

# King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



Daniel Ch. 2

# Daniel Ch. 2 -7

- A Dream about four earthly kingdoms & God's kingdom (2)
  - B Story about Jews being faithful in the face of death (3)
    - C Story about royal hubris that is humbled (4)
      - C1 Story about royal hubris that is humbled (5)
  - B1 Story about a Jew who is faithful in the face of death (6)
- A1 Vision about four earthly kingdoms & God's kingdom (7)

# Interpreting Visionary / Apocalyptic Genre

- Lots of symbols – beasts, numbers, angelic mediation
- *Depicts* a literal reality, but descriptions don't *represent* the events literally
- Understand scene and symbol as a whole; don't press too hard
- If author explains a picture, use it as anchor point for understanding
- Read widely in the literature – biblical and extra-biblical
- Use your imagination!
- Seek to identify the historical event or theological reality expressed by the passage (and be willing to admit an exact understanding might be beyond us)

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream – Ch. 2

- King's Dream & Crisis for Wise Men (vv. 1 – 13)
- Daniel's Intervention & God's Intervention (vv. 14 – 23)
- Daniel's Description of the Dream (vv. 24 – 35)
- Daniel's Dream Interpretation (vv. 36 – 45)
- King's Response to Interpretation (vv. 46 – 49)

# Crisis! –

## Ch. 2:1 - 13

- What does the king ask of the wise men?
- What is their response (twice)?
- How would you characterize the king's response? Why do you think he responds this way?

# Intervention –

## Ch. 2:14 - 23

- What is “wisdom and tact” mean in our world today?
- What does Daniel do after he visits the king?
- What is significant about Daniel’s response and actions?
- How does Daniel describe God in his prayer? What does it mean for us today?



# The Dream (not Hakeem)– Ch. 2:24 - 45

- Why does Daniel say to spare the pagan magicians, sorcerers, etc?
- Who does Daniel give credit to for interpreting the dream?



|                        | Roman View          | Greek View I      | Greek View II          |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Head of Gold           | Babylonian Empire   | Babylonian Empire | Babylonian Empire      |
| Chest/Arms of Silver   | Medo-Persian Empire | Median Kingdom    | Medo-Persian Empire    |
| Belly/Thighs of Bronze | Greek Empire        | Persian Empire    | Alexander's Kingdom    |
| Legs of Iron/Clay      | Roman Empire        | Greek Empire      | Alexander's Successors |

- How is the 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom described?



# Outcome –

## Ch. 2:46 - 49

- What does Daniel say when the king “worships” him?
- What’s Daniel’s reward?
- Does the king become a believer?
- What does it mean today to say “God is in control?”
- Is it hard to believe that at times? Easy? Why?