

---

a ***Grace Notes*** course

## **Daniel**

an expositional study  
by Dr. Grant Richison

Lesson 102

### **Daniel Chapter 2**

---

## Daniel 102 – Chapter 2

### Contents

<b>Daniel 2 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Daniel 2:1-3.....	3
Daniel 2:4-13 .....	3
Daniel 2:14-16 .....	5
Daniel 2:17 .....	5
Daniel 2:18 .....	5
Daniel 2:19-20 .....	6
Daniel 2:21-23 .....	6
Daniel 2:24-30 .....	7
Daniel 2:31-35 .....	8
Daniel 2:36-40 .....	9
Daniel 2:41-42 .....	10
Daniel 2:43-45 .....	11
Daniel 2:46-49 .....	12

---

Daniel	Page 3
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

## Daniel 2

### Daniel 2:1-3

**Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.**

**Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.**

**And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'**

Chapters two through seven deal with the times of the Gentiles referenced by Christ (Luke 21:24). Chapters two and seven give the most comprehensive picture of prophecy dealing with the Gentile nations anywhere in Scripture. The time frame stretches from 600 BC to the time when Christ returns Second Coming (not the Rapture).

Nebuchadnezzar was the head of the first great world empire. He conquered the Assyrian empire and then the Syrian. He defeated the Egyptians. He was co-monarch with Nabopolassar, his father, for about two years. The second year of his reign would be about four years after he carried Daniel into captivity.

In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he struggled with a recurring, troubling dream about his empire. Where was it going and where would it end?

Nebuchadnezzar summoned the philosophers and religious leaders of his realm. Magicians professed to divine the future using many means; they were the sacred writers. The astrologers were the priestly caste that studied the heavens to determine the future. Sorcerers cast spells by witchcraft or incantations. The Chaldeans (also a priestly caste) here are soothsayers who teach Chaldean culture, and not native Chaldeans.

Nebuchadnezzar was in a state of anxiety because he did not know the meaning of the dream about his empire. This shook him immensely. He was the most powerful man of his day. This shows that no matter how high the station or how great the unbeliever, he has no ultimate security in life. With all his power, conquests, successes and greatness, none of it gave him peace. He is worried, insecure and frightened.

**PRINCIPLE:** Success will never replace inner peace.

**APPLICATION:** No matter how successful we are or how much money we make, we will never have inner peace until we come to grips with the Prince of Peace. Success is not the ultimate reality of life. However, having a fellowship with God and rest in His provisions gives us that inner peace. We get that peace through fellowship with the Lord from the Word of God.

### Daniel 2:4-13

**Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, 'O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.'**

**The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, 'My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.'**

**However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.'**

**They answered again and said, 'Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation.'**

**The king answered and said, 'I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm:**

Daniel	Page 4
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

**if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation.'**

**The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, 'There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean.**

**It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.'**

**For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave a command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.**

**So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.**

Daniel switches in 2:4b to the Aramaic from the Hebrew. He continues in Aramaic until 7:28. Daniel 1:1-2:4a and 8:1-12:13 are written in Hebrew. Aramaic was the language of Babylon, Assyria and Persia. It was the language of trade and government. Daniel switched to Aramaic because 2:4b to 7:28 deal with Gentile matters.

The Chaldeans took the initiative in replying to the king. These religious leaders insisted on knowing the content of the dream.

King Nebuchadnezzar astutely withheld the content of the dream because he did not want any fake interpretation by a bunch of deceivers; he issued an ultimatum.

The king's hypothesis was that if they could tell him the content of the dream without him revealing it, their interpretation of the dream would likely be true. Nebuchadnezzar promised them reward and honor for doing this.

Again, the wise men of Babylonia requested that the king tell them the content of the dream.

Nebuchadnezzar charged them with stalling for time. He saw through their delaying tactics. They might have hoped that the king would forget about the dream.

