



# Quiz

Q1. How many languages were used to write the book of Daniel?

Q2. How is the book of Daniel arranged and what theological center emerges from the structure of the book?

Q3. What was the theological center of chapter 1 when we look at the structure of the chapter?

# Why study the book of Daniel and Revelation?

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are **better understood**, believers **will have an entirely different** religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that **heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop** in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.

The Lord **will bless** all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly **receive the blessing** to those “that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” Revelation 1:3. (TM 114)

# Daniel 2

# Why prophecy?

Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord God **does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret** to His servants the prophets.”

John 14:29 “And now I have told you before it comes, **that when it does come to pass, you may believe.**”

Isaiah 46:9-10 “Remember the former things of old, **For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’**”

# Two types of prophecy

- Classical prophecy – speaks God’s message into prophet’s present crisis.
  - Focuses on Israel, Judah, or surrounding nations.
  - Often delivered as sermons, warnings, or appeals.
  - Mostly direct language.
  - Frequently conditional.
- Apocalyptic prophecy – reveals the larger course of history leading to God’s final victory.
  - Focuses on kingdoms, world powers, and the cosmic conflict.
  - Often received through dreams and visions.
  - Highly symbolic imagery.
  - God’s foreknowledge of the future.

# Not always clear cut...

- Joel for example:
  - Addressed Judah's immediate crisis (locusts, drought, and economic devastation) and called people to repent.
  - Looks forward to the final Day of the Lord.
  - Describes cosmic signs and worldwide judgment.
  - Promises final deliverance and God's presence.
- Other prophets also have apocalyptic features:
  - Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah, Malachi, Haggai, Jeremiah, Zechariah

# Why Daniel (and Revelation)?

- Jerusalem had fallen.
- The temple had been destroyed.
- The Davidic king has been removed.
- God's people are ruled by a pagan empire.
- God's promises appear to have failed.

# Analyze

Dan 2:1 Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and **his spirit was so troubled** that his sleep left him.

What was happening at this point in Nebuchadnezzar's life?

Why do you think he was so troubled?

What does the Scripture say he was doing before he went to sleep?

# Analyze

Dan 2:29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about **what would come to pass after this**; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

What this is telling us is that:

- God can use something we are longing for to get our attention.
- God even wants to save a heathen king – one of the cruel enemies of God's people.
- God has a greater goal than we may think – captivity could allow for something Israel failed to do, i.e., global evangelism.

# Analyze

Dan 2:2 Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

Dan 2:3 And the king said to them, “I have had a dream, and my spirit is **anxious to know the dream.**”

Dan 2:4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! **Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.**”

# Analyze

Nkjv Dan 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “**My decision is firm:** if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.

Kjv Dan 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, **The thing is gone from me:** if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Why the difference?

# Analyze

The three dialogues between the king and the Chaldeans ends with:

Dan 2:10 The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, “**There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter;** therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean.

Dan 2:11 It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and **there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”**

What is the point here?

# Structure

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's crisis (1-13)
- B. Daniel and his friends seek God (14-23)
- C. Daniel witnesses before the king (24-30)
- D. DREAM: kingdoms destroyed by God's kingdom (31-35)
- D'. INTERPRETATION: kingdoms replaced by God's kingdom (36-45)
- C'. King acknowledges Daniel's God (46-47)
- B'. Daniel and friends elevated (48-49)

# Daniel's leadership

Dan 2:14 Then with counsel and wisdom **Daniel answered Arioch**, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;

Dan 2:15 **he answered and said to Arioch** the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.

Dan 2:16 So **Daniel went in and asked** the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

Dan 2:17 **Then Daniel** went to his house, and **made the decision known** to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

# What do we learn about God?

Dan 2:20 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.

Dan 2:21 And **He changes** the times and the seasons; **He removes** kings and raises up kings; **He gives** wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

Dan 2:22 **He reveals** deep and secret things; **He knows** what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

What can we learn about God here?

# Daniel's humbleness

Dan 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “**Are you able** to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?”

Dan 2:27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers **cannot declare to the king.**

Dan 2:28 **But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets,** and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

# The Dream

Dan 2:31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

Dan 2:32 This image’s **head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,**

Dan 2:33 **its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.**

Dan 2:34 You watched while **a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet** of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And **the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**



# The Interpretation

Dan 2:37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For **the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;**

Dan 2:38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, **He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all**—you are this head of gold.

Dan 2:39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

Dan 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

# The Interpretation

Dan 2:41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided**; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be **partly strong and partly fragile**.

Dan 2:43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, **they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another**, just as iron does not mix with clay.

