



# DANIEL

## Chapter 2

# Back to the Future

# Chapter 1 - Review

Daniel trusts God

God won the day

The people of God were elevated

Babylon fell

The image features a central graphic of a sunburst or target pattern. It consists of several concentric circles. The innermost circle is a solid dark blue. The next ring is a bright orange, followed by a ring of a slightly darker orange, and an outermost ring of a deep red. The text 'The End' is written in a white, elegant cursive script across the center. The word 'The' is on the top line and 'End' is on the bottom line. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating above the sunburst. The entire graphic is set against a solid black background.

*The End*

# Success in Babylon is Achieved

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Wonderful story! - we can all go home now.

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But there is far more to the book than that!

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It begs the question - is there something more than **Human Intellectual Power**?

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God answers this question by giving a pagan king - Nebuchadnezzar a dream.

What  
more can  
there be?

God is!

And He rules in the  
affairs of ALL men.

Hence the dream was given  
to a pagan king and relayed  
in a gentile language!

God will show Himself to all  
men, through the kingdoms He  
puts up and ultimately brings  
down.



**DID BABE**

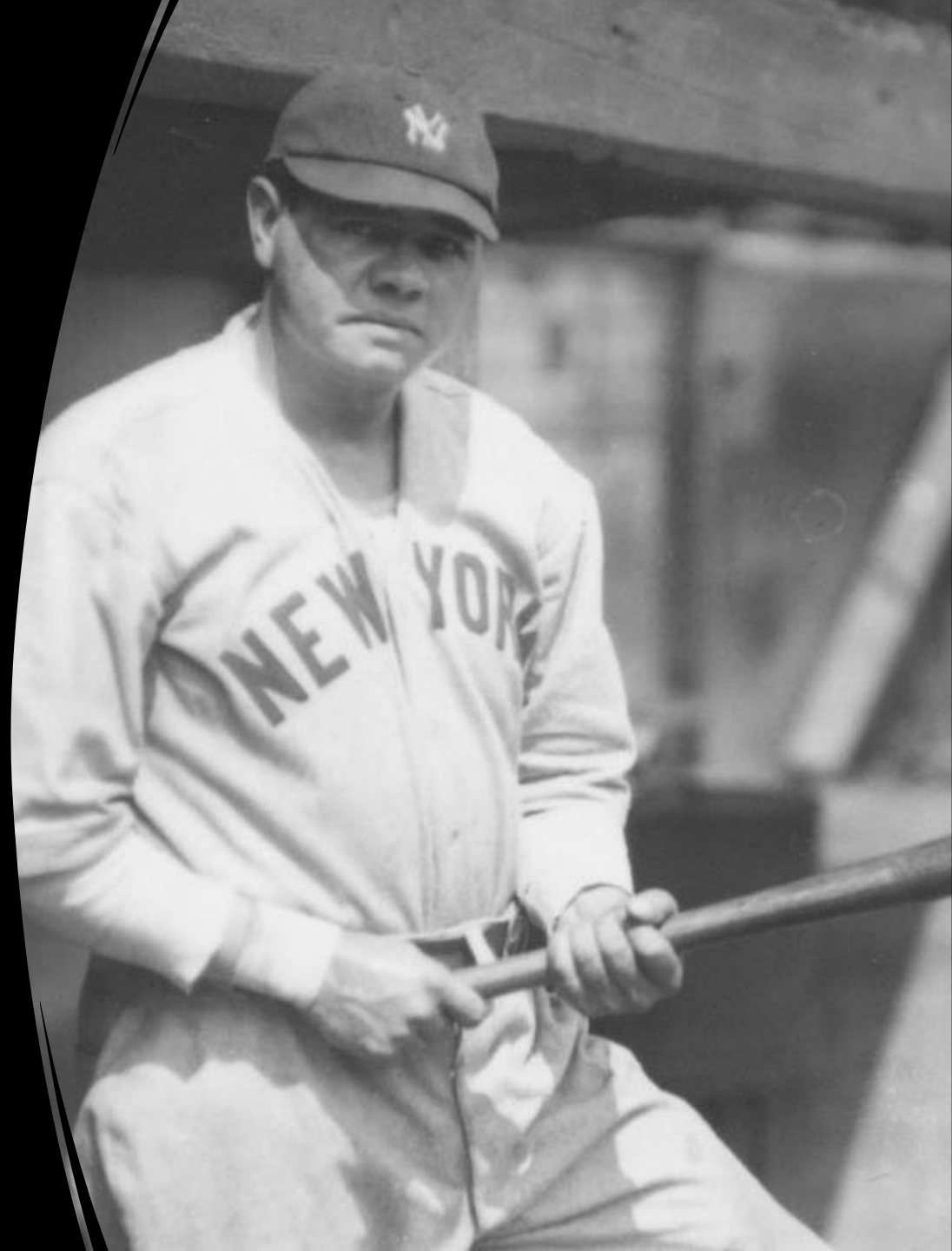
**RUTH CALL**

**HIS SHOT?**

# Did Babe Ruth call his shot?

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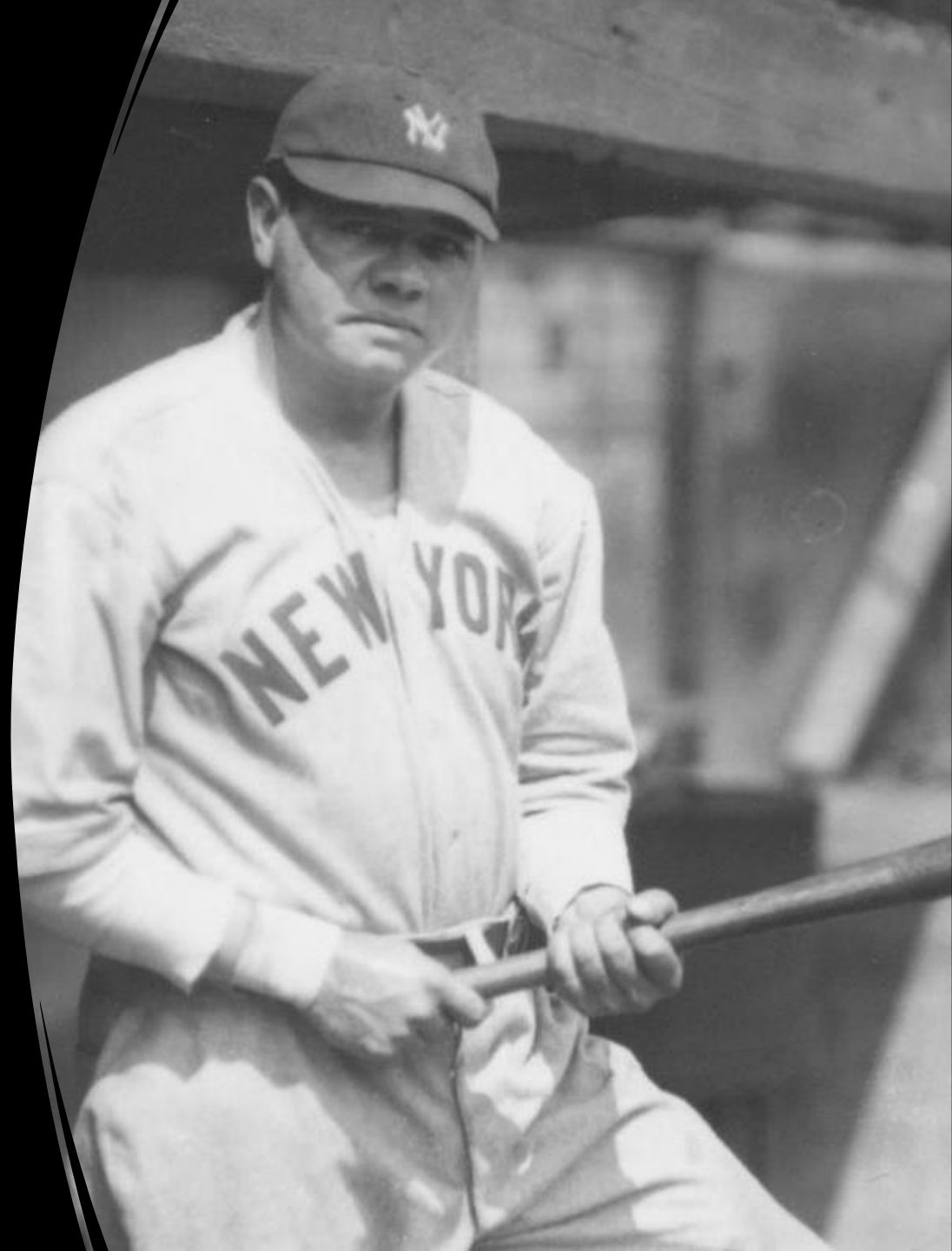
- In October 1932, after 2 strikes, Ruth pointed 2 fingers to centerfield.
- Some have suggested that he was just reminding the crowd that he only had 2 strikes – it wasn't over yet.
- But others say he was pointing to where he would hit the ball. He was saying the future was under his control.