The only way for the king to have confidence in the wise men's interpretation was for them to tell the content of the dream.

The wise men declared that the king's request was unfair and unreasonable. They stated that it was patently impossible to do what the king requested.

The wise men declared that the sphere of knowing content beforehand belonged exclusively to the gods. This admission set up Daniel's God as the authentic God.

Nebuchadnezzar reacted violently and declared that all the wise men of Babylon be executed. It was patently obvious that the wise men of pantheism could not reveal the dream or its meaning. They were demonstrated to be inept at meeting the king's request.

Daniel and his three friends fell into the category of wise men to be killed.

**PRINCIPLE:** Christians know the future outcome of the world.

**APPLICATION:** Where is this world going? The Bible says that the times of the Gentiles (the time of Gentile domination) will come to an end. Secular governments and all governments other than Israel will cease to exist. They do not do a good job of dealing with the major issues of mankind.

The church will be raptured before the end of Gentile domination. The end of Gentile rule will come in the Tribulation after Jesus Christ comes for His church.

**Psalms 89:34-37.** 'My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David:

<b>Daniel</b>	Page <b>5</b>
<b>Daniel 102, Chapter 2</b>	a Grace Notes study

His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;

It shall be established forever like the moon,  
Even like the faithful witness in the sky.'  
Selah

God will govern the world by His Messiah and the nation Israel.

#### **Daniel 2:14-16**

**Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;**

**he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, 'Why is the decree from the king so urgent?' Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.**

**So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.**

After learning of Nebuchadnezzar's decree to kill the wise men, with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard. Daniel, even at a young age, was a man of wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to appropriate truth to experience. He was in the crisis of his life, yet he knew how to apply the Word of God to his situation.

Daniel's request centered on the reason for the urgency to kill the wise men.

Daniel requests more time to interpret the dream. He was able to operate by faith in a crisis because he was a man of the Word.

**PRINCIPLE:** Application of truth to experience is the foundation for Christian maturity.

**APPLICATION:** It is impossible to face a crisis without prior maturity. The immature go into hysteria and frantic mode because they do not have a frame of reference for their problems. That is why Daniel could counsel Arioch. Maturity always counsels immaturity.

The only way we can reach a level of maturity is to consistently apply the principles of Scripture

to our life situations. Daniel studied the Bible every day. He also applied the Word every day. He could face his crisis perfectly relaxed because he faced it with the principles of God's Word.

#### **Daniel 2:17**

**Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions...**

Daniel informed his three friends of the decree to kill the wise men. He faced his crisis with people upon whom he could depend.

**PRINCIPLE:** We all need mature Christian friends in a crisis.

**APPLICATION:** Do you have friends upon whom you can call in a crisis? Can you depend on them for spiritual help and rapport? Most of our friends will want to move on when we get into a jam: This is a pressure situation so goodbye John, goodbye Mary.

It is not enough to have Christian friends; we must have mature Christian friends to meet difficult needs.

#### **Daniel 2:18**

**that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.**

The purpose of Daniel informing his three friends was that they might pray about the situation. He believed in united prayer. He and his friends prayed for mercies from the God of heaven. Mercies are God's desire to meet needs in His people.

The phrase the God of heaven occurs five times in this chapter (vv. 18, 19, 28, 37, 44). They worshiped a sovereign God. Daniel uses it one more time, in 5:23.

**PRINCIPLE:** God blesses team prayer.

**APPLICATION:** Daniel knew how to pray. Do we know how to pray?

Daniel	Page 6
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

**James 5:16.** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

The principle parts of prayer are five:

- 1) Confession
- 2) Thanksgiving
- 3) Praise
- 4) Intercession (praying for others)
- 5) Petition (praying for self)

Also, praying companions are crucial to our Christian walk. Jesus had his disciples. Paul had Timothy, Titus and many other companions. There is power in united prayer.

