

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 33

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream

Daniel 2:1-49



DAY 1

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a troubling dream • Daniel 2:1-13

READ

Daniel 2:1-13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Daniel 2:1-13

When you have a scary dream, you probably want to forget it quickly. But when Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream (Dan 2:1), he wanted to know what it meant. The Babylonians believed that dreams were messages from the gods, and the ancient astrologers and sorcerers had created ways of interpreting dreams. But Nebuchadnezzar showed that they had no real power when he required them to first tell him what he dream was (2:5-9). The magicians' magic was worthless (2:10). They complained that only a god could know the king's dream—and they were right (2:11)! Apart from the true God, human wisdom is foolish (1 Cor 1:20), lacks understanding (1 Cor 2:14), and is spiritually blind (2 Cor 4:4). Their so-called gods could not communicate with humans, because their gods were worthless idols, unable to reveal anything about the past or the future (Isa 41:22-24; 44:12-20). In his anger, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the deaths of all the wise men, including Daniel and his friends (2:12). But Nebuchadnezzar would soon learn that there is a God unlike any idol, who both knows and speaks to man (Isa 42:8-9).

ASK

1. Why did the king call all his wise men?
The king had a dream, and he wanted the wise men to tell him what the dream was before telling him what it meant.
2. Could any of the king's wise men tell the king what his dream meant?
No. Their magic was worthless.
3. What did the king do when no one could tell him his dream?
He ordered that all the wise men be killed.
4. How did the dream affect Daniel and his companions?
The death sentence included them.

DISCUSS

1. Based on this story, what would you say to someone who looks for special knowledge through astrology, spiritualism, etc. (Deut 18:10-12)?
2. Explain why the magicians and sorcerers were right when they said that only a god could know the king's dream.

READ

DAY 2

God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel • Daniel 2:14–30

Daniel 2:14–30

EXPLAIN

The truth of Daniel 2:14–30

As all the wise men of Babylon trembled, Daniel came to the rescue. Daniel knew that only the God of Israel could reveal the dream (cf. Gen 41:25; Job 7:14). So Daniel and his friends did what godly people do when faced with an impossible task: they prayed, trusting God's power and depending on God's mercy (Dan 2:18). When God revealed the dream, Daniel praised God for being the sovereign God, the King of wisdom and power (2:19–20). First, God showed His wisdom by revealing the dream to Daniel. God is omniscient: He knows everything at all times, even things that humans cannot know (1 John 3:20). He knows every thought (Ps 139:2) and every secret (Heb 4:13). Not only does He have wisdom, but He also controls it. He alone decides who will receive knowledge (Dan 2:21–22). Second, God showed His power by what the dream was about. The dream was about God's rule over history and governments (2:21). Daniel understood that God was sovereign over wisdom and power, so he took no credit for himself when He explained things to Nebuchadnezzar (2:27).

ASK

1. What did Daniel do when he heard Nebuchadnezzar wanted to kill him?
He asked for time because he believed that God would reveal the dream.
2. What did Daniel and his friends do when Nebuchadnezzar gave him more time?
They prayed. They depended on God.
3. When God revealed the dream, what did this prove about God?
It showed that God controls wisdom and power.
4. What did Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar before he interpreted the dream?
That only God could reveal such mysteries.

DISCUSS

1. What do you depend on when you face trials? How quickly do you turn to God? When you have success, do you take the credit or realize your success is from God?
2. Do you ever neglect God because you are focused on schoolwork instead? Even though studies are good, why is this imbalance foolish?

READ

DAY 3

God revealed His future eternal kingdom • Daniel 2:31–49

Daniel 2:31–49

EXPLAIN

The truth of Daniel 2:31–49

Nebuchadnezzar's dream shows that God controls history. After the Babylonian kingdom an inferior kingdom would arise, represented by the silver chest and arms (Dan 2:38). This was the Medo-Persian kingdom led by Cyrus the Great (539–331 B.C.). Then in 332 B.C. the armies of Alexander the Great attacked and defeated the Medo-Persian Empire. The Greek Empire, represented by the bronze belly and thighs (2:39), would dominate for the next 185 years (331–146 B.C.). The fourth kingdom was represented by the iron legs.

