

## DANIEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Daniel chapter 2 as we continue our study through the Word of God and through this very timely book. The reason I say that this book is timely is because it speaks of prophetic events that have come to pass and some that are still future and I think that future is getting very close.

God shows Daniel what the World Kingdoms will be like in his day all the way to the end time World Kingdom, which I believe is close to being established. And keep in mind that when I speak of prophecy, or I should say when God speaks on prophecy it relates to Jesus Christ.

We are told in Revelation 19:10 as John is about to bow before this angel, “**And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’**”

And we will see that the Last Kingdom that will be established is the Kingdom of God as Jesus Christ puts down all World Empires and establishes His Kingdom on this earth for 1,000 years!

So we have a lot to cover in this chapter that deals with a dream that the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar has and the interpretation of that dream by Daniel. A truly fascinating study as you will see.

Some have called this “the ABC of prophecy” as it is indeed the mountain peak of Biblical prophecy. Dr. Ironside wrote, “I suppose it contains the most complete, and yet the most simple prophetic picture that we have in all the word of God.” It is the culmination of world history as we will see.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Daniel chapter 2, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

## DANIEL 2

### VERSE 1

1. This chapter opens up with the timeframe of this dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had. We are told that it was **“in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign . . .”** Now that is not a big deal until you understand that Daniel and his companions who were taken into captivity by the Babylonians were being trained up for three years. So did this happen during that training period or after?

As you read Daniel 1:17-20 you can clearly see that those three years of training are over. We are told, **“Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”**

So these men finished their training and they were now working for the King of Babylon. If that is true, and it is, then how can this chapter open up by saying this dream the King had was only in the second year of his reign?

Keep in mind that Nebuchadnezzar returned to Babylon after hearing that his father, Nabopolassar, the King of Babylon had died. And as he returned home with the captives from Jerusalem he did not begin his first official year as King. Leupold puts this into perspective for us as he wrote, “The Babylonian manner of reckoning a king’s reign did not regard the unexpired portion of the last year of the deceased monarch as the first year of the new king, but reserved that designation for the first full year of the new monarch’s rule. Since the kings did not, as a rule, die at the close of the last year of their reign, there were usually months intervening between reigns, which would allow just enough latitude to make the initial phrase of our chapter entirely proper.”

So Daniel and his friends had completed their 3 years of training during the end of the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign. No contradiction or error here.

2. Did you ever have a dream that kept you awake at night? I did and my dreams are strange, I am mostly trying to escape some monster or something like that. I remember several months ago I was dreaming that this monster was after me and I ran into this snow tunnel but the end was blocked off with snow, I could not escape.

So as this monster got closer and closer I could feel him grabbing for my foot and thus, I rolled as hard as I could to break through that snow wall and get out. Well, I didn’t get through the snow wall but I did roll right out of bed and hit the wall. Don’t worry, the monster didn’t get me. I did have a hard time going back to sleep after that! I guess that means back to therapy for me!

That was the kind of dream that Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon was having. Over and over this dream played out in his mind. Obviously he knew it was important, but what did it all mean? But because this dream troubled him so much he could not get any sleep! I guess he was having the same trouble that the butler and the baker had when they dreamed and didn't know what it meant until Joseph interpreted the dream for them. The only difference here is that this King had the resources to find out what the dream meant, or at least he thought he did!

### VERSES 2-13

1. Before we look at the details that happened in this chapter keep in mind that here is where the language changes from Hebrew to Aramaic. It begins in Daniel 2:4b and continues through Daniel 7:28. This is the only section of the Bible written in Aramaic. This was the language of the Babylonian Empire and it is written about Gentile World Kingdoms as we shall see. Gentiles needed to understand these words!

2. Because of the King not being able to sleep because of this dream he calls for these wise men to interpret the dream for him so he can get some sleep. And that is part of what these men did, interpret dreams. Look at these wise men that the King called for help:

- **MAGICIANS:** These were the fortune tellers and scholars. You see, in the ancient world this role was many times combined.
- **ASTROLOGERS:** These men charted the position of the stars and tried to determine a person's destiny much like the horoscopes of today, among other things.
- **SORCERERS:** These spiritualists and enchanters were nothing more than mediums who attempted to talk with the dead and cast spells. And this continues on today, as people claim to have the ability to talk with the dead.

