EXEGETICAL NOTES: THE BOOK OF DANIEL

I. INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

A. Author: Daniel

1. Use of the First Person
   a. 7:2, 15, 28
   b. 8:1, 15, 27
   c. 9:2, 22
   d. 10:2, 7, 11, 12
   e. 12:5

2. Contemporary Evidence
   a. Ezekiel 14:14, 20
      (1) Date of revelation - Ezekiel 8:1
      (2) Fourteen years after Daniel taken into captivity
      (3) Eleven years after Daniel's elevation
   b. Ezekiel 28:3
      (1) Date of revelation - Ezekiel 26:1
      (2) Eighteen years after Daniel taken into captivity
      (3) Fifteen years after Daniel's elevation
   a. Matthew 24:15 - Specific mention of Daniel as a prophet
   b. Mark 13:14 - Citation of Daniel

4. The Name
   a. Meaning
      (1) "God is my judge" - If yod is first person singular
      (2) "God is judge" - If yod is a connective
   b. Other Uses of the Name
      (1) I Chronicles 3:1 - A son of David
      (2) Ezra 8:2 - A priest
      (3) Nehemiah 10:6 - Elder of Israel

B. Date: 605 - 536 B.C.
   1. From the first campaign against Jerusalem in the first/fourth year of Jehoiakim - 1:1
   2. Till the third year of Cyrus - 10:1
   3. A total period of 69 years
C. Place in the Canon

1. English Bible - Last of the Major Prophets
2. LXX - In the Prophets
3. Vulgate - In the Prophets
4. Josephus - In the Prophets
5. Masoretic Text - In the Writings
   a. Due to the fact that by occupation Daniel was officially a statesman and not a prophet
   b. Has nothing to do with date or authorship

D. Historical Background to Daniel's History and Prophecy

1. The Three Campaigns Against Judah
   a. 605: The First Campaign - Daniel deported (Daniel 1:1-7)
   b. 597: The Second Campaign - Ezekiel and 10,000 skilled workers deported
      (1) II Kings 24:11-16
      (2) Ezekiel 1:1-3
   c. 587/6: The Third Campaign - Jerusalem destroyed (By this time Daniel had been in Babylon for 19 years)
2. Babylonians Kings
   a. Nabopolassar - 626-605
   b. Nebuchadnezzar - 605-562
   d. Neriglissar (Nergal-Shar-Usur, Nergal-Sharezer of Jeremiah 39:3) - 560 - 556
   e. Labashi-Marduk (Laboroso Archad) - May-June 556 (Murdered by Nabonidus)
   f. Nabonidus - 556-539 (With Belshazzar as co-regent) - 553 - 539

3. Medo-Persian Kings
   a. Cyrus the Great - 539 - 530
      (1) Reigned over Persia alone as King of Anshan - Began in 559
      (2) Defeated Astyages King of the Medes - 550 - 549
         (a) Captured the capitol of Echbatana
         (b) United the two kingdoms
      (3) Took Lydia and King Croesus in 547
      (4) Attacked Babylon in 540 and took it in 539
   b. Cambyses - 530 - 522 (Suicide)
   c. Gautama or Bardiya or Pseudo-Smerdis - 522
   d. Darius I Hystaspes - 522 - 486 (Rise of Haggai and Zechariah)
e. Xerxes I (Ahasuerus) - 486 - 465/4
   (1) Turning point for Daniel's prophecies
   (2) Husband of Esther - 1:1
   (3) Murdered

f. Artaxerxes I Longimanus - 465/4 - 424/3 (Period of Nehemiah and Malachi)

g. Darius II Ochus - 424/3 - 404

h. Artaxerxes II Mnemon - 404 - 359/8 (Period of continuous rebellions)

i. Artaxerxes III Ochus - 359/8 - 338/7 (Murdered by Bagaos his vizier)

j. Arses - 338/7 - 336/5 (Murdered by Bagaos)

k. Darius III Codomanus - 336/5 - 331
   (1) Killed Bagaos
   (2) Defeated by Alexander the Great
4. The Hellenistic Kings

a. Alexander III the Great - 331 - 323

(1) Son of Philip II of Macedon born in 356
(2) Educated under Aristotle
(3) Became King of Macedonia in 336 and established Macedon's supremacy over Greece
(4) In 334 defeated the Persians at Granicus freeing the Greek cities of Asia Minor
(5) In 331 defeated Darius III at Issus and so enters Persia
(6) Same year defeats Persians at Arbela and then destroys the Persian capitol of Persopolis
(7) Dies in 323

b. The Ptolemies of Egypt

(1) Ptolemy I Soter - 323 - 285/4 (11:5)
(2) Ptolemy II Philadelphus - 285/4 - 246 (11:6)
(3) Ptolemy III Euergetes - 246 - 221 (11:7-9)
(4) Ptolemy IV Philopator - 221 - 224 (11:11-12)
(5) Ptolemy V Epiphanes - 204 - 181/0 (11:14-17)
(6) Ptolemy VI Philometor - 181/0 - 145 (11:25-27)
c. The Seleucids of Syria

