

Making sense of the times

An enduring kingdom

Daniel 2: 24 – 49
23rd January 2022



Bowthorpe
Church

Call to worship

All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your
kingdom and speak of your might



so that all people may know of your
mighty acts and the glorious
splendour of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom, and your dominion
endures through all generations.

(Psalm 145:10-13)



Opening prayer

Gracious God, we come rejoicing in your presence, and proclaim the glory of your kingdom, for your mercy reaches from the heavens to the very depths, and your kindness

And grace are seen in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Now take our worship,
all we have and all we are, for your
glory's sake. **Amen.**



Songs



Confession

Let us come before the Lord with
humble hearts and confess our
sins.



Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as



ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.



Assurance of pardon

May God our Father forgive us
our sins and bring us to the
fellowship of his table with his
saints for ever. **Amen.**



Offertory and Sunday Club prayers

Loving God, in your generosity you have given us life through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Now bless these gifts and our lives for your kingdom's sake.

Amen.



Daniel 2: 24 - 49

24 Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, 'Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.'



25 Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, 'I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.'

26 The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), 'Are you able

to tell me what I saw in my dream
and interpret it?’

27 Daniel replied, ‘No wise man,
enchanter, magician or diviner can
explain to the king the mystery he
has asked about, 28 but there is a
God in heaven who reveals



mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:



29 'As Your Majesty was lying there,
your mind turned to things to come,
and the revealer of mysteries
showed you what is going to
happen. 30 As for me, this mystery
has been revealed to me,



not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.



31 'Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue – an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. 32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver,



its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.



35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing-floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace.



But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 'This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 Your Majesty, you are the king of kings.



The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all.



You are that head of gold.

39 'After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. 40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron – for iron breaks



and smashes everything – and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have

some of the strength of iron in it,
even as you saw iron mixed with
clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron
and partly clay, so this kingdom will
be partly strong and partly brittle.
43 And just as you saw the iron
mixed with baked clay,



so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

44 'In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to



another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands



- a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

‘The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future.

The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.’

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honour and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. 47 The king said to Daniel, 'Surely your God is the God of gods



and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.'

48 Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler



over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. 49 Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chief ministers over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself



remained at the royal court.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God





An enduring kingdom



Bowthorpe
Church

Part	Metal
Head	Pure gold
Arms and chest	Silver
Belly and thighs	Bronze
Legs	Iron
Feet	Iron and baked clay

Kingdom/Empire
Babylonian
Medo-Persian
Greek Alexander the Great
Roman
?





Prayers of intercession

Lord our God, our present help in times of trouble, we come before you trusting in your goodness and mercy, and in our desire to see the fulness of your kingdom.



Lord, we pray for the Church. Help us to build our lives on the firm foundation of your teaching in Scripture. Strengthen your Church when it is beset by the storms of the world, that we may remain firm in the hope you have given us and

obedient to your Word always. We pray for the persecuted Church, for those hiding in fear of their lives, for those in prison, for those who are alone. Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness to us. May your people remain faithful to you.



Lord, we pray for the world. We pray for those who are seeking meaning and purpose to their lives, for those whose lives are empty, for those who are looking in the wrong places for truth, love, hope and peace. We pray that they may

discover the life only you can give. We pray for those who teach and influence others, for those who set standards and offer ways of right living for society. We pray for all involved in government, in broadcasting and the press.



Finally, Lord, we pray for all whose lives have fallen apart, those who have lost loved ones, who have lost freedom, employment, and a place to call home. We pray for the island nation of Tonga following the tsunami this week.



Please open the hearts of the nations to this small country that the people of Tonga would get the help they need. As we pray for Tonga we also pray for our own homes and loved ones, that we may know your blessing.



All these things we pray in Jesus'
name. **Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.**

Your kingdom come,

**Your will be done on earth as in
heaven**



**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but
deliver us from evil.**



**For the kingdom, the power and
the glory are yours now and for
ever. Amen.**



Song



Bowthorpe
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Closing prayer and blessing

Now may the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord



And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit be among you and remain
with you always. **Amen.**



Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.