- **CHALDEANS:** These were supposedly the wisest and most knowledgeable men in the arts and sciences of Chaldea or Babylon. They were originally from southern Babylon and they rose to a place of prominence in the courts of Babylon after Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar's father, himself a Chaldean, became King.

These were the men that the King brought his problems to so he could try and get some answers and get some sleep! It is possible that he knew that this dream had to do with his kingdom but what did it mean, what did the future hold for him and his kingdom? What was going to happen to it?

3. Keep in mind that the King went to the only people he knew and in a sense, he went to the world. And the King does what we do many times; he looked to the world for the answers to his problems instead of the Lord.

Maybe we don't like what the Lord is telling us, maybe we just don't care what He has to say or maybe we just don't know what He is saying to us, but the world will never have the answers you need to your spiritual problems, it will not have the answers to life for you, but God does!

Remember the warning that Paul gave in Colossians 2:8-10, "**Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.**" Colossians 2:8-10.

The world, its philosophies are empty, they are deceitful, that come from the traditions of man instead of the Words of God and we are cheated from what God has for us. You see, we are complete in Christ, may we not forget that truth!

4. As these wise men listen to their King they respond back by saying, “... ‘O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.’” Daniel 2:4.

That phrase, “O king, live forever!” was a typical oriental courtesy. And when you are speaking to a tyrant, a dictator, you better use all the flattery you can! Now these learned men hear the King’s request and they respond by asking the King to tell them the dream and they would be more than happy to give him their interpretation. That sounds fair!

But the King is wise to these guys. He knows these guys can’t interpret dreams but they come to their own conclusions by hearing what the dream was about. So the King is going to expose their lies by asking them to not only interpret the dream but to tell him what he dreamed in the first place!

And the King lays out this little incentive program for these wise men. That program went like this. If they can tell the King the dream he had and then give to him the interpretation, they will receive, “gifts, rewards, and great honor.” Now the down side to that is that if they could not tell the King what his dream was and its interpretation, it would cost them their lives.

And please understand that this kind of punishment, of being cut in pieces and their houses made into an ash heap, was not uncommon in the ancient Middle Eastern cultures. If someone had severely dishonored himself or defamed an exalted person, they were executed and their house was torn down and replaced by a public out house.

Also, keep in mind that the King has been in office for some 2 years now and he has inherited all these men from his father, after his death. And it seems to me that he didn’t really trust these guys as I have said.

So this was a test to see if they were real or if they just made this stuff up. And I don't believe he forgot the dream, many commentators do. But I think he just wanted to make sure these guys knew what they were talking about. He was testing these guys and he felt that if they could tell him the dream, then they could surly interpret it. And I think verse 9 tells us how much he trusted them. It says, "**. . . For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time [situation] has changed. . . .**" Daniel 2:9.

5. These wise men knew they were in trouble, no King had ever asked this before. You see, what would normally happen in situations like this is the person would tell these men the dream they had and then these men would go to their large manual of dreams and look it up, and then they would give the interpretation.

This has been substantiated by the elaborate Akkadian manuals that have been found for interpreting various types of dreams. You see, they believed that dreams followed an empirical law which when given sufficient data can be established. That is why they needed to know the dream so they could look it up and then interpret the dream for the King. But the King wanted nothing to do with their ways and said to them, "**Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation.**" Daniel 2:9.

6. And here we are, a few thousand years down the road from Daniel and we still have this garbage with us and it has been brought into the church. All this psychobabble, all these dream interpretations, all these repressed memories and-so-on.

One writer put it like this, “They were like some modern ministers of our own day who spend their time studying philosophy, psychiatry, psychology, social science, political science, and then continue under the pretense of being God’s messengers to men.” (Strauss)

Bring your requests, your hurts, your pain, your life to the Lord and lay it at His feet and He will answer the questions that are upon your heart. Wait upon the Lord and not in some psychiatrist’s or therapist’s office!

Now these Chaldeans told the King that this was totally unfair and that no one asks such a thing. In fact no man is able to discern this, only the gods who don’t dwell with us. They were partially correct, only God whose dwelling is in heaven will be able to reveal the King’s dream and give its interpretation.

7. To say that that King was not happy by their response is to put it mildly. Nebuchadnezzar had absolute rule over this Empire. He had an autocratic rule of the Babylonian Empire. And if you didn’t like it you would be the one to lose and not the King.

