

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why was Nebuchadnezzar's request (e.g. to have his dream revealed) asking too much?
2. How does God reveal his secrets in our time? To whom does He reveal them? (1 Corinthians 2:7-16)
3. For what purpose does God reveal His secrets to us today?

### SUMMARY:

God used Nebuchadnezzar, a worldly king, as an instrument to correct His people. He also used him to reveal the secret of the forthcoming ages. We today can look back on the pages of history and can see how the kingdoms of the dream came into being. The kingdom of gold was Babylon (vs. 38). After this followed the Medo-Persian era, or the silver, then came the brass, the Grecian period, followed by the iron which was the Roman Empire. It was during that time that Jesus Christ came into the world to establish His kingdom in the hearts of men. The kingdoms of the world come and go but Christ's kingdom is an everlasting one. Soon He will return in power and majesty to establish His 1000-year reign upon the earth.

Now we come to the part, the stone, the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ which will break them into pieces. It is very near. HE IS COMING SOON!

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

May 26, 2013

Second Quarter

### DANIEL SHARES GOD'S SECRETS

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Daniel 2:1-49*

**LESSON SETTING:** In the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

**TIME:** Approximately 603 B.C.

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**I. THE KING'S DECREE** Daniel 2:1-13

- A. The King is Troubled (vs. 3) Ecclesiastes 8:16
- B. The Request (vs. 5)
- C. The Decree (vs. 12-13) Ecclesiastes 3:16

**II. THE KING'S DREAM REVEALED** Daniel 2:14-23

- A. United Prayer (vs. 18) Matthew 18:19; Acts 4:24
- B. The Revelation (vs. 19) Deuteronomy 29:29; Ephesians 1:9-10
- C. Thankfulness (vs. 23) Psalm 100:4; 107:22

**III. WORLD EMPIRES DESCRIBED** Daniel 2:24-43

- A. The Gold - Babylon (vs. 38)
- B. The Silver - Medians (vs. 39) Daniel 5:31
- C. The Brass - Greek (vs. 39)
- D. The Iron - Roman (vs. 40)
- E. The Iron and Clay Mixed (vs. 41-43)

**IV. GOD'S KINGDOM ESTABLISHED** Daniel 2:44-49

- A. Kings of Kings (vs. 44) 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 1:5; 17:14; 19:16
- B. An Eternal Kingdom (vs. 44) Luke 1:32-33; 2 Peter 1:11
- C. God's Word is Sure (vs. 45) Ezekiel 12:25; Matthew 5:18

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *BUT THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN THAT REVEALETH SECRETS, . . .* Daniel 2:28

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Daniel 3:1-30

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Psalm 34:1-7; Acts 4:19-31;  
2 Corinthians 1:1-10; 11:22-33;  
Hebrews 11:32-40

**QUARTERLY THEME:** God's People in Captivity

**TOPIC: DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Nebuchadnezzar, who had stripped much of the gold from Israel had now made this into a golden image. This image was approximately 109 feet high and about 11 feet broad. Truly this work of art must have been tremendous. But like so many things that men make, it became an object of worship, not only for the creator, who in this case was Nebuchadnezzar, but he now demanded that everyone who attended the dedication was to bow down and worship the image.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—friends of Daniel who also shared his faith—refused to bow down. The threat of being cast into the fiery furnace did not alter their faith. They believed that God could deliver them if it was His will. However, even if it was NOT God's will to deliver them, they would still be faithful to Him. As a result of their faith they were cast into the furnace and they were delivered, even by the presence of the Son of God. How amazing that a heathen king could recognize the Son of God.

This can be a real lesson for us. Would we be willing to have our faith tested to this degree? May the Lord give us grace that we may develop this kind of faith.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** God is glorified by those who remain faithful to him in spite of the cost.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US.*

Daniel 3:17

What a faith! How does your faith or my faith compare today?

It would have been a simple thing for these young men to bow down before the idol without really worshipping it. They could have said in their hearts, "we are still worshipping God." But there was more to it than that, to bow down would indicate a weak faith. It would indicate they loved life more than God. It would not have been a testimony of their faith.

As it was, they believed God could deliver them, but even if it was not His will to deliver them, they still would not bow down. They were delivered and what a testimony it was. Even Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed toward God (vs. 29) although he apparently did not worship Him.

Often it has happened that a Christian has been stricken with a severe illness even unto death. Yet the faith to believe that God could heal was there. Coupled with this was also the willingness to be obedient and still trust even if it was not His will to heal. What a testimony this has been to doctors and nurses!

On the other hand, some have not had faith in similar circumstances and as a result have fought against destiny and have cursed God. Their hearts were set on their idols and the worship of them. How terrible to go into eternity this way.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 27 – June 2**

M. Victory in a Flood. Genesis 7:1-10  
T. Victory in Prison. Genesis 39:20-23  
W. Victory in Battle. Joshua 8:18-28  
T. Victory over an Enemy. 1 Samuel 17:41-57  
F. \*Victory in a Fiery Furnace. Daniel 3:1-30  
S. Victory Over Demon Power. Matthew 8:28-34  
S. Victory in Face of Death. Acts 4:1-8

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