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**Have Confidence! Only the Kingdom of Jesus Lasts Forever** by Daf C.  
**Daniel 2.**

Scottish Preacher, Alistair Begg tells a story about the early days of the BBC and its founder/director, Lord Reith. In the 1960's British culture was changing rapidly. There was pressure for the BBC to keep up with the times. At a meeting with staff and directors, a young producer stood up and said that the best way to do that was for the BBC to get rid of all religious content from its programmes because the church has become less and less relevant in people's lives. Lord Reith stood up and said, "The church of Jesus Christ will stand at the grave of the BBC." If we think that the BBC or any other man-made institution will outlive the church of Jesus Christ we are sadly deluded. My prayer this morning is that you share Lord Reith's confidence and that you will be encouraged from Daniel 2. The church of Jesus Christ is the only organisation that will stand in eternity. That should inspire us to follow the Lord Jesus this week. The kingdom of King Jesus will last forever.

**The King's Dream, Demand and Death-threat (V1-13):** You will remember how Daniel and his three friends were dragged off to Babylon in the exile and put on the civil service fast-track programme. They stand firm in their beliefs and prove that God is faithful. Nebuchadnezzar's dreams disturbed his sleep. (v1) He demands that his sorcerers and magicians tell him his dreams and interpret them. Their inability to do the impossible will cost them all their lives. Verse 11 is particularly telling. Their gods don't live among humans but our God is Immanuel, God with us; hinting that Christ is on his way.

**Daniel's Dream His Prayer and Praise: (14-24)** Daniel is not cowed when he finds out what has been decreed. He takes action, doing what he can with wisdom and tact. But he recognises his limitations and with his friends they pray to the ultimate power, the God of Heaven, for mercy. During the night the mystery is revealed to Daniel in a vision. His prayers are answered and Daniel praises God for his wisdom, power and knowledge. (v20-23) Do you ever wonder, "What is the point of praying? There'll be others at the prayer meeting. I'll go next time." Be inspired by the prayers of these young men and their praise in the morning when God makes known to them the king's dream. God answers our prayers! Jesus said, "With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible," (Matt 19:26) Why would we be slow to pray?

**The Dream Decoded (A Little Rock and a Huge Mountain):** Daniel informs the king that he is not able to interpret the dream but he says there is a God in Heaven that reveals secrets. (v28) Then he tells the king exactly what the dream was. We could spend a long time debating and analysing how the dream played out in history but perhaps that is not the best use of our time because the statue is not the focus of

this passage. It is the Rock that destroys the statue that is important. Suffice it to say that the head of gold was Nebuchadnezzar (v37) followed by the Medo-Persian Empire (silver) which was over-thrown by the Greek empire (bronze). They were conquered by the Romans (iron) which became brittle and mixed with clay. But clay and iron don't mix. Nebuchadnezzar was getting a preview of the next 1,000 years of history: the great empires of the world rising and falling. The focus is the Rock cut out but not by hands: a super-natural beginning. It starts out small and looks weak but it ends up smashing the huge statue to bits. It becomes a huge mountain that fills the whole earth. It crushes all those kingdoms and brings them to an end. (v44&5)

**The million dollar question** for us is, "Who's the Rock?" The kingdom of the Lord Jesus will last forever. We know this from the New Testament in Luke chapter 1. A teenage girl is visited by an angel who tells her she will conceive and have a child whom she will call Jesus for he will be great, the Son of the most high and his kingdom will never end. King Jesus is the Rock that will outlive every empire. The kingdom of Jesus began so small but it grew and grew until it became a mountain that fills the whole earth. Its size and breadth make Babylon look pathetic. Her king is incomparable.

I can guarantee that you will not find a Christmas card based on this chapter with a Rock on it instead of a stable. This baby came to plant a kingdom that will grow to include every tribe and nation. The kingdom of the Lord Jesus will outlive every other institution and empire. Soon we will be singing, 'Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born KING!'

This is a great story but this is God's living word for us today. God is in control of the present, the future and the end. (v21) Even if in the future, it becomes very difficult for us to be Christians in Wales God is still in control. We protest against bad laws and bad rulers but it does mean we don't have to panic. Knowing God is in charge we can get on and live like Daniel. God is in complete control of the future. What we do here on a Sunday morning matters. Praying and saying 'no' to temptation matters. God is in control of the end. What a wonderful encouragement. If you belong to Jesus you are safe forever. If you don't know Jesus, hear the warning. Find out how to belong to his kingdom now. Keep living for this kingdom and have confidence that he is in control. Keep looking to the Rock whose kingdom will never be destroyed.