

An Outline of History (Dan 2)

A Small Group Outline



1. **Praise** (*Purpose: To worship God*)
 - What are you thankful for this week? (*let the group's secretary write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook*)
 - Song Service
 - Sing a few songs of praise to God
2. **Pray** (*Purpose: To carry each others' burdens and to seek the Lord*)
 - What challenges did you have this week? (*write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook*)
 - Go into a season of prayer
3. **Review** (*Purpose: To learn accountability*)
 - Tell us how it went with what you promised to do in last week's meeting? (*e.g. Who did your share you faith with this past week? Who did you minister to? How did actioning your I WILL STATEMENT go?*)
 - *Where people have failed to fulfil what they said they would, do not be harsh with them but gently encourage them to try again in the coming week. Give them more support by phoning or joining them in the week.*
4. **Give** (*Purpose: To be good stewards of our monies*)
 - Our best option in the lockdown is to return tithes and offerings electronically. Ensure you get the bank details from your treasurer. Don't forget to complete an envelope and to send the breakdown to him/her.
5. **Discover** (*Purpose: To learn to listen to God, and be obedient to His Word*)
 - **Notes for the facilitator**
 - Read *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 491-502.
 - Magicians: Used sleight of hand; astrologer: tried to read the future in the stars; sorcerers: were soothsayers or what we today call psychics; Chaldeans: the priests of Babylon (*Stephen Bohr, Specialised Studies in Daniel*)
 - Head of gold: Babylon (605 – 539 BC)
 - Breast of silver: Medo-Persia (539 – 331 BC)
 - Thighs of brass: Greece (331 – 168 BC)
 - Legs of iron: Rome (168 BC – AD 476)
 - Feet of iron and clay: The division of Rome into the barbarian kingdoms which overran Western Europe. These kingdoms were generally believed to be the Franks, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Burgundians, Suevi, Alemanni, Lombards, Anglo Saxons, Vandals and Heruli (AD 476 – Second Coming)
 - Rock: God's kingdom (Deut 32:4, 18; 1 Sam 2:2)
 - *Read Dan 2 as a group. Preferably let one person read it. Let everyone then put down their Bibles and get the group to reconstruct the passage in their own words. This teaches the group to be careful in quotation Scripture correctly and to use it as the basis of their discussions.*
 - **Discussion Questions** (*use only a few*). *The notes in italics after some of the questions below are for the facilitator, and not to be read out to the group.*
 - Why do you think God gave Nebuchadnezzar the dream, and then made him forget it?
 - How did God expose the astrologers, magicians, enchanters and sorcerers?
 - Why do you think the king was testing their competence?

- What are the dangers as Christians of consulting the above sources for help?
- What was Daniel and his friends' habit in times of danger and perplexity (see vs 17-19)? Why is this such an important habit in these end times?
- How would you describe Daniel's faith in God? What evidence do you have to support your assertion?
- When Daniel was ushered into the presence of the king to interpret the dream, why was it so significant that started off by exalting His God?
- Describe the different metals of the statue and what they represent?
- What are the implications that God knows the future of the world?
- What value does the dream of Dan 2 have for us today, especially since it concerns the end time ('latter days' / 'days to come' – vs 28)?
- Why do you think God gave the prophecy to Nebuchadnezzar in the form of an idol, while he gave it to Daniel (in Dan 7) as wild beasts (*Hint: God meets people where they are, and relates to them in ways they can understand*)
- What do you think the dream personally meant to the king, knowing that Daniel's God was the 'God of gods' (vs 47), and could read the future?
- **Application Questions** (*select a few depending on your time. One has to be the I WILL STATEMENT*)
 - Who are the people you consult with when going through challenging times?
 - How is your prayer life at the moment? How would you like to improve it?
 - What does it mean to you that God knows what your personal future holds?
 - Even though the king had the highest position in the land, Daniel was not afraid to witness to Him about His God. Are there people in your life that you tend to be fearful, nervous or reserved in sharing the gospel with, because of their position or status (e.g. a boss, professor, doctor, etc.)? Why? How would you like to change this?
 - I WILL STATEMENT: Formulate an I will statement in response to what you have discovered in the Word. Let the group's secretary also record these in an A4 notebook. Ensure that everyone gets a chance to give their I WILL STATEMENT. You have to be specific. E.g. "Even though it may be difficult for me, I will surrender all my concerns to God this week, and rest in the confidence that He already knows MY future and has a solution worked out for my good."

6. **Share** (*Purpose: To be witnesses of our faith*)

- Do you have anyone you could share today's lesson with this week? *Be specific.*

7. **Closing prayer**

Prepared by Shandrell Penniken / Northern Conference