

## Lessons 8-9 Vision of Chapter 2

### STUDY GUIDE

1. Now that Daniel has been prepared (chapter 1), and the reign of Jehovah made clear (chapter 2-6), we are ready to go into the message which Daniel gives. For a framework of this message, we turn to the dream of chapter 2. We will take two periods on this chapter. We will study it in three steps: (1) the facts of the vision, (2) the interpretations that are given, and (3) the interpretations necessary beyond what is given. For this lesson, we will cover the first two of these.
2. The message of Daniel is given in a series of five visions, which means that the method of communication will be objects rather than words. These objects are called symbols and are just as legitimate means of communication as words. Read carefully 2:31-35 to get an over-all view of the vision.
3. If we are to make an adequate interpretation of this vision, we must have all the facts (symbols) at our fingertips. There are between 14 and 17 symbols that we must know. Notice first that the vision is divided into three parts. What are these three parts?
4. Now make a list of the symbols. The first symbol is the 'image'. This is an 'image' of what? List the general descriptions that are given of this image (these are not symbols). Into how many parts does he divide this image? Now list the symbols (like head, gold, etc.) If you list "head of gold" as one symbol, you should have 14. After you have listed these, draw a rough sketch of these symbols. Remember symbols are always seen and it will help us in handling them if we see them. Then spend a few minutes going over your list to learn them.
5. We are now ready for the interpretation which God gives to this vision. Read vs. 36-45 carefully to get the general impression of this interpretation.
6. In a column parallel to your list of symbols, put down the interpretation beside the symbol that is being interpreted. Spend some reviewing these symbols with the God-given interpretations that you might learn them.

### NOTES

The message of Daniel is given in a series of five visions, which means that the method of communication will be objects rather than words. These objects are called symbols and are just as legitimate means of communication as words.

This vision in Daniel 2:31-35 is divided into three parts:

(1) the statue itself as described, (2) the fall of the statue as caused by the stone not cut with hands, and (3) the crushing of all the elements of the statue and the stone that struck it filling the whole earth.

We must now understand the facts that are presented in the form of symbols of which there are between 14-17.

1. statue-great, large, shone brightly, generated terror and awe
  2. head
  3. gold
- ] represents Nebuchadnezzar (vs.38) Babylon

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. breast & arms                                                     | ] | another nation (vs.39) Medo-Persia                                   |
| 5. silver                                                            |   |                                                                      |
| 6. belly & thighs                                                    | ] | another nation (vs.39) Greece                                        |
| 7. brass                                                             |   |                                                                      |
| 8. legs                                                              | ] | another strong and crushing nation (vs.40). Rome crushes all things. |
| 9. iron                                                              |   |                                                                      |
| 10. feet                                                             | ] | a divided kingdom partly strong, partly weak (vs.41)                 |
| 11. iron & clay                                                      |   |                                                                      |
| 12. stone                                                            |   |                                                                      |
| 13. stone smites statue                                              |   |                                                                      |
| 14. mountain that covers the whole earth - God will set up a kingdom |   |                                                                      |

Notice the statue is divided into five parts with kingdoms included in 1, 2, & 3, with parts 4 & 5 being another kingdom. There is a fifth kingdom which is described, which is the Kingdom of God.

The interpretation of the statue is of one great system of Gentile control.

1. Head of gold, which is the most valuable of all metals; Nebuchadnezzar is the absolute monarch (Babylon)
2. Arms of silver, which is stronger and heavier than gold; Medo-Persia is inferior in its political philosophy
3. Belly of brass, which is of lesser value than silver, but is stronger and heavier; Greece, a limited democracy.
4. Legs of iron which is of less value than brass, but stronger and heavier; Rome, a republic.
5. Feet of clay and iron mixed; the fourth kingdom grows weak.

You may note that the stone not cut with hands struck the statue at its feet and caused the fall, rather than at the head where one would normally strike to kill a creature.