

22T12k Daniel 2

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I just have to say it. I don't really like eschatology or end times theology. I always figured it was going to happen so why worry about it. I would say things like, it does not help me follow Jesus, it does not help me reach others for Jesus, then why. What's the point? And this is true.

And I still kind of feel this way but over recent years, this topic keeps coming up over and over and over again. I think Jesus is trying to tell me something. So, I'm trying to be obedient and study the word of God as Jesus wants me to, not as I would like to do it.

Anyway, here we are talking again, about eschatology and prophecies. Today we will discuss Daniel 2 and the Statue.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, today we are going to discuss Daniel 2. Daniel 2 is one of the most remarkable stories in the Bible. The Statue clearly represents the kingdoms that would dominate the world starting with the Babylonians. I don't want to spoil it, so let's just start reading

Daniel 2: 1-18 (NAS) *¹Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. ²Then the king gave orders to call in the soothsayer priests, the conjurers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³The king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream." ⁴Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation." ⁵The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be turned into a rubbish heap. ⁶But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation." ⁷They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation." ⁸The king replied, "I know for certain that you are trying to buy time, because you have perceived that the command from me is firm, ⁹that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, so that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation." ¹⁰The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is no person on earth who could declare the matter to the king, because no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any soothsayer priest, sorcerer, or Chaldean. ¹¹Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh." ¹²Because of this, the king became angry and extremely furious, and he gave orders to kill all the wise men of Babylon. ¹³So the decree was issued that the wise men be killed; and they looked for Daniel and his friends, to kill them. ¹⁴Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; ¹⁵he said to Arioch, the king's officer, "For what reason is the decree from the king so harsh?" Then Arioch informed Daniel of the*

matter. ¹⁶So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him a grace period, so that he might declare the interpretation to the king. ¹⁷Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, ¹⁸so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his friends would not be killed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon..

This is an extreme situation. The King wants you to tell him what he dreamed and what it meant. Completely impossible request and Nebuchadnezzar is going to kill all his advisors if they can't do it. I mean What? This is a crazy, outrageous thing. I told you this was a remarkable story. So let's read on.

Daniel 2:19-30 (NAS) ¹⁹Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; ²⁰Daniel said, "May the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. ²¹"It is He who changes the times and the periods; He removes kings and appoints kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, And knowledge to people of understanding. ²²"It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. ²³"To You, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter." ²⁴Thereupon, Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to kill the wise men of Babylon; he went and said this to him: "Do not kill the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king." ²⁵Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!" ²⁶The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?" ²⁷Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the secret about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, sorcerers, soothsayer priests, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. ²⁸However, there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. ²⁹As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will take place. ³⁰But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living person, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

It is very clear God is about to do something amazing. King Nebuchadnezzar has had a prophetic dream and Daniel not only knows the dream but God has also revealed its meaning. Let's read on with Daniel 2:31-35 (NAS) ³¹"You, O king, were watching and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary radiance, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. ³²The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its chest and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, ³³its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴You continued watching until a stone was broken off without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed to pieces all at the same time, and they were like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the entire earth.

Okay, that is an amazing picture. Now let's read God's interpretation. Daniel 2:36-45 (NAS) ³⁶"This was the dream; and now we will tell its interpretation before the king. ³⁷You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the honor; ³⁸and wherever

the sons of mankind live, or the animals of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has handed them over to you and has made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold. ³⁹And after you another kingdom will arise inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; just as iron smashes and crushes everything, so, like iron that crushes, it will smash and crush all these things. Four kingdoms, most scholars believe these are the Chaldeans or Babylonians, the Media-Persians, the Greeks and the fourth is the Roman empire. Let's continue *⁴¹And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; We are still talking about the fourth kingdom, a divided kingdom. This is still Roman. but it will have within it some of the toughness of iron, since you saw the iron mixed with common clay. ⁴²And just as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong, and part of it will be fragile. ⁴³In that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in their descendants; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not combine with pottery. ⁴⁴And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.* We have not changed kingdoms yet. Still Roman, and God says, in those days of those kings, God will set up his kingdom. Intriguing. Let's continue. *⁴⁵Just as you saw that a stone was broken off from the mountain without hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is certain and its interpretation is trustworthy."*

This is just amazing. Perfect prediction of the four kingdoms that will come prior to Christ. Babylonians, Persians, Greece and Rome. Then God sets up His everlasting kingdom. I know many believe this everlasting kingdom does not get set up until the Millennium after the 2nd coming of Christ. I just don't see that in the text. The dream only talks about four kingdoms, then a piece of the mountain, The mountain is most probably God, the stone is Jesus. And when Jesus comes in His 1st advent, Jesus destroys the statue. Jesus destroyed the dominion of men. And Jesus setup His everlasting kingdom at His resurrection. That is what Jesus told us after His resurrection in the gospels.

And yes many believe the millennium interpretation, but then what about the stone growing into a mountain that filled the whole earth. This seems to me to be the growth of the Christian church. Starting with Jesus and His few followers and now essentially every nation has followers of Jesus. The Millennium interpretation does not have a reason for the stone growing. When Jesus returns, the time for growth is over. So the stone growing into a mountain has to be something other than the millennium post the 2nd coming of Christ.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Thank you are every story, every message in the Bible. Help us understand your purpose for giving them. Help us to understand how you intend us to view them. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see your message. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

So, okay. Is Daniel 2 end times prophecy or something else. I don't know but what I see is it probably not future end times. In fact history fits, this prophecy quite well. Jesus is already king of kings and lord of lords. That is not a future thing. Jesus already has dominion over all nations of the earth right now. He

just is not exercising that dominion today. So yes, Daniel 2 has most likely been fully fulfilled in history. I find that very exciting.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about different ways to view these end times scriptures.

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See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.