

Sermon Title: **Nebuchadnezzar's Mysterious Dream**

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Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: **Daniel 2:24-45**

Thesis: **God chose Nebuchadnezzar's Mysterious Dream as a means to elevate Daniel;**

Purpose: **We can trust that God is working out His plans for our life as well.**

Key Word: **"God's All Knowing Wisdom"**

Key Points:

1. The Kingdoms of Earth
 2. The Kingdom of God
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I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **Daniel 2:24-45**

A) The Setting:

- 1) **Would you want to know your future if you could?**
 - (a) How about where you will live out your days?
 - (b) Will you be in control until the bitter end?
 - (c) Or will someone have to make decisions for you?
- 2) **How about where you will spend eternity?**
 - (a) If you could do it; would you want to pull back the curtains and peek into your future?
 - (b) What impact would it make in your life?
- 3) **Well, last week we saw that Daniel's King was troubled by a dream.**
 - (a) One that he felt sure had important significance.
 - (b) And to be sure that the one who was explaining the dream had a message from God; he wanted a person who not only could interpret the dream; but could tell him what he dreamed.
- 4) **Daniel was not an important person before this event.**
 - (a) He wasn't even one of the wise men called in to interpret the King's dream.
 - (b) He was just another servant, a captured foreigner, put in service of the king.
- 5) **But he was a young man who had faith that his God was in control even in this.**
 - (a) Daniel believed that God would reveal dreams to this young man.
 - (b) And God would direct his path.
- 6) So, this week let's look at the rest of the story for ourselves in our scripture reading in the book of **Daniel 2:24-45**. (Page 1006 in the red pew Bibles and 821 in the black pew Bibles.)

B) *Sermon Prayer*

C) (The Hook)

- 1) **Daniel begins by telling the king that no one but God can reveal what takes place in his head during the night within his bed chambers.**
 - (a) Daniel is sure to give the credit where it belongs.
 - (b) Something we should all do for without God we are nothing.
 - (c) God gives us the means and the understanding we need to accomplish the purposes He created us to do.
 - (d) All the education in the world is useless unless God's Spirit reveals true understanding.
- 2) **So, Daniel comes to the king whom I am sure was at least somewhat skeptical that this young man could tell him his dream.**
- 3) I can just imagine the king's eye growing wider and wider as Daniel proceeds to explain ever vivid detail of his dream.
- 4) We rarely remember our dreams unless they are intense enough to wake us up.
- 5) I can visualize the king looking off into space as he recalls this frightening vision.
- 6) **As Daniel finishes his description he peers into Daniel's eyes now almost fearful of what the dream means.**

- (a) But he waits with a reluctant anticipation at what Daniel is about to tell him . . .
- (b) Then Daniel begins as we see in **verse 36**, **"This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation."**

TS: We learn from Daniel that the dream was about . . .

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **The Kingdoms of Earth**

- 1) **You see that the fall of Israel signaled a change in world power from the hands of God's people (the Jews) to the hands of the Gentile rulers.**
 - (a) This dream portrayed the time of the gentles who would rule the earth.
 - (b) Israel was being punished for its failure to obey God's commandments.
 - (c) For the next 2600 years they would be a people without a country.
- 2) **Daniel described a giant statue of a man representing the kingdoms of man.**
 - (a) Starting at the top with a head of brilliantly shining gold.
 - (b) Chest and arms were silver.
 - (c) The middle belly and thighs were of bronze.
 - (d) The legs were made of iron but as they formed the feet the iron mixed with clay going into the feet and toes.
- 3) **Daniel was explaining an illustration of the kingdoms of the earth until the Lord returns.**
- 4) **The Gold we are told represented the Babylonian empire.**
 - (a) You O King are the head of Gold which God has given to you.
 - (b) Notice Daniel never misses a chance to glorify God's sovereignty and control.
 - (c) This empire lasted until 539 B.C.
- 5) **The next kingdom would be inferior to the Babylonian indicated by the silver.**
 - (a) This was the Kingdom represented by the two arms divided into two branches.
 - (b) This is the Kingdom of the Medes and Persians which apparently lasted from 539 BC until 331 BC.
- 6) **This would be followed by the Bronze Kingdom of Greece.**
 - (a) Under Philip II of Macedon his famous son, Alexander the Great, established this kingdom.
 - (b) Bronze was used to represent this Kingdom where Alexander had begun to equip his soldiers with helmets, breastplates, shields, and swords made of bronze.
- 7) **The fourth kingdom would be as strong as iron, represented by Rome.**
 - (a) Rome was known for crushing and shattering other kingdoms.
 - (b) The "Iron Legions" of Rome conquered Alexander's empire.
 - (c) Rome was known for crushing their enemies with an iron heel.
- 8) **Today we live in the remnants of the Roman empire.**
 - (a) The clay represented a weakening and breaking up of this last empire.
 - (b) The Roman empire was the last to rule the world.
 - (c) But eventually it broke up into many separate countries represented by the mixture of clay and iron in the feet and toes.

