**Daniel 2: The Kingdoms of the Future**

**Main idea: Only God can know the future, only God can reveal the future, only God will rule in the future**

**The following charts courtesy of Dr. John Niemela (mol316.org)**

**Through Daniel, God deliberately structures the book of Daniel out of chronological order and then, let’s us know that! Why?**

**Chapter Reigning year Sequence**

**Daniel 1:1 The third year of Jehoiakim 605 BC 1**

**Daniel 2:1 Nebuchadnezzar’s second year 603-602 BC 2**

**Daniel 5:31 Darius conquered Babylon early 539 BC 5**

**Daniel 7:1 First year of Belshazzar 553 BC 3**

**Daniel 8:1 Third year of Belshazzar 551 BC 4**

**Daniel 9:1 First year of Darius late 539 BC 6**

**Daniel 10:1 Third year of Cyrus 536 BC 8**

**Daniel 11:1 First year of Darius late 539 BC 7**

**Chiasm in Daniel 2-7: The humiliation of the kings of Babylon**

**Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s vision: A sketch of prophetic history**

 **Daniel 3: Punishment for worshipping the Lord: Fiery furnace**

 **Daniel 4: Humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar**

 **Daniel 5: Humiliation of Belshazzar**

 **Daniel 6: Punishment for worshipping the Lord: Lion’s den**

**Daniel 7: Daniel’s vision: A sketch of prophetic history**

**The Text**

**1. Daniel 2:1-13 – The Dream and the Demand**

**The consequences of both success and failure were dramatic**

**2. Daniel 2:14-19 – The Responses of Daniel and the Lord**

**3. Daniel 2:20-23 – The Praise to God**

**4. Daniel 2:24-25 – Coming before the King**

**5. Daniel 2:26-30 – Humility before the King**

**6. Daniel 2:31-35 – The Dream**

**7. Daniel 2:36-45 – The Interpretation: Four Kingdoms and the Kingdom**

**8. Daniel 2:46-47 – The King’s Response**

**9. Daniel 2:48-49 – The Exaltation of God’s Men**

**Applications**

1. **Only God knows the future**

**God knows everything and is eternal. He knows the beginning, and the end. He knows our thoughts, our fears, and what will happen.**

* **While God knows everything, we don’t know what we don’t know.**
* **We don’t need to be afraid. We can trust Him.**
* **God knew the future kingdoms in Daniel’s day and accurately predicted their rise and fall. It was so accurate, critics said it couldn’t have been written when it was.**
* **But there is another Kingdom coming that will never end. God’s ability to predict the future then demonstrates that He can predict the future now.**
* **We don’t know what will happen in America, but we do know that a better day is coming.**
* **It is not unusual for the OT to leave a “parenthesis” in place for the Church Age. It was still a mystery then (Isa. 61:1-2; Rom. 11:25-26; Eph. 3:1-7).**
1. **Only God can reveal the future**
* **He is gracious to let us in on key details about the future to give us both warnings and hope.**
* **The secret in Danl 2 was revealed to save the life of Daniel and his friends, to let Nebuchadnezzar know the interpretation, and to encourage believers that God is the Lord.**
1. **Only God rules the future**
* **He is the sovereign God. He controls the world. He controls the future.**
* **He is the One who allows anyone to have authority.**
* **What does it mean to our daily lives that God has history mapped out, that He is eternal and knows that beginning and the end, and that He gives rule to whomever He wants?**
* **Think of it, God mapped out centuries for Daniel and for us!**
* **This sets up chapters 4-5**
* **There is an eternal kingdom coming that will never end.**
* **How do we get in? John 3:1-16**
* **How do we invest in it? 2 Tim. 2:12**
* **This should mean regular prayer for authorities. 1 Tim. 2:1-2 or don’t we believe it? James 4:2!**