

## Daniel – Chapter 2

### • *A young king tests his staff*

Nebuchadnezzar was a young king who inherited an older staff from his father's administration most of whom he did not know nor trusted completely.

Daniel 2:1 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

Daniel 2:2 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,

Daniel 2:3 he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means. "

### • *God provides the means of the test*

The young king may have wondered at times whether these old guys really were as good as they made themselves out to be and God provided the means by which the king would soon find out what stuff his advisers are made of.

### • *Educated elite*

The word magician in verse two does not really mean what we understand it to mean today. It comes from the word that has come down to us as stylus, an instrument for writing in those days. These men the king summoned were the educated scholars and elite advisers to the king, those, whom the king would like to be able to trust, but in this case was not quite sure of their loyalty and skill.

### • *Give me some answers*

The king had a troubling dream and he expected some answers from these educated men.

Daniel 2:4 Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

Daniel 2:5 The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.

Daniel 2:6 But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."

### • *Text switches language*

At this point the text switches from Hebrew to the gentile language Aramaic as the educated leaders asked the king to tell them what he dreamed. Chapters 2 through 7 deal with the gentile world and are therefore written in a gentile language. After Chapter 7 the book deals with Israel and therefore it reverts to Hebrew.

### • *Tell us what you dreamed*

Tell us what you dreamed they answered and we'll consult our books and charts and give you an interpretation. The king explains his professional development program for them a little more clearly by asking them to tell him what he dreamed and what could be the result of the failure to do so. He knew that they could tell him most anything as an interpretation, but if they told him what he actually dreamed, then he might put some stock in their interpretation.

Daniel 2:7 Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

Daniel 2:8 Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided:

Daniel 2:9 If you do not tell me the dream, there is just one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me."

### • *They cannot change the king's mind*

The King does not have much confidence in these guys and reiterates his demand and what the consequences that would be theirs if they failed. He tells them again that if they are able to tell him what he dreamed, then he will have faith in their interpretation thereof as well.

### • *A profound truth*

Daniel 2:10 The astrologers answered the king, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer.

Daniel 2:11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men."

They say in effect, you are asking too much of mere mortals like us, and we do not have access to the gods who may have such information. They had to admit that all of the ceremonies and appellation to their various gods where in the end empty and void.

### • *Only God knows the secrets of time*

Isaiah 41:21 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Set forth your arguments," says Jacob's King.

Isaiah 41:22 "Bring in {your idols} to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come,

Isaiah 41:23 tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear.

Isaiah 41:24 But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; he who chooses you is detestable.

God tells us through the prophet Isaiah that He and He alone knows the secrets of time. These wise men of this world had to admit that their wisdom was insufficient and even the possible help of the occult powers did not allow them to give the king the answer he was seeking.

### • *A terrible decree*

Daniel 2:12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:13 So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

### • *Daniel's job classification*

King Nebuchadnezzar was angry at the educated elite of his empire, because they could not provide him with the answer he wanted. He had inherited these advisers from his father and evidently wanted to test them and they failed the test. Daniel was part of the educated group and thus was to share their fate. The anti-intellectual attitude of the Muslims is an example of what Daniel and his colleagues faced.

### • *Daniel responds with wisdom*

Daniel 2:14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact.

Daniel 2:15 He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel.

Daniel 2:16 At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

Daniel, seeing the elite Kings guard and its commander knew something was up, something big. However he did not argue or make a fuss, neither was he afraid, but it says he reacted with wisdom and counsel. He needed to be filled in of what had brought about such harsh decree.

### • *Daniel has access to the king*

Daniel having access to the king asked for time and told him outright that he would be able to do what the others couldn't. Daniel knew that he himself could not give the king an answer, but he also had faith that his God could, if he were but asked.

### • *Prayer meeting*

Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Daniel 2:18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

So Daniel went home to his three friends and I can just imagine him saying something like: "Guys, we

have the most important prayer meeting tonight, a matter of life and death. If God does not answer this one, all of us are history". They formed no committees or a task force but they prayed to the only one in the entire universe could help them in their predicament.