# What a hit! Home run!

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- Sure enough – on the very next pitch he hit a home run to center field!
- And he hit the ball into the farthest field!





Did Babe  
Ruth  
control his  
future, or  
did he get  
lucky?

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**Does God  
know?**

**Who  
controls the  
future?**

- Could God save from the fire?
- In this chapter God will show that, not only does He know, but He also controls the future.
- God “CALLS THE SHOTS”

# CHAPTER 2 – BREAK DOWN

- 1) **Nebuchadnezzar** – his Dream vs. 1-13
- 2) **Daniel** – his God vs. 14-30
- 3) **God** – His Kingdom vs. 31-49

# CHAPTERS 2, 3 & 4

- The next 3 chapters will present:

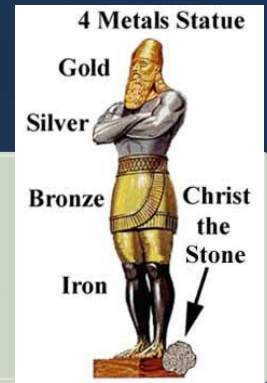
## 3 Colossal Things

- All of which the world will see as of great value in different ways.
- The world will idolize these things not only proverbially but literally!

# 3 Colossal Things

Chapter 2

Dream Image of Man



Chapter 3

Actual Image of Man



Chapter 4

Tree



## Nebuchadnezzar – his Dream vs. 1-13

- Nebuchadnezzar calls for the wise in the land and puts their brains to the test.
- He asks not just for the interpretation of the dream but for the dream itself.
- It is more likely the king sought to verify the veracity of the pending interpretation by seeking the dream's content, having knowledge of it himself rather than having forgotten it – but on this point we cannot be dogmatic.

## Nebuchadnezzar – his Dream vs. 1-13

- But was there another reason he would not divulge the contents of the dream to those around him?
- In his dream the ‘Big’ man was cut down – he was the ‘biggest man’ and if he revealed this to his servants, surely they would see it done!
- He was a military General and this dream was to him a bad omen.
- So, he tested their intellects – **would intellect be enough?**

## Nebuchadnezzar – his Dream vs. 1-13

- The response of the wise men is fascinating:
  - *“no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”* vs 11
- The bar was set by the ‘wise men’ – only God could reveal the dream and they could not access Him!
- Because His dwelling was not with us.
- Later in this chapter Daniel affirmed this:
  - *“there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.”*  
vs. 28



## Nebuchadnezzar – his Dream vs. 1-13

- This is the same concept that Peter was expressing in his 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle:
  - *“Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.”* 2Pet. 1:20
  - *“private interpretation”* = the result of individual intellectual analysis.
- No amount of intellect could reveal the dream or its interpretation .
- Only revelation could do this.

## Nebuchadnezzar – his Dream vs. 1-13

- Alas, if intellect fails and God is not here – how can it be done?
- But there was hope, for the distressed King.
  - Also, for the wise men, Daniel, his friends and ultimately the world.
- God does commune with man; He would not only “dwell WITH flesh” but “dwell IN flesh”.
  - “*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” Jn. 1:14

## Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

1) Daniel held a Prayer Meeting vs. 17-19

2) Daniel had a Hymn Sing vs. 20-23

3) Daniel proclaimed the Gospel message  
vs. 24-30

# Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

- Prayer Meeting: vs. 17-19

- These 4 men came together to pray to God for answers!
- Likely still teenagers, knowing much less of God than we do, in a strange land and under the sentence of death – they prayed!

