

NOTES FOR EPISODE 20 – NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM IN DANIEL 2

I think by this time the Pre-Wrath rapture teaching is making more sense to you. Jesus’s teaching from the Mt. of Olives in Matt 24 fits perfectly with the records in 1 Thess 4 & 5 and 2 Thess 2 to show that the rapture or gathering together is after the 6th seal, before the 7th seal. There is a huge practical difference when we transition from thinking we will be raptured before the final 7 years, to the realization that we might be followers of Jesus during the time of the first 6 seals and the antichrist. The significance of this is that believers need to understand what will be happening then on the earth because the church will still be here.

In the next several episodes, FF will cover important chapters from the OT prophets that tell us things that will happen on earth before the gathering or rapture of the church.

Today is Daniel 2. This is an interesting and exciting Bible story, but a deeper look shows how massive is the revelation in the dream and how marvelously God worked in this drama.

Background and story:

The northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah had sinned and sinned. As far back as Moses in Lev 26 and Deut 28, God had warned that their sins would cause them to go into captivity.

God raised up Nebuchadnezzar (Neb).

Jer. 27-29 Told the people to submit to captivity. The false prophets said this was treason and the LORD will surely protect Israel. In Isaiah’s generation, the message was trust in the LORD and He will deliver Judah and Jerusalem.

Must understand the prophetic word for your times, for your generation. If you’re applying the Isaiah prophecies and you’re in the Jeremiah times, it could be a serious mistake.

The Bible is done being written, but, as we approach the end of the age, God will make vividly clear to His people how we should understand portions of His prophetic Word for that day and time and hour.

Interesting that Neb is called the servant of God (Jer 27:6, 43:10).

Even as God is punishing Judah, with the captivity, look at His mercy and care. He tells them to go along and plant and reap and have children (Jer 29:4-11). He takes hold of this conqueror, Neb. He has Daniel as one of the top government ministers. Ezekiel is among them as a prophet. These are but some of the lessons of Daniel.

Neb has this dream and he demands that the wise men tell him both the dream and the interpretation. They had books on interpreting the dreams, but it was against their rules to demand that they tell him his dream as proof that they had the wisdom to give the interpretation. He didn’t want their conventional wisdom, he demanded supernatural understanding for this dream.

What can frighten a powerful man like Neb? Things beyond his control. The worry about what other powerful army or empire may come along. Spiritual dreams from a realm beyond his power. The image he saw in this dream suggests both. Neb had asked for what demonic

sorcerers cannot do. They cannot know a person's thoughts and dreams unless those thoughts are put there by demons. The sorcerers and Chaldeans confessed that this was beyond their power and that only "the gods" could know what the king asked.

He said he would kill them all if they couldn't tell him both the dream and the interpretation. That takes draining the swamp to a whole new level. Unreasonable, a jerk, yet God calls Neb his servant. It may be good to remember that in evaluating leaders today. He was losing sleep over his dream, but seemingly he would not have lost sleep over killing all the wise men, including Daniel, which would have suited the devil just fine.

The dream and interpretation:

Daniel steps out in faith and then prays for God to back him up. God does so in a dream. Read the whole chapter on your own. Maybe even pause and read it now. We'll pick it up in 2:17-18. These are Daniel's friends whose Babylonian names are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and they go to God in prayer together. Remember how they wouldn't eat the king's meat sacrificed to idols. They maintained their devotion and obedience to the God of Israel in their captivity.

2:19-23. Daniel is still a young man. Look at the gracious words of wisdom he speaks in thanking God for the vision. It reminds us of the proper attitude for worshipful prayer that Daniel displays later in life in chapter 9.

- Changes times and seasons. We need to know the season we are in.
- Removes kings and sets up kings. We can relax and trust God no matter who is in power in our country or the world.
- He gives wisdom and understanding. I'm glad you're listening to this and gaining this knowledge. We need to go further and diligently study for God to give understanding. What if someday we are in hiding or in captivity and can't read our Bibles or click on a nice teaching? What if God brings you someone unexpectedly so you can share His plan for the coming kingdom? Daniel talks about "the wise". These are people that have this in their heart, not just in their notes somewhere.

Daniel asked that the other wise men not be destroyed. This shows God's mercy on his rivals, his enemies. He just said they can't do what you asked, only the God of heaven can.

9:30 ff

- Head of gold – "you are the head of gold..." Neb's empire.
- Chest and arms of silver – Empire of the Medes & Persians which overthrew Babylonians
- Belly and thighs of bronze – Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great which conquered the Persian empire.
- Legs of iron – most of us have been taught this is the Roman Empire. FF believes it is the Islamic empire that was the largest and longest lasting of any empire.
- Feet partly iron partly clay – the antichrist's dominion will be a revival of this 4th empire. It will have divisions and be partly strong partly weak. d
- Then the stone, not cut with human hands, strikes the feet
- All the statue blown away and the stone becomes a huge mountain that fills the earth.

Thinks of how our intelligence services and military analyze all the potential human threats across the globe. What about China, what about Iran, what about North Korea, what about Russia? Imagine if the CIA put out a report saying that a power not of human hands will overthrow all of them. Picture the scene of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence examining them about this report and how outlandishly foolish they would say it is.

Reasons why the Islamic Caliphate is a better fit for the 4th kingdom of iron:

- Rome was a strong conqueror, but Romans did not “break in pieces and shatter all things”. The nations they conquered were occupied and paid taxes, but Greek, Syrian, Egyptian, Judean cultures were allowed to continue as they were as long as they did not revolt.
- The Islam conquests did grind up the civilizations they conquered. Must speak Arabic, must keep Islamic law, convert to Islam or die or be enslaved.
- This vision was to Neb and was about his empire. Rome did not conquer all his empire.
- Reviewing the maps of these empires, they all go further east into Asia, except Rome, which was more western.
- We come from western civilization which descends from Rome, so westerners tend to think our civilization is what matters. The Bible does not talk very much about the west or Europe and does not even mention the USA.
- Joel Richardson’s book, The Mideast Beast, explains this in much more detail. It can be downloaded from his website joeltrumpet.com. We will cover more support for this view in future episodes.

Ending with the kingdom of God.

- A literal earthly kingdom like the others
- Not humanly empowered. Divinely empowered.
- Suddenly takes out the kingdom represented by the feet
- Then breaks apart the other kingdoms
- After those kingdoms are gone it grows to fill the whole earth
- Lasts forever.

No wonder Neb falls on his face. He has been shown the future of the human race. Notice also that it is entirely that part of the world. Many Christians think of the kingdom of God as a Christian thing. “Oh yeah, I’m a Christian—I’m all about working for the kingdom”. Here it’s a Jewish thing... a Messiah thing. Same with many other places in the prophets. When John the Baptist came along and said “Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand”, those who heard him are thinking about this. Same with Jesus. When you read the gospels, notice how he is preaching the kingdom, saying the kingdom is at hand. When he sent the disciples out to preach, that’s what he told them to say. We have to see those as him saying that the coming of Messiah who reigns over Israel and subdues all the world is at hand. In the sermon on the mountain, Matt 6:33 says, “seek ye first the kingdom of God...”. That’s not talking about teaching Sunday school or doing church work, it is talking about the reign of Messiah on the earth.

Can you visualize this? Do you hope and long for it?

