LESSON 46 "A Kingdom Which Shall Never Be Destroyed" Daniel 2

OVERVIEW:

Daniel interprets the dream on Nebuchadnezzar. God will set up a kingdom in the last days which will fill the whole earth.

SCRIPTURES:

THE BOOK OF DANIEL CHAPTER 2

Nebuchadnezzar's dream is revealed to Daniel—The king saw a great image; a stone cut from the mountain without hands destroyed the image; and the stone grew and filled the whole earth—The stone is the latter-day kingdom of God.

This chapter means that God will bring about his work in a specific time and nothing and no one can stop him.

1 AND in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed ^adreams, wherewith **his spirit was ^btroubled**, (this means he remembered the dream) and his sleep brake from him.

2 Then the king commanded to call the ^amagicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. 4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in ^aSyriack, (Heb Aramaic (a language related to Hebrew)) O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will ^bshew (or reveal or tell) the interpretation,

5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, **The thing is ^agone from me:** (**The Persian word used means "is certain with me" azda.** The king makes the point that he knows what he dreamt; therefore if the interpreters can tell him the dream, he will know that they know what they are talking about and he will know whether he can have confidence in their interpretation or not. Ellis T. Tasmussen, An Introduction to the Old Testament and Its Teachings, 2:92) if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be ^bcut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, (he must have known the dream.) *there is but* one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, ^atill the time be changed: (till with time circumstance will change) therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

10 ¶ The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore *there is* no king, lord, nor ruler, *that* asked such things at any magician, or

astrologer, or Chaldean.

11 And *it is* a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the ^agods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. (The writer was setting the stage for two points: First, God, through Daniel was able to do what the gods of the wise men could not. Their power was non-existent. Second, Daniel's God did associate with those in the flesh and was very willing to manifest his will.)

12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise *men* of Babylon.

13 And the decree went forth that the wise *men* should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

14 ¶ Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise *men* of Babylon:

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why *is* the decree *so* ^ahasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 (Daniel asks for some time to fast and pray) Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to ^aHananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.

19 ¶ Then was the ^asecret revealed unto Daniel in a night ^bvision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. (Revelation was given to Daniel.)

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for ^awisdom and might are his:

21 And he changeth the ^atimes and the ^bseasons: he ^cremoveth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth ^dwisdom unto the wise, and ^eknowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He ^arevealeth the deep and secret things: he ^bknoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the ^clight dwelleth with him.

23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter.

24 ¶ Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise *men* of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose ^aname *was* Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make ^bknown unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the ^aastrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

28 But there is a God in heaven that ^arevealeth ^bsecrets, (Daniel was giving credit to God where it was due.) and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy ^cdream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; D&C 65:2 - The ^akeys of the ^bkingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the ^cgospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the ^dstone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has ^efilled the whole earth. D&C 138:44 – Daniel foresaw and foretold the establishment of the ^akingdom of God in the latter days, never again to be destroyed nor given to other people.

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: **and he that arevealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.** (This is not

a contingent prophecy. This SHALL come to pass.)

30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for *any* ^awisdom that I have more than any living, but ^bfor *their* sakes (Aramaic: in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king) that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

31 ¶ Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great ^aimage. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and ^bthe form thereof *was* terrible. (Aramaic: its appearance was frightening)

32 This image's head *was* of fine gold, (Nebuchadnezzar- from about 600BC to 562BC) his breast (Medes) and his arms of silver (Persia – from about 553BC to 400BC), his belly and his thighs of brass (Macedonia – Alexander the Great – from about 356 BC to 323BC),

33 His legs of iron, (Roman Empire – from about 31BC to 476 AD, two divisions (the split occurred about 285AD into East and West) Rome (ended in 476AD) and Constantinople (ended in 1453AD)) his feet part of iron and part of clay. (the breakup of the Roman Empire into smaller kingdoms – the various countries of today)

34 Thou sawest till that a ^astone was cut out ^bwithout hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no ^aplace was found for them: and the ^bstone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. $36 \, \text{\P}$ This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

37 Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a ^akingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. **Thou** *art* **this** ^a**head of gold**.

39 And **after thee shall arise another** ^akingdom inferior to thee, (Medes and Persia) and another third kingdom of brass (Macedonian Kingdom and Alexander the Great), which shall bear ^brule over all the earth.

