

1. I earlier taught Daniel chapter two verses 17 through 23. When time ran out last week I was reviewing a comparison of Daniel's description of the king's dream found in chapter two and Daniel's dream described in chapter seven.

2. Keep in mind these two dreams describe the same five kingdoms, one present and three future. The Kingdoms are The Babylonian Empire, The Persian Empire, The Grecian Empire, The Roman Empire and The Revived Roman Empire.

2.1 The dream described and interpreted by Daniel in chapter two is one dreamed by Nebuchadnezzar and the dream described and interpreted by an angel in chapter seven was dreamed by Daniel.

2.2 The statue seen in Nebuchadnezzar's dream describes the present and coming kingdoms from man's perspective and thus the manifestation is far more favorable than the dream dreamt by Daniel.

2.3 That dream found in chapter seven is one full of awful creatures coming out of a churning sea; the latter dream is seen from God's perspective. He views the kingdoms of this world as voracious and ravenous.

3. Last week I gave you a brief overview with comment on the king's dream and then the dream of Daniel.

4. I want to review Daniel's dream found in chapter eight but first let me give you an expanded translation of Dan 2:1-23.

Dan 2:1 In the third year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, the King began to have several very troubling dreams; he was greatly disturbed; so panic stricken that he developed a serious case insomnia.

Dan 2:2 Accordingly Nebuchadnezzar summoned his scribes, his best scientists, his sorcerers, priests and soothsayers; they were told the nature of the King's problem.

Dan 2:3 The king said to them, "I had a dream which greatly troubles me and I want to know its meaning."

Dan 2:4 The men summoned to the palace bowed before Nebuchadnezzar saying in unison "O King live forever." The leader of the group said "now tell us the dream and we will tell you its interpretation.

Dan 2:5 The king answered "I have already issued an irrevocable decree "If you do not tell me what I dreamed and then interpret it for me, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.

Dan 2:6 But if you tell me what I dreamed and then tell me its meaning, I will give you gold bullion, silver utensils and a chest full of precious stones along with a large monetary stipend and a promotion. So take a shot and tell me the dream and its interpretation.

Dan 2:7 Once more their spokesman replied, "Tell us the dream, and then we will interpret it."

Dan 2:8 Nebuchadnezzar answered, "You are simply trying to buy time, because you realize I have issued an unalterable decree that a failure to tell the dream and interpret will result in your deaths.

Dan 2:9 If you fail to tell me the dream, there is just one penalty for you. For you see in the past I have watched you on occasion develop misleading interpretations and now I think you are simply stalling, hoping the situation will change. Tell me the dream, and then I will know that your interpretation can be trusted.

Dan 2:10 One of the more respected scholars answered, "There is not a diviner on earth who can do what the king asks! In fact we know of no king, Egyptian or Assyrian who has ever asked a scholar, enchanter or astrologer to tell a ruler what he dreamed.

Dan 2:11 What you are asking is frankly just too difficult. There is no human who one can reveal your dream; only the gods know what you dreamed but unfortunately the gods do not live among us.

Dan 2:12 This response made the king not just angry but livid; he exploded and summarily ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:13 The decree to execute all Babylonian diviners was received by Arioch, Nebuchadnezzar's Chief of Execution, he immediately led a sweeping search for all diviners and this included Daniel and his four friends.

Dan 2:14 When Arioch arrived at Daniel's palace apartment, the young teenager met the Chief Executioner at the door; Arioch read the decree to Daniel and then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom.

Dan 2:15 "Why is the decree being so hastily carried out? Then Arioch told Daniel how the King had already met with the palace diviners and given each a chance to tell the King his dream.

Dan 2:16 Daniel went straight to the King's Quarters and asked permission from his Chief of Staff to see the King; Daniel promised, if given just a little more time, he would tell the King what he had dreamed and then interpret the dream.

Dan 2:17 Later Daniel met with his three friends and explained the entire situation.

Dan 2:18 The four in prayer asked God to make known the dream and its interpretation so that they would not be drawn and quartered with the rest of the Babylonian diviners.

Dan 2:19 The dream and its interpretation was given to Daniel in a night vision; and Daniel responded to God's revelation by praising God.

Dan 2:20 Daniel extolled the name of Jehovah God by exclaiming "Blessed be the name of God forever, for He is the source of all wisdom and might.

Dan 2:21 He went even further by proclaiming "it is Jesus Christ who controls events and breaks up time into epochs; he both raises up kings and puts them down; He gives wisdom to the wise, and more doctrine to those who desire it.

Dan 2:22 He reveals the deep and hidden things to those who know Him; God knows what is in the minds of men; and because the light dwells in Him, He can reveal everything that I, Daniel need to know.

Dan 2:23 I thank You and praise Your name, Oh God of my fathers, who has given me wisdom and has revealed the king's dream."

5. Now let's take a look at chapter eight where Daniel has another related dream.

Dan 8:1 In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me.

Dan 8:2 In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal.

Dan 8:3 I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later.

Dan 8:4 I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

Dan 8:5 As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground.

Dan 8:6 He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage.

Dan 8:7 I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power.

Dan 8:8 The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns (Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, Seleucid) grew up toward the four winds of heaven.

Dan 8:9 Out of one of them came another horn (Antiochus Epiphanies - a type of Antichrist), which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land.

Dan 8:10 It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.

Dan 8:11 It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low.

Dan 8:12 Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

Dan 8:13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled--the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?"

Dan 8:14 He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated (the first Channuka -feast of lights)."

Dan 8:15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man.

Dan 8:16 And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

Dan 8:17 As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."

Dan 8:18 While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.

Dan 8:19 He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.

Dan 8:20 The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king.

Dan 8:22 The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power.

Dan 8:23 "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise.

Dan 8:24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.

Dan 8:25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

Dan 8:26 "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."

Dan 8:27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

6. Now let's return to our study of Daniel chapter two. In verse twenty-one of chapter two we find two words "Iddan" which is similar to the Greek Chronos and "Zeman" which is similar to the Greek Kairos. These are common words used to describe "dispensations".

1. By using these words Daniel reveals his knowledge of dispensations. Dispensations (except for the Church Age) and cycles of discipline were commonly understood by the Old Testament prophets.

2. In Leviticus chapter 26 we have an extensive dissertation on the cycles of discipline promised for Israel.

End Lesson Taught 10-8-2000