



Daniel



GOD CHANGES THE TIMES – DANIEL 2

Years ago the Kiplinger's today's "Personal Finance Magazine" was called the "Kiplinger Changing Times," a financial advice magazine that described and predicted changing economic times. In stark contrast to whatever value it had, God changes the times! What a difference!

Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:

1. God not only knows the end from the beginning, He often is **designing** the end from the beginning.
2. The events of this world have never been out of control, and they never will be out of control: God is always in control. You and I should believe that from the bottom of our hearts, believe that God is in total control of the events of this world (natural, and human), trust God as world events unfold, and put our confidence in God foremost.



3. Prophecy provides the greatest **evidence** I know that God is in control and that the Bible is what it claims to be: the Word of God.

4. When you understand that God controls the events of this world, you will:

- a. Have **less anxiety** about world events as they unfold.
- b. Have **confidence** about the prophetic events still to occur.
- c. **Trust** God more to oversee your own life.

5. Daniel is the **foundational book** for many fulfilled prophecies and all yet unfulfilled prophecy. The prophecies of all of the other prophetic books must be understood in the light of Daniel for our greatest understanding. Daniel unfolds for us a **broad outline of world history** in prophetic, predictive form that has already spanned over 2600 years, and will span at least another 1000 years. What came to him came solely as prophecy (not history).



6. Understanding the prophetic visions which Daniel received will help you to trust God when changing times come into the world and in **your own life**.

CHALLENGE: Trust God in changing times when the world seems out of control.

A. Background to a Dream by Nebuchadnezzar.

1. It is 605 BC, Daniel is in Babylon at the beginning of what we call the 70 year Babylonian Captivity **predicted by God 840 years previously**, Lev. 26.

Lev. 26:32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. 33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.



2. The Babylonian Captivity was orchestrated **humanly** by King Nebuchadnezzar, but it was God who Changes the Times who **raised up Babylon** to chastise Israel's repeated refusal to obey God.

3. The Bab. Captivity would last only 70 yrs., but it marked the beginning of a much larger and longer period of time called the **Times of the Gentiles**, a period of time in which the Gentiles would exercise a dominance over Israel just the opposite of that dominance Israel had experienced over the Gentiles when they conquered the land under the guidance of God.



4. God unfolded this Times of the Gentiles to Daniel as it began when Nebuchadnezzar requested an interpretation of a dream he had.

Dan. 2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. 4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

5. When the search went out to locate all of the wise counselors, Daniel requested time to get the dream and its interpretation from God and **God delivered.**

Dan. 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.



B. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, 2:31-35.

God chose to unfold the **future to the end of the world** to Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, Israel, and the world in symbol.

Dan. 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. 36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.



C. Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, 2:27-45

1. Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon, the head of gold, 2:37-38

Dan. 2:37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

These verses clearly indicate that the head of gold symbolizes both Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom: God has given him a kingdom and he is this head of gold.

Note carefully that God is in control.



2. Medo-Persia, the breast and arms of silver, 2:39a
Dan. 2:39a And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee,

Little said here about the second and third kingdoms in this verse, except that they are kingdoms.

a. We are not left to wonder who this second kingdom is, but Daniel had to wait 53 years for another revelation from God in 8:20 to know who it would be.

Dan. 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.



b. The Babylonian kingdom lasted only 87 years, and then it ended as abruptly as it began (see its fall under King Belshazzar in chapter 5). God raised up Babylon to chastise Israel for her sin by taking them into the Babylonian Captivity, and as soon as the captivity had gone the divinely required length of time, God ended the Babylonian Kingdom. God changes the times. God is in control!

3. Greece, the belly and thighs of brass, 2:39b.
and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.



a. Again, our identification of the third kingdom comes from chapter 8.

Dan. 8:21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

Alexander the Great of Greece came to power over Jerusalem in 331 BC, defeated the Medo-Persian Empire after 208 years of rule over Jerusalem, and his kingdom was divided into four kingdoms under four of his generals. God changed the times again. God is in control! 274 years have now elapsed since Jerusalem first came under the control of the Gentiles in 605 BC.



4. Rome, legs of iron and feet of iron and clay, 2:40-43.

Dan. 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Nowhere is the fourth kingdom clearly identified as Rome, but the pattern of succession has been established and Rome fits the description perfectly. Rome was not glamorous, but she was strong (legs of iron, and Dan. 7:7).

Dan. 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.



a. Babylon ruled Jerusalem for 70 years, the Medo-Persians for 208 years, the Greeks for 268 years for a total of 546 years, and then God brought Rome to take control of Palestine and Jerusalem in 63 BC.

*Nearly 5 ½ centuries had elapsed now, and **God was still in control**, fulfilling the great prophetic image of a man that He caused Nebuchadnezzar to see in a dream back in 605 BC.



b. Note the 10 toes of 2:42 and the 10 horns of 7:7 are parallel in the two visions, both part of the fourth kingdom, Rome, and are still future. These are kings who exist in the days when the fifth kingdom is established, Dan. 2:44.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.



We also have 10 horns in Revelation parallel with these 10 toes and 10 horns in Daniel, so Rome still exists as God sees it. So the Roman Kingdom has already lasted nearly 2,100 years already and will continue until the 5th Kingdom.

Rev. 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Rev. 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.



5. Christ's kingdom, the millennium, the rock cut out without hands, 2:44-45. Dan. 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.



- a. This kingdom can only be the millennial kingdom of Christ Himself, the Stone which the builders rejected, the one “cut out without hands,” 2:34.
- b. This takes place at the end of the Tribulation period detailed in Revelation.
- c. Whatever is going on today, and whatever will go on in the future, God is in control. God will bring the history of this world to the conclusion He has planned contrary to the plans of ungodly kings of the world.



CONCLUSION:

1. Clearly, God changes the Times. God has been changing the times according to His schedule for 2,629 years since back in 605 BC. Will do much more.
2. Trust Him. Rest in Him no matter how chaotic the nations of the world become.