Like iron, the powerful Roman kingdom would “break and crush” all the others (2:40). The toes of clay and iron represented a version of Rome that is still future. This revived Roman Empire will consist of 10 kingdoms (7:24). At Christ's second coming, this confederation of kings will be destroyed and Christ will reign forever over God's eternal kingdom (2:44–45). Like the stone in the vision, Christ's kingdom will have its source in heaven (John 18:36), but it will be located on earth, filling the whole world (Ps 2:6–9; Dan 7:13–27; Rev 21:1–22:5).

ASK

1. What did the king's dream mean?

That God had given Nebuchadnezzar his power

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The different levels of the statue represented different kingdoms that would come to power after Babylon.

2. What did the stone represent?

The stone represented God's kingdom that He will establish on the earth.

3. What can we learn about God from the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

God controls all of human history, leading to His own eternal kingdom on earth.

DISCUSS

1. The Jews in Daniel's day were living in exile under a godless ruler. How did Daniel's message encourage them? How does it encourage you as you consider the

nations and rulers today?

2. Why is it silly to resist God's power (Rom 14:11)?

DAY 4

Believers ought to live godly lives waiting for Jesus • 1 Peter 1:13–17

READ

1 Peter 1:1–17

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Peter 1:1–17

Since Jesus' kingdom is coming, how should you live now? If your faith is in Christ, you should be filled with hope, holiness, and honor as you look forward to Jesus' earthly kingdom (1 Pet 1:13–17). First, live in hope of your "inheritance," which is "kept in heaven ready to be revealed in the last time" (1:4–5). Hope is an active choice of your will, not an emotional feeling. So living in hope means living expectantly, with your eyes focused on the grace that you will experience when Jesus returns (1:13). Second, be holy. With eyes fixed on your future in God's holy kingdom, don't live according to the past sinful desires and thoughts that you had before being saved (1:14). God does not expect you to be sinless in this life (Rom 7:14–25; 1 John 1:8), but He does expect you to be growing (1 Pet 1:15). Third, honor God as you wait for His Son. Show God reverence and respect during your temporary journey on earth. Live in awe of your coming King (1 Pet 1:17), because He will carefully judge your work (1 Cor 3:10–15).

1. Are you supposed to set your mind on things in this life or the life to come?

The life to come.

2. How can you practice holiness?

By (1) putting off sinful behavior and (2) pursuing holiness in everything they do (1 Pet 1:14–15).

3. How can you honor God while waiting for His Son?

By reverencing and respecting God, and living in awe of Him.

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever been patient or worked through something difficult because you knew something good was coming (a holiday, a prize, etc.)? Can you live your whole life this way?
2. What can you do to grow in holiness (Eph 4:21–24)? What is one sinful behavior that you are actively putting off? If you don't love holiness now, then do you really look forward to God's kingdom, which is completely holy (Rev 21:2, 27)?

ASK

DAY 5

An everlasting dominion • Daniel 7:1–28

READ

Daniel 7:1–28

EXPLAIN

The truth of Daniel 7:1–28

Nothing can stop God's coming kingdom. The rise and fall of kingdoms throughout history will come to a climax, when the Ancient of Days, God the Father, gives the eternal kingdom to the Son of Man. His kingdom will be a "dominion" and "glory" and "a kingdom" that "shall not pass away." All the "peoples, nations, and languages" of the earth will serve Him (Dan 7:14). This eternal kingdom of Christ follows the kingdoms of the nations: Babylon (7:4), Medo-Persia (7:5), Greece (7:6), and Rome (7:7). Following the kingdoms of the nations will be a final kingdom, the rebirth of the Roman Empire in the form of a ten king confederacy occupying much of the territory once dominated by Rome (7:7, 24). After this confederacy there will be a final ruler, "a little" horn, who will rise to world-wide dominance (7:8, 20, 24). This is the Antichrist, who will carry out one last persecution of the saints (7:21, 25). But the Antichrist will be unable to stop Christ's kingdom. He will be judged and executed (7:9, 11–12), and then Christ will be King over the earth forever.

ASK

1. What do the "four great beasts" represent?
Babylon ("like a lion," 7:4), Medo-Persia ("like a bear," 7:5), Greece ("like a leopard," 7:6), and Rome ("terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong," 7:7).
2. What does the "little" horn represent?
The Antichrist who will rise to rule the world (7:8, 20, 24).
3. What is the last event before Christ's everlasting kingdom?
The divine judgment and execution of the Antichrist (7:9, 11–12).

DISCUSS

1. We are told over 50 times in the Bible to be ready for the Second Coming of Christ. How are you preparing for Jesus' return?
2. How will Jesus do the job Adam was created to do (Gen 1:26)? This shows that God has never given up on His plan for mankind.