- *The answer*

Daniel 2:19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven

Daniel 2:20 and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.

Daniel 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

Daniel 2:22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

Daniel 2:23 I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

- *Sevenfold praise*

The complete answer is given to Daniel, both the dream itself and its meaning. He immediately praises God and thanks Him with a seven fold praise.

- *Daniel wastes no time*

Daniel 2:24 Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

We are not told how much time Daniel asked for but we can see the sense of urgency with which Daniel seeks out Arioch and asks to be taken to the king. Previously he went in to the king on his own but this time he asks to be taken.

Daniel 2:25 Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means."

- *A not very humble officer*

Humility apparently was not one of Arioch's virtues because he takes credit for having found someone who can tell the king what he dreamed. He conveniently forgot that earlier it was Daniel himself who went to the king to ask for time that he might interpret the dream.

Daniel 2:26 The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?"

- *A slightly skeptical king*

Daniel, standing before the king is immediately asked are you able to tell me the dream? The king of course knew that all the others supposedly older and wiser than Daniel had struck out and so he might have been a bit skeptical.

- *Daniel gives God the honor*

Unlike the king's commander, Daniel does not take credit for what he is about to tell the king, but essentially tells the king what the other wise men had already told him, namely that there is no one on earth that could give the correct answer he was seeking.

Daniel 2:27 Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about,

Daniel 2:28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these:

- *Can the upstart kid satisfy the king?*

With a bit of imagination we can surely picture the scene in the throne room that day. All the advisers who had failed the king and whose life hung in the balance likely were in the shadows way in the back as a buzz was going through the crowd whether this upstart Hebrew kid could possibly succeed where they had failed.

- *Days to come (latter days KJV)*

The phrase "the latter days" has embodied within it the time of the end. Daniel makes it clear to the king

at the outset that his dream has to do with the events yet to come.

Twice Daniel emphasizes to the king that the dream was about the future. In the NIV it is in the phrase things to come.

Daniel 2:29 "As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.

Daniel 2:30 As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

Once more for emphasis Daniel makes sure that the king and everyone else understands that God who is the revealer of mysteries, is the source of this revelation about to be given to the king.

Daniel 2:31 "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.

Daniel 2:32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

Daniel 2:33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

Daniel 2:34 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.

Daniel 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time 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 and filled the whole earth.

#### • *Ranked in value order*

One of the first things to notice is the fact that the metals from the head on downward are ranked in the order of decreasing value, decreasing of density but increasing toughness. The final metal, iron, is the toughest of them all but is also mixed with a foreign

substance at the bottom, totally different, the non-metallic clay. The four metals are representative of various groups of human beings, whereas clay is nonmetallic and may represent nonhuman entities. We look at this a little later on, when we look at the actual interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as given by Daniel.

#### • *Unstable - top-heavy*

The statue was very top-heavy and therefore unstable, signifying that it could not stand forever and was easily toppled by a rock hitting its feet.

#### • *Daniel interprets the dream*

Daniel now interprets the significance of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar. He tells him that the various metals of the statue represent a series of kingdoms beginning with his own culminating in a kingdom that is set up by God himself, that will never be replaced.

Daniel 2:36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

Daniel 2:37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;

Daniel 2:38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

#### • *God put Nebuchadnezzar in power*

The theme that God is in charge of the affairs of men and puts governments in power and removes them recurs a number of times in the book of Daniel. Even though Satan is now called the ruler of this world, he still has to answer to God.

