

# Daniel

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Originally written in 2014

## Chapter Two

### Dan 2:1-3

*Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. (2) Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. (3) The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream."*

Chapter one informs us that God gave Daniel wisdom beyond that of the Babylonians, influence beyond that of any in the kingdom, and health resulting in long life. It is important to remember that he is still only 18 or 19 years old and he and his friends would be very young members of the court of wise men. The second year of his reign would have been between April 603 and March 602 B.C. The dream was so disturbing to him that he was desperate to have someone interpret it for him. The phrasing of verse one indicates that this may have been a repeating dream resulting in his spirit being very troubled. God is directly interacting with a Gentile ruler. Today God usually communicates with His children through the Bible with the Holy Spirit giving guidance along with spiritual leaders in the church. But one should be very careful in thinking that God is communicating today via dreams. The human subconscious can produce dreams that may have nothing to do with God's will. Also Jer 23:25-32 indicates that demonic forces can cause dreams that are Satan's lies and without any connection to God's truth. Specifically we read of false interpretations: Jer 23:32 *"Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the LORD, "and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD.*

He gave orders to four categories of people: magicians, conjurers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans. The Chaldeans were astrologers and the word used, *kasdim*, hints at the use of the dead in their interpretations. Originally the term was used for the rulers of the Chaldean (Babylonian) Empire, including Nebuchadnezzar. However here it is used for these soothsayer priests.

### Dan 2:4-6

*Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation." (5) The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap. (6) "But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation."*

The Chaldeans became the spokespersons from the group to the king and they spoke to him in Aramaic. The Hebrew language had been used from 1:1 – 2:3 but now changes to Aramaic. Perhaps some of them did not know Neo-Babylonian and Aramaic was the accepted language used all over the Middle and Near East for international business and diplomacy. The book of Daniel continues to use Aramaic from 2:4 through the end of chapter 7 and then it shifts to Hebrew because of the emphasis on the future of the Jews. Since God will be revealing His kingdom that will rule the world, He uses the accepted language of the world. The respectful salutation, “live forever” was typically used to address sovereigns by the sixth century.

The Chaldeans had a reasonable request of the king that he would first tell them the dream so that they could study it and develop an interpretation. However the king refused their request and made it clear to them that his command was firm. This approach was unheard of and would have been a great mystery to the interpreters. Some interpreters state that the king had forgotten his dream but that is not a proper understanding of the text. He probably reasoned that if their gods were giving them the interpretation they would have no problem knowing the content of the dream but, if the gods were not involved, then knowing the dream would be a problem. The king was not interested in some intellectual speculation but in a supernatural understanding. The king then made a severe threat to all of them, not only the Chaldeans. If they could not tell him the substance of the dream and its interpretation then he would have them torn apart and their estates turned into rubbish heaps. Thus not only would they be terribly killed, their relatives would have no inheritance. He probably was stating such a strong threat because if they could not meet this demand then perhaps they had always been charlatans and were only deserving of being totally cut off from his court. If they were able to meet his demand then he would give them great rewards. It would be interesting to be able to hear their conversations with each other after this event!

### **Dan 2:7-13**

*They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation." (8) The king replied, "I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me is firm, (9) that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation." (10) The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean. (11) "Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh." (12) Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. (13) So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them.*

After some discussions among themselves, they came back to the king to ask him to tell them the dream so they could determine an interpretation. The king saw through their attempt to gain some time as they saw that he was not going to back away from his command or the resulting penalty of not being able to meet his command. Daniel even gives us some of the background

discussion among the wise men as the king surmised that they had agreed to speak lying and corrupt words to the king until the king would hopefully realize that his demand was unreasonable. The king then repeated his command that they tell him the dream so that he could determine that their interpretation was genuine. The Chaldeans then responded that no other king had ever made such a request of his wise men and that such a request was totally unreasonable. They then actually revealed that they did not have an audience with any god since only a god who did not live with mortal flesh could meet the king's demand. God would later say through Amos: Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets." God's plan was to reveal this to Daniel. Their answer only further enraged the king as he then declared that all the wise men of Babylon would be killed and their estates destroyed. This command would also include the fate of Daniel and his three friends.