NEXT WEEK

God protects Daniel's friends

Daniel 3:1–30



LESSON 33



God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1-49



God alone has wisdom and power to rule over all.

LESSON 33

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1-49



God rules over the kingdoms of earth.



God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1–49

God Reveals a Secret

See page 22 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3

“You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold” (Dan 2:37–38).

“Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you” (Dan 2:39a).

“and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth (Dan 2:39b).

“And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these” (Dan 2:40).

“You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold” (Dan 2:37–38).

“Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you” (Dan 2:39a).

“and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth (Dan 2:39b).

“And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these” (Dan 2:40).



See page 22 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3





LESSON 33



Accordion Book: "Daniel Praises God"

See page 23 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3

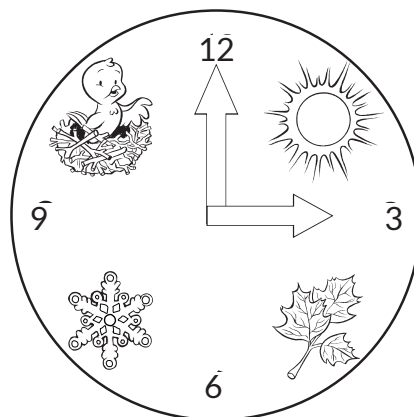
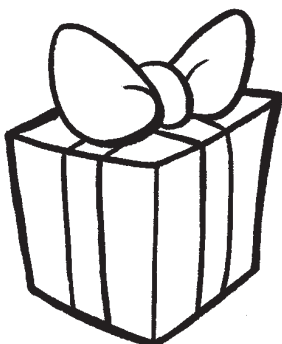
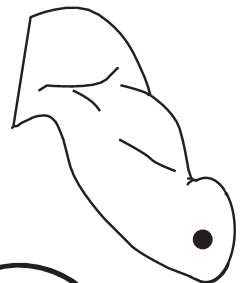
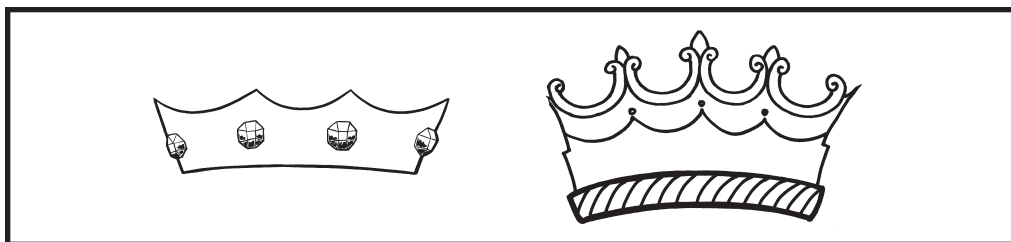
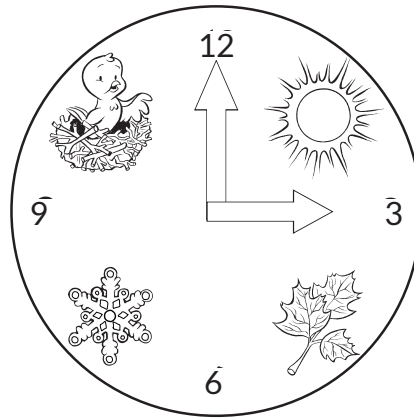
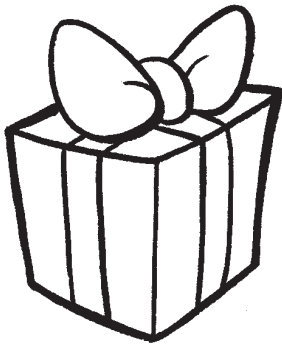
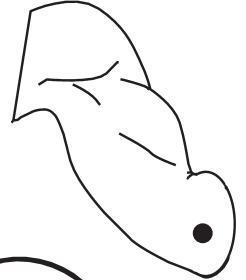
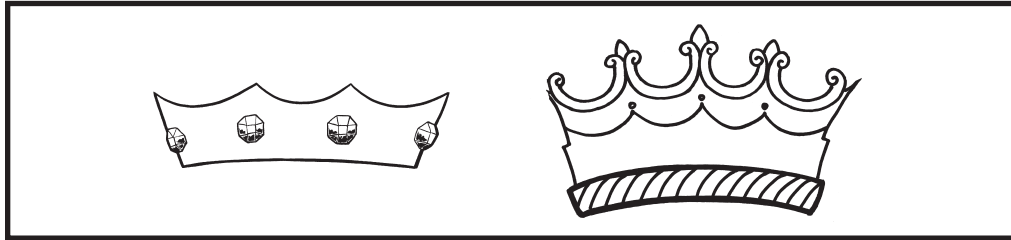
<p>•</p> <p>"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.</p>	<p>He changes times and seasons;</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>he removes kings and sets up kings;</p>
<p>he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;</p>	<p>he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness,</p>	<p>and the light dwells with him" (Dan 2:20-22).</p>



