

EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ
Summer 2022

PART TWO — THE EXILE OF 605 BC

Section 2 — How God Deals with Nations

- Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Statue
- Jeremiah 18:1-12, A Lesson from a Potter

about 604 BC

DANIEL 2

2:1 — *The "second year of [Nebuchadnezzar's] reign" was about 604 BC. He took the throne of Babylon in 605 BC after the death of his father, King Nabopolassar.*

2:1-13 — What dreadful task did King Nebuchadnezzar require of his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers?

- What was the king's motivation for being so demanding (verse 9)?
- What was to be the penalty for the astrologers' failure?

2:14-16 — Daniel spoke to the commander of the king's guard with _____ and _____. Then, when he understood what was going on, he went to the king and asked him for _____ so that he might interpret the dream for him.

2:17-18 — To which God did Daniel and his friends pray? *the God of _____*

- What did they ask for?

2:19 — How did God respond to their prayer?

2:20-23 — Daniel praised God. A few things he said God does:

- God changes times and _____; he deposes _____ and raises up others.
- God gives _____ to the wise and _____ to the discerning.
- God reveals _____ and _____ things; he knows what lies in _____, and _____ dwells with him.
- God gave Daniel _____ and _____ and made known to them the _____ of the king.

2:24-30 — Daniel did not claim for himself the ability to understand dreams. Rather, he acknowledged God as the "God in heaven who reveals _____."

- According to Daniel, why did God give this dream to the king and give Daniel its interpretation (verses 28-30)?

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2:31-45 — Nebuchadnezzar's dream concerned an enormous, dazzling statue. Describe the statue's appearance and the meaning of its appearance:

	<u>parts of the statue</u>	<u>meaning</u>
2:32, 38	head of _____	represents King _____ (ruler of Babylon)
2:32, 39	chest & arms of _____	represents a second, inferior kingdom
2:32, 39	belly & thighs of _____	represents a third kingdom
2:33, 40	legs of _____	represents a fourth kingdom, one as strong as _____
2:33, 41-43	feet of _____ & of baked _____	this fourth kingdom will be a _____ kingdom, partly strong and partly brittle
2:34-35	<u>what happened</u> a rock of non-human creation smashed & destroyed the statue; the rock became a _____ and filled the earth	<u>meaning</u> represents a kingdom established by _____ — it will bring the other kingdoms to an end, but will itself endure forever

from class discussion — What historic kingdoms were prophesied in this dream?

Head	= _____	Empire (605-539 BC)
Chest & Arms	= _____	Empire (539-331 BC)
Belly & Thighs	= _____	Empire (331-63 BC)
Legs & Feet	= _____	Empire (63 BC to AD 476)
The Rock/Mountain	= the kingdom of _____	(ca. AD 30 to present)

- What was the meaning of this dream...
 - ...for Nebuchadnezzar?
 - ...for Daniel?
 - ...for us?

maybe between 605 and 598 BC

JEREMIAH 18:1-12

As God explains from the work of the potter, what hope does he offer to nations that he has threatened with destruction?

What does God plea here for Judah and Jerusalem to do? Why?