



## 5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

# A Disturbing Dream

Daniel was a captive from Judah, an exile, in a period when the Jews of the Judean kingdom were displaced by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, 605 B.C.

*<sup>1</sup>One night Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. <sup>2</sup>He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. <sup>5</sup>The king said to the astrologers, "I am serious about this. If you don't tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble!" <sup>11</sup>"The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people." <sup>12</sup>The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed.*

*[Then Daniel said] <sup>24</sup>"Don't kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream." <sup>26</sup>The king said to Daniel "Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?" <sup>27</sup>Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. <sup>28</sup>But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.*

*<sup>31</sup>"In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. <sup>32</sup>The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, <sup>33</sup>its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay. <sup>34</sup>As you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits. <sup>35</sup>The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth.*

*<sup>36</sup>"That was the dream. Now we will tell the king what it means. <sup>37</sup>Your Majesty, you are the greatest of kings. The God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. <sup>38</sup>He has made you the ruler over all the inhabited world. You are the head of gold.*

<sup>39</sup>*But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place. After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world. <sup>40</sup>Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes. <sup>41</sup>The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. <sup>42</sup>But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. <sup>43</sup>This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.*

<sup>44</sup>*During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. <sup>45</sup>That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.”*

<sup>47</sup>*The king said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret.” <sup>48</sup>Then the king appointed Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. (Adapted from Daniel 2 NLT)*

Six hundred years after these events happened, God’s Son came on the scene declaring the time is near, the God of heaven will set up His Kingdom that will never be destroyed. Repent, for the rule and reign of God is here.

*“...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17 KJV)*

## Questions

**1** There is a God in heaven that reveals secrets.

True or False

**2** God’s Kingdom will last only 1000 years.

True or False

**3** Will you submit to God's rule and reign?

**We want to hear from you!**

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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## Answer Key

**1** There is a God in heaven that reveals secrets.

**True**

***“But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future...” (Daniel 2:28 NLT)***

**2** God’s Kingdom will last only 1000 years.

**False**

***“During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever.” (Daniel 2:44 NLT)***

**3** Will you submit to God’s rule and reign?

***“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:33 NLT)***