

The Golden Image of Nebuchadnezzar

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References: Daniel 3, Daniel 2:5; Daniel 2:32-33; Daniel 3:1-2

Questions on Daniel 2: The Multi-Metallic Image and the King's Decree

John, is there still a seat for you? There's a seat for you, John, or are you going to be at the back? It is Daniel 3 today. Did I say the wrong number? It is Daniel 3 today.

约翰，那里还有你的座位吗？约翰，这里有你的座位，还是你要坐在后面？今天我们要讲但以理书第三章。我刚才是不是说错数字了？今天确实是但以理书第三章。

All right now, the other thing is that we've had a lot of questions over the last couple of days. If you have questions on anything we're studying, let us know! Don't be afraid to ask a question on Daniel 1 or 2, and we're going to start studying in Daniel 3. Any questions to start with?

好了，我们过去几天一直在学习但以理书第一章和第二章，大家肯定有很多问题。在我们开始学习第三章之前，大家对但以理书第一章和第二章有没有什么问题？不要害怕提问！

And the reason I'm enthusiastic about questions today is that David is here, and so he can answer the questions that I can't answer. So we appreciate that very much.

我今天非常热心请大家提问的原因，是因为大卫在这里。他可以回答很多问题，也能回答一些我回答不了的问题，我们非常感谢。

Vic's question is in Daniel chapter 2, because of the image of Nebuchadnezzar. The head of gold represents Nebuchadnezzar, but the chest, arms, belly, thighs, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay were not fully explained. He said, "You only explained the golden head; you didn't explain the others. Could you explain that?"

老王的问题是有关但以理书第二章尼布甲尼撒的那个像。金头代表尼布甲尼撒，但是银的胸膛、臂膀、铜的腹部和大腿、铁的腿以及半铁半泥的脚还没有解释清楚。他说：“你只解释了金头，没有解释其他部分。你能解释一下吗？”

You're right; I guess I didn't. Later on, as you go through the book of Daniel, this will come up again. But the first kingdom is the kingdom of Babylon—Nebuchadnezzar the king, that's gold.

你说得对，我当时确实没有细讲。在我们学习但以理书后面的内容时，这些事情还会再次出现。但这第一个王国是巴比伦王国——尼布甲尼撒王，那就是金头。

And then the second kingdom, as we are going to see later on, is the kingdom of silver. It says in chapter 2, verses 32 to 33:

然后第二个王国，正如我们稍后会看到的，是银的王国。但以理书第二章三十二至三十三节说道：

[Daniel 2:32-33 NKJV]

³² This image's head was of fine 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 clay.

Later in the chapter, we are told that these kingdoms will follow one another, but later in the book we are going to realize that the head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The silver is the Medo-Persian Empire.

在这一章的后半部分，我们被告知这些王国将相继出现。而在但以理书后面的篇章中，我们会明白金头是巴比伦的尼布甲尼撒，银的胸膛和臂膀是随之而来的玛代波斯帝国。

The third is the Greek Empire that starts with Alexander the Great and then breaks into four kingdoms that followed him.

第三个是希腊帝国，始于亚历山大大帝，后来他的王国分裂为四个跟从他的政权。

The fourth is the Roman Empire.

第四个是罗马帝国。

And that lasted a long time throughout all the time of the Lord Jesus Christ and well into the apostolic age.

那个帝国延续了很长时间，贯穿了主耶稣基督的时代，并一直延续到使徒时代。

And then following that world empire is the feet which were of iron and clay—part descendant from the Roman Empire, part from other empires, together and not together. And there is much more about that in the chapters that follow.

在这个世界帝国之后，是半铁半泥的脚——一部分源自罗马帝国，一部分源自其他帝国，它们混合在一起却又不能真正相合。在接下来的章节中对此会有更多的阐述。

So what are the four empires? Babylonian Empire, Medo-Persian Empire, Greek Empire, Roman Empire, and the subsequent empire that has got remnants of the Roman Empire in it.

所以这四个王国是什么呢？巴比伦帝国、玛代波斯帝国、希腊帝国、罗马帝国，以及后来混杂着罗马帝国残余势力的分裂政权。

Vic's first question, which was a question from last week, is precisely what is meant by chapter 2, verse 5. The Authorized Version says in verse 5, "The thing is gone from me." That's what Nebuchadnezzar said. But the Chinese version does not say that, nor does the New King James Version say that. Someone read to me please what the New King James says or what the Chinese says.

老王的第一个问题是上周留下的问题，关于但以理书第二章第五节的确切含义。英王钦定本（KJV）在第五节中译为“那梦我已经忘了”，这就是尼布甲尼撒说的。但中文圣经和新英王钦定本（NKJV）却不是这么说的。请哪位读一下新英王钦定本或中文是怎么说的。

[Daniel 2:5 NKJV]

The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.