### Key Point:

- Daniel was able to stand before the king alone because he had knelt before God with his friends.

# Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

- Hymn Sing: vs. 20-23
  - Always good to have hymnology affirm great truths about God.
  - Daniel affirms two things about God in his song:
    - God controls history (v. 21)
    - God reveals His purposes (v. 22)
  - These 2 concepts directly speak to the king's inquiry – which, by the way, could not be answered by intellect but only via revelation.

# Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

- Gospel message: vs. 24-30
  - Daniel starts by making something very clear:
    - *“...there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries .... this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king...” vs. 28&30*
  - Every true preacher must acknowledge that wisdom, revelation and truth only comes through the God of Heaven, and we are but mere conduits.



# James M. Gray

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- A prolific preacher and teacher of God's Word.
- He was awarded several Doctorates, including Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Divinity.
- He was appointed both Dean and President of the Moody Bible Institute.
- And was one of the editors of the Scofield Reference Bible.



# James M. Gray

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*Naught have I gotten but what I  
received;*

*Grace hath bestowed it since I have  
believed;*

*Boasting excluded, pride I abase;*

*I'm only a sinner, saved by grace!*

*Only a sinner saved by grace!*

*This is my story, to God be the glory—*

*I'm only a sinner saved by grace!*



# Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

- Gospel message: vs. 24-30

## The Key Message:

- There will be a Succession of Kingdoms, because:
  1. God is the source of all Imperial Power.
  2. The tenure of all power is limited – “*after you*”. vs 39
  3. No Political System is of absolute value.
- The **Stone** is separate from the image.
- Note God’s people play no role in the destruction of the image – only the Stone.

# Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

- Gospel message: vs. 24-30
  - This colossal image of man is flawed – feet of clay.
  - But the Stone, in contrast, is stable.
  - Unlike the image, which disintegrates “*not a trace of them could be found*”, the Stone “*filled the whole earth*” vs.35
  - The Stone is supernatural “*by no human hand*”.  
vs 45

# Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

- Gospel message: vs. 24-30
  - The Stone is none other than Christ Himself!
    - *“Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken”* Heb. 12:28
    - *“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”* Isa. 28:16 & 1 Pet. 2:6

## Daniel – his God vs. 14-30

- Knowledge of God must come by revelation from God. He is outside of the sphere of our world.
  - *“No one has ever seen God, but the One and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.”* (NIV) Jn. 1:18
  - *“These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”* 1 Cor. 2:10

# All 3 Colossal Things are Flawed

Chapter  
2

Dream Image of Man

Feet of Clay

Chapter  
3

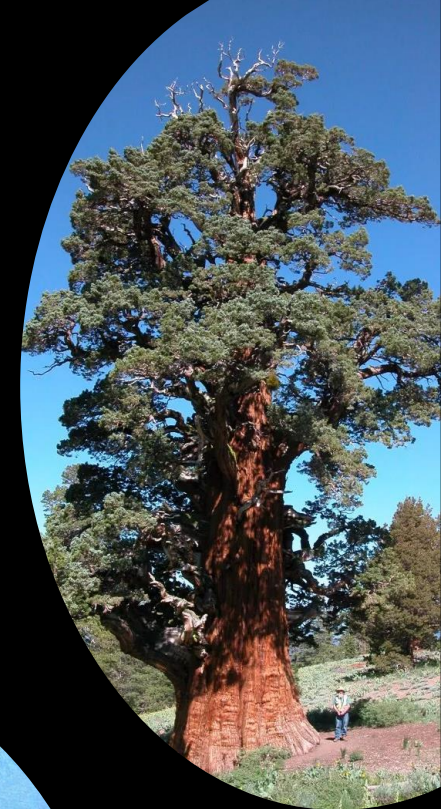
Actual Image of Man

Failed to engender loyalty

Chapter  
4

Tree

Cut down



**God's  
Lesson  
regarding  
the Eternal**

It cannot be ACCESSED  
by intellect/reason

But it can be ACCEPTED  
then studied by  
reason/intellect