And when you mix this kind of leadership with someone that has a bad temper then you will see these types of things transpire. At this point, the King was furious at their failure and all the wise men were being gathered up to be put to death because they could not help the King with his problem. Daniel and his three friends, being part of this group of court advisers, were also being rounded up to be put to death.

It is possible that they started to put these men to death but it is also possible that they were just being gathered up for a group execution. And listen to what happens when Daniel is being sought because he was now part of this group as the King trained him and his three friends up for this position in his Kingdom!



VERSES 14-23

1. How unfair was this. Daniel is thrown in with these other wise men to be put to death and yet Daniel does not get upset but he brings his requests to the Lord. The problem moved Daniel to pray. What a great lesson for us as the problems that come up in our life should also bring us to prayer, not only for ourselves but for others as we see here with Daniel.

Daniel is being threatened here, he was going to be put to death but it did not cause him to be anxious but to pray! It is as Paul said in Philippians 4:6-7, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

For us, what happens many times is that we focus so much on the situation that we do become anxious, we do become overwhelmed, we do lose hope. Instead of becoming anxious and overwhelmed, we need to give it to the Lord. Instead of focusing on the situation listen to what Paul goes on to say in Philippians 4:8-9, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and *the God of peace will be with you.*”**

2. Now as you look at what was going on in the minds and actions of these wise men and then at Daniel and his three friends, you see a big difference. One writer put it like this in regards to the men of Babylon and the men of God. He wrote, “The men of Babylon were marked by spiritual poverty and panic, while the men of God were marked by prudence and prayer. Daniel did the thing that was right and reasonable.” (Lehman Strauss)

Daniel’s calmness in this crisis showed what kind of man he really was. In one sense, crises do not *make* the man. Instead, they *reveal* the man.

3. So here comes Arioch and he tells Daniel what is going on, that they are going to be put to death with all the other wise men in Babylon and the next thing you see is Daniel going before this tyrant King and asking for some time so that the King’s dream and its interpretation can be made known. No anxiety, no fear, but faith in God that He would supply all of their needs; He would answer their hearts cry! The peace of God filled his life because Daniel laid this all at the feet of the Lord!

4. So as Daniel returns home from asking the King for some time he calls his friends together for a prayer meeting. They were going to be praying for their lives and for the lives of the wise men in Babylon! And as they humbly come before God, asking God for mercy in this situation, God answers their prayers!

And in turn they praise “**the name of God.**” W. H. Griffith Thomas said this about the phrase “**the name of God.**” He said, “The name stands in Holy Scripture for the nature or revealed character of God, and not a mere label or title. It is found very frequently in the Old Testament as synonymous with God Himself in relation to man. . . . in the New Testament the same usage is perfectly clear.”

5. Daniel had the right perspective of God and it is shown in his prayer, he understands who God is and how God works in the lives of men! He is God and He is in control. And we as men are unable to understand the things of God but He does give to us wisdom, knowledge as He reveals to us the deep things of God as He shines His light upon us.

Thus, Daniel was in no rush to go to the King because he knew God was in control, and that caused Him to praise the Lord before he went out to save lives. What an example for us to follow, before we go out to save souls, share the Gospel, take the time to praise the Lord and thank Him for what He is going to do. And listen to this perspective, “Our level of faith is often indicated by how long it takes us to start praising God. If we won’t praise Him until the answer is in hand, then we don’t have much faith. Greater faith is able to praise God when the *promise* is given and received.” (David Guzik)

6. I don’t know about you but I need all the wisdom I can get and the wisdom I need comes from God. James tells us that if we are lacking wisdom all we need to do is ask the Lord and He will give to us what we need in the situations we face. But we do need to listen and obey.

One writer put it like this, “If a man has true wisdom, his only source of that wisdom is God. If a man is a ruler or leader of others, his tenure of office is owed to God whether or not divine control is in evidence to the ruler or his subjects.” (Lehman Strauss)

#### VERSES 24-25

1. First of all we see the compassion that Daniel had for these people, not just the Jewish people, but Gentiles, pagans also! And as soon as God revealed to him the answer he went to Arioch to put a halt on the execution of the wise men. He could have just said that they were pagan’s, they were lost, so let them just die! But he didn’t. He had a love for these lost souls and he tried to show them the love of God. He was letting the light of God shine in a dark place. And as we get to Daniel chapter 4 we will see how that love paid off, we will see some of the fruit of his ministry.