Daniel 2:39 "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

#### • *Babylon conquered, but never destroyed*

Babylon fell in 539BC, but was never destroyed. Scripture does predict the destruction of Babylon, but until today it has not happened. Saddam Hussein of the Iraq who fancied himself as Nebuchadnezzar's successor destined to rebuild the glory of ancient Babylon had in fact been rebuilding that city

according to the ancient archaeological plans. He held affairs of state in the restored the banquet hall where the handwriting on the wall appeared on the night Babylon fell to the Persians. These rebuilt buildings are still there, serving as a museum, but so far at least, things have not turned out the way, Saddam Hussein had envisioned

### • *Focus on the fourth kingdom*

Daniel dismisses the 2nd and 3rd Kingdoms in a single verse and then focuses on the 4th which he calls the final Kingdom destined to fall and be replaced with the eternal Kingdom of God.

Daniel 2:40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

Daniel 2:41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

Daniel 2:42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.

Daniel 2:43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

### • *Rome was never conquered*

The Persians conquered Babylon, the Greeks the conquered Persia, the Romans conquered the Greeks but nobody ever conquered the Romans. The Roman Kingdom therefore endures until the time it is destroyed and replaced by the Kingdom of God.

### • *Mixed Seed*

The American Standard version as well as the King James translation of the Bible, render Daniel 2:43 intriguingly different.

Daniel 2:43 And as you saw iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mix themselves with the seed of men. But they shall not cling to one another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. (MKJV)

The question that needs to be examined here is: who are “they” in conjunction with mixing themselves with the “seed” of men? Daniel here is writing the end of history in advance, given to him by God himself. Does this tie in with the time of the end, which Jesus said would be like the days of Noah?

### • *History repeats*

There will evidently be a repeat of what happened in Genesis that helped in bringing on the flood. In Genesis 6:2, where in English we have the expression “sons of God”, where the Hebrew gives this as "bene Elohim", which in many other places of Scripture is translated as “Angels”. Are these the “they” that will once again mix themselves with the “seed” of men? In verse four, we read that there were “giants”, that were produced as a result of a forbidden sexual union between fallen Angels and human women. The Hebrew word “giants” is "nephilim", which comes from the Hebrew word "nephal", which means fallen.

Genesis 6:2-4 the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were good. And they took wives for themselves from all whom they chose. And Jehovah said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, in his erring; he is flesh. Yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days. And also after that, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore to them, they were mighty men who existed of old, men of renown.

The offspring of these mixed human–Angel hybrids were indeed giant and very powerful. Goliath being about 10 feet tall was one of these. It is very likely that the demigod like creatures depicted in Greek mythology had their origin in the existence of these powerful hybrid human–Angel offspring.

### • *New Testament also alluded to this*

We read an intriguing mention of this sort of activity by some Angels in the short little letter of Jude.

Jude 1:6 And those angels not having kept their first place, but having deserted their dwelling-place, He has kept in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of a great Day;

It is evident from this, that just before the Lord Jesus returns, this kind of activity between the fallen Angels and mankind will happen, again bringing on a terrible judgment by God. Other passages in the book of Revelation also tell of this sort of thing.

## Chronology of empires

### Gold:

**606 BC**

Battle of Carchemish;  
Nebuchadnezzar establishes  
Babylonian Empire.

**587 BC**

3rd Siege; Destruction of Jerusalem.

### Silver:

**537 BC**

Ugbaru conquers Babylon for Cyrus,  
establishing Persian Empire.  
Completes 70 years "Servitude of  
Nation."

**518 BC**

End of the "Desolations of  
Jerusalem."

**445 BC**

Decree of Artaxerxes to authorize  
the wall to be rebuilt.

### Bronze:

**332 BC**

Battles of Marathon, Alexander the  
Great conquers the Persian Empire.

### Iron, --- History - long ago:

**68 BC**

Rome emerges as the largest and  
most ruthless empire with Julius  
Caesar as Emperor.

**44 BC**

Julius Caesar assassinated.

**31 BC**

Battle of Actium establishes Octavius  
as Caesar Augustus.

6BC-4BC Jesus Christ was born in  
Bethlehem

**64 AD**

Nero begins his persecutions of the  
church.