God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1-49

Accordion Book: "Daniel Praises God"

See page 23 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3



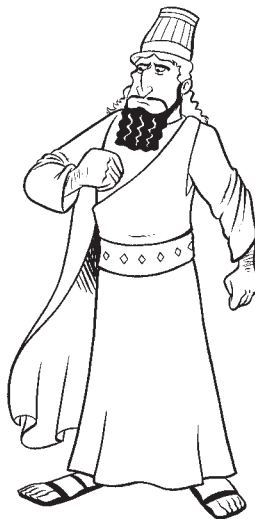
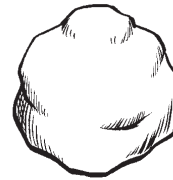
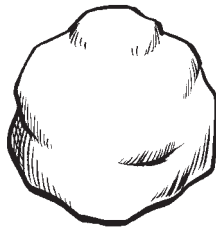
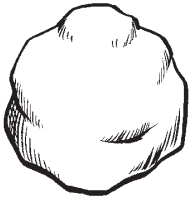


LESSON 33

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1-49

Which Is Smaller?

Circle the picture that is smaller than the first one on the left.



God illustrated the fact that He is in control of the nations of the world through Nebuchadnezzar's dream. God is in control of the affairs of earth and He will establish His own glorious kingdom on earth destroying all the wicked earthly kingdoms.



God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1-49

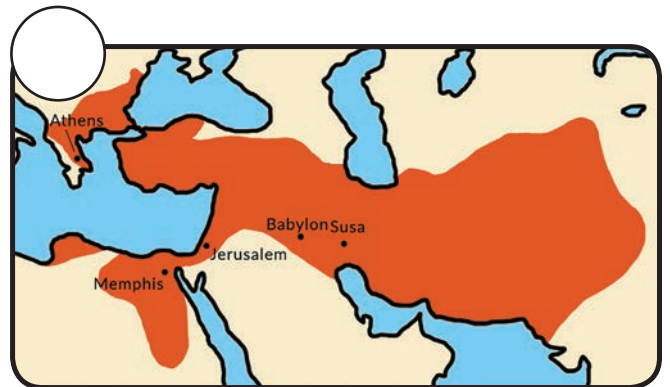
Matching

Match each empire to the picture that illustrates the size of that empire.



Empires:

1. Babylonian Empire
2. Medo-Persian Empire
3. Greek Empire
4. Roman Empire







Double Puzzle

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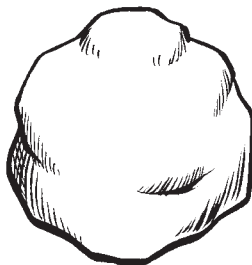
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Three empty boxes are shown, each labeled with a number below it: 1, 2, and 3.

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28	29	30

32	33	34	35	36	37	38

40	41	42

3	44	45	46		



God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1-49

See What You Know!

NAME _____

God alone has wisdom and power to rule over all.

1. Nebuchadnezzar wanted his magicians to _____ his dream.
 act out tell him write down think about
2. Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the wise men of Babylon be _____ because they could not tell him his dream (2:12).
 heavy medium over easy light
3. What did Daniel ask Nebuchadnezzar for?
 more wine more time
 wisdom more linen
4. Who revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel?
 Nebuchadnezzar Baal God
5. How did Daniel respond when God answered his prayer? _____
6. In Daniel 2:28, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that God can reveal _____. •
7. Define the word **sovereign**. _____

8. Define the word **omniscient**. _____

9. How should believers live in light of God's sovereignty and omniscience (1 Pet 1:13-21; Rev 22:6-11)? _____



LESSON 33

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream

DANIEL 2:1-49



God alone has wisdom and power to rule over all.



"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever" (Dan 2:44).

