

SERMON OUTLINE

In Daniel 2:24-49 we are shown a chiasmic structure revealing 6 facts concerning King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation.

- A. The dream's human revealer is humble (vs. 24-27).
- B. The dream's Author is the One who reveals mysteries (vs. 28-30).
- C. The dream's content is revealed (vs. 31-35).
- C' The dream's interpretation is revealed (vs. 36-45).
- B'. The dream's Author is worshiped (vs. 46-47).
- A'. The dream's human revealer is rewarded (vs. 48-49).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 19, 2017

Passage: Daniel 2:24-49

Memory Passage: Daniel 2:44

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Dan. 2:24-49.** Why did Arioch bring Daniel before the king “in haste” (v. 24)?
- (b) Compare and contrast Arioch’s words to the king (v. 25) with Daniel’s words to the king (specifically in vs. 27-28, 30). What character traits are revealed through each man’s interactions with King Nebuchadnezzar?
- (c) How would you have responded to the king’s question (v. 26)? Be sure to answer this honestly! Consider how easy it would have been to begin your answer with a simple “Yes,” no matter how spiritual you might continue your answer, and what this auspicious beginning would reveal about your motives and your desire to share God’s glory by taking a bit of credit.
- (d) Think through your interactions with people during the last week. In what ways did you act in ways that aligned more with Arioch (arrogantly taking credit for something he did not do) than Daniel (humbly and immediately removing himself from receiving, let alone deserving, any credit for what was about to happen)? How might you more regularly practice humility in the upcoming days, and what Scripture passages come to mind that would instruct you in this endeavor?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Dan. 2:24-49.** Examine the 7 times the word “mystery” is used in chapter 2 (vs. 18-19, 27-30, & 47). What purpose does “mystery” serve in the development and advancement of this narrative (don’t forget to consider 2:10-11!)?
- (b) Daniel told the king that his dream concerned “the latter days.” When do these days arrive?
- (c) For what purpose does God make the interpretation of the dream known to the king?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Dan. 2:24-49.** What is the only kingdom identified in Daniel’s God-given interpretation?
- (b) What does Daniel say about the kingdom represented by the silver chest & arms? By the bronze middle & thighs?
- (c) What does the relationship between gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay tell you about the nature of these kingdoms in relationship to each other (not their identity)?
- (d) Why is the 4th kingdom symbolized by iron?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Dan. 2:24-49.** Explain the problem that toes mixed with iron & clay presents for the 4th kingdom.
- (b) Why do you think God revealed more information about the 4th kingdom than the 2nd & 3rd? How should this fact guide your understanding of this vision?
- (c) There is, to say the least, disagreement over the identity of the 2nd-4th kingdoms! Two main views arise, each with variations: (1) the kingdoms represented are Medo-Persia, Greece, & Rome, or (2) Mede, Persia, & Greece. Does Daniel 2:31-45 present any evidence that might marshal support for one of these views over the other? If so, what support do you see?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Dan. 2:24-49.** Who is the builder of the kingdom represented by the stone which grows into a great mountain?
- (b) How will this kingdom fair compared to the other 4 mentioned in this dream, and why is this kingdom superior?
- (c) What comfort did this bring to the 6th century exiles? What comfort does it bring to 21st century exiles like yourself?
- (d) Why did Daniel not rebuke the king when he prostrated himself in worship before Daniel?
- (e) Evaluate a 3rd interpretive possibility: We are not intended to know the specific identity of the kingdoms mentioned. We are to understand that though there will be future kingdoms after Nebuchadnezzar’s, each one will be weaker and more fractured than the last. Only God’s kingdom will stand forever. Only God’s kingdom should be of any concern to us.

DATE: November 19, 2017

PASSAGE: Daniel 2:24-49

His Kingdom Stands Forever