

Daniel (Fort Payne) 1 of 2

Image of Daniel 2

#0538

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

The text is Matthew the 24th chapter and the 14th verse. Jesus is seated on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem. Four of his disciples real close to Him, Peter, John, James and Andrew are seated around Him. They've asked Him some questions. He's answering their questions. And in the midst 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 then, the Gospel must be preached to all the world. And it is a specific Gospel. Jesus says:

"... *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.

This word "Gospel" means good news. It's 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's corruption. Perhaps, there's a dictatorship. But it takes more than the best human beings to meet the needs of humanity. It takes God, doesn't it? Oh, yes.

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

"...Whoso readeth, let him understand" Matthew 24:15.

There's light in the book of Daniel for those who read with understanding hearts. And Christ Himself in this important passage directs us to Daniel's prophecy. So, let's go to Daniel's prophecy and see what we can find out about the coming kingdom, this good news of the kingdom of God to reign.

You remember that Daniel as a young man in his teens, was carried captive from his home in Judea over to Babylon. And there as a captive, he witnessed for God. He was faithful. He wouldn't yield where principle was concerned. And because he was true and faithful, God gave him an understanding heart.

After he'd been there a while, God saw that it was time to do the thing for which He had allowed Daniel to go down there as a captive. He gave the king of the world, King Nebuchadnezzar, a dream. But interestingly enough, the king forgot the dream. And yet, it had made a great impression upon him.

And so, the next morning, he called in his wise men, astrologers. You know, they had astrologers back there, too.

And he said, "Now, you men know the secrets. There's a secret I want to know. I want to know what that dream was I dreamed last night. And I want to know what it means."

Well, they didn't know. And so, after talking back and forth, they frankly acknowledged that they couldn't do what he said.

They said, "If you tell us the dream, we'll tell you what it means."

They could make up some fable on that. But they couldn't read the king's dream, and neither could the king remember it.

And all this was in God's providence. God was seeking to show the king of Babylon, first of all, that he couldn't depend upon his own astrologers, that he couldn't depend upon his wise men who claimed to have all manner of methods on how to get secrets.

Are there men and women today that claim to be able to tell secret things and hidden things? Why friends, by the thousands. And people are paying literally millions, yes billions of dollars every year to all sorts of mediums and clairvoyants and astrologers and you name it, trying to find out hidden things. The king of Babylon had the best, and not one of them could tell the king his secret.

And so, being an oriental monarch, strong of feeling, powerful, he said, "I'm going to put an end to all this. I'm going to have you all executed."

And the command went forth to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

And interestingly enough, Daniel, just a young fellow, was reckoned among the wise men. But he hadn't been called because he was just a youngster, a young fellow. But they were going to kill him along with all the rest.

And he said to the man in charge, "Could I say a word to the king?"

He said, "King, if you'll give me time, I'll tell you the secret."

And the king was so anxious to know his secret, and he knew if he killed them all he'd never learn, so he said, "All right."

And do you know what Daniel did? Ah friends, he 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 here in the second chapter of the book of Daniel. He not only prayed

himself, he had a prayer band. There were three other young men who shared his burden, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. And Daniel with his three, they got down on their knees, and they pled with God. Their lives were at stake. But more than this, they wanted to see the honor of God glorified.

And sure enough, God answered their prayers and gave Daniel that night the dream that the king had had the night before. And He gave Daniel something He hadn't given the king. He gave Daniel the meaning of it all.

And so, the next morning bright and early, you can be sure Daniel was on his way to the king's palace. And he was brought in.

And as the king looked at him, I suppose he thought, "I wonder if this young man can really tell the secret that all these wise men of my kingdom had been baffled by."

And Daniel said, "Now, king, before I tell you this, I want you to know it isn't because of any special wisdom of mine. It isn't that I'm wiser than all these wise men.

"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days..." Daniel 2:28.

Oh, then God was going to get the glory. Do you see, friends? The dear Lord says:

"...Them that honour Me I will honour..." 1 Samuel 2:30.

Daniel was honoring the God of heaven and giving glory to Him. And God could work with him.

So, with that introduction, Daniel said, "Now, King Nebuchadnezzar, you were lying on your bed wondering what was going to come to pass hereafter."

And sure enough, the king said, "That's just what I was thinking about."

You see, Nebuchadnezzar, although a heathen, didn't 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 his kingdom and his people.

And naturally, he was thinking, as thoughtful men ought to think, "What's going to happen to Babylon after I'm gone? What's going to happen to my kingdom?"

And so, with those thoughts, he went off to sleep.

And now, Daniel says, "The Lord gave you a dream to answer your question and tell you what's coming."

And notice that God spoke to him in this dream in a language he could understand. Nebuchadnezzar was full of the idea of images. And so, God showed him an image, a very interesting image, an image of various metals.