#### Daniel 2:19-20

**Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.**

**Daniel answered and said: 'Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.'**

God revealed the whole panorama of Gentile dominion to Daniel. This period is otherwise known as the time of the Gentiles referred to by Jesus Christ. This period covers the time from Nebuchadnezzar to Christ's Second Coming.

Daniel received direct revelation both as to the content and the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. This is the only record of a dream being revealed to someone other than the person who originally received the dream. God revealed this secret to Daniel in direct answer to prayer.

Daniel now lifts a hymn of praise to God.

God's name stands for His revealed character. This is more than a label or title. Daniel draws attention to two characteristics of God: His wisdom and His might.

**PRINCIPLE:** God should get the credit for what God does.

**APPLICATION:** Daniel did not relish the fact that God revealed the dream to him; rather, he rejoiced in the glory of God's power to reveal it to him. He did not take the credit for what God did. It is God who controls the destiny of nations and course of history. Sometimes we get carried away with our own importance. We should have no illusions about ourselves. If God chooses to use us, we must recognize that it is God doing the doing. That is why we give God the credit.

People who understand grace are relaxed people because they understand where the glory belongs. Grace orientation produces a well-rounded person.

#### Daniel 2:21-23

**And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.**

**He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.**

**I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand.**

God is in control of human history. He makes and unmakes kings. God sovereignly controls human events. God will lead human history to its climax. God has a plan for creation.

Daniel identifies two evidences of God's wisdom: 1) He gives wisdom to the wise, and 2) He gives knowledge to those who have understanding.

We see God's wisdom in revelation. Light dwells with Him because He sees all things clearly. There are no shades of meaning or possibilities in Him. Man is in the dark because he is limited in his understanding. God is omniscient.

Daniel	Page 7
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

Now Daniel specifies that it was God who gave him wisdom. The revelation he received came from God, not from his own wisdom. He fully recognized that it was God who gave him everything he knew.

**PRINCIPLE:** We cannot truly worship God without understanding His character.

**APPLICATION:** We must understand the character of God in order to worship Him. All worship is based on comprehension of God. Understanding God is impossible without a maximum understanding of the principles of the Word, for it is the Word that reveals who God is.

Our prayer should honor God or glorify Him. We do this because of what God is in Himself. Wisdom is His. Might is His. God's infinite wisdom chooses the best course for our lives. God's power will execute His desires. Nothing happens by unadulterated chance. God raises up governmental leaders and He puts them down. That is why we honor Him.

#### Daniel 2:24-30

**Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: 'Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation.'**

**Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, 'I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.'**

**The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, 'Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?'**

**Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, 'The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.**

**But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:**

**As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.**

**But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.'**

Daniel went to the executioner, Arioch of the State Department, and told him that he was ready to reveal the dream to Nebuchadnezzar.

The words I have found are emphatic. Arioch clearly takes credit for finding Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar wanted to know two things from Daniel: 1) the content of the dream and 2) the interpretation of the dream.

Daniel wanted to make it abundantly clear that other wise men could not make known both the content and interpretation of the dream. Their gods could not reveal it to them. There is a radical difference between supernatural revelation and human wisdom. Daniel is saying in effect, I am not here representing the academia of the Chaldean Empire. God brings to nothing the wisdom of the wise.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29.** For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen,

Daniel	Page 8
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

that no flesh should glory in His presence.

God, in contrast to the philosophers of the age, can know the future. Superstition cannot give what God can give.

God made known to Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the latter days. The book of Daniel is about prophecy. The latter days of the Gentiles and Jews both come to a conclusion in the Tribulation.

Daniel's vision is about the future, both near and far.

Again Daniel made it clear to Nebuchadnezzar that it was not his sagacity but the wisdom of God that made this dream known. Daniel divested any credit to himself: It isn't because I am better than anyone else that God gave me this revelation.

