

Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar Background

Biblical Background (Daniel 2 and 7)

- One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. The king threatened to kill his advisors if they could not both tell or interpret the dream. (Daniel 2:5-11)
- Daniel, a captive from Israel who served as an official in King Nebuchadnezzar's palace, asked the king for some time to interpret the dream. Daniel prayed. That night God revealed the dream and its meaning to him. (Daniel 2:12-23)
- The dream showed a statue with four sections. The head was gold. The chest was silver. The belly and thighs were bronze. The legs were made of iron and the feet were iron mixed with clay. A large stone struck and destroyed the statue and became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:31-35)
- The Lord gave Daniel the interpretation: The statue represented four kingdoms (the first is Babylonia). Each would eventually be replaced by an inferior kingdom. However, the fourth kingdom would be replaced by the eternal Kingdom of God, represented by the stone which becomes a great mountain that fills the entire earth. (Daniel 2:36-45)
- 63 years later, Daniel had a vision about four great beasts (a lion with wings, a bear, a leopard with four heads, and a terrifying powerful beast with 10 horns). This vision has a similar meaning to Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In Daniel's vision God takes away the power of the beasts. The "son of man," Jesus Christ, is given all authority and sets up the everlasting kingdom. All people and nations worship him. (Daniel 7)

Historical Background

- About 600 years before Jesus was born, Babylonia (Iraq today) was the most powerful and wealthy kingdom in the Middle East. (626 BC - 539 BC)
- King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful leader in the world at the time. (605 BC - 562 BC)
- The Babylonians conquered Mesopotamia, Canaan, and much of Egypt.
- In 586 BC, the Babylonians conquered the Israelites and carried them off to captivity in Babylonia. (2 Chronicles 36:20)
- The Babylonians destroyed Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, took the gold and silver furnishings and placed them in the temple to their god in Babylonia. (2 Chronicles 36:18, 19; Ezra 1:7)
- One captive from Israel, a man named Daniel, was educated by the Babylonians and served as an official in King Nebuchadnezzar's palace. (Daniel 1:3-7)
- Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome covered a 500-year span.
- Daniel also has a vision that refers to Persia as a ram and Greece as a goat. (Daniel 8)

Spiritual Background and Application

- The Israelites believed that God's power and authority rested on God's unconditional promise that the Temple in Jerusalem and the earthly kingship of David's line would last forever. (2 Samuel 7:12-17; Psalm 2; Psalm 89:3, 4; Jeremiah 7:4-10; 14:21)
- Jeremiah informed the people that because of their disobedience and lack of repentance, God was sending the Babylonians as agents of his judgment. (Jeremiah 4:5-8, 11-17)
- When Jeremiah's prophecies were fulfilled, the Temple had been burned to the ground, and the Israelites were placed in captivity. The defeated captives may have feared that their God was powerless to protect them, was unfaithful to his promises, and was weaker than the gods and kings of Babylonia.
- Daniel's writing demonstrates that in the midst of despair, God is still present, powerful, and in control. Kingdoms and rulers come and go, but God is ultimately in charge. (Daniel 2:20, 21; 7:9-14, 27)
- In the midst of Babylonia's wealth and power, Daniel emphasized that God's kingdom is eternal and more powerful than any earthly kingdom. (Daniel 2:44)
- The book of Daniel assures that God did not break his unconditional promises. God's promises to David are fulfilled in the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14), who will establish an everlasting kingdom on earth. (Daniel 2:44; 7:27)