### **Dan 2:14-16**

*Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon; (15) he said to Arioch, the king's commander, "For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. (16) So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.*

Arioch was the captain of the king's bodyguard and the chief executioner. He had proceeded to round up all the wise men for their execution. Daniel was "low man on the totem pole" and was not aware of this situation even though he was one of the wise men who were about to be executed. Daniel asked Arioch to please explain the situation to him and he told Daniel what had happened. Evidently the relationship Daniel had built with Arioch paid dividends for he was allowed to have an audience with the king to request time that he might spend with his God to answer the command of the king. He had spent three years in the special education program and evidently had built up considerable favor with Arioch. Nebuchadnezzar probably remembered that the four Hebrews had been exceptional students and demonstrated outstanding physical attributes.

This act of Daniel was an astounding act of faith especially for such a young person. Jewish youth were well educated in their religion having attended schools where they would have learned of prophets to their people. They would have also known about Joseph and his interpretation of the dreams, about the chief butler and chief cupbearer of Pharaoh, and about the important dream of Pharaoh. We will read later that Daniel even spoke to the king as Joseph had spoken to Pharaoh as he gave full glory to God. There is an important difference in the dreams for Pharaoh did tell the dream to Joseph. Probably because Daniel had no prior history of being a companion of the other wise men and that Arioch vouched for him, the king did give Daniel the extra time. God is teaching us the importance of respect for authority and the value of patience in dealing with hard situations.

### **Dan 2:17-23**

*Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, (18) so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the*

*rest of the wise men of Babylon. (19) Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; (20) Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. (21) "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. (22) "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. (23) To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter."*

God is now teaching us the power of prayer! Also note that he went to his prayer partners. Daniel immediately went to his house to tell his three friends what was happening and that their fate depended upon God revealing this dream to them. They showed great faith in their total dependence upon God. They knew that whether or not God revealed the dream to them, He was still their God and, just like Jesus would demonstrate hundreds of years later, they wanted only His will to be done. God did reveal the substance of the dream to Daniel in a night vision. Daniel then did what each of us should do after praying to God: we praise Him! Daniel acknowledged that God is the source of wisdom and power so he begins his praise of God with adoration. Babylon at this time was the seat of great earthly wisdom and the Jews had been brought there to be schooled in that wisdom. However we will see that only God's wisdom can reveal the mystery of this dream.

The second attribute of God that Daniel acknowledged was His sovereignty as stated in verse 21. He then states that He reveals profound and hidden things and that He knows what is in the darkness and that light dwells with Him. We know that the spiritual things can only be understood by those whom God grants spiritual existence: *"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."* (1Cor 2:14 ). Daniel gave thanks and praise as should we even if we don't receive from Him what we thought we wanted. He acknowledged that He is God of his fathers, meaning God from before the beginning. God had caused His people to be vanquished from their land and taken into bondage in a foreign land after allowing the temple to be burned. But He was still sovereign!

#### **Dan 2:24-25**

*Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and spoke to him as follows: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king." (25) Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!"*

Daniel then reported to the person directly over him in authority and asked him to not destroy the wise men but to take him into the presence of the king so that he could tell the king the interpretation of the dream. Arioch then reported to the king that he had found a man from the exiles of Judah who could interpret the dream. Arioch had seen the king's anger and determination to execute the wise men since they could not do as he commanded so he hurried

Daniel into the king's presence. The desire of Arioch to take a measure of credit for what Daniel could do demonstrates his utmost confidence in the ability of Daniel to do what he said he would do. I will then consider that the taking of some credit by Arioch is a positive rather than a negative evaluation of him. Certainly Daniel would not be concerned with credit as long as God got the glory.

### **Dan 2:26-30**

*The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?" (27) Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. (28) "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. (29) "As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place. (30) "But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.*

The reply of the king does not seem to be an overwhelming endorsement of Daniel's ability but seems rather sarcastic. Perhaps the king thinks this is another ploy of the wise men to stall for time. Daniel then gave full credit to God as he told the king that no person would be able to reveal to the king both the dream and the interpretation. He let the king know that the full disclosure of the dream and its meaning could only be revealed by his God who is in heaven. Paul made a similar distinction between the wisdom of God and man:

- 1Cor 1:20 *Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?*
- 1Cor 1:25 *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

God could let the king know what would occur at the latter days, or the end of days, which is a common phrase to mean the time of the coming Messiah. This phrase occurs frequently in Scripture beginning with Gen 49:1 and continuing until 2 Peter 3:3. Jesus actually began the "latter days" with His death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven:

- Heb 1:1-2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
- 2Peter 3:3-7 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, (4) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." (5) For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, (6) through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

(7) But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Daniel then told the king when the vision had occurred to him and that God is the One who can reveal mysteries specifically about what will occur. Daniel is very clear to the king that this revelation is not due to any special merits of Daniel and the purpose is so that the king can understand the thoughts that God had given him.

