

NOTES ON DANIEL

potentate-dearer than life itself. He determined to stand firm in his integrity, let the result be what it might.”

- Prophets and Kings, Page 483: 1.

4. Write brief extracts in your note-book from the references in “Prophets and Kings.”

5. Make notes on the topics for Further Study, and bring to class.

6. Read the comments of Uriah Smith on the lesson scripture from “Daniel and the Revelation.”

15. GOD’S CHALLENGE AND BABYLON’S FAILURE

(Daniel 2:1-30)

The King’s Trouble. Verse 1.

Time of the Vision-The 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar reigned 2 years conjointly with his father, Nabopolassar. The Jews reckoned from the time of his accession with his father; the Chaldeans from his sole reign. See SDA Source Book, Page 54 (Birks); Daniel And Revelation, Page 32. Thus we have as follows:

Nebuchadnezzar reigning con- 606 BC. Daniel’s 3 years of

jointly with Nabopolassar 605 BC. preparation.

1st year as sole monarch 604 BC.

2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar 603 BC. The vision of Chapter 2.

The Religion of Babylon Tested. Verses 2-9.

1. The record of Daniel gives us the history of the struggle between truth and error in Babylon. The religion of Babylon was Satan’s masterpiece of deception. It was God’s design through His witnesses to reveal the falsity of its claims that the honest in heart might be brought into the light of truth and serve Him. We shall miss the vital feature in our study of the book, if we fail to recognize the controversy between good and evil, or between Christ and Satan.

2. The wise men of Babylon were the representatives of her religion. The magicians practiced magic, fortune-telling, etc.; the astrologers foretold the future by studying the stars; the sorcerers professed to hold communications with the dead, and the Chaldeans were a sect of philosophers.

3. The test. The ability to tell what the king had dreamed. V. 9 (last. part).

The Failure of the Wise Men. Verses 10-13.

1. The wise men confess their failure.

2. Verse 11 gives the reason for the failure: Babylon’s gods did not dwell in human flesh. Babylon’s religion knew nothing of a union of divinity and humanity.

3. The failure of the wise men was Satan’s failure. Why?

4. Daniel and his companions in peril.

God’s Interposition. Verses 14-23.

Verses 14-16. Daniel accepts the challenge.

Verse 17, 19 The source of Daniel’s strength.

Verse 20-22. Daniel’s praise to God.

Daniel Before the King. Verses 24-30.

Verse 24. Chaldeans saved through Daniel.

Verse 25. Arioch seeks for praise.

Verse 26. The king’s question.

Verse 27-30. Daniel reveals God as the great revealer of secrets.

For Further Study

1. What is Jehovah’s challenge to false gods? Isaiah 41: 21-23, 26; 44: 7, 8.

2. Was Nebuchadnezzar’s demand unreasonable? Daniel And Revelation, Page 34, 35.

3. The separation of the human and the divine in modern Babylon. SDA Hand Book, Page 256-258.

NOTES ON DANIEL

Questions on the Lesson

1. When was the vision of Daniel 2 given?
2. How could it be given in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar, when, according to chapter 1, Daniel was still in training?
3. To whom did Nebuchadnezzar appeal for help to reveal the dream?
4. Who were the real forces contending in Babylon?
5. What deficiency did the representatives of Babylon's religion admit in their religion?
6. When Satan was defeated on the first test, what did he seek to do?
7. Where did Daniel go for this dream?
8. How did he bless the God of heaven?
9. When brought before the king, what did Nebuchadnezzar say?

The Lesson Assigned

1. In studying the outline as given in the notes, be sure to read carefully all the Scripture and other references.
2. Read from Daniel And Revelation, Page on Daniel 2:1-30.
3. Memorize Daniel 2: 20-22.

16. THE DREAM AND ITS INTERPRETATION

(Daniel 2:24-49)

The Purpose of the Dream. Verses 28, 29.

1. "Makes known ... what shall be in the latter days." The primary object of the prophecy is to point out the events of the last days when Christ will set up His kingdom.
2. "What should come to pass hereafter." The events from Daniel's time to the latter days are embraced.

The Dream. Verses 31-35.

"A great image." Being an idolater, this would appeal to Nebuchadnezzar.

The Interpretation. Verses 37, 38.

"Thou art this head of gold." Nebuchadnezzar was to recognize that he owed all his kingdom and glory to the God of heaven.

BABYLON	Verse 37, 38.	A universal kingdom. A golden kingdom.
MEDO-PERSIA	Verse 39.	A silver kingdom. Inferior to Babylon.
GRECIA	Verse 39.	A brass kingdom.
ROME	Verse 40.	An iron kingdom. Denoted for its strength.
ROME DIVIDED	Verse 41-43.	An iron-clay kingdom. Partly strong and partly broken.
CHRIST'S KINGDOM	Verse 44, 45.	The climax of the prophecy. 1. Set up "in the days of these kings." 2. An everlasting kingdom. 3. All earthly kingdoms pass away from before it.

