



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God Provides Insight on Destiny of Nations (Daniel 2)

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*Daniel wrote to encourage the Jewish people living in captivity. The theme of the book is about God's program for them and His sovereign control over the affairs of rulers and nations. This chapter reveals God's plan for the world and the coming Kingdom of His Son, the Christ. **How have you been comforted by knowing history, understanding the current times, and having hope for the future?***

INTRODUCTION

God judged the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C., allowing Assyria to conquer them. God used Babylon, the next world power to judge the southern kingdom of Judah in 605 B.C. Daniel and three of his teen-aged friends were captured and put through a government leadership program in Babylon. They were promoted to roles as advisors in the king's administration. **Can you reflect on how God has empowered you to advise others seeking God's will?**

GOD DISCREDITS THE POOL OF ADVISORS

Daniel 2:1-3

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means. (NIV)

The king shrewdly withheld details of his dream to test his experts. Likely their advice had failed to be reliable in the past and he sought a straight answer with no deception. Their pleas for bits of information infuriated the king and he ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be put to death. **Have your observed self-proclaimed experts fail in their area of specialty?**

DANIEL ACTS WITH DISCRETION

Daniel 2:15-16

The king's officer, Arioch, explained the matter to Daniel. So Daniel went in and requested that the king give him time and he would tell the king the interpretation. (NRSV)

Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They prayed for God's compassion concerning this mystery. God revealed it's meaning to Daniel in a night vision. Daniel praised God for revealing the profound and hidden things to the king (Daniel 2:19-23). Daniel went to Arioch and asked him to not destroy the wise men of Babylon and take him in to reveal the interpretation to the king. **Can you share of a time when God revealed a profound mystery?**

EXPLAINING THE VISION GOD GAVE TO THE KING

Daniel 2:31-35

"Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large, enormous, dazzling, statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly, and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. 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. 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 filling the whole earth. This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king." (NIV)

Daniel explained that God was revealing to Nebuchadnezzar that Babylon was the first of five kingdoms which would rule over Israel. These turned out to be Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. God's kingdom, ruled by Messiah at His second coming is the eternal rule. **Do you see signs of a revived Roman Empire, to be ruled by ten kings?**

Daniel 2:47

The king said to Daniel, "Truly your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries...." (NRSV)

A PRAYER

Almighty God: Thank You for the understanding revealed in the study of Your word. I praise Jesus for my added insight. Amen!