

This morning I would like to look at a chapter which is probably quite familiar to most of you, and also at another chapter which is perhaps not quite so familiar. These are the 2nd and 7th chs. of the book of Daniel. I believe the 2nd ch. is particular well known, the 7th a good bit less known. But the two of them fit together. In fact they are two different views of the same thing. Therefore I think we understand either of them better if we look also at the other one.

The 2nd ch. of Daniel, probably most of you know the story, how Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and he completely forgot what it was and made the absurd demand upon his wise men that they not only tell him what the dream meant, but what it was. None of them could do this for him. Then the Lord enabled Daniel to do it. We will look at the dream as Daniel stated it, then as he explained it. We look at Dan. 2:31 -- "Thou O king sawest and behold a great image. This great image whose brightness was excellent stood before thee, and the form of it was terrible. The image's head was of fine gold; its breast and arms were of silver. Its belly and thighs of bronze. Its legs of iron, its feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest until a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon its feet that were part of iron and clay. And broke them to pieces. Then were the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floor, and the wind carried them away so that no place was found for them. And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This is the dream. And we will tell its interpretation before the king . . . (continue reading through Dan. 2:45).

This then was the dream Neb. had and the interpretation. In this case God gave Neb. the dream and God enabled Dan. to give the interp. to him. There are many cases in Scripture where God reveals His truth to people through dreams. That doesn't mean that any dream anybody ever had was a revelation! Certainly not! It does not mean that most dreams are revelation. I think most dreams are the result of what we ate the day before, or of something we've been ~~thinking about~~ thinking about or something we're afraid of. We should be very careful slow about feeling that a dream we have necessarily has a meaning for us and tells us anything about the future. God can use whatever he chooses for His purposes. God chose various methods of giving His truth to people until the Scripture was entirely written. When the Scripture was entirely written He had given us so material to express His will for us His desires for our lives, His purposes for what we should know that we can find in it all that we need through a study of the Scripture. Therefore, rarely if ever, Does God in these days give direct revelation to individuals. He wishes us not to be atomatons -- to look to him to say to us Shall I go here, shall I go there, shall I do this or that but to be living creatures that love Him and study His word and learn the principles that He has for us, and knowing that as we try to follow the principles He gives us He will lead us providentially, and show us His will.