(1) Seleucus I Nicator - 312 - 280 (11:5)

(2) Antiochus I Soter - 280 - 261/0

(3) Antiochus II Theos - 261/0 - 246/5 (11:6)

(4) Seleucus II Callinicus - 246/5 - 226/5 (11:7-9)

(5) Seleucus III Cereunus - 226/5 - 223 (11:10)

(6) Antiochus III the Great - 223 - 187/6 (11:10-19)

(7) Seleucus IV Philopator - 187/6 - 175 (11:20)

(8) Antiochus IV Epiphanes - 175 - 164 (11:21-35)
   (a) Expelled from Egypt - 168
   (b) Abomination of Desolation - 167

(9) Antiochus V Eupator - 164 - 162

(10) Demetrius I Soter - 162 - 150

(11) Alexander Balas - 150 - 145
E. Characteristics of the Book

1. Style - Apocalyptic

   a. \( \alpha ποκαλυψις \) - Unveiling of truth which would otherwise be concealed

   b. Definition - Apocalyptic literature is symbolic visionary prophetic literature composed during oppressive conditions consisting of visions whose events are recorded exactly as they were seen by the author and explained through a divine interpreter and whose theological content is primarily eschatological

   c. Ramifications of Definition

      (1) Contains supernatural and symbolic visions

      (2) Composed during periods of oppression

      (3) Presence of a divine interpreter, usually an angel, to explain the vision

      (4) The vision itself is recorded as it is seen by the author

      (5) Main theological content is eschatological

   d. Examples of Apocalyptic Literature

      (1) Old Testament

         (a) Ezekiel

         (b) Daniel

         (c) Zechariah

      (2) New Testament - Revelation
2. **Language**

   a. **Hebrew**

      (1) 1:1 - 2:3
      (2) 8:1 - 12:13

   b. **Aramaic** - 2:4 - 7:28

      (1) Ezra 4:8 - 6:18
      (2) Ezra 7:12-26
      (3) Jeremiah 10:11

   c. **Loan Words**

      (1) 21 Persian words
      (2) Three Greek words - All musical instruments
3. **Chronological Order** - Shows Daniel is developing a theme and not writing history
   
   a. Chapter One
   
   b. Chapter Two
   
   c. Chapter Three
   
   d. Chapter Four
   
   e. Chapter Seven
   
   f. Chapter Eight
   
   g. Chapter Five
   
   h. Chapter Nine
   
   i. Chapter Six
   
   j. Chapters 10-12

4. **The Miracles**
   
   a. One of Four Periods of Miracles
   
   b. The Others
      
      (1) Exodus and the Wilderness Wanderings
      
      (2) Elijah and Elisha
      
      (3) The Gospels and Acts
F. The Theology of Daniel

1. Bibliology
   a. Jeremiah seen as canonical
   b. The Book of Truth in Heaven of which the Bible is a partial revelation

2. Theology Proper
   a. God is sovereign
   b. God is loving
   c. God is righteous
   d. God is merciful
   e. God is omniscient
   f. God is omnipotent

3. Christology
   a. The First Coming dated - 9:24-27
   b. The Second Coming - Chapters 7 and 12

4. Angelology
   a. Angels of revelation
   b. Angels of deliverance
   c. Michael the Archangel
   d. Gabriel

5. Demonology - Chief prince of nations
6. Anthropology
   a. The Depravity of Man
   b. The Resurrection of the Body

7. Israelology - God's program for Israel during the Times of the Gentiles

8. Eschatology
   a. God's Plan for Israel
   b. God's Plan for the Nations
   c. The Great Tribulation
   d. The Antichrist
   e. The Seventy-Five Interval

G. The Purposes of the Book

1. How Jews should live in a Gentile world - Especially while still under the Law of Moses

2. To teach Gentiles the nature of Israel's God since by pagan standards Jehovah was a defeated God

3. Look out for the welfare of the Jews in Babylonian Captivity since Daniel would be there for the whole duration

4. To teach principles concerning the Remnant of Israel

H. Theme: The Times of the Gentiles
I. Outline

1. Based upon Content
   a. Chapters 1-6 - History
   b. Chapters 7-12
      (1) Prophecy
      (2) Visions given during history

2. Based upon Language
   a. Chapter One
      (1) Hebrew
      (2) Introduction: The personal history of the prophet
   b. Chapters Two Through Seven
      (1) Aramaic
      (2) The prophetic history of the Gentiles
      (3) Gentile language dealing with Gentiles with no mention of Israel until the close of chapter seven - "Saints"
   c. Chapters Eight Through Twelve
      (1) Hebrew
      (2) The prophetic history of Israel during the Times of the Gentiles
      (3) The deliverance of Israel during this period

