

#46: Daniel: A kingdom which shall never be destroyed

Monte F. Shelley, 19 Dec 2010

Quotes

- I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are missing. (Maxine)
- Stop looking for the storms and enjoy more fully the sunlight. (Gordon B. Hinckley)

1. Daniel's test and training in Babylon (Dan 1)

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—² young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ³ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and ... [then] enter the king's service. ... ⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine. ...

The royal food and wine was unclean because: (a) the first portion was offered to idols, (b) unclean animals were eaten, (c) blood was not properly drained, and (d) it was prepared by unclean people. (OT-I)

¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard ... ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.

¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food." ... ¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ... ¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. ... ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding ... the king ... found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

2. The king's dream (Dan 2)

¹ Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and <he could not sleep. ² So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers [or Chaldeans]. ... ⁴ Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "... Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it." ⁵ The king replied ..., "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.>

[Daniel 2:4–7:28 is in Aramaic] <=>NIV translation

"The Judahites learned the Aramaic language ... [and] adopted the square Aramaic script to write the Hebrew alphabet, which eventually replaced the paleo-Hebrew script in writing legal and religious texts. In addition, the people adopted the Babylonian names for the months that displaced the old Hebrew/Canaanite names originally used in Canaan." (JWOT 348)

3. Daniel prays and thanks God (Dan 2)

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to ... his companions: ¹⁸ That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret <or mystery>; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. ... ²⁰ Daniel ... said, ... ²³ I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee.

Harold B. Lee: "By faith in God you can be attuned to the Infinite and by power and wisdom obtained from your Heavenly Father harness the powers of the universe to serve

you in your hour of need in the solution of problems too great for your human strength or intelligence" (*Church News*, 15 Aug. 1970, p. 2; OT-I).

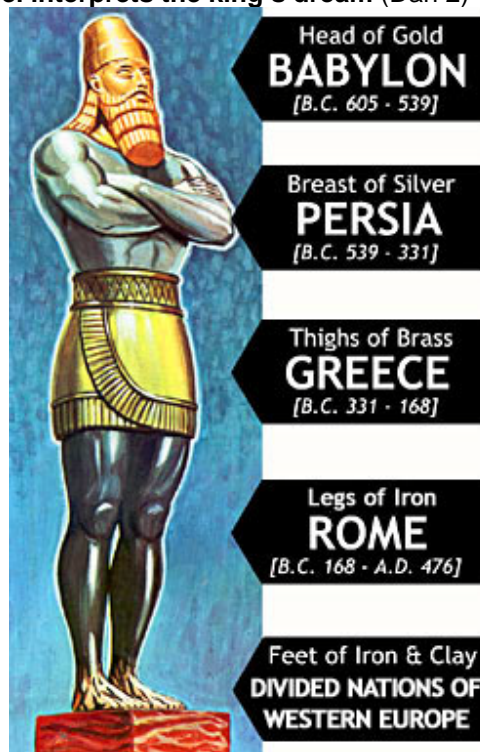
Remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, ... ⁴ If ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent [to do], having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. (Moro 10:3–4)

4. Daniel gives credit to God (Dan 2)

²⁷ Daniel ... [said to] the king, ... ²⁸ there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days <or in days to come>. ... ³⁰ This secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but <so that you ... may know the interpretation.>

Brigham Young: Men talk about what has been accomplished under my direction, and attribute it to my wisdom and ability; but it is all by the power of God, and by intelligence received from him. . . . What I know concerning God, concerning the earth, concerning government, I received from the heavens, not alone through my natural ability and I give God the glory and the praise. (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, 1926 ed., 664)

5. Daniel interprets the king's dream (Dan 2)



Spencer W. Kimball: "Nebuchadnezzar represented the king of kings, a world power, representing the head of gold. Another kingdom would arise and take over world dominion. The interpretation included the domination of other kingdoms. Cyrus the Great, with his Medes and Persians, would be replaced by the Greek or Macedonian kingdom under Philip and Alexander; and that world power would be replaced by the Roman Empire; and Rome would be replaced by a group of nations of Europe represented by the toes of the image. ("The Stone Cut without Hands", *Ensign*, May 1976, 4)

6. Stone cut out of the mountain without hands (Dan 2)

³⁴ Thou sawest ... a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. ³⁵ ... and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. ... ⁴⁴ And in the days of

these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth ... as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth. (D&C 65:2)

Joseph: I calculate to be one of the instruments of setting up the kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord, and I intend to lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world. ... It will not be by sword or gun that this kingdom will roll on: the power of truth is such that all nations will be under the necessity of obeying the Gospel. (HC 6:365.)