TS: However, in Nebuchadnezzar's dream a giant stone is carved by supernatural, unhuman, hands from the mountains to establish the next kingdom . . .

B) Key Point #2: **The Kingdom of God**

- 1) **We know it is divine because Daniel told us it was not cut by human hands.**
 - (a) It rises up and comes down on the colossus statue smashing it into dust.
 - (b) The dust is then carried off by the wind.
 - (c) The stone then becomes a mountain settling over all the land until it is completely covered.

- 2) **Daniel explains in verse 44 that at this time.**
 - (a) **"... the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, not shall this Kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever;"**
 - (b) This refers to God's eternal Kingdom with Jesus as Lord.
- 3) **As if he needed to say it; Daniel then says with confidence in verse 45, "... God has informed the King what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy."**
 - (a) Daniel says you can trust what I am saying.
 - (b) For it is true and from God.
- 4) **We definitely live in the days of the Roman kingdom described in this dream.**
 - (a) Our government as well as the government of most democratic nations is based on the model of the Romans.
 - (b) Rome was not defeated; but fell apart from within in pursuit of their immoral behaviors.
 - (c) Our country and many countries of the world are quickly following suit.
- 5) **The nation of Israel stands a testament to the hand of God.**
 - (a) A nation that manage to remain in existence having no country to call their own for 2600 years.
 - (b) God's Word predicted that God would preserve His people and at the appointed time gather them together once again.
 - (c) In 1946 Israel was reborn and since then millions of Jews from countries all over the world have relocated to their nation.
 - (d) No other civilization has managed to keep themselves separated and maintained their covenant with God.
- 6) **We are living in the last days when the next big event is the coming of our Lord to gather His bride, the church at the Rapture.**
 - (a) Rapture means to be caught up; God will Rapture His church out of this world to be with Him.
 - (b) At that time, Israel will become center stage and used by God in events that will usher in His Kingdom forever.

TS: **So, as we conclude this message, let us focus on these key points . . .**

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

- A) **First, Daniel was rewarded by King Nebuchadnezzar**
 - 1) I believe that the King made Daniel one of his friends.
 - 2) A close confidant that he knew could be trusted to tell him the truth.
 - 3) **In fact, the King fell prostrate before Daniel and began to worship him as a god.**
 - (a) But Daniel would have none of it crediting his God.
 - (b) So, the King agreed that Daniel's God was the revealer of mysteries.
 - 4) **Therefore, Nebuchadnezzar rewarded Daniel by first putting him in charge**
 - (a) Over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.
 - (b) At Daniel's request, he even promoted Daniel's three friends to report to Daniel over the affairs of the King of Babylon.
 - (c) Daniel had trusted God and God used these events to promote Daniel, a foreigner lifted to second in command.
 - (d) Only the king outranked Daniel.
- B) **Second, we can learn from Daniel; though to be humble yet confident.**
 - 1) Remember that God is in charge of the circumstances even when things seem to be going against you.

- 2) God is faithful and when we are living our life committed to Him, God will take the lemons of life and make lemonade.
- 3) When you have to speak up to your boss or someone important; pray, trust God and be confident that God is going before you.
- 4) **When you are facing impossible situations; remember Daniel and trust that God is in it.**
- 5) **God had a plan for Daniel and if you are really His child and have given your life over to Him, then He has a plan for you too.**
 - (a) Walk in obedience and trust God to work out the rest;
 - (b) Even when everything else around you is going to pieces.
- 6) If you have gotten away from God or have never given your life to Him, then you have an opportunity to do it before you leave here today.

IV) Invitation: **Let us Pray!**