3. Based on Specific Topics
II. INTRODUCTION: THE TRAINING OF DANIEL IN BABYLON - 1:1-21

A. The Historical Background - 1:1-7

1. The First Deportation - 1:1-2

a. The Siege - 1:1

(1) Date - Third year of Jehoiakim

(a) Jeremiah 25:1 - Fourth year of Jehoiakim

(b) Daniel uses Babylonian reckoning which begins with first full year and does not count year of succession

(c) Jeremiah uses Jewish reckoning in which part of a year counts for the whole year

(d) The comparison

i) Jewish

a) First year

b) Second year

c) Third year

d) Fourth year

ii) Babylonian

a) Year of Accession

b) First year

c) Second year

d) Third year

(e) The date - 605 B.C.
(2) Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon - Called "king" proleptically

(3) This is the first of three deportations
   (a) II Kings 24:1
   (b) II Chronicles 36:1

(4) Marks the beginning of the seventy years of captivity
   (a) Jeremiah 25:10
   (b) Jeremiah 29:10-14

(5) Two reasons
   (a) For the sabbatical rest of the Land - II Chronicles 36:21
   (b) For idolatry
      i) II Kings 21:1-15
      ii) II Chronicles 36:14-20
      iii) Jeremiah 44:20-23
      iv) They went into captivity into the center of idolatry itself but it never became a problem again
b. The Fall - 1:2

(1) Jehoiakim given into the hands of the Babylonians

(a) Lord - אֲדֹנָי

i) Main usage in Daniel – the form is plural

ii) יְהוָה will be used only in chapter nine

iii) Emphasized that it is God and not Nebuchadnezzar who is the master of the earth and His universe

(b) II Kings 24:1-2

(2) Part of the vessels given over to Nebuchadnezzar

(a) The first deportation - Part taken in 605

i) II Chronicles 36:7

ii) Daniel 1:2

(b) The second deportation - A more thorough spoiling of the Temple in 597 - II Kings 24:13

(c) The third deportation - The Temple destroyed and the rest of the vessels taken - II Kings 25:13-17

(d) Fulfillment of prophecy

i) II Kings 20:12-18

ii) Isaiah 39:1-8

(e) Later to prove fatal to Babylonian Kingdom - Chapter five
Exegetical Notes: Daniel

(f) Partly restored by Cyrus
   i) Ezra 1:7-11
   ii) Ezra 6:5

(3) Into the Land of Shinar
   (a) Babylonia
   (b) Center of world idolatry
   (c) Center of origins of rebellion against God
      i) Genesis 10:8-12
      ii) Genesis 11:1-4

(4) Into the treasure-house of his god - Marduk
   (a) Normally it would be images of gods that would be carried away
   (b) But Jehovah had no images and so it is His vessels that are taken into captivity
2. The Selection of Royal Children for Training - 1:3-7

a. The Selection - 1:3-4

(1) The choosing - 1:3

(a) The order to Ashpenaz the Master of the Eunuchs

i) Eunuchs - סָרִיס

ii) Could mean a high official - Genesis 37:36

iii) Normal meaning is one who is castrated - So that duties could be performed, without the interference of a marriage

iv) So those selected would also be castrated

(b) Limitations of those to be selected

i) The seed royal - Members of the House of David

a) In all probability Daniel at least and perhaps his three friends belonged to this group

b) At any rate - All four are castrated which is why Ashpenaz the Master of the Eunuchs would be in charge of them

c) The castration of the seed royal is a fulfillment of prophecy

(I) II Kings 20:18

(II) Isaiah 39:7

d) Thus viewed in Josephus – Antiquities 10:10:1
ii) The noble class - Because the three friends are often distinguished from Daniel, they may have been members of this class

iii) Israel - Name now applied to the southern kingdom

(2) The qualifications - 1:4a

(a) Youths - Probably aged between fifteen and twenty

(b) Physical qualities

i) No blemish - Physical defect

ii) Well-favored - Pleasant in appearance

(c) Mental qualities

i) Skillful in wisdom

a) Learning capability

b) Ability to make distinctions and proper decisions

ii) Endued with knowledge

a) דע - Individual bits of information

b) Knowledge attained

c) Intelligent knowing of knowledge

d) Quick mind
iii) Understanding science
   a) מַדָּע - Systematic body of knowledge
   b) Power of comprehension
   c) Able to learn well

(3) The purpose - 1:4b

(a) To stand in the king's palace
   i) To stand - To be given an official position
   ii) In this case to become the liaison between the government and the Jews - Administrators of Jewish Affairs

(b) To teach them the learning of Babylon
   i) Included science
   ii) Included all areas of the occult

(c) To learn the tongue of the Chaldeans
   i) The tongue: Aramaic - Something Daniel learned well and wrote six chapters in this language
   ii) Chaldeans - A term used in the two senses in Daniel
      a) Nationality of Babylon
      b) Class of wise men
(d) Other reasons based on secular history
   i) To serve as hostages
   ii) Presence will serve as a reminder of king's conquests

b. The Daily Rations - 1:5

(1) The food
   (a) A portion of the king's dainties - To eat of the same thing that the king ate
   (b) The royal wine

(2) Duration
   (a) To be nourished for three years
   (b) This marks the duration of training

(3) Goal
   (a) At the end of three years to stand before the king
   (b) This means to receive their position of service for the king
c. The New Names - 1:6-7

(1) The Jews selected - 1:6

(a) Daniel

i) דָּנִיֵּאל

ii) "God is my judge" - If yod is first person singular

iii) "God is judge" - If yod is a connective

(b) Hananiah

i) חֲנַנְיָה

ii) "Jehovah is gracious"

(c) Mishael

i) מִישָׁאֵל

ii) "Who is like God is?"