I also see that Arioch was not thrilled with putting all these men to death as he “**quickly**” brought word to the King about this man Daniel who could interpret this dream for him.

2. One other point here and that is the pride or the arrogance of Arioch. He told the King, “**I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.**” He is taking the credit for finding Daniel and he is giving credit to Daniel for his interpretation of this dream of the King. The reality is, God gave him the answer and we will see how humble Daniel was as he speaks before the King, he is going to give glory to God!

VERSES 26-30

1. As Daniel is brought before the King, Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel, “Can you interpret my dream?” And I love Daniel’s response to the King’s question. Daniel makes sure that the King understands that none of the wise men in all the land were able to make known the King’s dream or its interpretation.

That is boldness but Daniel is not doing it for his own glory or reputation. He is comparing the King’s wise men to the true and living God who is able to reveal dreams. God gets all the credit. And Daniel will continue to give God the credit for revealing this secret.

That is the secret folk’s. We are the instrument that God uses to do His will and thus, He gets all the glory, not us, not even a little. I think that is why Daniel was so successful, he was humble before the Lord, he didn’t take the glory away from God. If you want your ministry to fall like a rock, exalt yourself and He will bring you down. If you want your ministry to soar, humble yourself before Him and He will lift you up!

2. Now that phrase “**latter days**” in verse 28 is speaking of a final portion of time, a specific period of time. It is a period of time that began with the “**times of the gentiles**” which began back in 586 B. C. when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians and it will continue until the close of the “**times of the gentiles.**”

Luke 21:20-24 we are told of this period of time, **“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”**

So this started in 586 B. C. and it continues on through today and up until the time when the powers of the Antichrist are destroyed and Jesus sets-up His kingdom. Yes, the Jews are back in the land and that occurred in 1948. Then in 1968 they captured the old city of Jerusalem, but the Gentiles are still trampling upon them and the Antichrist will try to destroy the Jews once again. But not in the Kingdom Age, the Jews will no longer be persecuted and thus, the time of the Gentiles comes to an end.

And we will see this played out in this dream that the King has, all the Gentile Kingdoms coming and going until the Lord sets up His Kingdom on this earth!

3. Daniel is going to tell the King what he dreamed, the visions that he had while in his bed. And Daniel wants the King to understand that this is not because he is so smart or has so much wisdom, but that God wants to reveal to the King things about his Empire and succeeding Empires all the way to the end! That is what Daniel is going to share with this King!

VERSES 31-36

1. Remember what King Nebuchadnezzar demanded from his wise men, that they not only tell him what the dream meant but what the dream was all about first. And that is what Daniel is doing here. This is the dream that the King had.

He saw a huge multi-metallic image standing before him. Its head was made of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs or sides of bronze, legs of iron and its feet were made of iron and clay.

Then, all of a sudden a stone that was not cut with human hands struck the image in the feet and the whole structure came tumbling down. And there was not just a heap of rubble as you would think but as this stone hit this image it was crushed in pieces and the wind blew it away like the chaff from the summer threshing floor.

And this stone then became a mighty mountain and it filled the whole earth. That is the dream and we don't see the King challenging it, so it must have been right. And now we will come to the interpretation of this dream. What does it all mean?

VERSES 37-45

1. The focus of this dream the King had was the succession of Gentile Kingdoms that ruled the world and the land of Israel. And some have such a hard time with this, they just can't see Daniel being so accurate and thus, this must have been written after the fact, after these events. But it wasn't! And one writer had this to say and listen carefully because many are saying the same today. He wrote,

In light of this interpretive confusion, we must entertain seriously the idea that the vision of Daniel 2 does not intend to be precise as it writes its history before it occurs. In other words, though it starts in the concrete present, it is a wrong strategy to proceed through history and associate the different stages of the statue with particular empires. The vision intends to communicate something more general, but also more grand: God is sovereign; He is in control despite present conditions.

- Tremper Longman III, Daniel, NIV Application Commentary, p. 82

So God is sovereign and does as He pleases and yet He can't tell me what the future holds? That is so wrong and it really makes this dream meaningless if you don't look at it historically, as it is intended! I think this is very clear; this dream gives us a look at Gentile World Kingdoms all the way through to the coming of Christ and the setting up of His Kingdom on this earth. He is the Rock cut without hands as we will see.

