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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Exiled Prophet, Part 3: The Kingdoms of This World (Daniel 2)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Nebuchadnezzar demands that his wise men reveal both his troubling dream and its interpretation. When they cannot, he orders their deaths. Daniel responds with prudence, obtains time, and asks his companions to seek God's mercy concerning the mystery.

God reveals the dream in a night vision. Daniel praises him as the source of wisdom and the one who establishes and removes kings. Before Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel gives God the credit rather than claiming exceptional ability or seeking personal honor.

The dream depicts a great image made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay. A stone cut without human hands strikes its feet and destroys the whole image. The stone becomes a mountain that fills the earth, replacing what appeared powerful and permanent.

Daniel identifies Nebuchadnezzar as the head of gold. The teaching relates the following kingdoms to Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. It also sees the image as representing their shared idolatrous religious character, which it argues has not yet entirely disappeared.

The stone is connected with acceptable worship, God's law, and Yeshua as the cornerstone. In the teaching's interpretation, God's righteous kingdom under Messiah will replace the world's wicked religious systems. Its authority and endurance exceed every human kingdom.

Nebuchadnezzar honors Daniel and acknowledges God as the revealer of mysteries. Daniel also obtains positions for his companions. The applications emphasize honest, respectful faithfulness without flattery and confidence that God remains sovereign over every worldly power.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The king demands both the dream and its interpretation.
- Daniel responds to danger with prudence and prayer.
- His companions join in seeking God's mercy.
- God reveals the mystery through a night vision.
- Daniel credits God rather than his own wisdom.
- The image's metals portray successive kingdoms.
- The teaching also interprets the image in terms of idolatrous religion.
- A stone cut without human hands destroys the image.
- The stone is connected with God's righteous ways and Messiah.
- The applications emphasize integrity and trust in God's lasting kingdom.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The king with the troubling dream is _____.
2. Daniel and his companions seek _____ from the God of heaven.
3. God reveals the mystery in a vision of the _____.
4. The image's head is made of _____.
5. The image's feet combine iron and _____.
6. The stone grows into a great _____ filling the earth.

Challenging

1. The captain of the king's guard is _____.
2. The image's chest and arms are made of _____.
3. Its middle and thighs are made of _____.
4. Its legs are made of _____.
5. The stone is cut without human _____.
6. The teaching identifies Yeshua as the rejected stone that becomes the _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does the king insist that his wise men identify the dream as well as interpret it?
2. How do Daniel's respectful conduct and reliance on God work together in this crisis?
3. Why does Daniel repeatedly give God the credit for revealing the mystery?
4. How does the teaching connect the image's political and religious significance?
5. What scriptural connections does the teaching use to explain the stone?
6. How do Daniel's integrity and the promise of God's kingdom challenge fear of earthly power?

ANSWER KEY - GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Nebuchadnezzar
2. mercy
3. night
4. gold
5. clay
6. mountain

Challenging

1. Arioch
2. silver
3. bronze
4. iron
5. hands
6. cornerstone