(d) Azariah

i) עֲזַרְיָה

ii) "Jehovah helps"

(e) Observations

i) Two names are based on Elohim - אֱל (El)

ii) Two names are based on YHVH - יה (Yah)

iii) Showed them to be products of a godly home
(2) The names selected - 1:7

(a) For Daniel

i) Belteshazzar

ii) בֵּלְטְשַׁאצַּר

a) "May Bel protect his life" OR

b) "Bel's prince"

c) Whitcomb – Lady [wife of Marduk], protect the king

(b) For Hananiah

i) Shadrach

ii) שַׁדְרַך

a) Hebrewized form of the Aramaic

Shudur - Aku

b) "Command of Aku" OR

c) "Inspired by Aku" (Sun god)

d) Whitcomb – I am very fearful (of God)
(c) For Mishael

i) Meshach

ii) מֵישַׁך

iii) "Who is what Aku is?" OR

iv) "Who is comparable to Shaiku" - Babylonian name for Venus

v) Whitcomb – I am of little account

(d) For Azariah

i) Abed-Nego

ii) עֲבֵד נְגָו

a) "Servant of Nebo" OR

b) "Servant of the shining one" OR

c) "Servant of the shining fire"
(e) Observations

i) Name given by the prince of eunuchs

ii) However given at Nebuchadnezzar's command - The power to name is to exercise authority over

a) Daniel 4:8

b) Daniel 5:12

iii) It may be due to the original names being connected with God and hence brought conviction - Otherwise why would he care?

iv) Nebuchadnezzar did have a knowledge of the true God for he knew about the predictions of Jeremiah concerning the fall of Jerusalem

a) Jeremiah 39:11-14

b) Jeremiah 40:1-6

v) To avoid the connection with Jehovah, Nebuchadnezzar gives them names connected with Babylonian gods

vi) This was common practice

a) Ezra 1:8 - Zerubbabel and Sheshbazzar

b) Esther 2:7 - Hadassah and Esther

vii) Among Christians, they are better known by their pagan Babylonian names than by their Jewish names
B. The Testing of Daniel and His Three Friends - 1:8-16

1. The Request to the Prince of Eunuchs - 1:8-10

a. Daniel's Commitment: Not to defile himself - 1:8

(1) The king's dainties

(a) Meat not kosher in accordance with the Mosaic Law

(b) Kosher meat not prepared in accordance with Mosaic Law

   i) Included fat

   ii) Included blood

(c) Meat sacrificed to idols - I Corinthians 10:20-21

(2) Wine

(a) Not forbidden under the Mosaic Law

(b) But part of sacrifice to idols

(c) Used as worship of Babylonian gods - Daniel 5:1-3

(3) Requested of the Prince of Eunuchs not to defile himself

b. Ashpenaz's Answer - 1:9-10

(1) Daniel's standing before Ashpenaz - 1:9

(a) Found kindness

(b) Found compassion
(2) Ashpenaz's refusal - 1:10

(a) Reason: Fear of the king

(b) If Daniel and his three friends look worse for wear, it would mean the execution of Ashpenaz

2. The Request to the Steward - 1:11-16

a. Daniel's Request - 1:11-13

(1) The steward - 1:11

(a) Appointed to work under the Prince of Eunuchs

(b) The one directly responsible for serving the food

(c) Does not directly answer to the king and so more willing

(2) The request - 1:12-13

(a) Give us a ten day test

(b) Give us only pulse to eat

   i) Food that grows out of the ground

   ii) That which grows from sown seed - Vegetable and grain

   iii) Under the Law there were no unclean vegetables

(c) Give us water to drink

(d) Then compare us with the others and so act accordingly

b. The Steward's Agreement - 1:14
c. The Results - 1:15-16

(1) They were better than the others - 1:15
   (a) They were fairer in appearance
   (b) They were fatter in flesh
   (c) Not because vegetables are better than meat but because obedience is better than disobedience

(2) Continuation of vegetarian diet - 1:16

C. The Blessing of Daniel and His Three Friends - 1:17-21

1. The Development of the Four - 1:17
   a. For All Four
      (1) Knowledge and skill
      (2) In learning and wisdom
   b. For Daniel
      (1) Given understanding in all visions and dreams
      (2) Sets the stage for the book

2. The Appointment to the King's Service - 1:18-20
   a. The Presentation Before Nebuchadnezzar - 1:18
      (1) At the end of days - Three years
      (2) Prince of Eunuchs responsible
b. The Appointment - 1:19

