

5/11/25

GABC Ames, Foundations

KEY THEMES

- 2:20-21 "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."
- God's **supremacy** over pagan nations
- God's ability to **preserve** his faithful ones in exile
- God **humbles** the proud
- God's **faithfulness** to his purposes
- God's sovereign **control** over world events

STRUCTURE

- Key Characters
 - Hebrews: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego
 - Kings, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar (Nebuchadnezzar's Son), Darius (the Mede)
- 1-6 Narrative
 - 1 - Forbidden Food
 - 2 - The idol of human pride
 - 3 - Nebuchadnezzar's Golden image
 - 4 - Nebuchadnezzar has another dream, gets humbled, praises God
 - 5 - Belshazzar and the writing on the wall
 - 6 - Daniel and the lion's den.
- 7-12 Visions
 - 7 - Four beasts and the Son of Man
 - 8 - Ram and the Goat
 - 9 - 70 weeks of years, coming messiah
 - 10 - Daniel and an angel
 - 11-12 - Final eschatological prophecies

THEOLOGY

- God is sovereign behind kings and empires. All **dominion** comes from him, because all dominion belongs to him.
- God is able to protect his people from man (**fiery furnace**) and nature (**lion's den**).

REDEMPTION

- Christ's kingdom is the **tiny rock** that grows to crush the pride of the world empires.
- The anointed one, the Son of David, the Son of Man who comes from Heaven will inherit **dominion** over the earth - his kingdom will begin small, but will grow to fill the whole earth.
- God **opposes** the proud but gives grace to the humble.

APPLICATION

- Faithfulness often feels **foolish**
- Faithfulness requires **humility**
- God doesn't promise quick relief - but the **resurrection** will change everything.

DISCUSSION

- Consider the three confessions (Daniel - 2:20-23, Nebuchadnezzar - 4:34-35, and Darius - 6:26-27)
 - What do we learn about God?
 - What do we learn about mankind? Both individuals and kingdoms.
 - How do these shed light on the point of the book of Daniel?

- Fiery Furnace - 3:14-18
 - How should this help us think about temptation?
 - What must these boys believe about God and mankind?

- Belshazzar - 5:22-23
 - How should this convict us or warn us?
 - What should we learn about God from this?
 - What should we learn about Godly living from this?