The difference between the two versions is that the Authorized Version says, "The thing is gone from me," and the New King James and the Chinese say, "My decision is firm; the thing is certain."

这两个版本之间的区别在于：钦定本说是“那梦我已经忘了”，而新钦定本和中文圣经则说“我已定命”或事情已成定局。

Why do you get two different translations? The reason, I believe, is that the original language is uncertain. Both are possible. It's hard for the scholars to know precisely what Nebuchadnezzar said because the words are hard to translate.

为什么会有两种不同的翻译呢？我相信原因在于原文词义有不确定的空间，两种解释都有可能。学者们很难确切断定尼布甲尼撒究竟说了什么，因为那些词汇很难确切翻译。

It is more logical to assume that what is being said is, "The thing is gone from me," in the sense that Nebuchadnezzar is testing his wise men. He is basically saying to them, "I know

what I dreamt. It's just that I'm not going to tell you, because you'll tell me whatever you want to tell me anyway. So the way I can prove that you're going to interpret my dream properly is that I won't tell you what my dream is. If you can tell me what my dream is, then I will know that you can give me the right interpretation."

从逻辑上推断，尼布甲尼撒是在考验那些哲士智慧人。他的意思基本上是：“我知道我做了什么梦，但我偏不告诉你们，因为如果我告诉了你们，你们就可以凭私意胡乱解释。要证明你们能否正确解释我的梦，唯一的办法就是我不告诉你们梦境。如果你们能把梦境告诉我，我便知道你们能给出正确的解释。”

So Vic, the answer is that either way, we know the conclusion of the story, but we are just not sure whether Nebuchadnezzar knew what he had dreamt or did not know what he had dreamt. David, do you have any comments on that?

所以老王，答案是无论哪种翻译，故事的结果我们都很清楚，只是我们无法完全确定尼布甲尼撒当时到底是真的忘了梦还是清楚记得自己的梦。大卫，对此你有什么看法吗？

"I'm looking at the text on my phone in Hebrew, and I can see one of the words is 'from me,' and one of the words is 'firm.' So it can be a little confusing. I think I agree with you that it was uncertain to the translators, and it could go either way."

大卫说：“我正在手机上看希伯来文文本，我看到其中一个词有‘出于我/离我而去’的意思，另一个词有‘坚定/定命’的意思，所以确实容易让人困惑。我同意哈罗德的看法，译者们在翻译时难以决断，两种方向都有可能。”

So are you telling us that you understand a little bit of Hebrew? Very good!

所以你是在告诉我们你懂一点希伯来文吗？太好了！

Daniel 3:1: The Golden Image on the Plain of Dura

Any other questions? Daniel chapter 3. We'll just read a little and comment as we go. If you've got comments or questions, add them as we go.

还有其他问题吗？我们来看但以理书第三章。我们要一边读一边讲解，如果大家有什么看法或问题，可以随时提出来。

[Daniel 3:1 NKJV]

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

And if we keep on reading, as we will, we'll remember that this was an image that he set up in order to be worshiped. All the people had to worship this image.

如果我们继续往下读，就会知道这是尼布甲尼撒特意树立起来让人敬拜的雕像，所有的人都必须敬拜这个像。

So a few comments. Number one: it was set up in the plain of Dura, and the word Dura means "circle."

这里有几点说明。第一：这个像设立在杜拉平原，“杜拉”这个词的意思是“圆圈”。

You had this big plain where lots of people are going to be coming. It was logical that the center of this plain was the center of activity, the center of interest of this big circle.

这里有一片巨大的平原，许多人都会聚集到这里来。很显然，这个圆圈状大平原的中心就是整个活动的中心和所有人瞩目的焦点。

How high was it? Sixty cubits—which is about ninety feet high. How high is that? Like a nine-story building—ten feet to a story, usually nine stories high. How wide was it? Six cubits, which would be nine feet wide. So it was ninety feet high and nine feet wide.

这个像有多高呢？六十肘——大约九十英尺高。那有多高？相当于一栋九层楼高的建筑——通常一层楼十英尺高。它有多宽呢？六肘，也就是九英尺宽。所以它有九十英尺高，却只有九英尺宽。

It was gold. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar made it gold? Because God had told him in the earlier chapter that he was the head of gold.

它是纯金的。你认为尼布甲尼撒为什么要用金子造它呢？因为神在前一章已经告诉过他，他就是那个金头。

What do you think the image looked like? We don't know for sure; take a guess. Do you think it's possible that the image might have looked like Nebuchadnezzar?