(1) King communed with them - Tested them

(2) Found to be superior to all others

(3) Therefore - They stood before the king: Were appointed to an office

c. Their Tenfold Superiority - 1:20

(1) Areas of superiority - In all areas they were tested by the king

   (a) Wisdom

   (b) Understanding

(2) Peoples superseded by them

   (a) Magicians

      i) Those who used the stylus

      ii) Those knowledgeable in sacred writing

   (b) Enchanters - The Ashlav Priests

3. Duration of Daniel's Career - 1:21

a. Until First Year of Cyrus - 539/8

b. Not that he ended on that year for he continued until the third year of Cyrus - 10:1

c. Point here is that he continued for the entire duration of the Babylonian Captivity

d. Similar to Jeremiah 1:1-3 though Jeremiah went beyond that
D. Lessons

1. There will always be a believing Remnant
2. The Remnant suffers the fate of the nation

A. The Demand of Nebuchadnezzar - 2:1-30


   a. The Troubled Dream - 2:1

      (1) The date - The second year of Nebuchadnezzar - 603 - 602

         (a) The comparison

            i) Daniel's training

               a) First year

               b) Second year

               c) Third year

            ii) Nebuchadnezzar's reign

               a) Year of Accession

               b) First year

               c) Second year - Year of dream
Chronology

i) May - June 605 - Babylonian victory at Carchemish

ii) June - August 605
   a) Fall of Jerusalem
   b) Daniel and his three friends taken captive

iii) September 7, 605 - Nebuchadnezzar made king

iv) September 7, 605 - To Nisan (March - April) 604
   a) Year of Accession
   b) First year of Daniel's training

v) Nisan 604 - Nisan 603
   a) First year of Nebuchadnezzar
   b) Second year of Daniel's training

vi) Nisan 603 - Nisan 602
   a) Second year of Nebuchadnezzar
   b) Third year of Daniel's training
   c) Year of dream

Dreamed dreams

(a) Plural - A number of dreams but one in particular

(b) Pluperfect: Had dreamed dreams - May imply that the dream took place before the end of the third year of training
(3) Spirit was troubled

(a) תִּתְפָּעֶם - Rapid beat of the heart due to extreme agitation

(b) Deep disturbance with induced apprehension

(4) Sleep went from him - Having slept he could sleep no more

b. The Demand of the Wise Men - 2:2-3

(1) The calling of the wise men - 2:2

(a) Categories of wise men

i) Magicians

a) חַרְטֻמִּים - Those who use the stylus

b) Learned in sacred writings

ii) Enchanters

a) אַשָּׁפִים - Those who practice incantation

b) The priest of Ashapu

c) Astrologers

iii) Sorcerers

a) מְכַשְּׁפִים - Those who practice sorcery

b) Magicians
iv) Chaldeans

a) כַּשְׂדִּים - Kasdim

b) Priesthood of a special class

c) These were wise men who were nationals

(b) To tell the king his dreams

i) Not the interpretation

ii) But the dream itself

(2) The demand - 2:3

(a) I have dreamed a dream

i) Singular

ii) One specific of the several dreams

(b) My spirit is troubled to know the dream

i) The dream itself

ii) The meaning of the dream
c. The Failure of the Wise Men - 2:4-11

(1) The Chaldean's first response - 2:4

(a) Chaldeans - Spokesman for the whole group

(b) In the Aramaic language - Only a note in text to warn of language change

(c) O king, live for ever

   i) Common in Daniel

      a) 3:9 - By Chaldeans

      b) 5:10 - By queen-mother

      c) 6:6 - By Satraps

      d) 6:21 - By Daniel

   ii) Elsewhere - Nehemiah 2:3

(d) Request for normal procedure

   i) You tell us the dream

   ii) We will tell you the interpretation
(2) The king's threat - 2:5-6

(a) Results of failure - 2:5

i) The thing is gone from me
   a) אַזְדָּא - The matter or thing is
certain with me or fully determined
   b) I am determined to carry out what
say
   c) The dream has not been forgotten

ii) Execution - They will be cut into pieces

iii) House shall be made a dunghill: Public
  outhouses - II Kings 10:27

(b) Results for success - 2:6

i) Gifts

ii) Rewards

iii) Great honor

iv) Therefore
   a) Show me the dream
   b) Tell me the interpretation

(3) The Chaldean's second response - Second request for
normal procedure - 2:7
(4) The king's suspicions concerning the wise men - 2:8-9

(a) The wise men are trying to gain time - 2:8

i) Because you know the thing is certain with me

   a) אַזְדָּא - I know the dream

   b) They know the king's mind is fully made up

ii) You would have me tell you the dream to gain time to avoid the decree

(b) The challenge to prove their veracity - 2:9

i) If you do not make known the dream - There is but one law for you - דָתְ

ii) For you have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me - There has been collusion between them

iii) Till the time be changed - Till things blow over

iv) Therefore

   a) Tell me the dream - And I shall know that ye can show me the interpretation

   b) I know what the dream is - If you can tell me what the dream was, then I can trust your interpretation
(5) The Chaldean's third response - 2:10-11

