

October 31–November 6

Daniel 1–6

“There is No Other God that Can Deliver”



Overview

Dan 1:3-5

L. Tom Perry

"Then, to make his nation even stronger, [Nebuchadnezzar] took hostage all of the bright and promising children of the Israelites....

"Daniel was one of those who was taken back to the palace as a slave of Nebuchadnezzar, to be trained in the king's ways in order that Nebuchadnezzar might use him and his knowledge to make his empire stronger." (CR, Oct. 1985)

Daniel Gains the King's Respect

Dan 1:8-15

Why do you think that Daniel refused to eat the meat offered to him by the king?

L. Tom Perry

"Daniel's strategy was most interesting. He did not challenge the beliefs of the Babylonians. Instead, he volunteered to conduct a test as to which way was best. The servant agreed to the test. For the next ten days, Daniel and those who were with him ate and drank only of the things that they knew they should. At the end of the tenth day, Daniel and his friends were found to be healthier and stronger than all the rest. Daniel soon found that he did not have to adopt a different standard of values when he was 'in the world.'" (CR, Oct. 1985)

Daniel Gains the King's Respect

Dan 1:17,20

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Dan 2:25-28

How does Daniel use this opportunity to testify of God?

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Dan 2:31-33

What destroyed the image?

What happened to the image after it had been broken by the stone?



Orson Pratt

"The kingdom of God was entirely distinct from this great image. It formed no part of it, but it was represented as a stone cut out of the mountain without hands. That stone smote the image on the feet-not on the head, nor upon any other portion of the body: it was first to commence its operations upon the feet and toes of the great image; and then the feet, toes, legs, breast, arms, and head were to be broken to pieces, and become like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind was to carry away the whole image, and there was to be no place to be found for it, while the little stone was to increase to such a magnitude that it should fill the whole earth; and the dominion, even the greatness of the dominion under the whole heavens was to be given to the Saints of the Most High." (JD, 7:217)

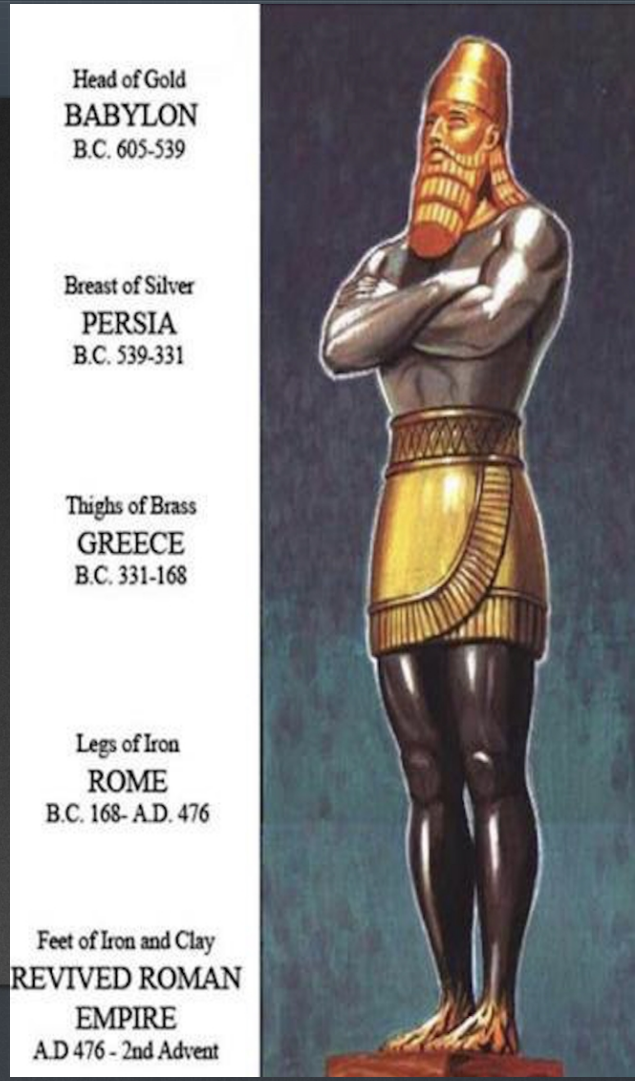
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Dan 2:37-41

What kingdoms do the five different parts of the image represent?

Rudger Clawson

“The Christian world of today is witness of the fact that the very things which the great image stood for have occurred so far as time has gone. History certifies to the fact that King Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. The Persians, an inferior kingdom to Babylon, were the arms and breast of silver. The Greet kingdom, under Alexander the Great, was the belly and thighs of brass; and the Roman kingdom under the Caesars was the legs of iron. Finally, the Roman empire was broken up into smaller kingdoms, represented by the feet and toes of iron and clay.” (CR, Apr 1930)



Orson Pratt

“The feet and toes were governments more modern to grow out of the iron kingdom [Roman Empire], after it should lose its strength. These are represented by the ten toes or ten kingdoms which should be partly strong and partly broken. They should not have the strength of the legs of iron, but they should be mixed with clay, indicating both strength and weakness.” (JD, 18:337)

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Dan 2:44-45

What is the stone that “smote the image”?

