

honors Mordecai and grants Esther's request to reverse Haman's decree (8:1–17).

As a young boy, Daniel was carried captive from Jerusalem to Babylon. He and other promising Hebrew youths—including his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were trained in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Esther was a Jewish woman who lived shortly after the time of Daniel. After her parents died, she was raised by her cousin Mordecai. Esther was very beautiful, and Ahasuerus, the king of Persia and Media, was so pleased with her beauty that he made her his queen.

- What did Daniel and his friends propose when they were given the king's meat and wine? (See Daniel

1:8–14.) How are the blessings they received similar to the Lord's promises to us if we obey the Word of Wisdom? (See Daniel 1:15, 17, 20; D&C 89:18–20.)

- What happened when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were cast into the furnace? (See Daniel 3:21–27.) Who was in the furnace with them? (See Daniel 3:25.) How does the Savior help us when we turn to him during our trials?
- What challenges do we face today that require courage like Esther's? What blessings will we receive as we strive to do what is right even when we are faced with difficult consequences?

Additional reading: Esther 1–2; 6; 9–10.

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## “A Kingdom, Which Shall Never Be Destroyed”

### *Daniel 2*

# 46

Study the following scriptures:

a. Daniel 2:1–23. King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and commands his advisers to describe and interpret it (2:1–13). Daniel prays with his friends, and God reveals to him the dream and its interpretation (2:14–23).

b. Daniel 2:24–49. Daniel reveals that King Nebuchadnezzar's dream foretells the rise and fall of the great kingdoms of the earth and the latter-day triumph of the kingdom of God over all other kingdoms.

- How did Daniel describe the great image that the king had seen in his

dream? (See Daniel 2:31–33.) What did the different parts of the image represent? (See Daniel 2:36–43.)

- What did the “stone . . . cut out without hands” represent? (See Daniel 2:44–45; D&C 65:2.) What did Daniel prophesy concerning the Church in the latter days? (See Daniel 2:34–35, 44.) How is Daniel's prophecy that the Church will “fill the whole earth” and “never be destroyed” being fulfilled today?

Additional reading: Doctrine and Covenants 65.