

**A** main theme, key phrase, or a key verse that the whole book is based around, in context is very beneficial.

In Daniel chapter 2, we know that Daniel is called an exilic book, it is a book written of the time when the Jews, the nation of Israel are in exile.

## Daniel Series, Two: The Curse



So we read in verse 1 that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon has come, they have besieged it and have taken some of the children of the land hostage, and they will not return. It looks like absolute chaos but it's not. The thrust of the book of Daniel is to convey the timetable of all the remaining history. It may appear at times to be chaos, and it may appear that God is not in control at all. Daniel's prophecy confirms that everything in history is exactly where He wants it to be. Notice Daniel chapter 2, in verse 37, speaking of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

*"Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory." -Daniel 2:37*

This particular kingdom is a global power, a superpower. His kingdom is dominant of the world, he exacts tax, tribute and slavery. What is interesting is that this kingdom that is conquering Israel, is not better, is not more righteous. Even though God is changing the guard, it is not because one is more righteous. The Babylonians were full idolaters, they were ravenous murders, they were actually worse. Be advised, we are viewing history but history repeats itself and Daniel is not only a book of history but a book of prophecy.

*"And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold."  
-Daniel 2:38*

The ancient King Nebuchadnezzar is the world monarch, and has full dominion. But it does not last. Notice verse 39, "And after thee shall arise another kingdom." The Persian empire would conquer Babylon. And the same verse will state, "and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over the earth." None other than Alexander the Great would arise, and the Grecian empire would conquer the Persians. Then to verse 40, "And a fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron," the Roman Empire. God is revealing global dominion...world rule to be transferred, different names, different faces, different localities. Kingdoms rise to power and kingdoms crumble. All according to the Lord's hand. And remember to us it is history but to Daniel and his contemporaries it is future. Then see verse 44, "And in the days of these kings, (the ten kings, the ten toes) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to another people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

The final kingdom. The crescendo of history. The Millennium. The Jew would call it the golden age. Early in the Lord's earthly ministry, the disciples asked Him to "teach us to pray." The Lord's response was, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come..." This was not just a mock prayer but it is a prayer with substance. Pray for this kingdom to come.

This is thematic of scripture in its entirety, from Genesis



to Revelation, it is coming...the glorious kingdom. Jesus told parables to enlighten people not only of the reality of said kingdom, but also to make investments in it. We who are believers have been knighted, to rule and reign throughout the realm as governmental employees. We are of royal blood, born again with royal pedigree. The service(s) we perform here, any such sacrifices, are chronicled in the books of heaven as future investments. Hence the parables of the pounds and talents, he commands His servants to go and trade. Take the gospel and advance the kingdom, and in so doing the servant returned exuberantly, exclaiming the value and power of the currency. The Lord's response was, "Well thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." These services / investments will dictate one's position in the royal ranks in the Millennial Kingdom reign.

Daniel chapter 1 records a period in history when the nation of Israel is under siege, and then invaded by a wicked nation. It was a horror...a terror, a scene that would encapsulate the concept of suffering. Yet despite the desperation, we find young men willing to face being burnt alive, and or being devoured alive by lions as living sacrifices...ultimate investment for the future King and kingdom.

Human valor in the face of human evil must be addressed.

The root of all history's initiatives stem from the garden, the Garden of Eden. The evil one that is more subtle than any beast of the field entices them to transgress the commandment. They fall prey. The first word of the judicial sentencing is cursed. "Because thou hast done this thou art cursed." In fact all of creation was cursed. "In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The fullness of death was not immediate, but in that day they encouraged the death, slowly aging, slowly dying, the commencement of suffering. A tempest would arise, the seas become violent in the night...it is the curse.

They lived in the garden. They exercised dominion over their land. They named every creature, displaying ownership, displaying dominion. But they broke the law and went into exile, banished from their land, and encountered immense suffering. They would pay a devastating price. All humanity would pay the price of suffering. The horror of the slow, miserable, cancerous death, all the carnage of the world. And one would declare it does not seem fair. The punishment does not

fit the crime. The suffering of humanity, because Adam ate the fruit. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes," and by this, by the fact that it is the Lord's doing, we are convinced He is sovereign. He had nearly banished all disease from an entire quadrant of the world and... "What manner of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him."

The Sovereign Majesty is a judicial God and He gave statutes in His law book.

*"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth."  
-Deuteronomy 28:1*

This Statute declares if obedience to the laws are obeyed, the Sovereign lawgiver has the authority to give the nation of Israel dominion. And this is no smoke and mirrors, it comes in a seemingly natural way. For the serpent was subtle, but the God of heaven be far more.

*"And all these blessings shall come upon thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep."  
-Deuteronomy 28:2-4*

But of course the opposite is true. Disobedience brings a curse.

*"Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field."  
-Deuteronomy 28:16*

This curse is different from the Adamic curse. The curse of Adam was passed down without warrant. It was not earned. This curse is directly earned through transgression. And as sin begets rebellion, the snowball grows till the greatest of empires are reduced to rubble. Then another nation rises. Dominion is transferred. Notice the precision of the law, which was written centuries prior to the time of Daniel:

*"Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand."  
-Deuteronomy 28:32*

Be advised. They will be taken captive.



Daniel chapter 1, King Nebuchadnezzar comes and the first item on the agenda is to take away the children.

The Lord shall bring a nation from afar. A nation whose “tongue you can not understand,” a nation of fierce countenance, which, “shall not regard the person of old, nor show favor to the young.” They are merciless.

The custom of the Babylonians was to bring the captive chained by hooks ran through beneath the jaw, through the tongue, and hauled off to Babylon.

*“And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed; which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. And he shall besiege thee... And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body...”*  
-Deuteronomy 28:51-53

Cannibalism.

Israel boiled and ate their own children. 587 BC. (See *Lamentations 4:10.*)

Holodomor. A man-made famine killed millions. Soviet Ukraine. 1933

The U. S. consumes on average 137.5 tons of food per day. With the simple destruction of the power grid, the U.S. would collapse. No fuel, no food. Starvation within weeks.

Transgression of the Law.

God is not mocked.

An innocent man took the penalty. “Cursed is every man that hangeth upon a tree.” The Roman scourging. The Roman cross. A bloody mess.

Jesus Christ. He came to set the captives free. “Look and live.”

