

FROM MYSTERY TO REVELATION



Lesson 3
for
January
18, 2020

God reveals Himself to a pagan king in Daniel 2. He showed the king the future history of the greatest kingdoms on Earth.

Above all, Daniel makes it clear: “There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets.” (Daniel 2:28). An active, personal and close God.

Let's learn more about our wonderful God.

○ God reveals. Daniel 2:1-16

○ God answers. Daniel 2:17-23

○ God knows. Daniel 2:24-36

○ God is in control of history. Daniel 2:37-43

○ God reigns. Daniel 2:44-49

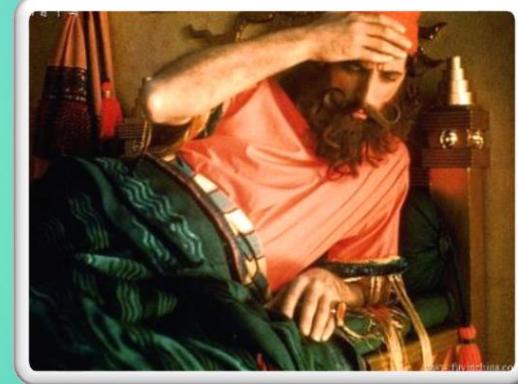


GOD REVEALS

"He said to them, 'I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.'" (Daniel 2:3 NIV)

Why was Nebuchadnezzar so worried when he couldn't remember his dream?

He understood that God had sent that dream. He was concerned about not knowing God's plan.



Why did he ordered the execution of the wise men so resoundingly?

They couldn't help the king, and they had exposed their own incompetence:

1. No one can do what the king asks
2. No one has ever asked such a thing
3. Only the gods can reveal this (but they don't do or don't want to)

Their inability made God's revelation through Daniel even more impressive.

Why did the king give Daniel more time?



GOD ANSWERS

"Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven." (Daniel 2:19)

What kind of prayer did Daniel and his friends pray after being sentenced to death?

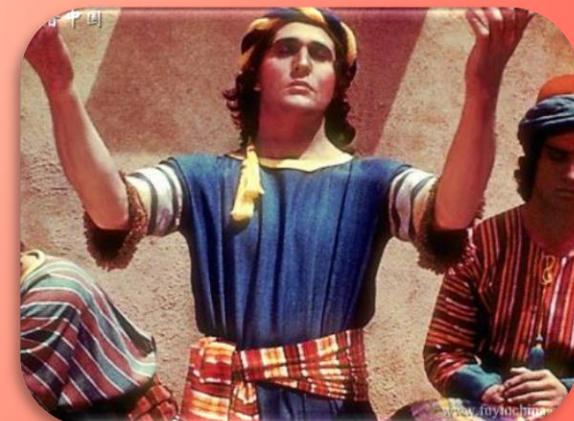
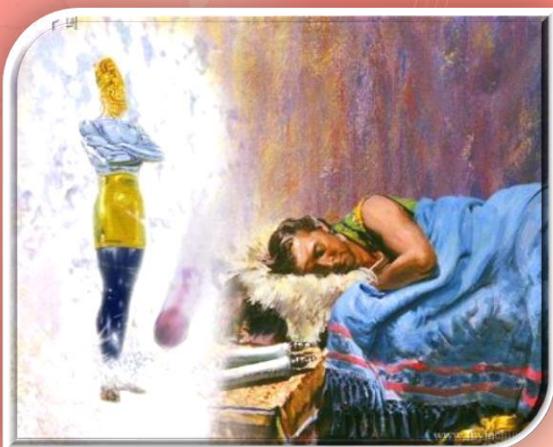
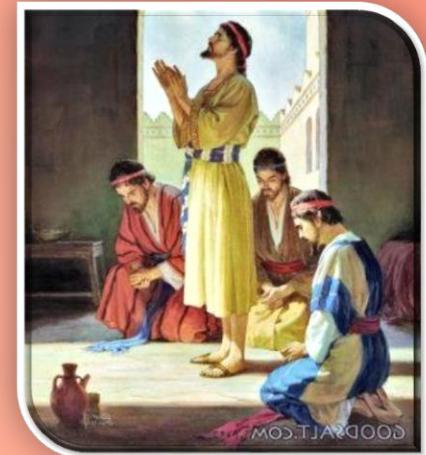
It was a plea in prayer. They asked not to perish with the rest of wise men. They didn't know how God would answer, but they relied on His mercy.

