**Daniel** (Lesson 3)

*(Spiritual Living in a Secular World) Daniel 2:31-49*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

READ: Daniel 2:31-49 (Facing the Future)

1. From your study in Daniel so far, summarize the events that led to Daniel’s appearance before King Nebuchadnezzar.

1. Nebuchadnezzar had demanded that any interpreter of his dream had to first tell him what happened in the dream. What about Daniel’s description of the dream (vv.31-35), would have caused Nebuchadnezzar to be troubled?
2. In the interpretation of the king’s dream, why do you think God referred to Nebuchadnezzar as the head of gold (vv.36-38)?
3. What observations can you make about the relative value and comparative strength of the four metals making up the statue (vv.31-33)?
4. While Daniel does not identify the future kingdoms, we know them as the Medo-Persian (silver), the Greek (bronze) and the Roman (iron) empires. What does your answer to question 4 and what Daniel says in verses 36-43 tell you about the nature, organization and strength of theses kingdoms?
5. What can you conclude about the kingdoms represented by the mixture of clay (ceramic) with iron (vv.41-43)?
6. Verse 44 says that “in the time of those kings [the ones represented by the toes of the statue], the God of heaven will set up a kingdom”. How would you describe the kingdom of God based on verses 44-45?
7. In your opinion, was this prophesy fulfilled when Jesus established the church or is it referring to the still future kingdom? Explain?
8. Describe the king’s response to Daniel’s interpretation of his dream (vv.46-49).
9. What does this chapter teach you about God’s activity in the unfolding of human history?
10. How does the portrait of God in this chapter encourage you to trust him with your life and circumstances?

*Take time to thank God for his control over the present and the future*.

***Now or Later***

Almost 1,200 years before Daniel, God gave another powerful ruler a dream about the future, and another young man interpreted the dream when the pagan magicians had failed. Joseph interpreted the Pharaoh’s dream and saved God’s people from starvation. You can read the story in Genesis 41. Consider: Does God still speak to us in dreams? What authority can we use to determine if a dream is genuinely from God?

***NEXT LESSON***:

**Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World**

***Bow or Burn! –* READ: Daniel 3**