Let's take a look at this multi-metallic image and what it represents, what God was showing this King and us!

#### **A. THE HEAD OF GOLD - THE BABYLONIAN KINGDOM**

This head of gold speaks of the Babylonian Empire which lasted some 87 years, from around 626 B. C. to 539 B. C. The Kingdom was run as an absolute monarchy from Egypt to the Persian Gulf. Leon Wood stated that, "Nebuchadnezzar was uniquely responsible for [Babylon's] attaining and maintaining empire status. After him its power diminished rapidly, it was far more his kingdom than he was its king. The same was not true of any ruler of the succeeding empires."



And Babylon was filled with gold; its buildings, images and shrines. In fact, Herodotus, who was at Babylon some ninety years after the time of Nebuchadnezzar, was astonished at the amount of gold there. Also, their chief god, Marduk, was called the god of gold!

### **B. THE CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER - THE MEDO-PERSIAN KINGDOM**

The chest and arms of silver speak of the Medo-Persian Empire that lasted a little over 200 years, from around 539 B. C. till 330 B. C., conquering the Babylonians. The arms of silver most likely represent the two nations that ruled this Empire-the Medes and the Persians. This was not an absolute monarchy as we will see as we go through the book of Daniel.

Interestingly enough, silver was used in their money; they based their power on money that was collected through an extensive tax system.

### **C. THE BELLY AND THIGHS OR SIDES OF BRONZE - THE GRECIAN EMPIRE**

Next in this image is the belly and thighs of bronze and this represents the Grecian Empire that rose up under the leadership of Alexander the Great who conquered the Medo-Persian empire between 334 B. C. to 330 B. C. The Grecian Empire was in control in the area of Egypt and part of Europe and eastward to India.

And as we will see, when Alexander the Great died his Kingdom was not given to anyone in his family but to his four generals, that is how it was divided up! The bronze that is spoken of regarding this Kingdom was used extensively in their implements of war!

#### **D. THE LEGS OF IRON - THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

The legs of iron is speaking of the Roman Empire which became a power in 63 B. C. Rome swallowed up the lands and its peoples that had been part of three previous Empires and assimilated them into itself.

The Kingdom was divided, and thus the two legs. The Western Kingdom, with its capitol in Rome, lasted some 500 years and the Eastern Kingdom, with its capitol in Constantinople, lasted till around 1453 A. D.

In speaking of this Kingdom Leupold said, “The Roman legions were noted for their ability to crush all resistance with an iron heel. There is apparently little that is constructive in the program of this empire in spite of Roman law and Roman roads and civilization because the destruction work out weighed all else, for we have the double verb ‘crush and demolish [break in pieces and bruise]’.”

2. Now, in spite of what some may say, we can look back and see that historically speaking these things have come to pass. But there is now a break in the action before the last Kingdom or really 10 Kingdoms, represented by the 10 toes of the image, comes on the scene. This last Gentile World Kingdom comes out of the Roman Empire but it is not as strong as the others as we can see the iron mixed with the clay!

Think about what we see today and in our recent past. Since the fall of the Roman Empire there has never been a world-dominating Empire equal to Rome. Many have tried but they have not succeeded!

France had its “day in the sun” under Napoleon who extended the French Empire by military victories but was defeated at Waterloo in 1815.

Spain with its Armada, or vast fleet of warships had its “day in the sun” also. But they were defeated by England in 1588.

We have also seen England try, but she has not retained much power and certainly not world domination.

Germany had a go at it two times. Their first shot was under Bismarck who was known as the “Iron Chancellor.” (1815-1895).

And, of course, there was Hitler who assumed dictatorial power and the title of Der Fuhrer, from 1933-1945. But he was defeated and we see that Germany is not a world power, not even close.

And the list goes on. The thing I want you to notice is that none of them have made it to world domination as hard as they have tried. In fact, since the Roman Empire there has not been a World Empire and there will not be one until this revived Roman Empire comes on the scene.

3. The last World Empire before the Lord comes and establishes His Kingdom on this earth is pictured in this multi-metallic image as feet that are made of iron and clay. This Kingdom, with its ten toes or Kingdoms within it comes out of the Roman Empire.

You see, the Roman Empire never was defeated but just kind of rotted out from the inside and fell apart. But it will rise up again. And here we have the iron mixed with clay which shows the progressive weakness and deterioration of the Kingdoms.