Supporting Truths

1. God rules over the kingdoms of earth.
2. God knows all things and all knowledge comes from Him.
3. God will establish His kingdom on the earth forever.
4. God uses people who remain faithful while waiting for His kingdom.
5. God's future kingdom motivates Christians to live godly lives.

Objectives

1. List the kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
2. Define "omniscience," and explain how God proved it in this story.
3. Identify the part of the dream that represented God's coming kingdom.
4. Explain how Daniel and his friends were faithful to God in Babylon.
5. Discuss whether the coming kingdom is worth the struggle of living a godly life.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1–49



Lesson Summary

Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 reveals God's sovereign control over the kingdoms of earth. He alone knows all things. He alone establishes kings and removes kings. Through Daniel God revealed that four kingdoms would follow the Babylonian kingdom. After the rise of these kingdoms, God will establish His kingdom on earth at Christ's second coming. God the Son—Jesus Christ, will rule this kingdom, which will have no end.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Even now Christ and the Father rule from heaven over all the kingdoms of the earth, and one day Christ will return to establish His own glorious kingdom on earth. Let every unbeliever submit to Him as King before it is too late. Let every believer serve the King with a godly life, turn to God for wisdom and knowledge, and endure with hope, looking forward to living in His kingdom on earth forever.

LAST WEEK



God uses Esther to protect
His people
Esther 1:1–10:3

THIS WEEK



God uses Daniel to
interpret the king's
dream
Daniel 2:1–49

NEXT WEEK



God protects Daniel's
friends
Daniel 3:1–30

EXILE

Lesson Commentary

God alone has wisdom and power to rule over all.

Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem in 605 BC (Dan 1:1). Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were taken to Babylon to be trained for the king's service (1:3–6). Yet they were determined to remain faithful to God (1:8). God honored Daniel's obedience by giving him favor with the official (1:9–14) and knowledge even of visions and dreams (1:17).

Even though Daniel was only fifteen years old when he was taken to Babylon, he rose to leadership and faithfully served God and human kings for over seventy years (1:21).

THINK ABOUT IT
Daniel's life shows that those who live holy lives are greatly used by God (2 Tim 2:21).

During this time, Daniel wrote the book of Daniel to the Jews living in exile. They had been torn out of the Promised Land because of their unrepentant sin, and now God's plan for Israel seemed ruined. But Daniel encouraged the Jews: have hope, because God is sovereign! He rules over Gentile nations (Daniel 2–7) and He is committed to restoring Israel (Daniel 8–12). This message begins spectacularly as God sent Nebuchadnezzar a frightening dream (2:1). This dream pictured God's reign in the present and His eternal kingdom in the future, and it also proved His sovereignty by showing that He alone has the wisdom and power to rule over all.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a troubling dream (2:1–13)

The Babylonians believed that dreams were messages from the gods, and the ancient astrologers and sorcerers had devised ways of interpreting dreams. However, the king wanted the men not only to interpret the dream, but also to tell him what the dream was (2:5). He was suspicious of these so-called wise men. How could he trust their interpretation if they could not tell him the dream (2:9)? When the magicians failed, Nebuchadnezzar angrily commanded that all the wise men be put to death, including Daniel and his friends (2:12).

The magicians' failure shows how futile their magic was (2:10). They complained that only a god could know the king's dream, and they were right! (2:11). Apart from the true God, human wisdom is foolish (1 Cor 1:20), lacks understanding (1 Cor 2:14), and is spiritually blind (2 Cor 4:4). They were also right that their gods did not communicate with humans, because their gods were worthless idols, unable to reveal anything about the past or the future (Isa 41:22–24; 44:12–20). Those who worship such idols are fools (Isa 44:19). On the other hand, there is a God unlike any idol, who both knows and speaks to man (Isa 42:8–9).

God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel (2:14–30)

Daniel stopped Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, before the executions began. Daniel knew that only the God of Israel could reveal the dream, because He gave Nebuchadnezzar the dream (cf. Gen 41:25; Job 7:14). So Daniel and his friends did what godly people do when faced with an impossible task: they prayed, trusting God's power and depending on God's mercy (Dan 2:18).