Spencer W. Kimball: The Church ... was restored in 1830 after numerous revelations from the divine source; and this is the kingdom, set up by the God of heaven, that would never be destroyed nor superseded, and the stone cut out of the mountain without hands that would become a great mountain and would fill the whole earth.” (Ensign, May 1976, 4)

John Taylor: There is one thing very certain, ... and that is, whatever men may think, and however they may plot and contrive, that this Kingdom will never be given into the hands of another people. It will grow and spread and increase, and no man living can stop its progress. (JD 25:348)

Gordon B. Hinckley: I believe that the cause we have the honor to represent is that kingdom which shall stand forever.... Every day I see the miracle of its strength and of its growing influence in the lives of millions across the earth. Yet it is not a great impersonal juggernaut of power. It finds its best expression in the quiet of the lives of those who have embraced it. (“Be Not Afraid, Only Believe,” Ensign, Feb. 1996, 4)

Church Growth

	1880	1930	1980	1995	2009
Members	133,628	670,017	4,639,822	9,340,898	>13,824,854
BofM Lang	10	16	44	88	112
Stakes	23	104	1,218	2,150	2,865
Missions	10	30	188	307	344
Temples	1	7	19	47	130

7. Daniel is a type of Christ (Hidden 257)

- Appears to be of royal descent (1:3; BD, GS)
- A child of no blemish (1:4)
- Had wisdom more than all the wise at a young age (1:20)
- Preferred above all because an excellent spirit was in him (6:3)
- No error or fault was found in him (6:4)
- Those jealous of his power sought occasion under the law against him, but could find none (6:4)
- So these leaders sought occasion to entrap him (6:5–9)
- Continued in righteousness notwithstanding the threat (6:10–11)
- Was condemned to death (6:12–13)
- The ruler sought to have him released (6:14)
- But the people would not allow it (6:15)
- The den of death was sealed with a stone (6:17)
- Rising early in the morning, believer(s) came to see him (6:19)
- Those who believed in him assumed he was dead (6:20)
- Delivered because ‘innocency was found in [him]’ (6:22)
- Came forth in perfect condition (6:23)
- Those who fight against him shall die (6:24)
- The gospel of his deliverance from death by God was published throughout all the earth (6:25–27)

8. Altars were made of stones cut without hands

If thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. (Ex 20:25)

The <temple> ... was built of stone made ready <at the quarry>: so that there was neither hammer nor <chisel> nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. (1 Kgs 6:7)

“Stones or rocks are still placed on Jewish graves as reminders of the stone built temple and an innate desire to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Apparently, it was and will be made with stone — and the Rock of Salvation will come to that Temple!” (Rona #46)

9. Daniel saw the Lord “clothed in linen” (10:5; 12:6)

“One fabric stands out in the Bible—linen. ... It is mentioned 105 times. It is first mentioned at the end of Genesis when Pharaoh dressed his new second-in-command, Joseph, in fine linen (Gen 41:42). It must have been the fabric of the wealthy. The next time we see it is in Exodus, in the description of the tabernacle (chapters 25–27). The courtyard hangings, the ‘gate’ to the courtyard, the ‘door’ to the tabernacle, the curtains for walls inside the tabernacle, and the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies were all made of ‘fine woven linen.’ God chooses only the best for His house, so linen must have been the best. ...

“Most of the garments for the priests were made of linen (Ex 28). The one exception was the blue robe for the high priest, which was made of wool. The child Samuel, who ministered in the tabernacle, and King David wore linen. After being promoted by the Persian king, Mordechai was dressed in linen, as well as the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. Ezekiel and Daniel both had visions of a ‘man clothed in linen’ (possibly the [pre-mortal] Yeshua/Jesus, representing His role as priest).

“In Ezekiel 16, the prophet describes Israel as a baby left in a field and how God took her and raised her to be a beautiful woman. ‘Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth’ (v.13a). ... Yeshua [or Jesus] was wrapped in linen at His burial. ... In the book of Revelation, we learn that angels (15:6), the bride of Messiah (19:8), and the armies of heaven (19:14) are all dressed in linen, which, for believers, represents ‘the righteous acts of the saints.’ ... Some characteristics of linen might give us a hint of why God may have chosen it as His apparel for His holy ones and the cloth to adorn some of His holiest earthly items:

- It originated in Egypt and was used to wrap Egyptian mummies in because it symbolized light and purity and displayed wealth. It was expensive because of the labor intensive method of producing it. The Israelites took a supply of it with them from Egypt, which was used for the tabernacle (Ex 25:4), and some of them may have learned how to make it from the Egyptians (35:35).
- It has the ability to absorb and lose water rapidly. Thus, it is popular in warm climates, as it allows the body to breathe and is exceptionally cool, making it superior to cotton in this regard. Priests must have found it most comfortable while working around the heat of the sacrificial altar and especially in the desert during Israel’s 40 years of wandering.
- It is less likely to cling to the body when wet than other fabrics.
- It is made of flax, the strongest of vegetable fibers and two to three times stronger than cotton. Fishing nets, twine, and rope are also made from flax fibers.
- It is resistant to moths and carpet beetles, and thus lasts a long time. When the tomb of the Pharaoh Ramesses II, who died 1213 BC, was discovered in 1881, the linen wrappings were perfectly preserved!” (quoted in DBlog 18 Jan 2010)