(a) This is an impossible request - 2:10a

(b) It has never been requested before - 2:10b

(c) No one is able to do this but the gods whose dwelling is not with flesh - 2:11

   i) It is a rare thing that the king requires

   ii) Polite way of saying that the demand is unreasonable

d. The Decree of the King - 2:12-13

(1) The command - All wise men to be destroyed - 2:12

(a) For this cause

   i) The failure of the wise men

   ii) The accusation of the wise men

(b) Disposition of the king

   i) Angry

   ii) Very furious

(2) The decree - 2:13

(a) To make command official

(b) Decree - דָּת

(c) Participles may imply that some were already being slain

(d) Among those arrested to be executed - Daniel and his friends
2. Daniel's Plea - 2:14-16
   
a. Daniel's Question - 2:14-15
      
(1) Manner
      
(a) Counsel
      
(b) Prudence
      
(2) Person
      
(a) Arioch - The Chief Executioner
      
(b) The one in charge of executing the wise men
      
(3) The question - Why is the decree so urgent from the king?
      
(4) Arioch explains all to Daniel
   
b. Daniel's Request - 2:16
      
(1) That the king would appoint him a time in which he would show the king the interpretation
      
(2) He is not asking for time but for a specific appointment
      
(3) He is certain God will reveal to him the whole matter
3. Daniel's Prayer - 2:17-23

a. The Petition - 2:17-18

(1) The problem made known to the three friends - 2:17

(2) Purpose of group prayer - 2:18

(a) Plead for the mercies of God

i) The mercies concern the knowledge of the dream

ii) The God of Heaven

a) Used primarily only in exilic and post-exilic books

(I) Ezra 1:2

(II) Ezra 6:10

(III) Ezra 7:12, 21

(IV) Nehemiah 1:5

(V) Nehemiah 2:4

b) Probably due to the departure of the Shechinah Glory to heaven prior to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple - Ezekiel 8:1 - 11:25

c) In contrast to Babylonian astrology

(b) Reason - So that Daniel and his friends should not perish with the rest of the wise men - May indicate that slaying had not yet begun
b. The Revelation - 2:19

(1) The secret revealed in a vision of the night - In contrast to a dream

(2) Daniel blessed the God of Heaven - In contrast to the stars

c. The Prayer of Praise - 2:20-23

(1) The omniscience and omnipotence of God - 2:20

(a) Blessed be the name of God forever and ever

(b) Reasons

   i) Wisdom is His - Omniscience

   ii) Might is His - Omnipotence

(c) Parallels

   i) I Chronicles 29:11

   ii) Job 12:13, 16

   iii) Psalm 113:1-2
(2) The sovereignty of God - 2:21

(a) He changes times and seasons

(b) He removes kings and sets up kings

(c) He gives wisdom to the wise

(d) He gives knowledge to those that have understanding

(e) Parallels
   i) I Chronicles 29:12
   ii) Job 12:18-21
   iii) Psalm 31:15
   iv) Psalm 75:6-7

(3) The God of revelation - 2:22

(a) He reveals the deep and secret things

(b) He knows what is in the darkness

(c) Light dwells with Him

(d) Parallels
   i) Job 12:22
   ii) Psalm 36:9
   iii) Psalm 139:12
(4) The praise of God - 2:23

(a) Thanksgiving to the God of the fathers

i) I thank You

a) "You" is in the emphatic position

b) You I thank

ii) I praise You

(b) For past blessing

i) Given me wisdom

ii) Given me might

(c) For present blessing

i) For answering prayer - Has made known unto me (Singular) what we (Plural) desire of You

ii) Made known unto us (Plural) the king's matter (through vision to Daniel)


a. The Message to Arioch - 2:24

(1) Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon - May indicate that the killing had not yet begun

(2) Bring me before the king, and I will declare the interpretation
b. The Presentation of Daniel by Arioch - 2:25

(1) Arioch brings Daniel in haste - May indicate that he did not savor the killing of the wise men of his country

(2) I have found a man of children of the captivity of Judah - I have found a Jew

(3) He will make known the interpretation to the king

c. Nebuchadnezzar's Inquiry - 2:26

(1) Can you make known the dream?