When God revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel, Daniel praised God (2:19). He praised Him for being the **sovereign** God. He alone is in absolute control of all things, at all times, in all places. We see God's sovereignty in His wisdom and power (2:20). First, in His wisdom He revealed the dream to Daniel, showing that God is **omniscient**. He knows everything at all times, even matters that are beyond human knowledge (1 John 3:20), including every thought (Ps 139:2) and every secret thing (Heb 4:13). He alone gives knowledge to whomever He wishes (Dan 2:21–22). Second, His power was clear from the dream itself, which showed, as we will see, that God rules over history and governments (2:21). Daniel knew this, so he took no credit for himself and made it clear that no human could do what Nebuchadnezzar asked (2:27). He magnified the "God in heaven who reveals mysteries," not himself (2:28). God is King, and Daniel was content simply to be His servant.

THINK ABOUT IT
The prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much (Jas 5:16).



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1–49



God revealed His future eternal kingdom (2:31–49)

Nebuchadnezzar's dream had two parts, a statue (2:31–33) and a rock (2:34–35). But before explaining the details, Daniel emphasized the main point: the God of heaven is sovereign over the affairs of earth, and the kingdom, power, strength, and glory that Nebuchadnezzar enjoyed were given by God (2:37).

Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold, but he would be wise to humbly bow in allegiance to the King of kings.

After the Babylonian kingdom an inferior kingdom would arise, represented by the silver chest and arms (2:38). This was the Medo-Persian kingdom led

by Cyrus the Great. The Medo-Persian Empire would dominate the Middle East for 208 years (539–331 BC). Then in 332 BC the armies of Alexander the Great attacked and defeated the Medo-Persian Empire. The Greek Empire, represented by the bronze belly and thighs (2:39), would dominate for the next 185 years (331–146 BC). The fourth kingdom was represented by the iron legs. Like iron, the powerful Roman kingdom would “break and crush” all the others (2:40).

The toes of clay and iron represented a version of Rome that is still future. The toes were composed of clay and iron because the kingdom will not be unified (2:41). This revived Roman Empire will consist of 10 kingdoms or nations (7:24), which will reign until God establishes His kingdom on the earth (2:44). At Christ's second coming, this confederation of kings will be destroyed and Christ will reign forever (2:44). God will establish His kingdom to be ruled by God the Son—Jesus Christ (2:45). Like the stone in the vision, Christ's kingdom will have its source in heaven (John 18:36) but will be located on earth, filling the whole world (Ps 2:6–9; Dan 7:13–27; Rev 21:1–22:5).

Nebuchadnezzar responded by honoring Daniel and acknowledging God's sovereignty (2:46–47). That is why God gave Nebuchadnezzar this dream—to show that there is a God who is sovereign over all. Even now He is ruling over all human kings and over everything that happens on the earth. That is good news and brings great peace to those who love Him (Rom 8:28). It encourages believers to live godly lives even when they are ruled by wicked human governments (1 Pet 2:13–19).

But there is even better news: the world will not always be this way. One day Christ will establish His own glorious kingdom. This is a fearful day for those who do not believe, for He will first destroy all the wicked earthly kingdoms (Rev 19:15). But it is a day of joy for all who believe, for they will live in His presence and reign with Him upon an earth that has been renewed and set free from the curse, free from all tears and pain forever and ever (Rev 21:1; 22:3–5).

This should drive us to holiness, evangelism, and a longing for Jesus' return (1 Pet 1:13–21; Rev 22:6–21). Every person must acknowledge that there is a God in heaven who rules over the kingdoms of earth. The day is quickly approaching when every knee will bow to Him (Rom 14:11). In light of this future reality, let every unbeliever bow before God now and seek Him while He may be found (Isa 55:6–7; 2 Cor 6:2). As for the believer, may he live a holy life useful to His Master (2 Tim 2:21). May he endure with hope, looking forward to living forever with Christ the King on the new earth.

THINK ABOUT IT

Those who believe seek to honor God rather than be honored by men (John 5:44).



THINK ABOUT IT

Our final destiny is to live and reign with Christ on a perfect earth.



Lesson Outline

God alone has wisdom and power to rule over all.

AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



God showed His sovereignty by:

1. Giving Nebuchadnezzar a scary dream (2:1–13).
2. Telling Daniel about Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2:14–35).
3. Ruling over human kingdoms and promising His eternal kingdom (2:36–2:49).

