

## Daniel's Interpretation Of The Image

Daniel 2:19 to 45: 'The secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven ... "There is a God in heaven Who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what it is that shall be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions in your head upon your bed are these: As for you, O king, as you were lying upon your bed thoughts came into your mind about what should come to pass hereafter, and He Who reveals secrets was making known to you what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than anyone else living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king and that you may know the thoughts of your mind. You, O king, saw, and behold, a great image. This image which was mighty and of exceedingly great brightness stood before you, and the appearance of it was frightening. Its head was of fine gold its chest and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked potter's clay. As you looked, a Stone was cut out without human hands, which smote the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them to pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them could be found. The Stone that smote the image became a great Rock and filled the whole earth. This was your dream, and we will tell the interpretation of it to the king."

Daniel 2:37: "You, O king, are king of the kings to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the might, and the glory. Wherever the children of men dwell, and the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, He has given them into your hand and has made you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold (Babylonian Empire). After you shall arise another (silver) kingdom (Media/Persian Empire) inferior to you, and still a third kingdom of bronze (Grecian Empire) which shall bear rule over all the (known) earth. The fourth kingdom (Roman Empire) shall be strong as iron, since iron breaks to pieces and subdues all things and like iron that crushes; it shall crush all these kingdoms. As you saw the feet and toes, partly of clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but there shall be in it some of the strength of iron, just as you saw the iron mixed with clay. As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken. As you saw the iron mixed with clay, so they shall mingle themselves in the seed of men, but they will not hold together, even as iron does not mix with clay."

Daniel 2:44: "In the days of these final ten kings, shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever. Just as you saw that the Stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter. The dream is certain and the interpretation of it is sure."

Daniel chapter 2 tells us King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had a dream. The problem was, he couldn't remember his dream so he sent for his magicians and other soothsayers to interpret the dream. They said it wasn't fair to ask them to interpret a dream he couldn't remember. They told him to tell them the dream and they would give the interpretation. Nebuchadnezzar said they were just trying to buy time and if they couldn't tell him the dream and the interpretation, they would all be executed. When Daniel was about to be executed, he asked what the hurry was. Daniel told the executioner to give him a little time because there is a God in heaven Who would tell the king his dream and the interpretation. Daniel told his three friends Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach) and Azariah (Abednego) to pray so they would not perish with the magicians. The Lord revealed the dream and the interpretation to Daniel who went and told King Nebuchadnezzar his dream and the interpretation.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar of a Stone (Jesus) that would come and smash the image to pieces. Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream outlines the history of the Gentile world powers and the setting up of the eternal Kingdom of God. The four metals of which the image was made of, represented four successive Gentile empires – each with the power to rule over the whole known inhabited earth – but no empire went that far – although the Romans conquered more than any other. The four empires were the Babylonian Empire (ruled by Nimrod; Genesis 10:8 to 12) followed by the Persian Empire (initially ruled by Cyrus; 2 Chronicles 36:20 to 23), then the Grecian Empire which was divided up into four areas (Daniel 8:21) and lastly the Roman Empire. 'The ram you saw having two horns, they are the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy he-goat is the king of Greece, and the great horn between his eyes is the first king (Alexander the Great). As for the horn which was shattered, in whose place four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise out of his nation but not having his power' (Daniel 8:20 to 22).

The Roman Empire was divided into the Eastern and Western Roman Empires as represented by the two 'legs' of the image. After some time, the Roman Empire was divided further into the ten 'toes', (the final ten kings) made up of ten separate provinces within the Roman Empire. Israel was one of those provinces when Jesus' first appeared on earth to set up the Kingdom – the same Kingdom whose sovereignty will never be given to another nation. The eternal Kingdom of God will extend over the whole earth and all who reject Jesus – the Stone – will be crushed to pieces. 'Whoever falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom It falls will be crushed to powder' (Matthew 21:44). 'Everyone who falls on that Stone will be broken; but upon whomever It falls, It will crush him' (Luke 20:18). It is at the feet of the image when permanent destruction came, and there has not been a worldwide Gentile empire since the Roman Empire fell – after Jesus came to set up the Kingdom of God. In the days of the Roman Empire, Jesus came to set up His Kingdom. God's Kingdom has impacted on all of the earthly kingdoms and countries because there are born-again Christians in every country on earth, of every tribe, peoples, language and nation (Revelation 5:9; 7:9). The Biblical 'latter days' or the

