

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading Isaiah 44:28-45:5, Ezra 1:1-2

- Hebrews 4:16
- In That Day
- His Mercy is More
- 259, There is a Fountain
- Nailed to the Cross

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

God's Word controls kings, governments and history-pt II

The prophetic and authoritative power of God's Word

Daniel 2

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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GRACE
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
love. truth. grace.

We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



KINGDOMS REPRESENTED

Head of fine gold
Babylonian Empire

Breast and arms of silver
Mede and Persian Empires

Belly and thighs of brass
Macedonian Empire

Legs of iron
Roman Empire

Feet and toes of clay
Kingdoms that arose after
the fall of the Roman Empire

- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

God's Word controls kings, governments and history-pt II

The prophetic and authoritative power of God's Word

Daniel 2

- August 27th, 2023 -

God's Word controls kings, governments and history-pt II

The prophetic and authoritative power of God's Word

Daniel 2

Do you ever wonder: Where am I in history? From the perspective of the sovereign on His throne in heaven, where do we in the 21st century fit into God's plan of the ages? Is there a plan of the ages, or are we just blindly stumbling forward through human time unending? In the broadest sense the answer to these questions was given by God in a disturbing dream to a pagan Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar between April 603BC and March 602BC. And God used a young man from the defeated tribe of Judah to explain this to him. God is actively managing peoples, governments and history to reveal Himself to us, and history is aimed at one thing: the revelation of God's kingdom on earth and the Son of Man seated on the ruling throne of that kingdom.

Let us at Grace Bible Fellowship know and trust Him!

In Daniel 2:1 we are introduced into a most amazing series of events that unfold God's plan of the ages. And God does this by bringing together the most unlikely two people on earth: The first, a totalitarian pagan ruler, the mighty Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar, and the second, an older teen from a defeated nation who has been carted off into captivity. God uses the small things in this world to grind down the pride of nations and to remind us that He is finally in charge of world events.

Daniel places us between the spring of 603 and 602BC, in the third or senior year of his training in the court and school of the Babylonian captors, along with his three friends and fellow Judahites, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The God of heaven and earth stirs up the spirit of the king with revelatory dreams. That God can do this indicates His intimate knowledge and control of believers and unbelievers alike.

Nebuchadnezzar is hardly the first national leader to receive revelation from God through a dream or vision (Pharaoh in Gen. 41; Abimelech in Gen. 20; Pharaoh-Necho in 2 Chr. 35 and 2 Kgs. 23). By this time readers of the OT have well in mind Joseph's experience with

Pharaoh's dreams, so Daniel 2 looks like déjà vu all over again, as Yogi Berra might put it.

V12-18 contrast the moral and spiritual condition of Nebuchadnezzar versus that of Daniel and his companions.

V38-39, this is the Babylonian empire, and it would end early in 539 in accord with the events of Daniel ch5. This is the fall of Belshazzar and the entry of the Medo-Persian empire of King Cyrus followed by Darius.

This is followed by the Greek empire of Alexander in 334BC.

V40 speaks of the Roman empire, which gained ascendance in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC. The Roman empire lasted some 1,000 years in various places. Jesus came to earth in that time period.

V42-43 what follows is essentially modern western history. The toes of iron mixed with clay is the post-Roman period in which we now live. There will come a time when America will no longer be in the picture or if it is it will be among those crushed by the shattering power of the Rock formed not by human hands!

V44-45 is the second coming and establishment of the earthly kingdom of the Son of Man, the millennial kingdom which leads into the new heavens and new earth, an eternal kingdom!