

### 3 – NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S FIRST DREAM (DANIEL 2:1-49)

#### I. The King's Nightmare (2:1-16)

##### A. The king dreams (2:1)

###### 1. The timing of the dreams (2:1a)

- The dreams occurred in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

###### 2. The nightmares (2:1b)

- The king had a reoccurring dream that caused him not to sleep.

##### B. The dreams meaning sought (2:2-11)

###### 1. The wise men are summoned (2:2)

- The king summoned his wise men into his presence to interpret his dream.

###### 2. The king's request (2:3)

- The king stated that he was anxious to know the meaning of the dream.

###### 3. The wise men's request (2:4)

- The wise men requested that the king tell them what he had dreamed.

###### 4. The king's demand (2:5-6)

- The king demanded that they tell him what he dreamed and its interpretation.
- The king stated that they would be executed if they could not.
- The king stated that there was a great reward for the one who could tell him.

###### 5. The wise men's second request (2:7)

- The wise men requested again that the king tell them the dream.

###### 6. The king's demand restated (2:8-9)

- The king stated that they were stalling for time.
- The king accused them of lying to him.
- If they could tell him the dream, he will know that they have the interpretation.

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## 7. The wise men's response (2:10-11)

- The wise men stated that no man could do as the king requested.
- They stated that only the gods could fulfill the king's request.

## C. The king's anger (2:12-16)

### 1. The order to destroy the wise men (2:12)

- The king was filled with anger and ordered the wise men killed.

### 2. The executions (2:13a)

- The king's decree went out and they started to kill the wise men.

### 3. Daniel and his friends are sought (2:13b)

- Because of the decree, they sought to kill Daniel and his friends.

### 4. Daniel's question (2:14-15)

- Daniel asked the captain of the guard why the decree went out.

### 5. Daniel's request for time (2:16)

- Daniel asked the king for time so that he could tell the interpretation.

## II. The Dream Revealed (2:17-23)

### A. Daniel reports to his friends (2:17-18)

- Daniel called his friends to pray for God's mercy for them.

### B. The dream revealed (2:19a)

- The secret of the dream was revealed to Daniel in a night vision.

### C. Daniel's praise (2:19b-23)

- Daniel praised God for revealing the dream and its interpretation.

## III. Daniel Appears Before the King (2:24-30)

### A. The request to see the king (2:24)

- Daniel went to the captain of the guard and requested to see the king.

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## B. The captain's report (2:25)

- The captain brought Daniel before the king.
- He announced Daniel's intention to reveal the dream.

## C. The king's question (2:26)

- The king asked Daniel if he is able to reveal the dream and its interpretation.

## D. Daniel's response (2:27-30)

### 1. The wise men's inability (2:27)

- Daniel proclaims that the wise men could not reveal the secret of the dream.

### 2. God and his purpose (2:28-29)

- Daniel proclaims that there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets.
- This God has made known to the king what will take place in the future.

### 3. The purpose for the interpretation (2:30)

- Daniel stated that the secret was not revealed to him because of his wisdom.
- The secret was revealed for Daniel's sake and the king's understanding.

## IV. The Dream (2:31-35)

### A. The awesome image (2:31)

- Daniel tells the king that he saw a great image that was splendid and awesome.

### B. The makeup of the image (2:32-33)

- The image had a head of gold, chest of silver and thighs of bronze.
- The image had legs of iron and feet made of an iron and clay mixture.

### C. The destruction of the image (2:34-35)

#### 1. The stone (2:34a)

- There was a stone cut out without hands.

#### 2. The image destroyed (2:34b-35a)

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- The stone struck the feet of the image and broke them into pieces.
- The image was crushed together and blown away as chaff.

## 3. The rock becomes a mountain (2:35b)

- The stone became a mountain that filled the whole earth.

## V. The Interpretation (2:36-45)

### A. The interpretation announced (2:36)

- Daniel proclaims that he will tell the interpretation before the king.

### B. The head of gold (2:37-38)

- Daniel proclaims that Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom are the head of gold.

### C. The second and third kingdom (2:39)

- After this another inferior kingdom will arise and another after it to rule the world.

### D. The fourth kingdom (2:40)

- A fourth kingdom will arise that is as strong as iron and crush all others.

### E. The feet of clay and iron (2:41-43)

- The fourth kingdom will be divided.
- It will be both strong and fragile.
- Different peoples will mix together in this kingdom but they will not be united.

### F. God's kingdom (2:44)

- During the time of the divided kingdom, God will set up a kingdom.
- This kingdom will never be destroyed and is not left to other people.
- It will destroy other kingdoms and stand forever.

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**Head of Gold  
Babylonian Empire**

**Breast of Silver  
Medo-Persian Empire**

**Thighs of Bronze  
Greek Empire**

**Legs of Iron  
Roman Empire**

**Feet of Iron and Clay  
Future World  
Government**

### G. The certainty of the dream (2:45)

- Daniel tells the king that God has made known to him what will happen in the future.
- Daniel states that the dream and its interpretation are a fact.

### VI. Daniel Honored (2:46-49)

#### A. The king's response (2:46)

- The king responded by humbling himself and honoring Daniel.

#### B. The king's proclamation (2:47)

- The king proclaimed that God is the true God since he revealed this secret.

#### C. Daniel and his friends promoted (2:48-49)

- Daniel was promoted to ruler over the province of Babylon.
- Daniel's friends were set over the affairs of Babylon.