

## Daniel's Interpretation Of The Image

Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, outlines the history of the Gentile world powers. 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 Medo-Persian Empire (initially ruled by Cyrus; 2 Chronicles 36:20 to 23), then the Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great (Daniel 8:21) and lastly the Roman Empire.

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', made up of ten separate European nations. The eternal Kingdom of God will extend over the whole earth and all who reject Jesus – the Stone – will be crushed to pieces. Jesus says that in Matthew 21:44 and Luke 20:18.

In the book of Daniel, we read about the setting up of Christ's kingdom. Daniel chapter 2 tells us King Nebuchadnezzar 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. In verse 17, 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 secret to Daniel who went and told King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel told the king his dream in verse 31; then in verse 36, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation.

In verse 34, Daniel told of a Stone (Jesus) that would come and smash the image to pieces (Matthew 21:44 and Luke 20:18). Verse 44; 'And 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 break and crush and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever'.

It is at the feet of the image when permanent destruction comes, and there has not been a world-wide Gentile empire since the Roman Empire fell – after Jesus came to set up the Kingdom of God 'In the days of these final ten kings shall God set up a Kingdom'. 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). Verse 31; 'You O king were watching and behold, there was a great image. This image, which was mighty and of exceedingly great brightness, stood before you and the appearance of it was frightening and terrible. This image's head was of fine gold (Babylon), its chest and arms of silver (Persia), its belly and its thighs of bronze (Greece), its legs were of iron (Rome) and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay of the potter. You watched as a Stone was cut out – not made with human hands'. (This Stone is the Messiah's Kingdom.) 'The Stone struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces'. (The feet are the last form of world-wide Gentile rule – the Roman Empire).

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. Verse 35; 'Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken and crushed together and became like the chaff of the threshing floors, and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them could be found. And the Stone (Jesus) that struck the image became a great mountain or a 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.

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. That is why we need to look to eternity, and not look to the things of earth, which will one day be burned up. We are part of God's eternal plan; His eternal Kingdom. The Kingdom came to earth suddenly at the birth of Jesus. He said in Matthew 12:28; "The Kingdom of God has come upon you." Jesus further indicated the Kingdom of God had come upon earth in Matthew 12:14; Mark 9:1; Luke 10:9 & 11; 11:20. In Luke 17:21 Jesus said the Kingdom of God is within us; meaning the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

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 (1 Thessalonians 5:2). He 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' (1 Thessalonians 5:3), that's when God will come suddenly and smash the rulers of this world. 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 (Matthew 24:25).

Turn to Psalm 89:3. 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." Although this Psalm speaks about a person, the hidden meaning is referring to Jesus, the Messiah. The covenant mentioned here had Jesus in mind. This is the Seed that would 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 word Christos in Greek, and the word Messiah in Hebrew, both mean 'Anointed One'. He is Jesus; The Anointed One.

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 were saying, "That's what I think of Gentile world power ... nothing." Never again will the Gentiles rule the world.

As we have read in Daniel 2:44, the Kingdom of God was prophesied about in the Old Testament and established by Jesus as recorded in the New Testament. This verse also states emphatically, that the sovereignty will not be left to another people – it will be Jewish. John 4:22 says 'Salvation comes from the Jews'. We know Jesus was born a Jewish Man and He will be a Jewish Man forever. Let's take a quick look at Zechariah 6:12; "Behold the Man." John 19:5 tells us that when Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, Pilate said to the Jews; "Behold the Man." When Jesus became a Man, He became a Man forever. He will never cease to be a Man. After His resurrection he was seen by hundreds of people as a Man. Thomas touched His wounds (John 20:27). Jesus has brought in the Kingdom of God; He is God but He is also a Man. In 1 Corinthians 15:47 & 49 we read; 'The first man (Adam) was out of earth, made of dust. The second Man is the Lord from out of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, so shall we also bear the image of the Man of heaven'. Then in 1 Timothy 2:5 we read; 'For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men; the Man Christ Jesus'. 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. Essentially, 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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