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. God gave Nebuchadnezzar a troubling dream (2:1–13).
 - Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that greatly troubled him (2:1).
 - Nebuchadnezzar told the wise men to tell him the dream and its meaning (2:2–11).
 - The wise men could not tell him the dream and were sentenced to death (2:12–13).
2. God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel (2:14–30).
 - Daniel requested time to pray and ask God to reveal the dream (2:14–16).
 - God revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel (2:17–19).
 - Daniel praised God for revealing the dream to him (2:20–23).
 - Daniel went to Nebuchadnezzar to reveal his dream (2:24–30).
3. God revealed His future eternal kingdom (2:31–49).
 - The dream was about the great statue and the great rock (2:31–35).
 - The statue represented the five kingdoms of the earth (2:36–43).
 - The rock represented the kingdom of God (2:44–45).
 - Nebuchadnezzar praised God and honored Daniel (2:46–49).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1–49



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did Nebuchadnezzar order that all the wise men in Babylon be killed?**
They could not reveal his dream.
- 2. What did Daniel do when he heard Nebuchadnezzar wanted to kill him?**
He asked for more time because he believed that God would reveal the dream to him.
- 3. What did Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar before he interpreted the dream?**
Daniel told the king that God had revealed the dream to him. He wanted to make sure that the king knew that God deserved the praise for what Daniel was able to do.
- 4. What can we learn about God from the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream?**
We learn that God rules over the kingdoms of the earth.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did the king call all his wise men?**
The king had a dream, and he wanted the wise men to tell him what the dream was before telling him what it meant.
- 2. Could any of the king's wise men tell the king what his dream was about?**
No. None of them could tell him about the dream.
- 3. What did the king do because no one could tell him his dream?**
He sent out the captain of his guard to execute all the wise men.
- 4. What did Daniel do when he heard the news of the death sentence?**
Daniel asked the king for some time before all the wise men were killed. Daniel and his friends prayed, asking God to have mercy and to reveal the dream so that they would not die.
- 5. How did God answer Daniel?**
God revealed the king's dream and its interpretation to Daniel.
- 6. What did Daniel tell the king?**
Daniel said that the God of heaven revealed the dream and its meaning. He then revealed the dream and its interpretation to the king.
- 7. What did the king's dream mean?**
That God had given Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom, power, strength, and glory. Each of the levels in the statue represented a kingdom that would come to power after Babylon.
- 8. What did the stone represent?**
The stone represented God's kingdom that He will establish on the earth when Jesus returns.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



CONCEAL AND REVEAL, PART 1

Before class time, hide various objects that the children will search for. These items will be used later in the lesson. The items that could be hidden are: a crown; a rock; gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay-looking materials; and some dust in a bag. Remind them that in today's lesson, the king had a problem that he couldn't solve. He needed God's help to find the answer to his problem. God used Daniel to give the solution to the king's dream.

SOVEREIGNTY

Ask the children who is in charge of the class. Who plans what happens in the class and who controls what happens? The teacher does. Ask them who is in charge of the world and universe. God is in charge. Ask them whether God plans what happens to everything in the universe. Then ask whether everything happens according to His plans. The children should begin to realize that God is sovereign over all that happens in life—that nothing is outside His control, including their lives and all that happens. Ask the children how they should respond knowing that God is sovereign over all that happens.



CONCEAL AND REVEAL, PART 2

During the lesson, utilize the items found during "Conceal and Reveal, Part 1" as visual aids.

DESTROYING THE STATUE

Materials: Five shoeboxes of the same size, enlarged picture of the statue, glue, markers.

Directions: Place the shoeboxes on top of each other and draw an enlarged the statue to be the same height. Cut out the statue so that each part fits on one of the shoeboxes. As you come to the portion of the lesson where Nebuchadnezzar's dream is explained, you can use this visual to illustrate each portion of the statue.



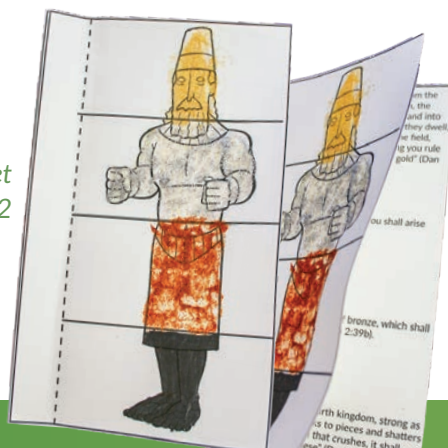
GOD REVEALS A SECRET

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheets, gold, silver, bronze, and black glitter or crayons, scissors, and glue.

Directions: Pre-cut around the box containing the idol. Using crayons or glitter, children should decorate each part of the idol with the appropriate color (head: gold; chest/arms: silver; waist/thighs: bronze; feet: black or gray). Cut along the dark lines to form flaps, leaving a tab on the left side. They should glue the tab onto the template page and fold back the pieces along the dotted line. When they lift the flaps, they will be able to read what each part of Nebuchadnezzar's dream meant.

