

THE VICTORIOUS KINGDOM OF GOD

Daniel 2:31-49 (pt 2)





31 "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 "The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

34 "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

37 "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; 38 ... You are the head of gold.

39 "After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. 40 "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

The Great Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The great image that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. Each section represents a world-ruling superpower. Each succeeding metal is less valuable, but each succeeding metal is stronger, as each empire was more powerful than the last.

Silver—Chest and Arms

The silver chest with two arms signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

Bronze—Belly and Thighs

This section represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, which swallowed up Persia.

Iron—Legs

The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterized the Late Roman Empire.

Iron & Clay—Feet and Toes

Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay—a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bond well. These represent the final phase of the Roman Empire, which will be made up of ten kings, some strong and some weak.

Gold—Head

This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.



41 "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 "As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle.

43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

I. THE EXPLANATION OF A FINAL KINGDOM

44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. 45

"Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future...

FIRST OBSERVATION – *Note the Timing*

v44 *"In the days of those kings ...*

FIRST OBSERVATION – *Note the Timing*

SECOND OBSERVATION – *Note the Origin*

44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven...

34 – a stone cut without hands.

FIRST OBSERVATION – *Note the Timing*

SECOND OBSERVATION – *Note the Origin*

THIRD OBSERVATION – *Note the Duration*

44...will not be left for another people

FOURTH OBSERVATION – *Note the Location*

34 ...the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

FIRST OBSERVATION – *Note the Timing*

SECOND OBSERVATION – *Note the Origin*

THIRD OBSERVATION – *Note the Duration*

FOURTH OBSERVATION – *Note the Location*

Matt 3:2 - Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matt 4:23 - Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom...

Luke 9:1–2 - 1 And He called the twelve together...2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God...

1 – the 4 kingdoms were all EARTHLY and PHYSICAL in nature.

v 35 – the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the WHOLE EARTH.

2 – the mixed ‘toes’ of the statue depict a CONFEDERATION of kingdoms that will be ruling AT THE TIME this stone comes

3 – the rock DESTROYS these earthly kingdoms



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Matt 24:29–31 - 29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

3 – the rock DESTROYS these earthly kingdoms

Rev 19:11–16 - 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

4 – This Kingdom is pictured as *filling the earth*.

Matt 7:14 - For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Phil 2:10–11 - 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

5 – The statue in the dream parallels the *beast vision* recorded in *chap 7*

Dan 7:3, 7, 13-14 – 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another... 7 ...(the) fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong...had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns... 13 I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming ... 14 And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him...

FIRST OBSERVATION – *Note the Timing*

SECOND OBSERVATION – *Note the Origin*

THIRD OBSERVATION – *Note the Duration*

FOURTH OBSERVATION – *Note the Location*

FIFTH OBSERVATION – *Note the Scope*

44 ...it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms ...45 ...it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold...

34 ...struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

SIXTH OBSERVATION – *Note the Certainty*

45... the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

SEVENTH OBSERVATION – *Note the Ruler*

John 5:22 - For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son...

*Acts 4:11 - He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone**.*

I. THE EXPLANATION OF A FINAL KINGDOM

II. THE REACTION OF A STUNNED KING

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. 47 The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

I. THE EXPLANATION OF A FINAL KINGDOM

II. THE REACTION OF A STUNNED KING

III. THE PRESENTATION OF A LAVISH REWARD

48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court.

2:6 - But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor...

Three primary theological truths...

FIRST- God is sovereign over kings and the affairs of this earth.

James Montgomery Boyce: If God does not control our lives – from the actions of kings and others in positions of power to the most minute circumstances – then everything in life is uncertain. We are victims of circumstances, and whatever happens will happen. Que sera, sera! But if God is sovereign, as the Bible declares Him to be, and if He is our God – if the promises He makes and the actions He takes are certain of fulfillment – then we can be confident of the future and know that we will be able to live our lives in a way that will please God.

THREE PRIMARY THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS...

FIRST- God is sovereign over kings and the affairs of this earth.

SECOND – God is omniscient – He knows all things, including the future.

THIRD – Empires will arise until the end. But the glorious Kingdom of God will surely come, and all the wickedness will cease.

1. What does Nebuchadnezzar's confession illustrate about some belief today?

John 17:3 - This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

2. Why would this prophetic message have been particularly encouraging to the Jews?

3. What is the proper 'kingdom mindset' for God's people as they live in this world?

John 18:36 - ...not of this world...

4. Why should this section of prophecy prompt our assurance about the future?

Hab 2:14 - *For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.*

1 Cor 15:25 - *For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.*

Heb 12:25–29 - *25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. 26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." 27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.*