The Statue in the Book of Daniel

The Kingdoms and King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

<p>THE STATUE (Daniel 2)</p> <p>Draw a picture of the statue here</p>	<p>NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM (Daniel 2)</p> <p>HEAD (FINE GOLD)</p> <p>The golden head of the statue represents the kingdom of Babylon which God gave King Nebuchadnezzar to rule. (Daniel 2:37)</p>	<p>DANIEL'S VISION (Daniel 7)</p> <p>Draw pictures of the beasts here</p>	<p>THE KINGDOMS Rulers (Dates occupied Judah)</p>
	<p>CHEST AND ARMS (SILVER)</p> <p>The silver chest and arms of the statue represent the kingdoms of Media and Persia, which is the second power that would rise after Babylon falls. (Daniel 2:39)</p>		<p>BABYLONIA King Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar (605 BC – 539 BC)</p>
	<p>BELLY AND THIGHS (BRONZE)</p> <p>The bronze belly and thighs of the statue represent the kingdom of Greece. This third kingdom would rule over the whole earth. (Daniel 2:39)</p>		<p>MEDO-PERSIA King Cyrus to Darius III (539 BC – 332 BC)</p>
	<p>LEGS (IRON) & FEET (IRON AND CLAY)</p> <p>The fourth kingdom will be strong as iron and will break and smash things. It is also divided, both strong and brittle. (Daniel 2:41-43)</p>		<p>GREECE Alexander the Great and the Four Divisions (332 BC – 63 BC)</p>
	<p>STONE (CUT FROM A MOUNTAIN)</p> <p>The stone that was cut out, not by human hands, struck the statue and destroyed it. The stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:44, 45)</p>	<p>SON OF MAN (Jesus Christ)</p>	<p>A DIVIDED KINGDOM Many scholars believe this kingdom to be Rome (63 BC through the time of Jesus).</p> <p>THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF GOD</p>

The Daniel & Nebuchadnezzar Quiz

(Daniel 2, 7, 8)

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- ___ 1. What happened to the stone after it struck the statue?
A. It crumbled to pieces.
B. It turned into a man.
C. It became a mountain
D. It went to heaven
- ___ 2. What year did the Babylonians conquer the Israelites and carry them into captivity?
A. 606 BC
B. 586 BC
C. 539 BC
D. 332 BC
- ___ 3. What king had the dream of a giant statue?
A. Belshazzar
B. Cyrus
C. Darius
D. Nebuchadnezzar
- ___ 4. What prophet interpreted the king's dream and had a vision of four beasts?
A. Daniel
B. Ezekiel
C. Isaiah
D. Jeremiah
- ___ 5. What does the great mountain that fills the entire earth represent?
A. The Roman Empire
B. The Persian Kingdom
C. The Kingdom of God
D. The Babylonian Kingdom
- ___ 6. Who is the "Son of Man"?
A. Daniel
B. Jesus Christ
C. King Cyrus
D. King Nebuchadnezzar

MATCHING

A = Babylonia B = Persia
C = Greece D = Divided Kingdom

- ___ 7. What kingdom did the legs of iron represent?
- ___ 8. What kingdom did the bear with three ribs in its mouth represent?
- ___ 9. What kingdom did the lion with eagle's wings represent?
- ___ 10. What kingdom did the chest and arms of silver represent?
- ___ 11. What kingdom did the terrifying beast represent?
- ___ 12. What kingdom did the head of fine gold represent?
- ___ 13. What kingdom did the belly and thighs of bronze represent?
- ___ 14. What kingdom did the leopard with four heads and four wings represent?
- ___ 15. What kingdom did the feet of iron and clay represent?

TRUE/FALSE

- ___ 16. Alexander the Great was the second king of Persia.
- ___ 17. The Kingdom of Greece lasted from 332 BC to 63 BC.
- ___ 18. The Persians destroyed Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.
- ___ 19. Nebuchadnezzar was one of the kings of Babylonia.
- ___ 20. Alexander the Great's kingdom was divided into four parts.
- ___ 21. The king placed Daniel in a lion's den for not interpreting his dream.
- ___ 22. Daniel also had a vision about a ram and a cow.
- ___ 23. Many scholars believe that the fourth kingdom is Rome.

24. What was King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and what was its interpretation? _____

25. Considering the spiritual background of the Israelites, how do you think the dream of the statue and the vision of the four beasts could have an impact on their faith in God? (Write your answer on the back of this page.)

Answers: MULTIPLE CHOICE: 1.C 2.B 3.D 4.A 5.C 6.B MATCHING: 1.D 2.B 3.A 4.B 5.D 6.A 7.C 8.C 9.D TRUE/FALSE: 1.F 2.T 3.F 4.T 5.T 6.F 7.F 8.T LONG ANSWER: See Worksheet.

KING DANIEL DREAM NEBUCHADNEZZAR STATUE

DANIEL DREAM STATUE