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

“As you were looking at this image,” Daniel said, “you saw a stone that was cut out of a mountain without any hands. It just was cut out. And it was hurled at the image’s feet and broke that image all to pieces—gold, silver, brass, iron, clay, all broken to pieces until it was like chaff. Then, you saw the wind carry it all away. And that stone, it grew and grew till it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This is the dream,” said Daniel.

“This is the dream; and [now] we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king” Daniel 2:36.

My how Nebuchadnezzar must have been interested! Surely, he recalled the whole dream now with vivid outline. What does it mean?

Ah, Daniel said, “King, you’re that head of gold. You’ve been wondering what would come to pass after your death. You’re the head of gold, your kingdom.

“And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee...” Daniel 2:39.

“Another kingdom is coming after you.”

Well, Nebuchadnezzar thought, “Then, Babylon is not going to rule forever. I’ve been wondering what’s going to happen. Here’s the answer. There’s coming another kingdom.”

“...And another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 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 2:39–40.

Daniel’s telling the king what it means. Four great kingdoms, the golden kingdom, the silver kingdom, the brass kingdom, the iron kingdom. And then what?

“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” Daniel 2:41.

Four great kingdoms: gold, silver, brass, iron, and then, the kingdom is divided, represented by a mixture of iron and of 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 2:42.

Some strong, some weak.

“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.

Note the simplicity of Daniel’s prophecy, God’s prophecy given to Daniel for that king.

“King, you’ve been wondering what the future holds. King, there’s going to be four great kingdoms. Yours is the first. That won’t last. There’ll be another, then a third, then a fourth. And that’ll be the last universal one. That last one, that fourth one, strong as iron yet it’ll be broken, be mixed up, iron and clay, and be carried on, some parts strong, some weak.”

“And finally,” he says, “in the endeavor to mix together and cleave together, they’ll even intermarry. But still, they won’t be able, still, they won’t be able.”

“And in the days of these kings...” Daniel 2:44.

These divided kings, down in the toes.

“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.

You see, the kingdom of God is represented by that stone that smote the image. That’s the kingdom of our God. That’s the real universal kingdom.

Now, let’s think of it, how it has happened. You see, we can do what Nebuchadnezzar couldn’t do. We can look over its fulfillment of his dream. He was convinced that God had spoken to him because nobody but God knew the dream the king had dreamed. God had given it to him. But you and I can look back over 2,500 years ago, and we can see how it’s all been fulfilled.

We can see that the kingdom of Medo-Persia followed the golden kingdom of Babylon. We can watch Cyrus with his army as he marches in the drained Euphrates River under those massive walls of Babylon and makes his way to the palace of King Belshazzar and takes over the world’s great monarchy.

We can watch 200 years later as Alexander the Great, at the head of the Greeks, Macedonians, marches into Persia and defeats the great Persian army, and becomes the ruler of the world.

As again, we watch the kaleidoscopic 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 that the other kingdoms had, and the Caesars in Rome rule the world. This is the fourth great monarchy.

And what did Daniel say? What did God tell Daniel to say? Another kingdom? A fifth kingdom following on in succession? Oh, no, no. Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, the four great universal monarchies. Those four and no more.

And what happens to Rome? Divided, the prophecy said. And this is exactly what happened, for 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. These became the nations of Europe. The Franks, for instance, becoming France, the Alemanni in Germany, the Visigoths in Spain, the Suevi in Portugal and the Anglo Saxons in England, and so on.

And so, in Europe today for hundreds of years, we have these various kingdoms, even in their language, a mixture—a mixture of old Rome and the barbarian tongue, a mixture also of strength and weakness. Look at Europe at any time you wish for a thousand years, and you see some powers strong, some weak, but never, never all Europe united under one king, one emperor.

Various ones have tried it. Charlemagne tried it 400 years after the downfall of Rome. He failed. Louis XIV tried it. Charles V of Germany tried it. The Kaiser tried it. Hitler tried it. Every one of them failed. Those seven words of God:

“...They shall not cleave one to another...” Daniel 2:43.

...were stronger than all the might of Napoleon, Hitler, or any other would-be dictator of Europe.

So, you see, my dear friends, the prophecy has been fulfilled exactly and precisely as God gave it, absolutely. And as on a road map, we follow along mile after mile, checking the map, checking our progress, and finally, we see that according to the map, we are near our destination.

Where are we on this great map of history?

“Down in the feet of iron and of clay,
Weak and divided, soon to pass away;
What will the next great, glorious drama be?
Christ and His coming, and eternity.”
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #596, third verse.

Oh, I'm so thankful for this. Let me read it again:

“And in the days of these kings...” Daniel 2:44.

These kings of Europe that tried to weld Europe together and failed.

“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.

Thank God, friends, that stone is going to fill the whole earth. It’s going to put an end to all these kingdoms, take them away. God has no more time for earthly kings with their cruel rule, for unwise monarchs with their limited understanding. He Himself is going to set up a 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.

Now, notice Daniel’s summation:

“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.

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. The rest of the book tells some further interesting stories. Perhaps, we can look at them another time. But this evening now, let’s focus on this great fact, that Christ said that just before He comes in the end of time:

“And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world... and then shall the end come” Matthew 24:14.

