

Daniel: Two Kingdoms. One True King.

Daniel 2:1-49

MPS Jesus is the King of Kings who came to earth as perfect wisdom and power from God, so that all who believe in Him would live in His eternal kingdom.

OBJ Every person should believe and trust in Jesus because He is revealed as King of kings by contrast of Two Kingdoms.

Daniel 2:1-11 *"In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him."*

Chapter Two begins upon the recent graduation of Daniel and his friends from Babylon University. Nebuchadnezzar had a bad night of sleep and awoke troubled from his dream. He summoned all the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and Chaldeans to tell him his dream. They came in before the king and he tells them he had a dream that troubled his spirit. They stand ready to serve him and tell him the interpretation, except this time something is different. The king issues an unchangeable order that they have to tell him the dream and then tell him the interpretation. If they cannot do this, they will all be torn limb from limb, and their homes destroyed. But if they do this, they will receive great reward, gifts, and honor. They tell him that if he will tell them the dream then they will tell him its interpretation, but this angers the king. He accuses them of stalling for time. And, if they cannot tell him the dream then they will be sentenced, and he will know they have only spoken lying and corrupt words. They respond(.11): *"The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."* **There is not a man on earth who can meet this demand, except only a god could do such a thing.**

From the opening verse, tension begins to rise quickly and drive to a terminal end. And the more the tension rises, the more the story slows in a grinding conversation. The King makes a demand with threats, and great reward with fulfilling his command. But the demand is so great that it seems inconceivable to the wise men. Back and forth the conversation goes with the tension rising, the king becoming more entrenched in his demand, and all the others more dismayed by the impossibility of it, until finally an impasse is reached where they tell that king that only a god could even dare do such a thing. **Their words, though not intentional by them, are insightful. Something has happened that is disrupting the king and is beyond the wisdom and ability of all the kingdom resources.**

2:12-16

"Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed."

The tension reaches boiling point. The king, now angry and furious, commands that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. So the decree went out to kill all the wise men, and this included Daniel and his friends. When Daniel hears, he addresses Arioch, the captain of the guard, with prudence and discretion and asked, *"Why is the decree of the king so urgent?"*(.15) When Arioch told him, Daniel went in and made an appointment to meet with the king to show him the interpretation. Toward the end of chapter 1(.17), we learned that God gave Daniel a gift to understand all visions and dreams. While Daniel did not know Nebuchadnezzar's dream nor its interpretation, he did have some awareness of his gift and the faith to appear before the king. After all, if you are going to die anyway you might as well give it a shot.

2:17-23 Daniel went to his house and shared what had happened with his friends and urged them to seek mercy from God concerning this mystery, so they might not be destroyed. That night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Daniel responds to the vision by blessing the Lord. Daniel begins with praise of God for who He is(.20-22); *"Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ²¹He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; ²²he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him."* From praise, Daniel moves to give God thanks for what He has done for he and his friends. *"²³To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter."*(2:23) Once Daniel finishes his prayer of praise and thanksgiving, he goes in to Arioch to tell him he is ready to share the interpretation with the king. **After he finishes his worship to the Lord, Daniel is ready to bear a faithful witness before the king.**



2:24-30 Arioch takes Daniel in before the king. The king asks if he can interpret his dream. Daniel tells him what all the other wise men said, but begins by introducing him to the God who reveals dreams. *“No wise men...can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the later days.”*(.27-28) God gives Nebuchadnezzar a dream that disturbs him by the mystery it presents. And God gave Daniel a revelation to interpret the king’s dream so he could know the thoughts of his mind. [Daniel makes sure to honor God before he answers the king’s inquiry.](#)

2:31-35 Daniel tells the king his dream. The image the king saw was mighty and impressive in its brightness, adorned from head down with metals of great value and glory, and its feet of iron and clay. While watching, a stone unhewn by human hands struck the feet and broke them into pieces. Then all the great metals of the image that broke into pieces become like chaff and are carried away by the wind and left without a trace. The only thing that remained was the unhewn stone, which grew into a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