How did God answer their prayer?

He revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel, delivering them from death. At the same time, He was revealing Himself to the king as the only powerful God.

What kind of prayer did they pray after receiving God's answer?

It was a prayer of gratitude and praise. God answers, and we must thank Him for how He intervenes in our lives.





GOD KNOWS

"As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be." (Daniel 2:29)

How did Daniel emphasized God's power?

He agreed that no one could answer the king. However, he showed Nebuchadnezzar a God in heavens that acts on Earth.

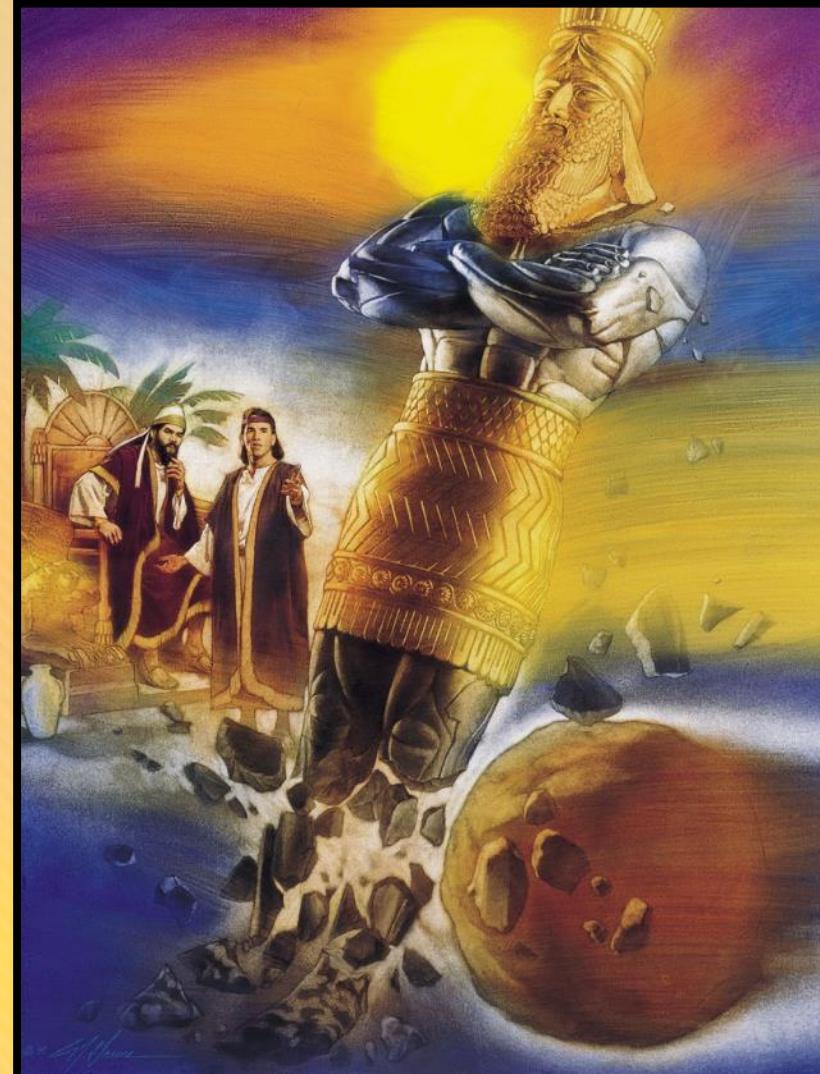
Which did God know about Nebuchadnezzar?

He knew his thoughts and concerns. God knows even our most intimate thoughts (Psalm 26:2).

What was the king's dream?

A dreadful image made of various metals which was shredded by a stone and swept by the wind.

Our lives are fleeting, like a breath that fades (Psalm 78:39).



GOD IS IN CONTROL OF HISTORY



“But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.” (Daniel 2:39)

Is this a conditional or unconditional prophecy?