'last days' are the time period from the setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth at the first coming of Jesus, right through to when Jesus returns. When Daniel referred to the latter days, he would have referred to this time of grace, between the two appearances of Jesus. The Stone is Jesus, ushering in the Messiah's Kingdom. The feet are the last form of worldwide Gentile rule – the Roman Empire. The four great empires that dominated history for hundreds of years; Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome; in the sight of man were very impressive, but in the sight of God they were nothing. Firstly, God presented them in the form of a dream, not reality, just a dream. Secondly, the man who dreamt about them couldn't remember his dream. Thirdly, in the dream they were only an image which was going to be smashed, and again, there was no reality, as though God was saying, "That's what I think of Gentile world power ... nothing." Never again will the Gentiles rule the world.

The Stone (Jesus) didn't slowly adjust the world situation; He smashed it to pieces, suddenly. Nor did the Gentiles decide it would be a good idea to serve the Lord. Jesus came and smashed them very suddenly so that not a trace of them can be found. And the Stone (Jesus) that struck the image became a great Rock and filled the whole earth. That is a picture of sudden, total intervention by Almighty God that leaves no trace of the Gentile empires; and it came with the birth of a tiny baby – Jesus our Rock. The Stone became the Messianic Kingdom that God is in the process of setting up. Jesus has begun the work already by saving humanity from its sins. We are part of God's eternal plan; His eternal Kingdom. The Kingdom came to earth suddenly at the birth of Jesus. He said, "The Kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matthew 12:28). Jesus further indicated the Kingdom of God had come upon earth very suddenly (Luke 10:9 & 11; 11:20). When Jesus sets up His rule on earth from Jerusalem, it will not be by gradually Christianising the world, but as suddenly as a thief in the night. 'But of that day and hour no one knows ... Watch therefore, for you do not know in what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: had the householder known what night the thief was coming, he would have watched' (Matt 24:36, 42 & 43). Jesus will smash in judgement, all the ungodly rulers and kingdoms of the earth. When the world thinks it has things sewn up nicely without any interference from God, and they are saying 'peace and security', that's when God will come suddenly and smash the rulers of this world. 'For you yourselves know well that the day of the return of the Lord will come as suddenly as a thief in the night. When people are saying, "All is well, there is peace and safety", then in a moment, destruction and death will come upon them suddenly and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape' (1 Thessalonians 5:2 & 3). They will be forced to honour the Son (Romans 14:11). That day should not catch us unprepared, because we have been warned to expect it. "See, I have warned you beforehand" (Matthew 24:25).

This is God speaking, "I have made a covenant with My chosen One; I have sworn to David My servant; Your Seed will I establish forever, and I will build up Your throne for all generations" (Psalm 89:3). Although this Psalm speaks about a person, the hidden meaning is referring to Jesus the Messiah. The covenant mentioned here had Jesus in mind. He is the Seed that will sit on the throne forever. David and his family have long since died out and none of His race have sat on the Jewish throne for more than 2,000 years, but Jesus will reign forever. The Kingdom of God was prophesied about in the Old Testament and established by Jesus as recorded in the New Testament. The Lord stated emphatically, that the sovereignty of His Kingdom will not be left to another people – it will always and forever be Jewish. Jesus our King has ushered in the Kingdom of God. He is God but He is also a Man. 'For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men; the Man Jesus our Messiah' (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus will be a Jewish Man forever. The eternal Kingdom of God is therefore now, and will forever be ruled by a Jewish Man (Jesus), Who is also our Sovereign King (Luke 19:38). God will not allow another people to rule His Kingdom (Daniel 2:44). Gentile rule is finished. The Kingdom of God is Jewish and all non-Jews have to be adopted by salvation into His Kingdom (Ephesians 1:5).

Amen and God bless you.

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