Keil says this about the iron and the clay, “As the iron denotes the firmness of the kingdom, so the clay denotes its brittleness. The mixing of the iron with clay represents the attempt to bind the two distinct and separate materials into one combined whole as fruitless, and altogether vain.”

The iron, of course, represents the Roman Empire, but what does the clay represent? Again we must go to the Word of God to let God tell us its meaning. There are several passages that we could look at this evening, but let's look at Isaiah 64:8, which says, "**But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.**" (Other verses regarding this are found in Job 10:9, 33:6, Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, Jeremiah 18:4-6, Romans 9:21).

Thus, the clay is representative of people. That is what Isaiah is saying and it seems to be what Daniel is also saying regarding what the feet are made of in this multi-metallic image of Daniel chapter 2.

By mixing the strength of the iron with the weakness of the clay you have a Kingdom that is inferior to the previous Kingdoms. You see, with the diversities of people this Kingdom will not be in unity with each other. Remember what Keil said, that the iron spoke of its firmness and the clay its brittleness! Thus, this Kingdom will be strong and yet made weak by the people.

Do we see this Kingdom coming together today? I think we do and I will give you two viewpoints regarding what this is all about.

4. This confederation that rises out of the Roman Empire will consist of 10 nations, as illustrated to us by the 10 toes of the image. But who are these nations? Are they represented today in the world? That is what we are going to focus on for a few minutes, and I will give you two possibilities and tell you what I believe is taking place.

The first possibility is seen in the European Community where there is a federation of more than 10 nations in Europe that have come together as a super-state. The Los Angeles Herald-Examiner reported on October 29, 1971 that, "The British decision to join the Common Market brought Western Europe to the threshold of its strongest union since the nations involved were tied together as part of the Roman Empire centuries ago."

Princeton economics magazine said that in 1992 we will have Europe reconstruction, "As it was during the holy Roman Empire."

Also, in a Time magazine article dated September 18, 1989 and titled, "Charging Ahead on the European Community," Walter Halstien, who was the first president of the European Commission, said, "Anyone who does not believe in miracles in European affairs is no realist." The article goes on to say, "The reality is that Western Europe has finally found its feet, and once more is marching ahead." Is this speaking of the feet of this image in Daniel chapter 2 that is represented by the 10 kingdoms? It is possible but I think it goes far beyond the European Community.

The second possibility and one that I lean towards is that the world is divided up into ten kingdoms. Now you might be thinking what about the Roman Empire being revived? One possible explanation is that the people from the old Roman Empire have been dispersed around the world and are represented on every continent.

Just look at America and the people that are in this room tonight, how many have European backgrounds? Many of us do! And I do believe that it will be the European Community that is the head of this confederation of states or Empires! Let me show you what I mean.

Way back on February 17, 1950, James Warburg, a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, (CFR was formed on July 21, 1921), said this before a Senate Foreign Relations Committee, “We shall have world government whether or not you like it - by conquest or consent.” 65 years later we are seeing the pieces of this puzzle come together.

Did you ever wonder why on the back of our dollar bill we have a split pyramid with the inscription in Latin, *NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM*? That symbol was first designed by Masonic interests and became the official reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States in 1782. And the split pyramid represents the disunity of the world, but one day the world will come together and this pyramid will no longer be separated.

During the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, (the 32<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States from 1933 to 1945), Roosevelt himself was a thirty-third degree Mason, and placed this symbol on the back of our dollar bill. And the Latin phrase, “NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM” means, *THE NEW ORDER OF THE AGES* or *THE NEW WORLD ORDER!*

President Bush, referring to the Persian Gulf War, shared with us its higher purpose. He said, “We know why we’re there. We are Americans: part of something larger than ourselves . . . What is at stake is more than one small country, it is a big idea: a New World Order, when diverse nations are drawn together [the clay spoken of in Daniel 2?], in a common cause to achieve the universal aspirations of mankind . . . the world can therefore seize this opportunity to fulfill the long held promise of a New World Order.”

The Club of Rome, who had its beginning in April of 1968, had leaders from 10 countries gather together in Rome. What was the purpose for this meeting? They claim to have the solutions for world peace and prosperity which are linked to a one world government. On September 17, 1973 the Club of Rome released a report entitled ***Regionalized and Adaptive Model of the Global World System***. This document shows that the Club of Rome has divided the world into ten political/economic regions, which it refers to, interestingly enough, as “kingdoms.”