(2) Can you make known the interpretation?

d. The Testimony - 2:27-30

(1) No human being is able to do that which the king demands - 2:27
(2) The God in heaven only can do this - 2:28a

(a) He only can reveal secrets

(b) He has made known to the king what is to come in the latter days

(c) Latter days - A prophetic term
   i) Genesis 49:1 - The Twelve Tribes
   ii) Numbers 24:14 - Israel against Moab
   iii) Deuteronomy 4:30 - Israel's return to God
   iv) Deuteronomy 31:29 - Tribulation
   v) Isaiah 2:2 - The Kingdom
   vi) Jeremiah 30:24 - Israel's return
   vii) Jeremiah 48:47 - Captivity of Moab
   viii) Jeremiah 49:39 - Captivity of Elam
   ix) Ezekiel 38:16 - Invasion of Israel
   x) Daniel 2:28 - Times of the Gentiles
   xi) Daniel 10:14 - Israel
   xii) Hosea 3:5 - Israel's return
   xiii) Micah 4:1 - The Kingdom

(3) The cause of the dream - 2:28b-29

(a) Nebuchadnezzar had been thinking about the future

(b) God, the revealer of secrets, has made known to the king what is to transpire hereafter
(4) The reason for the revelation - 2:30

(a) The secret has not been revealed because of any unique wisdom I have above others

(b) But to the intent that the interpretation might be known to the king - That you may know the thoughts of your heart

B. The Dream - 2:31-36

1. The Appearance of the Image - 2:31

   a. The image was mighty - Awesome

   b. Whose brightness was excellent - Reflected light

   c. It stood before you - An erected image

   d. Aspect was terrible

2. The Composition of the Image - 2:32-33

   a. The Composition

      (1) Head - Fine gold

      (2) Breast and arms - Silver

      (3) Belly and thighs - Brass

      (4) Legs - Iron

      (5) Feet - Part iron and part clay

   b. Observations

      (1) There is a decrease in several areas

         (a) Decrease in the worth of the metals

         (b) Decrease in position from head to foot
(c) Decrease in specific gravity - The image is top heavy and weak on its feet

i) Gold - 19  
ii) Silver - 11  
iii) Brass - 8.5  
iv) Iron - 7.8

(d) Statement of the fact - 2:39

(e) Fulfilled in the decrease in the character of authority and rule

i) Babylon - Absolute monarchy above the law  
ii) Medo-Persia - Monarch not above the law nor had power to change its own decree  
iii) Hellenistic - No dynastic or royal right but only by force of conquest and personal gifts  
iv) Roman imperialism - Republicanism which degenerated into mob rule merging with imperial form of government

(2) There is an increase in two areas

(a) Increase in hardness
(b) Increase in strength
(c) Fulfilled in the increase of strength of one empire to the other
3. The Smiting Stone - 2:34-35
   
a. The Stone - 2:34
   
   (1) Cut without hands - Divine origin: It always was a stone
   
   (2) It smashes the image on its feet - So the smashing could only come in the last stage of the image
   
   b. The Results - 2:35
   
   (1) On the image - 2:35a
   
      (a) The whole image is broken in pieces
   
      (b) Becomes like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors
   
         i) The wind carried them away so that no place was for them
   
         ii) The sweeping away was so complete that the dust found no visible resting place - Leupold
   
   (2) On the stone - 2:35b
   
      (a) The stone became a great mountain
   
      (b) The mountain filled the whole earth
   
   C. The Interpretation - 2:36-45
   
   1. The Declaration of the Interpretation - 2:36
   
      a. This is the dream - The truth of this will testify to the truth of the interpretation
   
      b. We will tell the interpretation
   
         (1) We - Plural: Daniel and the three friends
   
         (2) Their role has not been forgotten
2. The First Empire: Babylon - 2:37-38

a. Nebuchadnezzar is the King of Kings - He and his kingdom are the head of gold

b. The Grant to Nebuchadnezzar
   (1) Kingdom - The sovereignty of the First Empire
   (2) Power - Capacity to rule this kingdom
   (3) Strength - Might displayed in coping with the problems of the kingdom
   (4) Glory - The honor

c. The Extent of Rule
   (1) Wheresoever men dwell - The whole inhabited earth
   (2) Wheresoever animals live

d. Observations
   (1) Nebuchadnezzar was given universal reign
   (2) The fact that he did not proceed to gain the universal rule is beside the point
   (3) If he so desires, he could have continued to conquer the whole inhabited world with guaranteed success
   (4) Affirmations of this truth
      (a) Jeremiah 27:5-8
      (b) Ezekiel 26:7-14

e. He is the Head of Gold
   (1) Absolute monarch
   (2) Affirmation - Daniel 5:18-19
3. The Second Empire: Medo-Persia - 2:39a

a. After you shall arise another kingdom
   
   (1) Not merely after Nebuchadnezzar but after the Babylonian Empire
   
   (2) Not king but kingdom

b. Inferior to Babylonian Empire
   
   (1) In influence and achievement since the roots of the Babylonian Empire originated soon after the Flood - Genesis 10-11
   
   (2) Lacked the inner unity of Babylon for the Medes and the Persians, though united, did not fuse into one people
   
   (3) Lacked ecumenicity
   
   (4) Type of government - Not above the mistakes of the law
4. The Third Empire: Hellenistic - 2:39b

a. Another Third Kingdom of Brass
   
   (1) Third Kingdom that started with the belly ends in upper part of legs at the thighs
   