2:36-45 Daniel immediately moves to interpret the dream. Daniel begins by telling Nebuchadnezzar that God has given him the kingdom, power, the might, and the glory, and rule over all creation, and that he is the head of gold in the image. But another inferior kingdom will arise, then another, then another, each one stronger and conquering the last. This last kingdom will be a divided one, but not in the way one might think, and it will crumble because of this division. In those days the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and He will rule. And His kingdom will break in pieces all the other kingdoms and bring them to an end, to stand forever, as the unhewn stone he saw in his dream. A great God has revealed the king’s dream, and it *“is certain, and its interpretation sure.”* [Here the firm word of the King was not able to produce the dream nor its interpretation, but the certain and sure Word of God has revealed all mysteries!](#)

2:46-49 At this news, King Nebuchadnezzar falls on his face and pays homage to Daniel. Daniel’s records, *“The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”* ⁴⁸*Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.* ⁴⁹*Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king’s court.”*(.47-49) [What a powerful ending of peace and blessing to a story that began with tension and rage.](#)

TRANS We cannot help but be reminded of James’ words by these verses, *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”*(4:10) Peter states the same, *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.”*(1 Peter 5:6) And I can only hope that as you find yourself in any environment hostile to your faith in Jesus today, you will take this story of Daniel to heart. [Faithfulness to Jesus matters. Humble yourself to Him, and He will take care of you.](#) In this world, faithfulness always brings one to a point of crisis, *“Who will you trust and serve?”* [Christ-followers watch and stand ready to serve the Lord.](#)

[Jesus is the King of Kings who came to earth as perfect wisdom and power from God, so that all who believe in Him would live in His eternal kingdom.](#)

TRANS Daniel Two is the record of kingdoms; those that rise and fall, and the One to come that shall never pass away. We see this by the contrasts found within the chapter.

OBJ [The Contrast of Two Kingdoms reveal Jesus as King of Kings, and worthy of our faith to live in His eternal Kingdom.](#) **The contrast begins with two dreams.** Nebuchadnezzar’s dream visits him completely unaware, unconcerned because his stability is established in the world by his power, might, and wisdom. But his dream leaves him restless as it presents a mystery. Disturbed by the mystery of his dream, the ruler of the world summons all the collective wisdom, power and might to gather, and speaks a firm word that threatens great harm if they do not answer, but untold riches if they do. The collection of worldly power and wisdom is baffled to answer his demand, even fear from the threat of life and the promise of great wealth and fame cannot produce an answer to his mystery, so he condemns them all to death. King’s Nebuchadnezzar’s dream presents a mystery that exposes what is impossible with man, but because he is not satisfied, he condemns all wise



men of his kingdom to die.

Against this hopeless situation, Daniel hears and summons his three friends to seek mercy from the God of heaven. While seeking the Lord, he receives a vision in the night from God that reveals the mystery. Daniel responds to the Lord with a prayer of worship in praise and thanksgiving. The revelation comes to one who trusts and seeks the Lord, whose hope rests in the Lord, knowing he hears the prayers of his people, and blesses the living God who speaks. The revelation not only reveals the dream, of worldly kingdoms that rise and fall, and of a rock unhewn by human hands that strikes them so they fall, but also the interpretation that this kingdom is from the God of heaven who strikes down every other kingdom and outlasts them all to fill the whole earth with its glory. This Word is certain and sure because it is the word of the living God.

