

3. We learn the rock grows.

It's a rock that crushes the world's systems and then gradually grows into a mountain that fills the whole world.

First Jesus came in weakness and in service, and it didn't wipe away all the evil in the world.

Secondly, Jesus' second coming, the kingdom of God will come in total power and fill the whole earth.

What that means now is the kingdom of God is already here in reality, but it's not yet here in its fullness.

What does that mean for us practically?

We're sinners saved by God's grace. WE ARE NOT BETTER than anyone else. The reason you're saved has nothing to do with you being a better person, it has everything to do with mercy.

You have found God's mercy, they haven't.

What is the best way to inform others of God's mercy?

By condemning them, or being merciful people?

The Gospel of grace gives you the ability to thrive in community with people different from you, because you now exist outside of a place, where you could ever feel superior to another.

Community Group Questions:

1. Is your greater struggle, standing firm for truth or loving those that oppose you?
2. In chapter two where do you see Daniel doing both?
3. How is verse 34 a Messianic prophecy?
4. Spend time discussing the "alreadyness" and the "not yetness" of the Kingdom of God and its implications for universal church unity and membership commitment?



Trusting God in a Secular World (God's Sovereign Rule Over the Nations) Daniel 2

How do we interact meaningfully with a world that seems contrary to everything we believe? Our goal? Be effective.

Like Daniel we do not have to compromise our beliefs by sacrificing our civility in our interactions, by condemning others with whom disagree, nor do we just throw in the towel, because of our fear of confrontation.

Daniel 's Blueprint for life in Babylon

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:4-7

God says, "I don't want you to love me and hate the culture nor do I want you to love the culture and then forget me.
I want you find a way to love both.

How can you do that?

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7

I. Love the community at large not just your crew.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.
Luke 6:32

Two things Jeremiah is telling us:

1. Live life as you always have lived it.

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Jeremiah 29:5,6

2. The community at-large needs Christians.

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7

Chapter 2-Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Nebuchadnezzar's dream. vs. 1-13

Tell me what I dreamed and then tell me what it means.

Daniel's requests; God's answer. vs. 14-24

Daniel trusted God would reveal the dream.

Daniel before the King. vs. 25-30

Daniel says only God can answer what He has given to you.

The Dream's content. vs. 31-36

"Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³²The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. ³⁴While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. ³⁶"This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. Daniel 2:31-36

Daniel's interpretation. vs. 37-45

³⁷Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; ³⁸in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. ³⁹"After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. ⁴²As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. ⁴⁴"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

II. What's the meaning of the rock?

But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. Daniel 2:35

1. The rock wasn't cut from human hands

"This is not cut out with hands." Verses. 34,45 It is a supernatural revelation.

2. The rock is the least valuable substance in the dream.

You have gold, you have silver, but the simple rock, that's what God chooses in the dream to characterize his kingdom.

Why? In the eyes of the world, God's kingdom is less valuable.