40 And **the fourth ^akingdom** (Roman Empire) **shall be strong as iron**: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

41 And whereas thou sawest **the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided;** but there shall be in it of the strength of the ^airon, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. (Numerous countries, some strong countries and some weak ones)

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

43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

44 (Here's the clue of when the kingdom will come forth.) And in the ^adays of these ^bkings (the latter days) shall the God of heaven ^cset up a ^dkingdom, which shall never be ^edestroyed: and the ^fkingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall ^gbreak in pieces and ^hconsume all these ⁱkingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the ^astone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made ^bknown to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure. (The kingdom of God set up on the earth. For now it is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During the Millennium it will be the Kingdom of God. During the Millennium it will be both an ecclesiastical and a political kingdom. The Church will have the rule and government of the world given to it. What is the significance of the "stone cut out without hands?" First, the stone cut out without hands means it was an act of God and not of man. Also, according to Biblical law altars were to be constructed from unhewn stone. Exodus 20:24-25, 24 ¶ An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me,

and shalt ^asacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. 25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn ^astone: for if thou lift up thy ^btool upon it, thou hast polluted it. **Deut 27:1-8** 1 AND Moses with the ^aelders of Israel commanded the people, saying, ^bKeep all the commandments which I command you this day. 2 And it shall be on the day when ye shall pass over Jordan unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, that thou shalt set thee up great ^astones, and ^bplaister them with plaister: 3 And thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou mayest go in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, a land that floweth with milk and honey; as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee. 4 Therefore it shall be when ye be gone over Jordan, that ye shall set up these stones, which I command you this day, in mount Ebal, and thou shalt plaister them with plaister. 5 And there shalt thou build an altar unto the LORD thy God, an altar of ^astones: thou shalt not lift up *any* ^biron *tool* upon them. 6 Thou shalt build the ^aaltar of the LORD thy God of whole stones: and thou shalt offer burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD thy God: 7 And thou shalt offer peace ^a offerings, and shalt eat there, and rejoice before the LORD thy God. 8 And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly. Thus the stone cut out of the mountain without hands is the holy and pure stone used for temple altars. The stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. The mountain symbolizes the Temple. Thus, the kingdom that God will set up in the latter days will be His kingdom, a kingdom that fills the entire earth, a kingdom that is as a holy temple. And so the entire earth will be as one sacred temple, a place that we can ascend to find ourselves as we find God. The Kingdom of God on Earth: A kingdom must have a king, property, laws, bishops, workers, land, political organization, military, economics, education, social, cultural, spiritual. Today the U.S. government is prohibiting the Kingdom from rolling forth. The Church is progressing and expanding, but the kingdom must wait.)

46 ¶ Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and ^aworshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth *it is*, that your ^aGod *is* a ^bGod of gods, and a ^cLord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

48 Then the king made Daniel a ^agreat man, and (he) gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise *men* of Babylon.
49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he ^aset Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel ^bsat in the gate of the king. (Remained at the king's court)

(The purpose for this unveiling of the history of the world so that the honest in heart might be looking forward to its establishment, and numerous good men and women, knowing of the revelations of God and the prospects for the future, have looked forward to this day. President Spencer W. Kimball, CR April 1976, p. 10)

THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS SECTION 65

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Hiram, Ohio, October 1831. HC 1: 218. The Prophet designates this revelation as a prayer.

1—2, Keys of the kingdom of God are committed to man on earth, and the gospel cause shall triumph; 3—6, The millennial kingdom of heaven shall come and join the kingdom of God on earth. (This revelation refers to the prophecy of Daniel that the God of heaven will set up his kingdom again upon the earth in the last days and announces that the fulfillment of that prophecy has commenced in the restoration of the gospel. Speaking of himself, the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "I calculate to be one of the instruments of setting up the kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord, and I intend to lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 366). This section is also an important commentary on Matthew 6:10, wherein the Savior prayed, as part of the Lord's Prayer, that the kingdom of his Father, or "the kingdom of heaven," as it is here described, might be established on the earth. Thus the Prophet's prayer and the Lord's Prayer become one. Revelations of the Restoration, p. 472.)