He referred to the prophecy of Daniel. We’ve gone to this prophecy of Daniel this afternoon. We’ve listened to Christ’s words:

“...Whoso readeth, let him understand” Matthew 24:15.

We’ve read, and by the help of the Holy Spirit, I trust we’ve understood. What do you say? Have we seen it come to pass just as the Bible foretells?

As one of the great presidents of our country said, “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 thank God, we're dealing then with somebody that can foretell the future.

Now, I want to ask you something, friends. I want to ask you something. If a man came around in 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 the contract to him.

But suppose he should say to you, "Now, mister, I want you to come and see a house I'm building over here. And I want you to come and see another house I'm building over there. And you watch him build those houses one after the other. After you'd watch him build four or five houses, you'd seen him work there from day to day with the various tools and seen the house take shape, and finally, it's a beautiful, finished structure, each one, one after the other, would you question whether or not he could build you a house? No. Demonstration is the greatest form of evidence, my friends.

And so, when God talks to you and me about His wisdom in this Book, He doesn't ask you and me to believe without evidence. He says:

"Come now, and let us reason together..." Isaiah 1:18.

He offers to prove that He can foretell the future through this Book by doing it. And when we watch Him foretell the future time after time after time (for this prophecy I've studied with you this evening is only one of many in these marvelous books of prophecy in the Bible), when we watch God do that time after time after time, we have no question but what He can do it once again. What do you say?

Then, what's the next thing? Why friends, it's the good news of the kingdom, the Gospel of the kingdom, the new and everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This world will never be united under some human dictator. This world will never become one world, as people are talking about. Neither is it going to end in some atomic explosion, some hydrogen bomb blasting it from one end to the other.

Troubles? Yes. The world is full of troubles today. But thank God:

"...In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed..." Daniel 2:44.

Now, you know, that kingdom is made up of people. This is what Jesus is waiting for. And along with this wonderful book of Daniel, He's given us the book of Revelation, also. And in future meetings, I want to study with you some more of these marvelous prophecies of Daniel and also of Revelation.

In the 11th chapter of Revelation and the 15th verse, we're given a view of the time just ahead of when God's kingdom is set up:

“...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.

There'll be no end to His administration, friends. We'll never change rulers. But do you know, while God's government is a kingdom, every one of His subjects votes for Him? The election is unanimous of those who compose the kingdom. And it's a personal and individual matter.

What I'm about to say to you might be hard to understand. I don't pretend to comprehend it, but I know it's so. God will wait to set up His kingdom on this earth until I, this one man, till I have made up *my* mind as to whether I want Him for my king or not. That's right. That's how much He thinks of me. That's how much He thinks of you. That's 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, “Do you mean, Brother Frazee, He's going to wait until everybody in this world has accepted Him?”

He's going to wait until everybody in this world has fully accepted Him, or finally and completely rejected Him. He's going to wait until everybody has made up his mind fully and irrevocably and eternally one way or the other. And then, will go forth those words in the last chapter of Revelation 22 verse 11:

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust 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 that He is now sending this Gospel message to all the world. This Gospel of the kingdom, not merely a Gospel. A specific announcement that:

“...the hour of His judgment is come...” Revelation 14:7.

That the time has arrived, the end time, the time in which our Lord will appear.

“And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world...” Matthew 24:14.

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 keys to your heart?

In Revelation 3:20 He says:

“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.

Now, notice His invitation right on top of this:

“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.

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

And so, He says this evening hour:

“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, before we sit with Him on His throne, He is to sit with us in our little homes. Yes, closer still, in our inmost souls. Before we share with Him the throne of the universe, He is to share with us the throne of our hearts. Oh, 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's ready to give. Think of the great opportunity to have the King of the universe be the general manager of your life. My dear friend, there's somebody here this evening hour that's hearing that knock, hearing that knock. Somebody here to whom Jesus is speaking by His Holy Spirit saying, “Give me your life. Open the door and let me in.”

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in...” Revelation 3:20.

Is there somebody here this evening hour that has heard that knock? You know that Jesus is speaking to your heart, and you want to say, “Yes” to your Lord? May I see your hands? Thank God for everyone. You are precious to the One who made you and died for you.

Now, the purpose of this chapel is for the proclamation of this Gospel of the kingdom, and a week from this afternoon same time, 3:30, and for a number of weeks, the providence of God will determine how long we will be here with God's message from these prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation. Tell your friends and bring your Bibles and let us study together God's special message for earth's last hour.

Shall we stand?

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts for the Gospel of the kingdom. We thank Thee for the good news that earth's long night of sorrow is nearly spent. The Sun of Righteousness is about to arise with healing in His wings. The stone is about to smite the image upon its feet and break it to pieces and fill this earth with the glory of the Lord.

Oh, Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing. Accept each one and bring us back to learn more of these wonderful things from Thy Book, for Jesus' sake, amen.

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