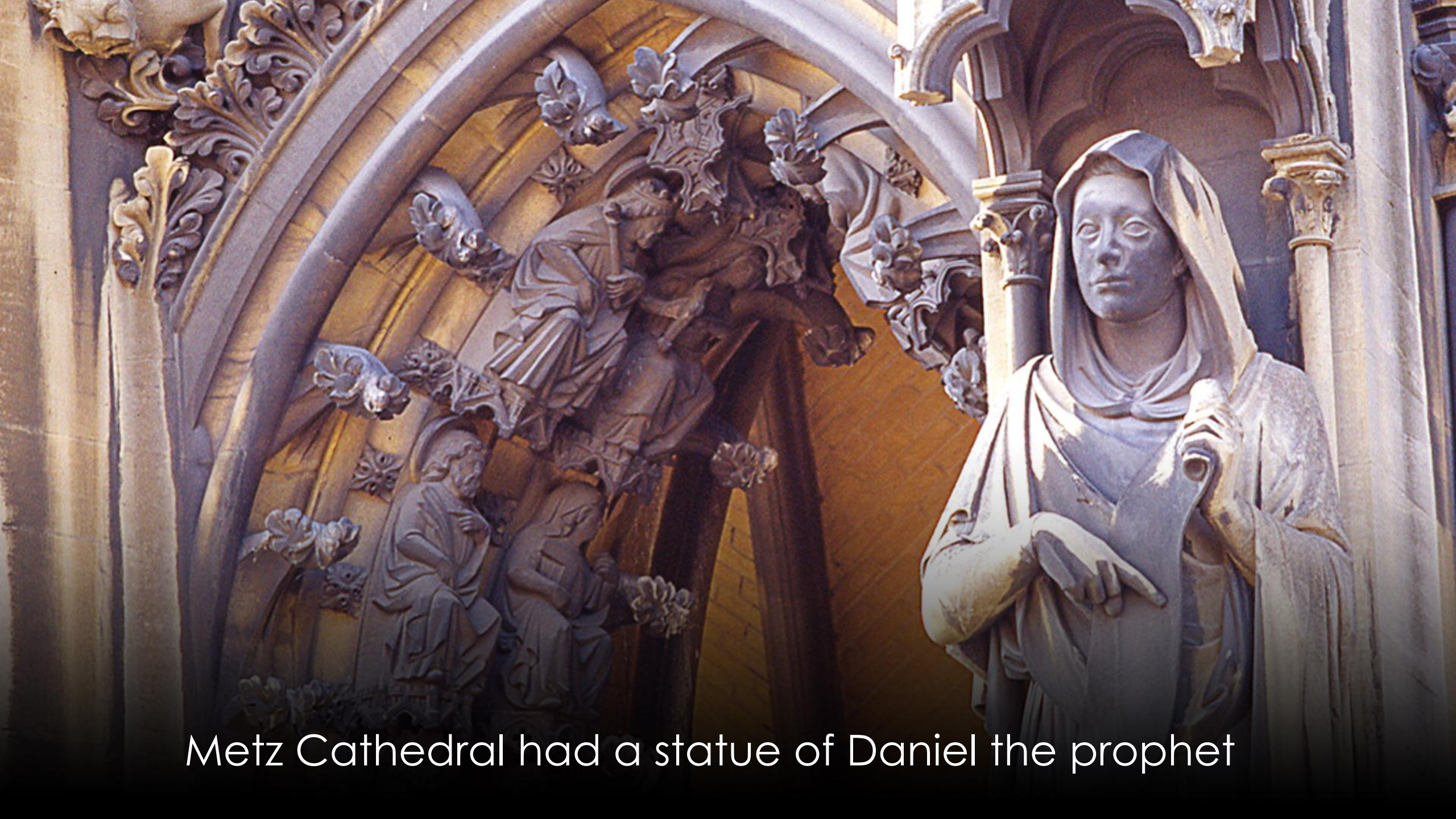


Kaiser Willhelm:

“Daniel’s prophecy does not fit with my plans. I can’t accept that. Where Charlemagne and others have failed, I will succeed.



Metz Cathedral (France)



Metz Cathedral had a statue of Daniel the prophet



WILLIAM  
THE PROPHET  
DANIEL  
WEST POINT  
THE CATHEDRAL  
METZ  
with great  
May 14

“Remove Daniel’s head and  
replace it with mine.”  
(Kaiser Wilhelm 11)



With an army of 5 million,  
Hitler promised to do what  
Kaiser couldn't. He promised  
to unite Europe and build an  
Empire that would last for a  
thousand years.

# What about the clay?

Dan 2:41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, **partly of potter's clay and partly of iron**, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

Isa 64:8 But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

Jer 18:6 “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the Lord. “Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!

# Symbolism can be deep

**... The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay.** This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God's forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves (MS 63, 1899).

# The Interpretation

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven **will set up a kingdom** which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Dan 2:34 You watched while **a stone was cut out without hands**, which struck the image **on its feet** of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

Dan 2:35 ... And **the stone** that struck the image **became a great mountain and filled the whole earth**.

# The Result

Dan 2:46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

Dan 2:47 The king answered Daniel, and said, **“Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”**

Dan 2:48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he **made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon**, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.



## Discuss!

What in Daniel 2 gives you confidence about God?

What part of your future do you find hardest to trust Him with?

If you really believe that everything else will pass away and God's kingdom alone remains, how might you live differently from now on?