**70 AD**

Jerusalem and temple destroyed and  
Jews scattered throughout the  
Roman empire

**284**

Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus  
divides empire into two. (Two legs,  
east and west?)

### *The disintegration begins.*

**312**

Constantine established as Emperor;  
Christianity declared state religion;  
transfers capital to Byzantium in the  
east; dies in 337.

**455**

Germanic tribes sack Rome.

**476**

Empire breaks into pieces...

### Iron, --- History - recent and future -- mixed with clay:

**1951**

Treaty of Paris: European Coal and  
Steel Community established as a  
multinational entity.

**1957**

March 25: Treaty of Rome: European  
Economic Community and European  
Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)  
established.

**1958**

March 19: A European Parliament  
established.

**1959**

Belgium, Luxemburg, & Netherlands  
unite to form a single BeNeLux  
group.

**1967**

The month after the liberation of  
Jerusalem in June, the Commissions  
of EEC, ECSC, and Euratom, merge  
into "European Community."

**1973**

Denmark, Ireland, and United Kingdom join. Greece, Spain, and Portugal also join subsequently.

**1991**

Six European Free Trade Association nations agree to combine with the E.C. in 1993.

**1993**

Maastricht Treaty signed: single foreign policy; single military; single currency.

**2001**

Muslim terror begins affecting the "Christian" West

**2010**

Israel is increasingly isolated. Even the United States government is beginning to turn against them.

• ***The iron empire --- western leg***

The iron empire is the final one before the Kingdom of God comes. It will be composed of a coalition of a multitude of people, and will rule the world as the continuation of the ancient Rome. The statue had two solid iron legs, and only the feet are a mixture of iron in clay. If the legs represent the two branches of the Roman Empire, then the feet represents two groups of nations, one group from the eastern branch and another group from the western branch. Culturally the United States belongs to the western branch and is therefore tied to Europe. Both Europe and the United States have increasingly turned to secularism and abandoned their Christian roots. Islamic faith and culture are filling in the spiritual vacuum.

• ***The iron empire --- eastern leg***

The full development of the eastern branch is yet future, but it will somehow involve the nations that now occupy the real-estate in the regions around Israel. The religion of those countries is primarily Moslem who are strongly opposed to Israel.

• ***Clay the symbol for people***

Since the statue represents also the flow of time from top to bottom, we see that at the bottom the iron is mixed with clay. The Holy Spirit uses certain symbols in scripture quite consistently. Theologians

have a fancy name for this, called expositional constancy. Have you heard the phrase "You are the potter I am the clay?" Clay symbolizes people.

Job 10:9 Remember that you molded me like clay.  
Will you now turn me to dust again?

Job 33:6 I am just like you before God; I too have been taken from clay.

Isaiah 29:16 You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay!  
Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?

Isaiah 45:9 "Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands'?"

• ***The eternal kingdom***

Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Daniel 2:45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

• ***Perspective from earth***

The dream and its interpretation depicted gentile history and the kingdoms of man from the human perspective as a glorious thing even though the glory diminishes over time. When Jesus was tempted by the Prince of this world, the devil, he was shown of the glory of the kingdoms of this world.

• ***Perspective from Heaven***

Later, in Chapter 7 Daniel nearing the end of his life, is shown this sequence of kingdoms from God's point of view as a series of the ferocious beasts.

### • *Beginning of the times of the Gentiles*

Nebuchadnezzar begins what the Bible calls the time of the gentiles.

Luke 21:24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Hosea 3:4 For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol.

Hosea 3:5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

### • *A progressive loss*

From this time forward Israel and Jerusalem were always under the ruler-ship of some gentile nation. Their sovereignty was long gone by 70AD, but at that time they lost the temple, the sacrificial system and the priesthood as well.

Since the time of Daniel, Israel has always been ruled by a gentile nation. First, it was the Babylonians beginning with Nebuchadnezzar, and then came the Persians, then the Greeks under Alexander and after that the Romans. Later their land came under the rule of many Gentile nations including Moslem countries, the last being the British.