**PRINCIPLE:** Believers should give credit where credit is due.

**APPLICATION:** Note the striking contrast between Arioch and Daniel. Arioch quickly took the credit for Daniel's revelation. Daniel gave glory to God; he did not try to grab glory for himself.

Some of us feed on approbation lust. The more praise we receive the more we desire it. It is like dope. We become addicted to praise very quickly. If people do not continually make noises about what we do, we go into approbation deficit. If others do not tell us how wonderful we are, we sulk. This is immaturity.

#### Daniel 2:31-35

**'You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.**

**This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,**

**its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.**

**You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.**

**Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.'**

Daniel now gives the most difficult aspect of Nebuchadnezzar's dream – the content of the dream.

Now Daniel delineates precisely what Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. It was a giant statue of a human-looking figure. It could be that the figure of man here alludes to man's day on earth. It refers to the panoramic sweep of history between Nebuchadnezzar's day and the Second Coming of Christ.

This great colossus represents man's dominion over man in the Devil's world. All of man's glory is transient. All these empires rise to great glory and decline into defeat. The glory of nations is a transient thing.

The important aspect of this statue was the material that composed it. There is decreasing value in the metals from the head to the feet. The head was fine gold, the chest and arms of silver, and its belly and thighs of bronze.

An important distinction is made between the legs and feet. The legs were pure iron but the feet had iron and clay. The statue was top-heavy because the heavier metals were at the top. The significance of this will be seen in the interpretation (2:36-45).

As Nebuchadnezzar looked at this statue, a stone cut without hands struck the statue on its weakest part – the feet of iron and clay. Iron mixed with clay is weaker than iron alone. This



Daniel	Page 9
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

stone is very significant, as will be seen in the interpretation.

The stone broke the statue into pieces. The statue was crushed like powder and a wind blew the statue away. The stone that struck the statue became a great mountain [kingdom] and filled the whole earth.

**PRINCIPLE:** The Bible has the integrity of genuine prophecy.

**APPLICATION:** Critics of the book of Daniel claim that there is nothing of genuine prophecy in the book. They maintain that Daniel was written in 165 B.C. In order to uphold that theory, they have to treat all dreams in Daniel as history. They claim that Daniel could not have prophesied of Rome in 165 B.C. because Rome was only an emerging power at that date. They assert that the last world power was Greece and that the immediately preceding empires were Babylon, Media and Persia.

Daniel, to the contrary, expressly asserts the opposite. The critics divide the Median-Persian kingdom into two empires in order to make their point. However, Daniel 8 looks at the Median-Persian kingdom as a unit (8:3, 5 speak of the ram with two horns; 8:20 says the ram with two horns is the Media-Persian kingdom). This corresponds with the beast and two arms of silver of Daniel 2. The Persians subsumed the Medes in 550 B.C.

The four kingdoms of Daniel 2 are Babylonian, Median-Persian, Greek and Roman.

### Daniel 2:36-40

**This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.**

**You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;**

**and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.**

**But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.**

**And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.**

Verses 36 to 45 give the interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The metals represent different kingdoms and also the outline of the history of the Gentiles from Daniel to the coming of Christ.

Daniel prudently differentiated the dream from the interpretation. This verse begins the interpretation of the dream.

Nebuchadnezzar was the world ruler of his day (Jeremiah 27:6-7,14). None of the rulers that followed him had as much absolute power as Nebuchadnezzar. He was the king of kings (Ezek 26:7). God sovereignly gave him this power. That concept may have crushed his pride.

Nebuchadnezzar ruled because God gave him the privilege to rule. Herodotus visited Babylon about ninety years after Nebuchadnezzar. He said that much of the temples and accouterments were made of solid gold. This was the Chaldean Empire at its zenith.

The next kingdom to rise after the Babylonian was the Medo-Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great. This empire covered a greater geographical territory and lasted longer than the Babylonian (539-331 B.C.). The two arms represent the two nations of Media and Persia.