Now this document that they drew up is just a prototype model and it can be changed to meet the changing needs of the world. We see that with the free trade agreements with the United States and Canada, which, according to the Club of Rome, is one region or Kingdom! Mexico and South America is another Kingdom. Africa is divided up into 3 regions. Australia is another. And, interestingly enough, Europe is another region!

But why would countries, why would people want to unite into a global community? For several reasons that the news and political leaders are telling us. Look at what we are seeing today, such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially in third world countries. Human rights violations. Global warming, at least that is what they are telling us. Pollution, wars, hunger, population explosions, diseases, world financial problems and the list can go on and on. The world is becoming ripe for a one world government as you see the hopelessness of this present system. But keep in mind that is what they are telling us or having us believe!

Now how far have we come? There is already a world constitution that has been developed and written by ***The World Constitution and Parliament Association***. Listen to part of this letter that was sent out on December 12, 1990:

To All Presidents, Prime Ministers, Kings, Queens, and Other Heads of Governments and National Parliaments -

Just when the relaxation of tensions among the super-powers was giving hope for the dawn of a new era, where the resources of Earth could be used to serve only peaceful human needs, a new crisis erupts and rapidly escalates, this time in the Mid-East. By this, we are forcefully reminded that the world is loaded with weapons sufficient to kill everybody on the Planet a dozen or fifty times over again in a few days . . . War could end civilization any week.

But war is not the only danger. Climate changes are already creating havoc. If not turned around, the rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and surge of climatic changes may soon become irreversible, culminating in the fatal starvation of most people on Earth – because of crop failures in most countries resulting from unfavorable weather . . . It is time, also, to escape from the constraints of obsolete financial accounting, which chain development to the scarcity of past savings at high interest rates; and to establish the alternative of a rational global system for abundant low-cost credit based soundly on the availability of people to work and produce, using a common global currency . . . We are convinced that to solve global problems peacefully, and to administer human affairs on Earth intelligently, a WORLD GOVERNMENT is required – a democratically organized Federal World Government . . . People all over the world are ready for World Government – a constitutional democratic World government, under which national and local governments retain jurisdiction over strictly internal affairs . . . Some people have, in fact, prepared a complete Constitution for the Federation of Earth.



Now listen to some of the Articles and Points that are written in “A Constitution for the Federation of Earth”

Article III, Point 2 may lead to the seizure of all personal weapons required for self-defense.

Points 14 & 17. The World government would control all aspects of international trade, banking and finance.

Point 21 relates to plans for controlling population growth and solving problems of population distribution."

Point 37 relates to the designation of a world language.

Article IX. The World Judiciary branch of the world government would interpret the rights of world citizens (including Christians) and would issue rulings regarding the sentencing of those who refuse to concede to the demands of the world system (possibly due to religious convictions).

Also, listen to what journalist Walter Cronkite said in Popular Mechanics magazine back on January, 2000. He said, “My vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that, later rather than sooner but eventually during the next millennium humankind will establish a viable and authoritative world government that will forever abolish war as a means of settling international conflicts.”

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott believes the United States may not exist in its current form in the 21<sup>st</sup> century— because nationhood throughout the world will become obsolete! Just before joining the Clinton administration, Talbott wrote in Time Magazine an essay titled “The Birth of the Global Nation” and stated that he is looking forward to government being run by “one global authority.”

In this article published on July 20, 1992, he stated, “Here is one optimist’s reason for believing unity will prevail . . . within the next hundred years . . . nationhood as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority . . . All countries are basically social arrangements, accommodations to changing circumstances. No matter how permanent and even sacred they may seem at any one time, in fact they are all artificial and temporary.”

That was our Deputy Secretary of State making those comments! You see, I believe the world is moving quickly towards a one world government, just as God has told us through the prophet Daniel.

And think about this, it was not that long ago that people laughed at us when we talked about a one world government and now they are embracing it, they are ready for it and I think we are quickly moving in that direction.

5. Now as bad as that is, and it is, there is something that will take place during the time of this one world government and that is this Rock, not cut by human hands, will come and strike this image and the World Empires will not only come crashing to the ground but they will be obliterated, they will never return! Don’t put your confidence in man, you will lose!

