

## STUDY 3

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Reading – Daniel 2

### **3. THE STONE OF THE KINGDOM.**

Perhaps a surprising study! A pagan King's dream gets interpreted by Daniel. What has this OT passage to do with the Kingdom of God? It gives us the background and basis for the NT message of the Kingdom of God!

Daniel 2 offers a powerful picture of how the Kingdom will come in power and spread globally. The future is secure in God's hands. God is in sovereign control. God is undefeatable and unstoppable.

- Have you ever had a dream and woken up unsure about what you had dreamt?
- The dream of Nebuchadnezzar is similar in some ways to the Egyptian pharaoh and Joseph in Genesis 41. Without reading long chapters, what are some of the parallels?
- Remind yourself that no matter what is happening in the world, God is in control. Nothing happens outside of God's sovereign rule. Ponder the truths that come out of scriptures like Isaiah 46.9-10; Jeremiah 32.17; Romans 11.33.

**'The rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.'**  
Dan 2.35b

#### **1. THE MYSTERY OF THE DREAM v.1-30**

Neb has a dream that he refuses to retell but demands that the wise in the land reveal.

- Daniel believes that God is the revealer of mysteries. Imagine Daniel (v.16) saying that he would interpret the dream before he knew what the dream was in the first place.
- How do you see faith being exercised by Daniel in this situation, v.17-23? For instance, Daniel enlisted prayer partners and they became a source of support and encouragement. Has this something to say about praying for one another in our small groups?  
What aspects of God's character are expressed in v.20-23.
- In what ways do you see prayer and action being combined to communicate ultimately to Neb.

#### **2. THE MAKEUP OF THE DREAM v.31-35**

Daniel discloses the dream with all its detail to Neb. v.31 *you looked O King*. Daniel was a man of significant courage. Note how calm and composed Daniel appears to be! The dream was supernaturally revealed to Daniel.

The dream was of a massive statue – head, chest, belly, legs, feet.

What was to be more significant than the statue was the stone.

v.34 *while you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands.*

What happened to the statue in the dream? What transpired with the stone?

Why do you think that the dream terrorised Neb so much?

### 3. THE MESSAGE OF THE DREAM v.36-45

There is the present kingdom that will not last, and it will be followed by subsequent kingdoms (Medo / Persian; Greek and Roman empires). Weaker and inferior kingdoms will follow but a kingdom is coming that will be radically different.

In v.44 *In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed...*

God speaks of heaven touching earth with its transformative power in the stone not cut by human hands. This is something divine.

- Look at some of the scriptures that speak of Christ as the stone.  
Psalm 118.22 quoted by Jesus in Matt 21. 42ff; There is Isaiah 28.16.

The Psalmist in Psalm 2 sees the raging powers of the nations all vying to be number one but he also sees God who sits *in the heavens and laughs* at the puny efforts of man to subvert his authority and power.

Celebrate in praise and prayer the fact that God's kingdom will last forever and that you are a citizen of this eternal kingdom.

Revelation 11.15 *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.*

Revelation 19.6 *Hallelujah for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.*

FOR YOUR NOTES