

## The Book of Daniel

### The Interpretation of the King's Dream

Daniel 2:25-49

1. **The Bold Humility of Daniel** (Dan 2:25-30)  
Daniel repeatedly expressed himself boldly in situations where it would be easy for men to be timid and quiet (cf. Dan 1:8-13; 2:14-16). He conducted himself with confident assurance that was not dissuaded by his context and made great pains to be humble before both God and man (cf. Dan 2:47).
2. **The King's Dream Recounted** (Dan 2:31-35)  
Nebuchadnezzar's response to the entire affair is an overwhelming affirmation that both his dream and its meaning had been revealed to Daniel (cf. Dan 2:46ff). This is an ability that even pagans attribute to God alone (Dan 2:11).
3. **The King's Dream Interpreted** (Dan 2:36-45)
  - A. **The Head of Gold** (vs.36-38; cf. Ezek 26:7)  
This is the only part of the statue that Daniel specifically identifies to Nebuchadnezzar in this dream. It is here where Daniel expresses both the source and the extent of the king's dominion.
  - B. **The Breast and Arms of Silver** (v.39a)  
The only detail that Daniel gives about this kingdom is that it is 'inferior' to Nebuchadnezzar. It is appropriate to see this as a reference to the Medo-Persian empire which overthrows and replaces Babylon (Dan 5:28; 8:20).
  - C. **The Belly and Thighs of Bronze** (v.39b)  
Similar to the breast and arms, a passing reference with the description that it will rule over all the earth is given for the third kingdom. Because of the other revelations given to Daniel, it is appropriate to understand this as a reference to the Greek empire (Dan 8:21).
  - D. **The Legs of Iron and Feet of Clay and Iron** (vs.40-43)  
This portion of the statue receives the largest amount of detail in the interpretation. Here we see that the material of this portion of the statue relates to a characteristic of the kingdom it represents.
  - E. **The Rock, the Mountain, and the Everlasting Kingdom** (vs.44-45)  
This is only the second kingdom that Daniel identifies even indirectly in this interpretation. Daniel identifies this final kingdom as one which God sets up. The essence of this final kingdom is that it is the final kingdom which utterly destroys all previous kingdoms and is not uprooted or taken from its people.

4. **The Response of the King and the Promotion of Daniel** (Dan 2:46-49)  
Nebuchadnezzar makes much of Daniel's God and fulfilled his promise in greatly rewarding Daniel and enabling him to similarly reward his faithful friends.

#### Points of Application:

1. Beware of Spectacular Emotional Experiences (Dan 2:46-47; cf. Dan 3:4-6, 28-29; 4:28ff)
2. The Necessity of an Intentional Supernatural Worldview
3. God is Sovereign Over Kings, Kingdoms, and All Else (Dan 2:36-28, 44-45)