What are some of the characteristics of the stone as discussed in verse 44?

D&C 65

2 The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.

Brigham Young

“The Lord God Almighty has set up a kingdom that will sway the scepter of power and authority over all the kingdoms of the world, and will never be destroyed, it is the kingdom that Daniel saw and wrote of.... The kingdom will continue to increase, to grow, to spread and prosper more and more. Every time its enemies undertake to overthrow it, it will become more extensive and powerful; instead of its decreasing, it will continue to increase, it will spread the more, become more wonderful and conspicuous to the nations, until it fills the whole earth.” (JD, 1:202)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego

Dan 3:8-13

Why would this decree have been especially disastrous for the Jews living in Babylon?

Spencer W. Kimball

“We remind ourselves of the integrity of the three Hebrews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who like Daniel defied men and rulers, to be true to themselves and to keep faith with their faith....

"Neither the cunning of the deceivers, the conspiring, cunning tricksters, nor the fear of the king and what he could do to them, dissuaded the three courageous young men from their true path of rightness. When the prearranged sounds of the cornet, flute, harp and other instruments reverberated through the area and the masses of men and women everywhere filled their homes and the streets with kneeling worshippers of the huge golden image, three men refused to insult their true God. They prayed to God, and when confronted by the raging and furious emperor king, they courageously answered in the face of what could be certain death." ("Integrity", BYU Speeches of the Year, 25 Feb. 1964)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego

Dan 3:23-27

What did God do to protect the 3 companions and astound the king?

Howard W. Hunter

“Then transpired one of those great miracles to which the faithful are entitled according to the will of God. These three young men stood and walked about calmly in the midst of the furnace and were not burned. Indeed, when they were later called out of the furnace by the astonished king himself, their clothing was untarnished, their skin was free from any burn, not a hair of their head was singed. Not even the smell of smoke had come upon these courageous, committed young men.” (CR, April 1990)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego

Dan 3:23-29

How did king Nebuchadnezzar change as a result of this miraculous event?

Lorenzo Snow

“When Nebuchadnezzar saw four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, unhurt; and the fourth like unto the Son of God Dan. How changed was the scene! Nebuchadnezzar was converted by the power that he saw manifested, and he issued a decree saying, ‘That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill.’ In this way was the Lord able to touch the heart of a heathen king, and to turn the heart of a nation.” (JD, 23:288)

The Writing on the Wall

Dan 5:3-5

What is singled out as a great sin that was committed at this feast?

The Writing on the Wall

Dan 5:22-28,30-31

Why did Belshazzar lose the kingdom of his father to the Medes and the Persians?

Joseph L. Wirthlin

"Is there not something that can be brought about to awaken the American people to a destiny of degradation...? As in ancient days when the finger of the God of Israel wrote the doom of Babylon, this same penalty hangs over any nation that forgets God to the extent that the Bible is found in few homes and where the youth of the country are not familiar with the teachings of Holy Scripture. Yes, just as Babylon was called to an accounting by the God of Israel, so will the people of this great nation be called to an accounting for permitting youth and old alike to be indoctrinated with the principles of the evil one." (CR, April 1947)

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Dan 6:3-7

What did the king's leaders consider a weakness of Daniel that they exploit?

What was scheme that that these leaders came up with to destroy Daniel?

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Dan 6:10-11

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Dan 6:16-23

What is clear about how king Darius' felt about Daniel?

What did the king hope and believe that God would do for Daniel?

What do you think Daniel did to earn this love and respect?

Thomas S. Monson

“Great riches and power had been offered to Daniel, rewards representing the things of the world and not of God. Daniel resisted and remained faithful.

“Later, when Daniel worshipped God despite a decree declaring such to be forbidden, he was thrown into a den of lions. The biblical account tells us that the following morning, ‘Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in ... God.’ In a time of critical need, Daniel’s determination to steer a steady course yielded divine protection and provided a sanctuary of safety. Such protection and safety can be ours as we also steer that steady course toward our eternal home.”
(CR, Oct. 2014)

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Dan 6:25-28

How did king Darius change as a result of this miraculous event?

Lorenzo Snow

“When the three Hebrew children, for instance, had been brought to a certain position... a holy being, it is said, appeared and walked with them, side by side in the midst of the flames; and so with Daniel under similar circumstances. Did they wait to see what God would do for them? No;... they knew that in the hands of their Master were held the issues of life and death, and... having an abiding faith, and a knowledge of the true and living God they were ready to live and they were ready to die for the truth.... They were in possession of knowledge through the operation of the Holy Ghost which prepared them for any circumstances in which they might be placed.” (JD, 23:150)

Next Week:

November 7–13

Hosea 1–6; 10–14; Joel

“I Will Love Them Freely”