#### **Dan 2:31-35**

*"You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. (32) "The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, (33) its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. (34) "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. (35) "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*

Daniel then proceeded to tell the king great details of his dream. God used the symbols of idolatry—the statue – since Babylon was the center of such heathen worship. The image was not intended to be worshipped but the king was worshipping such in Babylon. God showed the king the outward splendor of his kingdom. It would have been wonderful to see the king’s reaction to these details as he had not told anyone of them. God then showed the king the coming history of the Gentile rule of this world that will continue until Jesus comes again. Surely he must have realized that he was in the presence of a person who had such details revealed to him by God. Surely the dream must have been clearly envisioned again by the king as Daniel explained it. The huge statue had a head of gold, its breast and arms were of silver, its belly and thighs were of bronze, the legs were of iron and its feet were a strange combination of iron and clay. Daniel then described how a stone cut without hands came down and struck the statue on its feet and crushed them. Then all the remainder of the statue were simultaneously crushed and became like chaff on summer threshing floors. The wind then carried all the dust particles away so that not a trace of them could be found. Then the stone became a great mountain and filled the entire earth. As is common in OT prophecy, the mountain does not mean a literal mountain but is symbolic of a kingdom.

#### **Dan 2:36-38**

*"This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. (37) "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; (38) and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.*

Daniel begins the interpretation with the head rather than with the feet. This is a normal manner of relating origins in Hebrew as the word for head is the root word for “beginning”. The king

ruled with autonomy over life and death throughout the Babylonian Empire and so his government was as highly esteemed as gold. But Daniel made it clear to the king that his ruling was only because of the sovereignty of God for He gave all this authority to Nebuchadnezzar. The first of the kingdoms in the vision then was the Babylonian Empire. We are introduced to this Babylon in Gen 10:8-12 as the place where people banded together against God. Babylon has always been great as we read about the famous “hanging gardens”, which were one of the wonders of the world. But by now the empire had reached unmatched greatness under King Nebuchadnezzar. This king began his rule in 636 B.C. and he would rule for about 40 more years, until 562 or 560 B.C. His empire then only lasted for about 21 years after his death. His son Evil-Merodach (Amel-Marduk in Addadian) ruled for only two years (560-558 or 562-560). Neriglissar ruled for four years (560-556) and Labashi-Marduk for only one year (556). Nabonidus brought about a coup d’état in 555 and ruled until the empire fell to the Persians in 539 B.C. More about this kingdom is given in Jer 27:5-11. Jeremiah called Babylon “a gold cup in the Lord’s hand” (Jer 51:7).

### **Dan 2:39**

*"After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.*

The second kingdom was represented by silver in the vision and Daniel only said that it would be inferior to Nebuchadnezzar. This empire would be the Medo-Persia Empire that began with Cyrus the Great in 539 B.C. who died ten years later. This silver empire was sovereign in the area for about two centuries. The silver portion consists of the breast and the two arms. We will read in Dan 5:28 that the Babylonian Empire will be divided and given to the Medes and Persians. Daniel lived in both kingdoms and reports more about this second one in Dan 6:8. This kingdom lasted until 330 B.C.

The third empire was represented by bronze and was even less desirable from Nebuchadnezzar’s viewpoint. However it was the Greco-Macedonian Empire that was established by Alexander the Great who began his invasion of Persia in 334 and established the largest empire of ancient times, hence Daniel stated that it would rule over all the earth since this was the earth as known at the time. Alexander died in 323 and his kingdom was split into four smaller regions ruled by his former generals. This bronze kingdom lasted for 260-300 years.