### • *A progressive recovery*

What makes this interesting and relevant to us, is that within our lifetime there has been a progressive recovery in the land of Israel.

Beginning events in this recovery process was the awakening of Zionism in the last part of the 19th century, the re-establishment of the Hebrew language as a living and spoken language for the early settlers in the land of Israel in the first part of the last century. That in itself is the miracle, because no other language that has ever become extinct as an active language, was ever revived to become a spoken living language again. The Jewish people who return to Israel speak many different languages, but none of them speak Hebrew. All immigrants to Israel must learn to read and speak Hebrew and one of the

instruments of learning is the reading thereof in the Torah and other ancient Hebrew scriptures.

### • *Israel a sovereign state -- Jerusalem under Israeli rule*

On May 14th, 1948 the nation of Israel was established once again as an independent sovereign state. Nevertheless, Jerusalem itself remained divided under gentile rule until June 6, 1967, at which time for the first time since Daniel, Jerusalem also came under the sovereign control of Israel.

### • *The final step yet future*

The final step in this progressive restoration would have to be the restoration of the priesthood and the temple with the sacrificial system as prescribed in the Torah. There are at this time preparations taking place in Israel for doing exactly that. Much of the research that needed to be done to properly reconstruct and collect all the implements for sacrifices and the training of the priesthood that is to serve in the temple has already begun. Genetic science has discovered the existence of a specific DNA marker which is unique to the Cohen line, the descendants of Levi, which alone are eligible to serve as priests in the temple. As for the building of the temple itself, that will go very quickly, because modern construction techniques allow the erection of large and beautiful buildings in record time. Therefore, do not be too surprised to read in the newspapers that Israel is rebuilding the temple.

Notice the little word *until* in Luke 21 :24. Does this mean that the time of the gentiles is drawing to a close? I believe this to be the case.

### • *Fullness of the Gentiles*

There is another term, called the fullness of the gentiles which must not be confused with the times of the gentiles. The apostle Paul writes three chapters in the book Romans to explain that Israel has been temporarily set aside but not abandoned by God. The distinction between Israel and the gentiles and whether or not a gentile must become a Jew was the subject of hot debate in the early church and we can read about it in Acts 15.



Romans 11:25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

Notice once again that little corner word until.

• *Same basis of grace*

James, as the spokesman for the early church and the council assembled there in Jerusalem, tells us that even though there is a distinction between Jews and gentiles, says both must come on the same basis, namely the basis of grace in which there is no distinction.

Acts 15:11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

Notice that he says we, speaking of the Jews since he was a Jew, are saved by grace first and then the gentiles.

• *The Rock is Jesus*

The Rock of course that obliterates the kingdoms of this world and sets up his own is Jesus Christ.

Romans 9:33 As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

• *A mountain*

The idiom over a mountain is often used to denote the seat of government; thus Daniel the saying here that this rock will grow into a government that will encompass the whole world.

Isaiah 2:2 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

Isaiah 2:3 Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will

beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Isaiah 14:13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

• *The effect on Nebuchadnezzar*

Daniel 2:46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.

Daniel 2:47 The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

Daniel 2:48 Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.

Daniel 2:49 Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

Nebuchadnezzar was impressed, and so doubtless were Daniel's rivals lurking in the farthest corners of the throne room, later to become his enemies. Daniel experienced a large step upward in his career and at his request so did his three Hebrew friends. Daniel was in effect promoted to what we would call today Prime Minister of Babylon, much to the jealousy and dismay of his older and more experienced rivals in the back of the room whose lives had just been saved by the grace that God had given to Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar, even though he still believed in the many gods of Babylon realized that Daniel's God was greater than them all and he surely must have remembered this experience and what happens in the next chapter. It is evident, that he did indeed remember and this remembrance we will study when we get to Chapter 4, but first comes chapter 3.