Daniel's Promotion. Verses 46-49.

Verse 46. King offers Daniel worship.
Verse 47. The king acknowledges God as the great revealer of secrets.
Verse 48, 49. Daniel promoted to Prime Minister.
Made a great man in riches and power.

NOTES ON DANIEL

Verse 49. Daniel remembers his friends.

THE FULFILMENT OF THE VISION

Babylon. 606 B.C-538 BC.

1. Description:

The golden kingdom.

Isaiah 14: 4.

“The glory of kingdoms.”

Isaiah 13: 19.

“The beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency.”

Isaiah 13: 19.

“The lady of kingdoms.”

Isaiah 47: 5.

“A city of merchants,” “A land of traffic.”

Ezekiel 17: 4.

2. History: Daniel And Revelation, Page 45, 46; SDA Source Book, Page 47; “Great Empires of Prophecy,” chapter 1, paragraph 1-3, 60, 61; chapter 11, par. 1-11.

3. Nebuchadnezzar: SDA Source Book, Page 55.

4. The City: Daniel And Revelation, Page 47, 48; SDA Source Book, Page 48-51.

5. Destruction: Isaiah 13: 19-22; 14: 23; SDA Source Book, Page 64, 65. Babylon fell 538 BC.

Medo-Persia. 538 B.C-331 BC.

1. Description: Inferior to Babylon. Daniel 2: 39; Daniel And Revelation, Page 56.

2. History: Daniel And Revelation, Page 56-61; SDA Source Book, Page 324, 325. Overthrown at Battle of Arbela, 331 BC.

Greece. 331 BC-308 BC.

“With Alexander the new Greece begins.”-Harrison, SDA Source Book, Page 203.

1. History: Brief sketch of history. SDA Source Book, Page 202, 203 (Goodspeed). Character of Alexander. Daniel And Revelation, Page 59. Sovereignty passes to Romans at Battle of Pydna, 168 BC.

Rome. 168 BC AD 476.

1. Description: The iron kingdom. Daniel 2: 40. SDA Source Book, Page 460 (Wright); 460, 462 (Gibbon).

2. Rome Divided: (a) “The kingdom shall be divided.” Verse 41. (b) “The kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken.” Verse 42. (c) “They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another.” Verse 43. Rome united: 168 B.C-AD 476. 3 5 1. Period of disintegration: AD 351-476.

3. Key Divisions: Alemanni, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Herpli, Anglo-Saxons, Lombards. SDA Source Book, Page 592, 593; 594-595 (Gibbon).

4. Efforts to Unite: Charlemagne, Charles V, Louis XIV, Napoleon, Wilhelm II, Hitler. Leagues, alliances, etc., of today. Intermarriage. Verse 43.

Kingdom of God-The Climax of the Prophecy.

Characteristics:

1. Successive-not contemporaneous with the ten.

2. Everlasting-not to be succeeded. Verse 44.

3. Established by force. Verse 44; Psalm 2:7-9.

4. Established by divine power. Verse 45.

For Further Study

1. The kings of Babylon from 606 B.C-538 BC.

2. The wonders of Babylon. SDA Source Book, Page 50, 51.

3. Babylon’s civilization. SDA Source Book, Page 53, 55.

4. The ten kingdoms. SDA Source Book, Page 594-596; Daniel And Revelation, Page 785, 78, 79.

5. Present-day efforts to unite Europe. Consult library references.

6. Do the ten toes represent the ten kingdoms?

Questions on the Lesson

1. What was the primary object of the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar?

2. From what point does the revelation commence?

3. When interpreting the head of gold as representing Babylon, what truth did Daniel endeavor to impress

NOTES ON DANIEL

on Nebuchadnezzar?

