's great monarchy.

We watch 200 years later as Alexander the Great, at the head of the Greeks, marched into Persia and defeated the great Persian army and became the ruler of the world.

As we watch the change on the stage of human history, we see the Roman legions march north, south, east, west, until the frontiers of Imperial Rome are pushed far beyond anything the other kingdoms had, and the Caesar of Rome ruled the world.

Did God tell Daniel to say a fifth kingdom following? No. Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome—the four great universal monarchies. Those four and no more.

What happens to Rome? It became divided the prophecy said. This is exactly what happened. Between the years 351 and 476 of the Christian era the barbarian tribes from the north came in and divided up the Roman Empire among themselves. They became the nations of Europe. And in Europe today we have these kingdoms a mixture of old Rome and the barbarian turf. A mixture also of strength and weakness. Look at Europe for a thousand years and you see some powers strong and some weak, but never united under one king.

Various ones tried it. Four hundred years after the downfall of Rome Charlemagne tried it and failed. Louis XIV tried it. Charles V tried it. The Kaiser tried it. Hitler tried it. Every one of them failed. God said they would not cleave together. Those words of God were stronger than all the might of Napoleon, Hitler, or any other dictator of Europe.

The prophecy has been fulfilled exactly and precisely as God gave it. And as on a road map we check our progress we finally see we are near our destination. Where are we on the great map of history? Down in the feet of iron and clay, weak and divided, soon to pass away. What will the next great drama be? Christ and His coming.

Thank God, that stone is going to fill the whole earth. It is going to put an end to all these kingdoms. God has no more time for earthly kings with their cruel rule, for unwise monarchs with their limited understanding. The God of Heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. It shall stand forever.

Nebuchadnezzar was so thrilled with the telling of his dream and its interpretation that he heaped great honors upon Daniel and worshiped the God of Heaven.

Let's focus on the great fact that Christ said before He comes in at the end of time the Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world. He referred to the prophecy of Daniel. History is but the unrolled scroll of prophecy. In prophecy God writes it down before it happens. In our history books men write it down after it happens. But we are dealing with someone who can foretell the future.

If a man came around your neighborhood and said he was a house builder, and you were wanting to have a house built, you might want to be certain before you let him have a contract. But suppose he should say, Come and see a house I am building here and another one I am building there. You watch him build those houses. You see him work and see the houses take shape, and you see they are beautiful. Would you question whether he could build you a house? Demonstration is the greatest form of evidence.

So when God talks to you and me about His wisdom in this Book, He doesn't ask us to believe without evidence. He says, Come and let's reason together (Isaiah 1:18). He offers to prove that He can foretell history through this Book by doing it. And when we watch Him foretell the future time after time we have no question but that He can do it again.

This world will never be united under some human dictator. This world will never become one world as people talk about. Neither is it going to end in some atomic explosion, blasting it from one end to the other. Trouble? Yes. The world is full of trouble today. But thank God, in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

That kingdom is made up of people. This is what Jesus has been waiting for. And along with the book of Daniel He has given us the book of Revelation. In Revelation we are given a view of the time just ahead when God's kingdom is set up:

“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.

What I am about to say may be hard to understand, but I know it is so. God will wait to set up His kingdom on this earth until I, one man, have made up my mind as to whether I want Him for my kingdom. That is how much He thinks of me. That is how much He thinks of you. That is what the delay is all about. He will not take the throne of this world unless He is sitting on the throne of your heart.

You say, Brother Frazee, do you mean He is going to wait until everyone in this world has accepted it?

He is going to wait until everyone in this world has accepted or rejected Him. He is going to wait until everyone has made up his mind one way or the other. Then will go forth those words:

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” Revelation 22:11-12.

It is for this purpose He is now sending this Gospel message to all the world. It is not merely a gospel. It is specific that the hour of His judgment has come. The time of His arrival has come. The end of time in which our Lord will appear. This is the gospel that will be preached in all the world. And its purpose is to gather out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people those who will accept Christ as king.

Have you made that choice? Is He the Lord of your life? Has the One who made you been given His place as the director of your program? Has the One who died for you upon the cross been given the key to your heart?

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” Revelation 3:20.

Notice His invitation:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne” Revelation 3:21.

When Christ takes the kingdom of this world He wants you to sit with Him on His throne. The Bible calls Him King of Kings. Everyone in His kingdom is going to be a king. Isn't that wonderful? Not a slave, but a king or queen, a son or daughter of the ruler of the universe sitting with Him on His throne. That is how much He thinks of you. For this He made you. For this He died to pay the debt that sin has made.

Before we sit with Him on His throne He is to sit with us in our inmost soul. Before we share with Him the throne of the universe He is to share with us the throne of our hearts. How wonderful it is that Christ is waiting anxiously to give each one the benefit of His personal supervision.

Think of the wisdom He has. Think of the guidance that He is ready to give. Think of the great opportunity to have the King of the universe be the general manager of your life. You are precious to the One who made you and died for you.

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