Daniel 11:2 concerns a prophecy concerning Xerxes who inherited the silver hoarding of his father Darius and other Persian kings. He could have never launched an offensive across the Hellespont against Greece without this treasure of silver.

The kingdom after the Medo-Persian Empire was Greece under Alexander the Great (cf. 8:20-

Daniel	Page 10
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

21). The territory of this kingdom was yet greater than the Medo-Persian Empire. This kingdom stretched in time from 331 to 31 B.C. and in geography to India. The kingdom lasted longer than the previous two.

After Alexander died in 323 B.C., his generals split the empire into four parts. General Antipater ruled Macedon-Greece. Lysimachus governed Thrace-Asia Minor. Seleucus ruled Asia and Ptolemy reigned over Egypt, Cyrenaica and Palestine. Thus, its government was more republican and less power was given to its rulers.

The fourth kingdom was the Roman Empire. Rome defeated Greece in 31 B.C. and ruled until 476 A.D. in the West and until 1453 A.D. in the East. Rome's empire extended geographically farther than the previous three. The two legs represent the East and West portions of the empire (Rome and Constantinople). Rome's empire extended from the British Isles to India.

Daniel gives more space to this fourth kingdom than the other three. This is the kingdom we live in today. No human world power follows Rome except the kingdom of the Messiah. Rome stamped its image on western civilization. The western dimension of the Roman Empire reached into France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Great Britain. From there its influence moved into the United States, Canada and the Americas.

Note passages in Daniel dealing with the four Gentile kingdoms and the Millennial Kingdom:

Babylon, 2:32, 37, 38; 7:4, 17

Medo-Persia, 2:32, 39; 7:5, 17; 8:3-8, 20, 21; 10:20, 21, 11:2-35

Greece, 2:32, 39; 7:6, 17

Rome 2:33, 40; 7:7, 17, 23

Revived Rome, 2:33, 41-43; 7:7, 8, 11, 24, 25,

Millennium, 2:34, 35, 44, 45; 7:13, 14, 26, 27

**PRINCIPLE:** God always gives us prophecy for purity reasons.

**APPLICATION:** God already fulfilled the first four kingdoms in history. They happened exactly as Daniel predicted. The head of gold was Babylon and existed within Daniel's lifetime. The Medo-Persian Empire conquered Babylon. Alexander the Great of Greece in rapid-fire succession defeated the Medo-Persian Empire. Rome finally gained victory over Greece in the first century B.C. Prophetically, we are still in this kingdom.

God gives prophecy to make us more cautious, not more curious. It should lead us to invest in eternal values, not temporal values exclusively. It gives us perspective on measuring our lives at their end: Did I waste my life on earth? Did I live for eternal things? There is a great difference between the passing and the permanent.

#### Daniel 2:41-42

**Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.**

**And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.**

Daniel gives an extensive explanation of the fourth kingdom. He relates the later phase of this empire as an outgrowth of the fourth kingdom. The Roman Empire regressed from iron to iron mixed with clay.

To this point in our reading, Daniel's prophecy has been historically fulfilled. We now move into unfulfilled prophecy. The events that happen to the feet of iron and clay will occur at the Second Coming of Christ after the Tribulation period.

There is a great gap of time between verses 41 and 42. Verse 44 speaks of the Millennial Kingdom.

The most important feature of the fourth kingdom was its feet with two kinds of materials: kiln-fired clay mixed with iron. Iron

Daniel	Page 11
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

may represent regal government whereas clay may represent democratic government by being pliable and easy to mold.

**PRINCIPLE:** The ultimate form of government is righteous and benevolent monarchy.

**APPLICATION:** Democracy grows the seeds of its own destruction and for that reason an absolutely righteous and pure monarchy is superior to democracy. Jesus will fulfill this requirement.

The opinion of the public is always fickle. Dissonant events or insidious leaders can mold it into their own fashion. It is not democracy itself that makes a democratic nation great, but principles of righteousness upon which that nation was built and its willingness to persist with those principles.