*God Reveals a Secret
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God uses Daniel to interpret the king's dream • Daniel 2:1–49



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

ANIMAL RIDDLES

Bring to class some pictures of common animals. Do not let the children see the pictures. Select one child to be “it,” and attach a picture to his back so that the rest of the class can see it but he cannot. Have the other children give clues to the animal’s identity (without naming the animal). Tell the children that in today’s lesson, Daniel has to find out from God what King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is. Daniel prays to God instead of trying to guess what the dream might have been.

SIGNS FROM GOD

Bring in several symbols (or logos) to show the children. Ask if they can identify what each symbol (logo) stands for. For example, a heart symbolizes love, and a wedding ring symbolizes marriage. Explain that a symbol is an object that stands for something else. An example the children may remember is Joseph’s dream of the sheaves and stars (Gen 37:1–11). Instruct the children to listen to today’s lesson and to note what each portion of the symbol stood for. God used this symbol to teach Nebuchadnezzar about the future.



ILLUSTRATE

DANIEL REVEALS THE KING’S DREAM

Use this activity to illustrate the fact that the revelation of the king’s dream was by God’s power. During the teaching time, have one of the children, designated as King Nebuchadnezzar, go into another room to view a picture. The picture represents the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had. Next, ask the class to reveal the king’s “dream,” which they will not be able to do since they have not seen the picture. Designate a child to be Daniel. Daniel should go into the other room and also see the picture. He can then return to the classroom and reveal the dream.

FIVE CROWNS

Create five crowns of increasing sizes. They should fit inside one another. Several times throughout the lesson, show a larger crown that will cover up the preceding crown. The final crown will represent Christ’s reign.



APPLY

ACCORDION BOOK: “DANIEL PRAISES GOD”

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheets, scissors, glue, brads, double-sided tape, and crayons.

Directions: Have students cut around the outside edge of each set of three square frames (not cutting the squares apart). Tape these sets together on the back of the square that has the crowns and on the one that has the gift. Cut 2 slits along the black lines on the crown page. Cut out the various pieces from the other craft sheet. Connect the bicep and the forearm with a brad to the first square. Slide the crown strip into place on the third square. Glue the remaining pieces to the appropriate squares.



Rightly Reflecting on Creation
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*.

AGES 9–11

**PUZZLING**

Give the children a difficult puzzle to solve. You could jumble the letters of a word from the memory verse, or even the entire memory verse, and have the children unscramble it. Or you could give them a riddle to solve. Explain that in today's lesson, God gives King Nebuchadnezzar a difficult problem to solve. The king receives a message that he cannot understand. In fact, God gives only one man the ability to solve the king's riddle. Today we will find out who that man is.

THE KINGDOMS

Before the lesson, as you explain each kingdom that is represented by the statue, have different children come in dressed as kings. On entering, each king should talk about his particular section of the statue. The first could come in as Cyrus the Great and could briefly talk about the Medo-Persian kingdom, and so on.

**MYSTERY BAG**

Put several familiar items in a bag. Have each child reach into the bag and, by touch, name as many objects as he can. Discuss the fact that trying to know something without seeing it can be difficult. But God knows everything, and so we can and must trust Him.

ANTICIPATION

We anticipate lots of things: holidays, birthdays, trips to the doctor, a vacation—even a parent's discipline after we disobey. However, there is one event that we must all anticipate. It can either bring us great joy or incredible fear. It will determine whether we will live forever with God in heaven or away from Him in hell. We must anticipate God's return, which could happen at any moment. Knowing that, how should each of us respond to God and His grace before He comes? For those who are not saved, this is a time to come to know Christ as Savior. For those who are saved, it is an opportunity to share the gospel with as many people as possible before Christ returns.

**IMMINENCE**

Ask the children what will happen as the day goes on (the church service will end, they will go home, it will get dark, and tomorrow morning the sun will rise again). When we say that something is imminent, we mean that it is close in time or about to occur. It could happen at any time. Help the children understand that Jesus' return could happen at any time. It is imminent! Ask the children what needs to be done around their house before family or friends come over. They may need to clean up or prepare food. What do they need to do before Christmas? They have to purchase all their Christmas gifts. Ask them what needs to be done before Christ comes for all believers. They should respond that people should be saved and doing God's work while they wait for His return.