This Rock, not cut by human hands, is none other than Jesus Christ. And it is His Kingdom that will be established forever, not mans! Then we will see righteousness fill this land as the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, is on the throne.

In I Peter 2:6-8 we are told, **“Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone, and ‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”** To those who believe, He is a precious stone. But for those who reject Jesus, He is a Rock of offense that will crush them.

It is as Jesus said in Matthew 21:42-44 where we read, **“Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”**

You see, this precious stone, Jesus Christ, if you fall upon Him, broken in Spirit, asking Him to be your Lord and your Savior, He will save you and lift you up. If you reject Him, refuse to humble yourself before Him, you will be crushed into a powder before Him. You see, you will either be broken before Him or you are going to be broken by Him. The choice is yours. The stone is coming!

6. One more thing before we move on. Daniel didn’t guess or analyze this dream. Through him God announced the future. The only reason that God can predict history is because he can control it.

And notice the confidence Daniel had. He was not unsure of what he was doing. He spoke the Words of God confidently, and so should we. We should not be shaky but speak what God has said boldly, for it is the truth, and we should proclaim it that way as Daniel did. As Daniel said to the King and to us, “**. . . The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.**” Daniel 2:45. And we are seeing these things coming together in the days we are living in, thus, we should be looking up for our redemption is drawing nearer!

#### VERSES 46-49

1. As you read this you can see that the King was very impressed with Daniel and is not only telling him what the dream was but what it meant. The only problem was that he was impressed with the God of Daniel but the God of Daniel was not his God, at least not yet! The King is not saved but he is coming to recognize what the God of Daniel can do.
  
2. Because of this Daniel was placed over the royal province of Babylon proper. Think about this, a Jewish captive is now over all the wise men in Babylon. Make no mistake about it, that did not make them very happy as we shall see as we go through the book of Daniel.
  
3. Now think about what God has done and it reminds me of Joseph and how God placed him as second in command over all of Egypt to save His people, the Jews. He went from slave to this position and not immediately, some 13 years of being a slave and prisoner to this position!

And we see the same here with Daniel although his rise to power is a little quicker. Now because of his position he was able to be a mediator between the King and the exiles from Judah who would be coming in 597 B. C. and the last and final group in 586 B. C.

God places people in the appropriate positions as He did with Joseph down in Egypt as I have said. And like Daniel, like Joseph, God has you here; He has me here in Manitowoc for a purpose. Seek Him and let Him show you what good He wants to do through you!

4. Not only was Daniel promoted, but he also got his friends promoted. Thus, Daniel, this obscure Jewish captive who could have been lost in history like many others, was not because he did not compromise his faith. Thus God raised him to a place of great honor. Do you think you need to compromise to get promoted? Not at all! Your purpose in your heart to honor God and He will bless you for that obedience and will lift you up as He did with Daniel.

“William J. Wolfe has called Abraham Lincoln ‘One of the greatest theologians of America.’ He added that Lincoln’s theology was profound, ‘not in the technical meaning of producing a system of doctrine, certainly not as the defender of some one denomination, but in the sense of seeing the hand of God intimately in the affairs of nations.’”

As you read the book of Daniel you will notice that God is in control of the nations. You can read in Jeremiah chapters 24 and 25 and see that, without question who is in control of Babylon’s power. It is the same God who is in control of our nation! Don’t be afraid of what you are seeing, rest in Him and allow Him to work through you and use you for His glory to touch those around you!

And we have this glorious hope of our Lord returning and thus, we should be encouraged in the days we are living in because we see the hand of God working according to His Word. And yes, we are living in the days of the formation of this last empire but also remember that the Lord is coming!

Let me leave you this evening with this to think about. “Several years ago, Belgium’s Premier, P. H. Spock made a statement in the newspaper: ‘The truth is that the method of international committees has failed. What we need is a person, someone of the highest order of great energy. Let him come and let him come quickly. Either a civilian or a military man, no matter what his nationality, who will cut all the red tape, shove out of the way all the committees, wake up all the people and galvanize all governments into action. Let him come quickly. This man we need and for whom we wait will take charge of the defense of the West. Once more I say, it is not too late, but it is high time’”

The world is looking for someone to solve all its problems. Little do they know that they are awaiting and will welcome the Antichrist! That is who they are looking for to oversee this confederacy of 10 nations. For Christians, we are awaiting the return of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. And I will echo the words of John as he said, “**Even so come, Lord Jesus!**”