1 HEARKEN, and lo, a voice as of one (Joseph Smith) sent down from on high, who is mighty and powerful, whose going forth is unto the ends of the earth, yea, whose voice is unto men—^aPrepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (The only message that can prepare men for the coming of Christ is the gospel of Jesus Christ.)

2 The ^akeys of the ^bkingdom of God (The keys of the kingdom were committed to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the spring of 1829 by Peter, James, and John, who received them at the hands of the Lord himself (D&C 27:12-13; 128:20-21). Revelations of the Restoration, p. 475) are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the ^cgospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the ^dstone which is cut out of the mountain (The stone cut out of the mountain is the latter-day kingdom of God as it was restored by the Prophet Joseph Smith. As to how the stone is to fill the whole earth. Orson Pratt observed that the fulfillment of the prophecy would not come through the use of weapons of warfare, for the "kingdom or stone cut out of the mountain without hands is a power superior to that of carnal weapons-the power of truth, for the kingdom of God cannot be organized on the earth without truth being sent down from heaven, without authority being given from the Most High; without men again being called to the holy Priesthood and Apostleship, and sent forth to publish the truth in its naked simplicity and plainness to the inhabitants of the earth. This truth will be the weapon of warfare, this authority and power sent down from heaven will go forth and will proclaim the message of the everlasting Gospel, the Gospel of the latter-day kingdom, publishing it first among the nations that compose the feet and toes of the great image. Will they be broken to pieces? Yes, when this message is published to them. When they are sufficiently warned, when the servants of God have gone forth in obedience to his commandments, and published in their towns, villages, cities, States and governments these sacred and holy principles that God Almighty has sent down from heaven in the latter times, it will leave all people, nations and tongues that hear the Gospel, and the principles and message pertaining to that kingdom, without any excuse. It will be a warning that will be everlasting on the one hand, or on the other, either to the bringing of the people to repentance, reformation and obedience to the Gospel of the kingdom, or the judgments which are predicted in this prophecy of Daniel will be poured out upon the heads of those nations and kingdoms, and they will become like the chaff of the summer threshing floor, even all those kingdoms that compose the great image; for be it known that the remnants of the Babylonish kingdom, represented by the head of gold, still exist in Asia: the remnants of the silver kingdom, of the brass kingdom, and the kingdom of iron still have their existence; but when the Lord Almighty shall fulfil this prophecy, the toes and feet and legs of iron of that great image, or all these kingdoms, will be broken in pieces, and they will become like the chaff of the summer threshing floor; the wind will carry them away and no place will be found for them" (Journal of Discourses, 15:72). Revelations of the Restoration, p. 475-76) without hands (The expression "without hands," as found in the prophecy of Daniel, is intended to emphasize that the kingdom to be established in the last days will come by divine agency, not by the councils of men. It is to rest upon a new revelation, not upon the wisdom of ecumenical councils. Revelations of the Restoration, p. 476) shall roll forth, until it has ^efilled the whole earth. (This verse announces that Daniel's prophecy of the establishment of God's kingdom in the last days is about to be fulfilled in the restoration of the gospel through Joseph Smith. This kingdom, the prophecy holds, is destined to "break in pieces and consume all" earthly kingdoms and "stand forever." Surely this would have seemed an awesome thing to the then-infant Church struggling for survival in Kirtland, Ohio, and Jackson County,