   (2) Third Empire would territorially embrace both east and west
   
   (3) Two thighs
      
      (a) Greece and Macedonia
      
      (b) Syria and Egypt - Though it starts with four it eventually is reduced to two which have a direct bearing on Israel
   

b. Which shall bear rule over all the earth
   
   (1) Given the same extent as Babylon
   
   (2) Like Babylon it did not take what was allowed
5. The Fourth Empire: Imperialism - 2:40-43

a. The United Stage: The Roman Empire - 2:40

(1) The Fourth Kingdom shall be strong as iron

(2) The display of the strength of iron

(a) Breaks in pieces

(b) Subdues all things

(c) Crushes all the above

(d) As iron breaks and crushes - Distinctiveness outweighs its accomplishments

(3) The Roman Empire - 63 B.C. - A.D. 285 or 364

b. The Two Division Stage - 2:41

(1) It shall be a divided kingdom

(a) Diocletian in A.D. 285

(b) Valentinian in A.D. 364

(2) It will still have the strength of iron in it

c. The Ten Division State - 2:42-43

(1) Represented by the ten toes

(2) Partly iron and partly clay

(a) Partly strong and partly broken - Weak

(b) The lack of cohesiveness especially evident in the toes
(3) They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men - But they shall not cleave unto another even as iron does not mingle with clay

(a) Authority vested in the masses as in a republic - Eventually all groups demand their rights

   i) Babylon - Autocratic

   ii) Medo-Persia - Oligarchic

   iii) Hellenistic - Right of conquest

(b) The kingdoms will attempt to be unified but all of them fail - The one world government formed on the basis of republicanism will collapse into ten kingdoms - Daniel 7:23-24

(c) Unity is impossible and kingdom is vulnerable because it is seeking to unite elements which will not coalesce

6. The Kingdom of God - 2:44-45a

   a. The Timing - 2:44

      (1) In the days of those kings - The ten kings

      (2) Theocracy: The God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed - Eternal nature of Christ's dominion

      (3) The sovereignty of this Kingdom will not be left to another people - Gentiles

      (4) It will destroy the Gentile empires

      (5) It shall stand forever - For an age
(6) Contra Amillennialism

(a) The establishment of this Kingdom parallels the other - On earth

(b) Established during the Ten Division Stage - Not true during the first century

(c) This kingdom brings a decisive blow to the Fourth Gentile Empire

(d) Conquers the whole world

(e) The Church is not a political organization - Even in outward organization it is to be subject to Caesar and not rule over Caesar

(f) For the church to equal this kingdom would require gradual taking of control in place of the sudden, catastrophic destruction of the Fourth Kingdom

(g) Must postulate the fact that the Church has overcome Gentile kingdoms or will overcome, yet it has not done so and will not do so

(h) "Smiting" in the spreading of the gospel is out of harmony with Christian ethics of the New Testament
b. The Stone - 2:45a

(1) It was cut without hands - The Stone is Christ

(a) Psalm 118:22
(b) Isaiah 8:14
(c) Isaiah 28:16
(d) Zechariah 3:9
(e) Matthew 21:44
(f) Acts 4:11
(g) I Corinthians 10:4
(h) I Peter 2:4-8

(2) This Stone will bring the Times of the Gentiles to an end

(3) The Mountain - The Kingdom of God
(4) Comparison

(a) Origin
   i) Gentile Empires - Human
   ii) God's Kingdom - Divine

(b) Duration
   i) Gentile Empires - Temporary
   ii) God's Kingdom - Eternal

(c) Power
   i) Gentile Empires - Overcome by each succeeding empire
   ii) God's Kingdom - Unconquerable

7. Conclusion - 2:45b

a. The Great God has made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter

b. The dream is certain

c. The interpretation is sure
D. Daniel's Reward - 2:46-49

1. Nebuchadnezzar's Worship - 2:46
   a. The king falls upon his face before Daniel - Gentile power humbled before Israel
   b. Worshipped Daniel - From Babylonian thought: He worships the God whom Daniel represents
   c. Sacrificial Offerings
      (1) Oblation
      (2) Sweet odors

   a. Daniel's God is the God of gods
   b. Daniel's God is the Lord of kings
   c. Daniel's God is a revealer of secrets
   d. The Evidence - God was able to reveal the secret to Daniel
   e. Comes short of the saving faith

3. The Rewards - 2:48
   a. Made him great - High position
   b. Gave many great gifts - Made Daniel rich
   c. Gave him the position of rulership over the Province of Babylon - Placed in a good position to watch over the welfare of his brothers when they arrive in the second (597) and third (586) deportations
   d. Made him chief governor over all the wise men - Would have ramifications extending all the way to Matthew chapter 2
4. The Remembrance of Daniel's Friends - 2:49

a. At Daniel's request the three friends are also given positions of authority over the Province of Babylon - The chief province for it was the capitol

b. But this will put them in the precarious position of the next chapter

c. But Daniel only was in the gate of the king - Had direct access to the king

d. Conclusion

(1) The Times of the Gentiles will play itself out through the history of Four Gentile Empires

(2) The Times of the Gentiles will come to a sudden end with the Second Coming

(3) Throughout the Times of the Gentiles the Jews will reach prominent positions from which they will aid their Jewish brethren