### **Dan 2:40-43**

*"Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. (41) "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. (42) "As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. (43) "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.*

Daniel then described a fourth empire that was symbolized by legs of iron. The changes from gold to silver to bronze to iron represent decay in value and authority from a king's standpoint. But iron was the choice of war instruments because of its ability to crush other items. This would be the Roman Empire that reached its widest extent under the rule of Trajan (98-117 A.D.) and lasted until A.D. 475. Verse 41 states that it will be a divided kingdom and in fact the Roman Empire did split into western and eastern sections. Some people then count the toes and say that it split into ten sections that some even identify with the European Community but when that exceeded ten people it was dropped as an interpretation. Also this splitting occurred after the birth of Jesus Christ and the continuity of the dream dismisses such a continual splitting. The point of the vision is that the Kingdom of God will happen and that the kingdoms of the world will be scattered before it so that is the understanding we are to take from this interpretation. Today we live in the last attempt at Satan to reestablish the Babylonian Empire. Satan has worked through several leaders including Hitler but those actions have failed. He will continue to attempt his reconstruction of the Babylonian Empire until the Lord comes again. We read in the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation about the total collapse of the Babylonian system that spread to the entire world. Then we read in the last few chapters of Revelation about the New Heavens, Earth, and Jerusalem. We can relax knowing that God is sovereign and His New World will be established.

The mixture of iron with clay is strange and represents a combination of strength and weakness. The weakness could be based upon a socialistic structure based upon relativism in morality and philosophy. Verse 43 indicates a weakness leading to disunity and class structure that would result in the inability of the government to achieve an integrated world-order. Rome was destroyed from within due to the inferior structure. It seems that this situation also describes the current state of affairs of the USA. It seems that most advanced societies become morally and spiritually weaker as they become stronger physically. That was seen in the four advancing empires of the dream and is true today. The statue was extremely top-heavy and the bottom was made of such weakness that its destruction was certain. We have seen many "empires" develop and fall in the past 2600 years or so since the time of Daniel and certainly there will be others rise and fall.

#### **Dan 2:44-45**

*"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. (45) "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."*

Daniel then states that even in the days of all those other kings, God will establish a kingdom that will never be destroyed. Remember in the statement of the dream that a stone cut without hands from a mountain rolls down and smashes against the brittle feet of the great image and topples it over. Then it reduces the gold, silver, and bronze to dust and the wind blows it all away so it is as though they never existed. The stone then became a great mountain and filled the entire earth. A mountain in scripture is symbolic for a kingdom so Daniel is stating that the kingdom of God has been being established for a long time and it will eventually tear away all other



kingdoms (refer to chapter 18 of Revelation regarding the destruction of the Babylonian system of government and society) and rule over creation (read the last few chapters of Revelation). This stone is the Lord Jesus Christ and He must be the foundation (Luke 6:48-49; 14:29; Eph 2:20-22; 1 Tim 6:19; 2 Tim 2:19). Jesus has been ruling ever since His ascension:

- 1Cor 3:11-13 *For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, (13) each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.*
- Act 2:33 *"Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.*
- Rom 8:34 *who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*
- Eph 1:20-23 *which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (22) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Perhaps Paul was referring to this succession of kingdoms in the 1 Cor 3:11-13 verse above. Scripture is very clear that Jesus is ruling and has been ruling in His Kingdom for about 2000 years. There is no need to speculate on what other kingdoms might come for the tsunami of His Kingdom started 2000 years ago and is coming at us with the speed of God when it will be completely established.

#### **Dan 2:46-47**

*Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. (47) The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."*

The king then recognized that he had been in the presence of a man of God who gave him the dream and its interpretation so he then fell on his face before Daniel giving him proper recognition. This event then guided Nebuchadnezzar to proclaim that Daniel's God is God of gods, a ruler of kings, and a revealer of mysteries. The king's response does not mean that he was converted or even that he dismissed the idea of other gods but it is recognition of the superior nature of God. This adoration of Daniel let the court know that Daniel and his friends were superior to the other wise men and his actions saved their lives also.

#### **Dan 2:48-49**

*Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. (49) And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court.*

King Nebuchadnezzar then made Daniel the one in charge of all the wise men of Babylon and ruler (chief of appointed officials) over the entire Babylon province. This title was civil governor of the entire capital province and so a post of great political power. He also fulfilled his original promise regarding gifts for anyone who would state the dream and give an interpretation. Daniel did not forget his three friends and the king also appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to administrative posts. This award for Daniel was a great honor and similar to that given to Joseph in Egypt:

*Gen 41:39-43 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. (40) "You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." (41) Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." (42) Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. (43) He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt.*

It is an appropriate reaction of Nebuchadnezzar to this revelation of the sovereignty of God. In Psalm two, kings and people of the earth take stands against God but He reacts with the only reaction stated about God in the Bible: He laughs!

*Psalm 2:1-5 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? (2) The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, (3) "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" (4) He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. (5) Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, (6) "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."*

His kingdom has been installed and one day it will be evident to everyone.