The prophecy would be fulfilled no matter the decisions of the people involved.

How has the prophecy come true?



Babylon
(605-539 BC)

Gold abounded
(Isaiah 14:4;
Jeremiah 51:7)



Media-Persia
(539-331 BC)

Not so radiant.
Their tax system
was based in silver



Greece
(331-168 BC)

“Bronze men”
(Herodotus ii, 152)



Rome
(168 BC-476 AD)

The iron kingdom; a militarily and politically strong empire



Europe (476 AD-2nd Coming)

Joined by human alliances, but always divided

The evolution of the metals is a symbol of the decay present in human history.



GOD REIGNS

"And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." (Daniel 2:35)

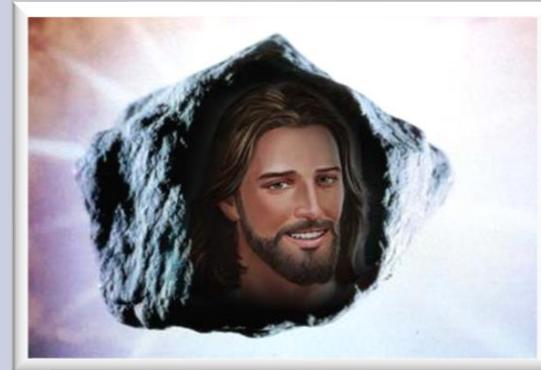
Who is that stone?

God is the stone (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:31), Christ is the cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4, 7; Ephesians 2:20).



Which event is represented by the stone striking the image?

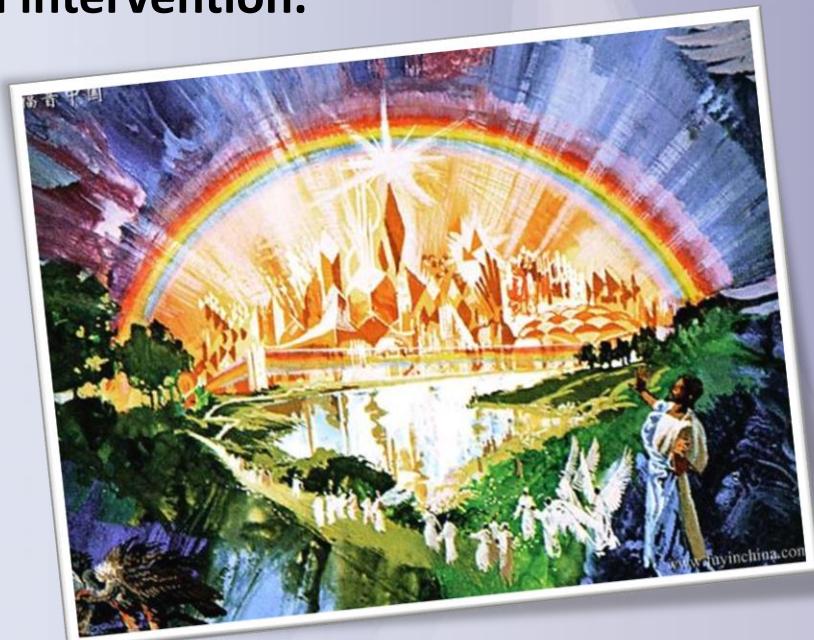
The Second Coming of Jesus. The only historical event that's not triggered by human intervention.



What is the mountain that fills the earth?

Mount Zion (Revelation 14:1), where the New Jerusalem is located. God will establish His kingdom and live with the redeemed there (Revelation 21:22).

At the Second Coming of Jesus, God's kingdom will destroy and replace all the earthly kingdoms. His kingdom will remain forever.



“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind, and through all the play and counterplay of human interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.”

E.G.W. (Prophets and Kings, cp. 40, p. 499)



“Our kingdom is not of this world. We are waiting for our Lord from heaven to come to earth to put down all authority and power, and set up His everlasting kingdom. Earthly powers are shaken. We need not, and cannot, expect union among the nations of the earth. Our position in the image of Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the toes, in a divided state, and of a crumbling material, that will not hold together. Prophecy shows us that the great day of God is right upon us. It hasteth greatly.”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, cp. 69, p. 360)