A Snapshot of the Two Kingdoms reveals why worldly kingdoms fall and the heavenly Kingdom stands. The worldly kingdoms are rooted in power and might that constantly war for dominance to rule, one overthrowing the other to be enthroned. Fear and dominance drive each cultural economy in its unique way. And each kingdom holds its own wisdom, and the promise of riches to those who serve the kingdom well. But worldly kingdoms do not last because another stronger, mightier, and wiser, rises to conquer. Even when the strongest kingdom is enthroned, it is undone by its own divisions from within; they do not last because they are mixed from the seed of men. By the collective wisdom of all wise men and rule of power and might, death is certain because the king's demand is impossible. **Sin of man is the undoing of the kingdoms of this world.**

TRANS The world remains in this same condemned mixture today.

ILLUS Most recently the world's intelligence and wisdom manifests in what we know as Artificial Intelligence (AI). We ponder and postulate what this cumulative intelligence produced by the combined data of humanity will produce to see how it will remake the world by its wisdom. Jesus Christ stands, knowing that His Wisdom will endure, because He is the living and eternal Word of God that has gone forth into the world that is both certain and sure.

Gospel There is **ONLY one true King**, and HE already knows the end of AI. In the worldly kingdom the heavenly kingdom of God has come in the person of Jesus Christ. Instead of men who war and conquer to rise to power and rule by their wisdom and might, trying to build their kingdom and become god-like, Jesus, who is God, came into the world to become a man and bring the Kingdom of God to us, inviting us to believe and receive the eternal life only He gives. A man tempted in every way as we are, yet he remained "un-mixed", unconquered and unstained from sin, perfect in righteousness in every way. But though he knew no sin, became sin for us, that He might die in our place to pay our sin debt, and give to us His righteousness, so we would have life with God. And his kingdom from heaven is eternal and will never pass away. **Jesus is the stone unhewn by human hands that has come and strikes to destroy every human kingdom, who will become a great mountain and fill the whole earth with the glory of His eternal Kingdom.**

The **worldly kingdom** is one "mixed", sin-stained in every way, ever-changing, ruled by many, and constantly moving toward its inevitable demise because it is temporary. The **heavenly kingdom** is fixed by the eternal One who rules all, increasing to cover the face of the whole earth, shall never be destroyed, and will break in pieces all the kingdoms of this world. Those who trust in the kings of the world will go as the worldly kingdoms go, away to certain death forever. Those who trust in the King of kings who has come from heaven will spend eternity with Him in His Kingdom.

SONG Ancient of Days, by City Alight

Though the nations rage, Kingdoms rise and fall, there is still one King reigning over all.

So, I will not fear for this truth remains; that my God is the Ancient of Days.

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul, He is here with me, I am not alone.

O His love is sure, and He knows my name for my God is the Ancient of Days.

None above Him, none before Him, all of time in His hands. For His throne it shall remain and ever stand.

All the power, all the glory, I will trust in His name, For my God is the Ancient of Days.

SONG Hallelujah chorus of Handel's Messiah "The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His



Christ. And He shall reign forever and ever. Amen!"

Jesus is the power and the wisdom of our eternal God!

"We preach Christ crucified, ...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." **1 Corinthians 1:23-25**

The kingdoms of this world are setup by men who make themselves into kings and use people to make themselves like god. The Kingdom of Heaven is ruled by the living God who is King of kings and Lord of all, who came to earth and gave himself and save people. Build your life on the kingdoms of this world, with your hope and trust in gold, silver, brass, iron, or clay, or in any system of power, wealth, or knowledge, and they will all pass away. The Kingdom of God shall not pass away but will fill the whole earth with the glory of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. **Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall, but there is only One who stands through them all!**

Daniel, the captive slave who was being remade by the world's kingdom of man is set before the ruler of the world, King Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful kingdom with the greatest collection of wisdom and understanding ever known to man at his command, and look, LOOK who bows to who, and who remains in the end.

Jesus is the King of Kings who came to earth as perfect wisdom and power from God, so that all who believe in Him would live in His eternal kingdom.

Are you bowing to worship Jesus with your whole being, to honor Him with your whole life, to give praise and glory to Him alone who sits enthroned in Heaven? Jesus is worthy of your whole life.

