

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 34 (August 20-26, 2017)

Daniel is the most amazing book of prophecy in the Old Testament. We will continue the current study by looking at Daniel's writings.

Sunday, August 20 (read Daniel 2:1-30)

Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in Heaven who reveals mysteries. (Daniel 2:27-28a)

King Nebuchadnezzar is troubled by a dream he has experienced, so he turns to his astrologers for the interpretation, demanding that they tell him the content of the dream as well as the meaning (v. 1-9). They tell the king that his request is impossible, so he orders their execution (v. 10-13). The proclamation will also include Daniel, because he is one of the king's advisors. The man of God requests time to pray, bringing in his friends that you know as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who would also be executed (v. 14-18). God reveals the mystery to Daniel, causing him to praise God for His sovereignty (v. 19-23). Daniel appears before the king, giving God all the glory for giving him the interpretation (v. 24-30). We will look at this amazing prophecy again in tomorrow's devotion.

Monday, August 21 (read Daniel 2:31-35)

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 2:34)

In his dream, King Nebuchadnezzar has seen all of the world's governments flashing before his eyes. Daniel correctly tells the king what he has dreamed, just like the monarch has demanded. As we will see tomorrow in the interpretation, the vision includes all the worldwide governments of man as well as the earthly kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the "Rock" referenced in the printed verse, and His birth came through a miracle of God and not by man's works. This is another reference to the virgin birth of Christ. That final earthly kingdom will destroy all the manmade kingdoms and will rule the earth from the mountain of Jerusalem for 1000 years (v. 35). Prepare to be amazed at the marvelous Word of God!

Tuesday, August 22 (read Daniel 2:36-38)

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

The first king to rule over all the nations of the earth is Nebuchadnezzar. From his throne in Babylon, he conquers the other civilizations, including Israel. Beginning in 605 B.C., he makes three raids on Israel, finally burning the city of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and carrying the Jews into exile. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, along with other Jews have been taken captive to Babylonia. Like all other kings and presidents, Nebuchadnezzar has come to this high position by the sovereignty of almighty God (v. 37-38). God placed him on the throne and He has a perfect right to remove him. That will come to pass in tomorrow's devotion.

Wednesday, August 23 (read Daniel 2:39-43)

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

The Medes and Persians (inferior kingdom) joined together to conquer Babylonia, even though they were not as powerful as the mighty army of King Nebuchadnezzar's successor, King Belshazzar (Daniel, chapter 5). Later, these two countries were conquered by Greece (bronze), under the leadership of Alexander the Great (v. 39). The kingdom of Rome (strong as iron) conquered the Greeks and they were still in power when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. No one ever conquered Rome, but the unbridled lifestyle of promiscuity led to the downfall (sound familiar?). Since that time, there has never been another world empire, even though the American media dreams of it. Democracy originated with the Romans, a system that will continue until the return of the Lord (v. 41-43). This system will ultimately elect the antichrist, the final global ruler. This will be followed by the rule of Jesus, as we will see in tomorrow's devotion.

Thursday, August 24 (read Daniel 2:44-45)

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. (Daniel 2:44)

From the beginning of his temporary reign on earth, Satan has been attempting to establish a one-world global government (see Genesis 11:1-9). The Garden of Eden was located in Babylonia (modern day Iraq); thus, Satan made his first attempt to rule the earth in that country. He also used Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylonia, to be the first king to conquer the entire known world of his time. The kingdom of Jesus Christ will "repeal and replace" all of the manmade governments. It will be an **everlasting** kingdom that will eventually be replaced by Heaven on a new earth (see Revelation 21:1-8). All who believe in Jesus, and receive Him as their Savior, will rule with Christ in His new kingdom. Those theologians who deny the virgin birth will be left behind, because they could not believe that the "Rock" could be cut out, but not by human hands (v. 45). "Hold on my child. Joy comes in the morning" (From a song, "Joy Comes in the Morning," by Bill and Gloria Gaither).

Friday, August 25 (read Daniel 2:45-48)

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 2:47)

The revelation and interpretation of the king's amazing dream leads Nebuchadnezzar to make a proclamation of faith, recorded in the printed verse above. The king will have a lot to learn about submitting to the Lordship of this Deity that he has acknowledged, but he has, at least, come face to face with the divine rule of Almighty God. Daniel and his friends are promoted to a high position in the government (v. 48-49), reminding us that if we "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, . . . all these things will be given to {us} as well" (Matthew 6:33). We will see in tomorrow's devotion a truth that we have to learn anew daily: Even though we have acknowledged Jesus, we can still try to build a kingdom in our own honor (see 2 Samuel 18:18).

Saturday, August 26 (read Daniel 3:1-7)

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. (Daniel 3:1).

In his dream, King Nebuchadnezzar saw that he was **only** the head of gold, and that other kingdoms will come after his has been conquered (2:36-43). The king, however, wants to be the **only** ruler of the universe, so he sets up an entire monument of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide (v. 1). He is saying that no one, not even Jesus, will ever destroy his kingdom. He will use all kinds of music to prepare the people to worship him at the dedication of the image of gold (v. 2-7). Similarly, in my own Christian journey, I have realized that I am capable of building a monument to my own ministry, instead of doing everything to glorify God. That's why my last days on earth will be spent in making sure that the ministry of the man of God glorifies the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the Word of God.