Daniel 2

2 ³⁶ "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. ³⁷ Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; ³⁸ in 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. ⁴⁰ Finally, 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. ⁴¹ Just 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. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ And 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. ⁴⁵ This 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." ⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. ⁴⁷ The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." 48 Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. ⁴⁹ Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

The theme of Daniel 2 is simply this:

Earthly kingdoms do not last forever. God's kingdom will last forever.

The key verse in Daniel 2 is verse 21:

He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them.

Earthly Kingdom #1: BABYLON Earthly Kingdom #2: MEDO-PERSIA

Earthly Kingdom #3: GREECE Earthly Kingdom #4: ROME

When you lack clarity, affirm what has already been made clear:

- 1) The Bible is _____ by God.
- 2) God is in control of ______.
- 3) Only God's Kingdom is a _____ Kingdom.
- 4) We need the Kingdom of God.
- 5) God's King is Jesus.

- 2:11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.
- 2:19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven
- 2:22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.
- 2:28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:
- 2:29 As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.
- 2:30 As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.
- 2:47 The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

A key word in Daniel 2 is reveal.

Underline the eight occurrences of reveal in these verses on the left.

God reveals in order to **make Himself known** or to make **His plans known**.

- 2:18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the *God of heaven* concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
- 2:19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the **God of heaven**.
- 2:28 but there is a *God in heaven* who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:
- 2:37 Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The *God of heaven* has given you dominion and power and might and glory;
- 2:44 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.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES REGARDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- 2 Sam 7:11b-16 God promised an eternal kingdom in the line of David.
- Luke 1:29-32 Jesus was born in the line of David and promised an eternal kingdom.
- Mark 1:15 Jesus announced the arrival of the Kingdom.
- Rev 19:17 Jesus is declared to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus Christ is supreme.