

When Dreams Come True

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Daniel 2.
- B. There is great despair today.
- C. The television, computer and the nuclear bomb have all caused great stress.
- D. God gives us reassurance in the midst of these stresses.
- E. Daniel's theme is how to live a godly life in a pagan world.

II. Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

- A. Many people still believe in soothsayers and psychics today.
- B. Daniel had been shown a vision of the future.
- C. Many liberals have trouble with Daniel because it is so accurate with regard to history. The Dead Sea Scrolls offer proper evidence of Daniel's dating to the 6th century BC.
- D. Daniel speaks of the "latter times."
 - 1. There would come a time when Israel would abide without a sacrifice.
 - 2. In the end, the temple and sacrifices would be restored to them.
 - 3. That the Jews have been restored to the Holy Land might indicate that the times of the Gentiles are nearly over.
 - 4. Biblical "seasons" are the joints throughout time that indicate the close of one period and the beginning of another. This is pictured in the return of the nation of Israel showing we are in the last of the seasons of the Gentiles.
- E. The Gentile kingdoms of the dream.
 - 1. The Babylonian Empire.
 - 2. The Persian Empire.
 - 3. The Macedonian Empire.
 - 4. The fourth empire beginning with Rome, which is the West and Western nations.
- F. The ideal government is a monarch as pictured by Nebuchadnezzar, but the right monarch must sit on the throne.

G. All the kingdoms of the earth will eventually culminate in God's kingdom.

H. These prophecies are important so that we do not waste our lives and realize the importance of our time here on earth.

Application questions:

1. What are some of the stresses you face today that challenge your Christians faith?

2. Why is Israel important in the plan of God for restoration?

3. In what way does Daniel's message give us hope today with regard to what is coming tomorrow? Explain.