4. What is said of the kingdom of silver?
5. What particularly would the fourth kingdom be noted for?
6. What change was to occur in the fourth kingdom?
7. What would the divided kingdom fail to do?
8. Explain the vision of the Stone. What did it represent? How does it differ from the other kingdoms?
9. Who founded Babylon, and when?
10. How does Scripture describe Babylon?
11. What period of Babylon's history was her golden era?
12. Give an estimation of Nebuchadnezzar as a king.
13. What prophecy did Isaiah make concerning the city of Babylon? How was it fulfilled?
14. In what respect was Medo-Persia inferior to Babylon?
15. Why are the following battles important: Arbela, Pydna? When were they fought?
16. How does Gibbon describe the Roman Empire?
17. Which is the period of disintegration of the Roman Empire?
18. When did Western Rome fall? Name the ten kingdoms at that time. Why not include the Huns?
19. How would the ten kingdoms try to unite?
20. Name some men who tried to unite Western Europe into one kingdom.
21. What are the four leading characteristics of the kingdom of God?
22. What shows that the dream as outlined by Daniel was the dream of the king?
23. Show from Scripture that Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome are the four great world powers alluded to. Daniel 2: 38; 5: 30, 31; 8:20,21; Luke 2: 1,2.
24. What shows that the head of gold refers to the kingdom of Babylon, and not merely to Nebuchadnezzar?
25. What important event took place under the Persians? Ezra 1:1-3.
26. Whose do the kingdoms of this world finally become? Revelation 11:15.
27. When will Christ's kingdom be set up? Who will be its subjects? Matthew 25:31-41.
28. How does the vision of Daniel 2 disprove the doctrine of (a) a secret rapture? (b) a temporal millennium?
29. Give your reasons against the theory that the fifth universal kingdom was set up at the first advent. Daniel And Revelation, Page 75, 76.
30. Do the two legs of the image represent Eastern and Western Rome? Give reasons. Daniel And Revelation, Page 68-70.
31. What are the terms of admittance to the kingdom of God? Galatians 3: 29.
32. How many nations occupy the territory of Rome today? Name them.

The Lesson Assigned

A

1. The lesson is arranged in two divisions: the first part deals with the dream and its interpretation as set forth in the Scripture; the second part deals with the fulfillment of the vision as we are privileged to view it in the light of history.
2. Get the scripture clearly in mind before dealing with its fulfillment. Study this lesson, as also all your lessons, with the open Bible before you.
3. Memorize the dates which mark the periods of supremacy of the four great empires, and be able to give the event for each date. Add these dates to your list in your note-book.
4. Note-book work: Read all the references given in the lesson on the fulfillment of the vision, making brief notes on each as you do so, and arranging your notes under the proper headings (e.g., Description, History, etc.). Always give the reference as to the source of your information in your note-book work.
5. Study in this assignment down to, and including, the kingdom of MedoPersia.

B

1. Continue, as above, from Greece to the close of the lesson.
2. Draw maps to show the four world empires of Daniel 2.
3. Read from "Daniel and Revelation" (Smith), on the lesson.

NOTES ON DANIEL

C

1. Make brief notes on the items for Further Study, and be prepared to present your findings to the class.
2. Your preparedness and presentation will count as a part of your class work.
3. Draw a map to show the original ten kingdoms. Continue reading from Daniel And Revelation.

D

1. Go through all the Questions on the Lesson.
2. Draw a map to show the nations which today occupy the territory of Western Rome.

17. GOD REVEALED AS THE MIGHTY DELIVERER

(Daniel 3)

Nebuchadnezzar's Image. Verses 1-3.

An image all of gold. In the vision of Daniel 2, the golden kingdom was succeeded by another kingdom. It now appears that Nebuchadnezzar would show that there would be no such succession. The golden kingdom, he purposed, would remain for ever. Prophets and Kings, Page 503, 504: "For a time . . . Nebuchadnezzar was influenced by the fear of God; but his heart was not yet cleansed from worldly ambition and a desire for self-exaltation. The prosperity attending his reign filled him with pride. In time he ceased to honor God, and resumed his idol worship with increased zeal and bigotry." Dimensions of the image: go feet high, 9 feet wide. The chief men of the kingdom were gathered for the occasion.

The Command to Worship. Verses 4-12.

The worshipping of the image was Satan's plan to keep Babylon from the worship of the true God. Not only does Satan blind men with a false worship, but he seeks to blot out the witness of all who would oppose it. God was depending upon His three representatives to uphold the honor of His name on this occasion.

Before the King. Verses 13-18.

Verse 14. Nebuchadnezzar's pride: "My gods."

Verse 15. Nebuchadnezzar's challenge: "Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

Verse 17, 19. The courageous answer of God's witnesses: There was a God who could deliver even from the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

Cast into the Fiery Furnace. Verses 19-27.

Verse 19. The madness of the persecutor.

Verse 20-23. The king's officers slain.

Verse 24, 25. Christ delivers.

Verse 26. The king's acknowledgment: "You servants of the most high God."

Verse 27. A wonderful deliverance.

The King's Acknowledgment and Decree. Verses 28-30.

1. The God of the Hebrews is able to deliver.
2. He can change the king's word.
3. "There is no other god that can deliver after this sort."

For Further Study

1. Was it right for the Hebrew children to disobey the king? Why?
2. How did Nebuchadnezzar know the Son of God? Prophets and Kings, Page 509.
3. Is it ever right to persecute? "The Rights of Man" (Colcord), 97; Galatians 4: 29.
4. Where was Daniel at the time of this event?
5. What lesson may we learn from this experience? Prophets and Kings, Page 510-513.
6. Note the similarities between the experience of God's people in Babylon, as brought to view in Daniel 3, and the experience of God's people in the last days, as recorded in Revelation 13.