Missouri. It will be recalled that Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, in the second year of his reign "dreamed dreams" that greatly troubled him. His diviners could not tell him the dreams or interpret them for him (Daniel 2:5a). Angry, Nebuchadnezzar ordered that they be cut into pieces and their houses made into dunghills. Upon learning this, Daniel asked the king to give him time before he sought to give the interpretation. He then united in importuning the heavens with his companions (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed- nego) and had the secret revealed to him in a night vision. Daniel then sought audience with the king, where he first rehearsed the particulars of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and then gave its interpretation. That which the king had seen was "a great image" with a head of fine gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay. Then he saw a stone "cut out without hands" "which smote the image upon his feet," breaking them into pieces. "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." "Thou art this head of gold," Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar, "and after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." Then was to come a fourth kingdom with the strength of iron: that kingdom would be divided and the iron would be mixed with clay. "And in the days of these kings," Daniel explained, "shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. For as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure" (Daniel 2:1, 44-45). By interpretation, we would understand that the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, which bore rule over all the earth, was the head of gold. Orson Pratt said, "After thee shall come another kingdom represented by the breast and the arms of silver.' That is the Medo-Persian kingdom. After that another kingdom still inferior, called the kingdom of brass, forasmuch as gold is better than silver, silver more precious than brass, so these kingdoms that were to arise, to succeed each other, were to be inferior as time should pass along. The third kingdom, of brass, represented the Macedonian empire; then after that another kingdom, great and terrible, whose legs were of iron, strong and powerful. The fourth kingdom bore rule over the earth; that is admitted, by all commentators, to be the great Roman Empire, and by the division of the Roman empire into two divisions, representing the legs, and afterwards into the feet and toes.... The present modern kingdoms of Europe that have grown out from the Roman empire represent the last vestiges of that great and powerful empire of Rome; that is, it fills up and makes the image complete'' (Journal of Discourses, 15:71). **Revelations of the Restoration**, p. 473-75)

3 Yea, a voice crying—^aPrepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the ^bsupper of the Lamb, make ready for the ^cBridegroom. (This imagery is that of the New Testament (Matthew 22:2; Revelation 19:9). Christ is both Lamb and Bridegroom; the bride is his Church, for whom the time of his coming will be a time of celebration. Missionaries now encompass the earth issuing the invitation to attend the marriage feast and rejoice with the King's Son. Those who clothe themselves in the robes of righteousness, or the wedding garment, will be accorded that privilege (Matthew 22:11-14). Revelations of the Restoration, p. 476)

4 Pray unto the Lord, ^acall upon his holy name, make known his wonderful ^bworks among the people. 5 Call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall ^acome down in heaven, ^bclothed in the brightness of his ^cglory, to meet the ^dkingdom of God which is set up on the earth. (When Christ returns, everything will be ready for his return.)

6 Wherefore, may the ^akingdom of God go forth, that the ^bkingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, mayest be ^cglorified in heaven so on earth, that thine ^denemies may be subdued; for ^ethine is the

honor, power and glory, forever and ever (It would be from this verse that the section obtains its name "the prayer." Here, the Prophet addresses the heavens with the plea that the stone seen by Daniel (meaning the kingdom of God) will go forth and fill the whole earth, that the day of the millennial kingdom (spoken of here as the kingdom of heaven) might come. Revelations of the Restoration, p. 476). Amen.

How is the kingdom of God to break in pieces the other kingdoms? Consider the experience of Brigham Young when he said: "If all the talent, tact, wisdom and refinement of the world had been sent to me with the Book of Mormon and had declared in the most exalted of earthly eloquence the truth of it, undertaking to prove it by learning and worldly wisdom, they would have been to me like the smoke which arises, only to vanish away. But when I saw a man without eloquence, or talents for public speaking, who could only say, 'I know, by the power of the Holy Ghost, that the Book of Mormon is true, that Joseph Smith is a Prophet of the Lord,' the Holy Ghost proceeding from that individual illuminated my understanding, and light, glory, and immortality were before me. I was encircled by them, filled with them, and I knew for myself that the testimony of the man was true. My own judgment, natural endowments, and education bowed to this simple, but mighty testimony. There sits the man who baptized me, (brother Eleazer Miller.) It filled my system with light, and my soul with joy. The world, with all its wisdom and power, and with all the glory and gilded show of its kings or potentates, sinks into perfect insignificance, compared with the simple, unadorned testimony of the servant of God." Brigham Young, in JD 8:228.

Our missionaries are going forth to different nations, and in Germany, Palestine, New Holland, Australia, the East Indies, and other places, the Standard of Truth has been erected; no unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done. Joseph Smith, Wentworth Letter, March 1, 1842.)

BIBLE MAPS THE NEW BABYLONIAN EMPIRE (NEBUCHADNEZZAR) AND THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT



BIBLE MAPS THE PERSIAN EMPIRE



MACEDONIAN EMPIRE 357BC - 168BC



BIBLE MAPS THE ROMAN EMPIRE





The Roman Empire split into two divisions (the figure's legs) around 285AD. The Western Empire lasted until 476AD and the Eastern Empire until around 1453AD.



The Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) about 550AD at its largest.

Map of Europe

Current Day



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