

ALL NATIONS - ONE PURSUIT

Daniel Chapters 1&2 :: Pastor Shiramba

Daniel 1:1-2 In Pursuit of Kingdoms; The Visible and Invisible Rulers

The book of Daniel begins with kings at war. On one hand is Jehoiakim king of the Judah, whose territory is besieged by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Behind the scenes are superior spiritual powers that appear to be the main determinates of the winners and losers of the war. Of interest is that YHW or "the Lord" is the one who delivers king Jehoiakim into the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. Babylon has a god and a temple, in which the articles from the temple of God are put. Probably a sign of the defeat of the Nation and God of Israel, by Nabuchadnezzar and the god of Babylon.

Daniel 1:3-21 In Pursuit of Truth; Living in One Kingdom but Serving another King
King Nebuchadnezzar also carried along some captives from Israel to Babylon. He ordered that the best of them including Daniel, be trained and incorporated into the service of his kingdom. The captives were given new names, and specified food from the king's table. But Daniel declines to eat the king's food, "he resolved not to defile himself with the Royal food and wine". God blessed Daniel and his three friends with good health and wisdom above all the other recruits.

Daniel 2: 1-23; In Pursuit Falsehood; The Limitations of Nebuchadnezzar's gods
King Nebuchadnezzar had a mysterious dream that troubled him. But the intermediaries (Magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers) to his god are unable to either spell out the dream or interpret it. They confess that (2:11b) only the gods can reveal the dream, but unfortunately, "they do not live among men."

However Daniel and his friends approached their God in prayer, and both the dream and its interpretation is given to them. Daniel goes before King Nebuchadnezzar and not only attributes the revelation of the dream to God (Dan. 2:28). He actually states that the dream had been shown to King Nebuchadnezzar by God in order to reveal to him of things to come.

Daniel 2: 24-43 Temporal Pursuits; The Transient Kingdoms

Daniel interprets the meaning of the dream. He explains the varying body parts and metals of the statue as representing the various kingdoms over a given period. The statue is shown for its weakness and lack of integration. And finally at opportune moment, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue at the feet and smashed it to chaff.

Daniel 2:44-49 The One Pursuit; The Everlasting Kingdom

The stone that struck the statue remains as the eventual attraction. It became a huge mountain and filled the earth (Dan. 2:35). This stone is the kingdom that is set up by the God of heaven and it will never be destroyed, nor left to another people.

King Nebuchadnezzar in a prostrate position confesses that the God of Daniel is the God of gods and the Lord of kings (Dan. 2:47)