#### Daniel 2:43-45

**As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.**

**And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.**

**Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.**

Ceramic clay and iron do not adhere well together. Weakness is introduced into this kingdom, so this empire does not last as a world order.

This prophecy passes over the present age and goes to the Revived Roman Empire found in the Tribulation period. The ten toes of the statue

relate to the ten-nation confederacy of the Roman Empire in the Tribulation. This is the final formation of the Roman Empire. The United States, Canada and all other western powers will be subservient to this ten-nation confederacy.

The phrase seed of men implies a grassroots issue; it permeates the masses. Throughout the stream of the Roman Empire, the two issues of monarchy and democracy struggle at the grassroots level. Domestic strife weakens government so that it cannot reach its objectives. This sets the stage for the final Kingdom.

These kings are the rulers of the ten-nation confederacy of Europe in the last days.

the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

This verse introduces God's kingdom. God will send His Messiah to judge the world in the days of the Revived Roman Empire (the ten-toed confederacy) to overthrow the vestige of that empire.

From God's viewpoint, the highest form of government is monarchy, not democracy. This premise requires a perfectly righteous monarch.

**1 Timothy 6:14-16.** ...that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

The stone cut out of the mountain without hands crushes the iron and clay. This is the Second Coming of Christ to judge the world. This final and fifth kingdom God will establish

Daniel	Page 12
Daniel 102, Chapter 2	a Grace Notes study

during the Millennium and will continue into the eternal state. He will destroy the Gentile kingdoms of the world.

**1 Peter 2:6.** Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.'

Daniel's prophecy is sure. This is a term of certainty. People of God trust the Word of God.

**2 Peter 1:19.** And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...

**PRINCIPLE:** God gives the believer hope and assurance about the future.

**APPLICATION:** What is the attitude that God would have for us in all this prophecy? First, we have hope in the coming victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over all the Gentile kingdoms of the world. There will be a day when righteousness will reign; justice will prevail. Oh, what a day that will be!

#### Daniel 2:46-49

**Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.**

**The king answered Daniel, and said, Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.**

**Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.**

**Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.**

Nebuchadnezzar worshiped Daniel and regarded him as a god.

Nebuchadnezzar turned positive to Daniel's God but did not embrace Him as God. Nebuchadnezzar eventually turned out to be fatheaded and came to believe all his success was due to himself. He made an image of gold to portray that fact. However, at this time, he acknowledged that the God of Daniel was supreme over the gods of his polytheistic system. This was especially true in the revealing of this secret of the human colossus of world governments.

The king promoted Daniel to the position of chief of the wise men. He also made him satrap of Babylon. Normally this title would have been given to a Chaldean. Daniel received both presents and power, making him an important person in the Chaldean Empire.

Sitting at the gate of the king meant that Daniel sat as Chief of the Supreme Court of the Chaldean Empire. Instead of gloating in his success, he immediately thought of others. He remembered his friends. Success did not destroy his friendship with them.

**PRINCIPLE:** Man's wisdom is temporal while God's wisdom is eternal.

**APPLICATION:** Daniel did not allow his success to go to his head. Nebuchadnezzar was filled with ego and power lust. Daniel gave glory to God. When the world does homage to what we do, do we give glory to God?

Man's extremity is God's opportunity. God uses crisis to move believers into the picture. Daniel put his trust in God through it all. Catastrophe of a nation is a great opportunity for sharing our faith.

Here are some lessons from chapter two:

- God is sovereign over the governments of the world.
- God moves the world toward His own end.
- Daniel did not seek prominence but God gave it to him because of his faithfulness.

<b>Daniel</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Daniel 102, Chapter 2</b>	a Grace Notes study

- Truth always exposes error.
- God's kingdom is eternal; man's kingdoms are temporal.
- There is futility in man's wisdom. Man's wisdom is for time but God's wisdom is eternal.