你认为这个雕像看起来像什么样子？我们不能完全确定，大家猜猜看。你认为这个像有没有可能看起来很像尼布甲尼撒本人？

He knew he was the head of gold, and he was pretty powerful. He called everybody who is a boss in his kingdom to come and worship it, so I think it looked a lot like Nebuchadnezzar. I certainly can't prove that.

他知道自己就是那个金头，而且大权在握。他召集王国里所有的官员首领都来敬拜它，所以我认为它很可能长得很像尼布甲尼撒。当然，我无法绝对证实这一点。

Now, if you were six feet high, how wide would you be? You're probably ten, twelve, or fourteen inches wide, depending on how much you had for lunch. If you were six feet high and in the same proportion as this image, you'd be point six of a foot wide.

现在设想一下，如果你有六英尺高，你会有多宽？你大概有十到十四英寸宽，这取决于你中午吃了多少。如果你有六英尺高，并且按照这个雕像的比例（十比一），那你只有零点六英尺宽（约七英寸）。

When God made you, why did He make you six feet high and twelve, fourteen, or sixteen inches wide, rather than six inches? Why did He make you as wide as He made you? So you wouldn't fall over! That's why. If you were really skinny and really tall, when the wind blew, you'd fall over.

当神创造你的时候，为什么把你造成六英尺高配十二到十六英寸宽，而不是六英寸宽呢？为什么神把你造得这么宽？为了让你不会轻易跌倒！这就是原因。如果你非常瘦窄又非常高，微风一吹你就倒了。

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar's image? This image had to fall down. That's prophetic in this little story.

尼布甲尼撒的这个雕像最后发生了什么？这个雕像注定是要倒塌的。在这个小细节里蕴含着预言性的意义。

Nebuchadnezzar was very wrong. He thought because God made him the king of gold, he could pretty much do anything he wanted to do. Do you know that there are lots of people in the world today who are so smart that they figure they don't need God? And for some of us who aren't that smart, it's sometimes easier, because we know we don't know enough.

尼布甲尼撒大错特错了。他以为既然神立他为金头的君王，他就可以为所欲为。你知道今天世上有很多人自以为极其聪明，以至于觉得自己根本不需要神吗？而对于我们这些没那么聪明的人来说，有时反而更容易信靠，因为我们深知自己的有限和无知。

Daniel 3:2: The Dedication of the Image and the Christian Legacy of Eiffel

That's a bit of an introduction. Let's keep going with verse number 2:

这是一个简短的背景介绍。我们继续看第二节：

[Daniel 3:2 NKJV]

And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the

magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Who was there? Pretty much all the bosses in the kingdom. All the big bosses were invited.

有谁在场呢？基本上整个王国里所有掌权的官员都到了，所有的大人物都被邀请出席。

What do we know about this image? It was the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. It wasn't just the Eiffel Tower; it was an image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Keep that little line in mind—"which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up." You're going to read about it more. Why did he emphasize the image that he had set up? Because it was all about Nebuchadnezzar.

关于这个雕像我们还知道什么？这是尼布甲尼撒所立的像。它不是像埃菲尔铁塔那样的普通建筑，而是尼布甲尼撒为了彰显自己所立的像。请把这句话牢记在心——“尼布甲尼撒王所立的像”。在后文中你会反复读到它。为什么要强调这是“他所立的像”呢？因为这一切都是为了高举尼布甲尼撒自己。

Now, what do you know about the Eiffel Tower? It's a big tower in the city of Paris in France. It's an engineering marvel, and one of the most famous landmarks in the city of Paris. Who was it named after? Take a guess. Mr. Eiffel.

你对埃菲尔铁塔了解多少？它是法国巴黎市一座巨大的铁塔，是一项工程奇迹，也是巴黎最著名的地标之一。它是以谁的名字命名的呢？猜猜看。埃菲尔先生。

What do you know about Mr. Eiffel? He was a brilliant engineer. But it is interesting: Mr. Eiffel was a devoted Christian; he loved the Lord Jesus. I just think it's very kind that the Lord allowed it to be named after him, because Eiffel was a good man.

你对埃菲尔先生了解多少？他是一位杰出的工程师。但更有意思的是：埃菲尔先生是一位虔诚的基督徒，他深爱主耶稣。我觉得神非常恩待他，让这座铁塔以他的名字命名，因为埃菲尔是一个敬畏神的好人。

That really has nothing to do with our story, other than showing that God has often used Christians in a wonderful way. He used Brother Eiffel, as we might call him, to build that tower.

这跟我们今天讲的主要故事虽然没有直接关系，但它表明神常常以奇妙的方式使用基督徒。神使用了埃菲尔弟兄建造了那座举世闻名的铁塔。

Pizza has arrived! John, would you let him in, please? Thank you. We'll pause and have lunch now.

披萨送到了！约翰，请你开门让他进来好吗？谢谢大家。我们现在先暂停用午餐。