

The Book of Daniel

God's Prophet and Statesman

I. Daniel's Exile to Babylon (1:1-21)

II. Nebuchadnezzar's Troublesome Dream (Chapter 2:1-49)

Part 1 → Chapter 2:1-23

- A. The *Dreams* of the **King** (2:1)
- B. The *Demand* of the **King** (2:2-9)
- C. The *Dilemma* of the **Wise Men** (2:10-13)
- D. The *Diplomacy* of **Daniel** (2:14-16)
- E. The *Disclosure* of the **Dream** to **Daniel** (2:17-19a)
- F. The *Declaration* of **Heartfelt Praise** (2:19b-23)

Part 2 → Chapter 2:24-49

G. The *Delivery* of **Good News** (2:24-30)

²⁴ Therefore, **Daniel** went in to **Arioch**, whom the **king** had appointed to **destroy** the **wise men** of **Babylon**; he went and spoke to him as follows:

“Do **not destroy** the **wise men** of **Babylon**!
Take me into the **king's presence**,
and I will **declare** the interpretation to the **king**.”

²⁵ Then **Arioch** hurriedly brought **Daniel** into the **king's presence** and spoke to him as follows: “I have found a **man** among the **exiles** from **Judah** who can make the **interpretation** known to the **king**!”

²⁶ The **king** said to **Daniel**, whose name was **Belteshazzar**, “Are you **able** to make known to me the **dream** which I have seen and its **interpretation**?”

²⁷ **Daniel** answered before the **king** and said, “As for the **mystery** about which the **king** has inquired, **neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners** are **able** to declare *it* to the **king**.”

²⁸ However, there is a **God in heaven** who **reveals mysteries**, and **He** has made known to **King Nebuchadnezzar** what will take place in the **latter days**.

This was your **dream** and the **visions** in **your mind** *while* on your bed.

²⁹ As for **you, O king**, *while* on your bed your **thoughts** turned to what would take place in the **future**;

and He who reveals *mysteries* has made known to you what will take place.

³⁰ But as for *me*, this *mystery* has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing *in me more* than *in any other* living man, but for the **purpose** of making the interpretation known to the king, and that *you* may understand the thoughts of your mind.

H. The *Dream Revealed* (2:31-35)

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**.

I. The *Dream Interpreted* (2:36-45)

³⁶ “This was the **dream**; now **we** will tell its interpretation before the king.

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 and wherever the **sons of men** dwell, or the **beasts** of the field, or the **birds** of the sky, He has **given** them into your hand and has **caused you** to rule over them all.

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**.

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**.

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**; so the **dream** is **true** and its **interpretation** is **trustworthy**.”

J. The *Deference* given **Daniel** (2:46-49)

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**.”

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**.

A Summary of **Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream** of the **Great Image**

Daniel’s interpretation of the **dream** makes it **clear** that the “**great statue**,” that was **awesome** in appearance, **represented** and **revealed** the course of **Gentile kingdoms** from the time of the **Babylonian empire** until the **coming of Messiah** (the **striking stone**), and the establishment of **His Kingdom**. (2:36-45)

A. The Head of Fine Gold (2:37-38)

The **head of fine gold** represented **Nebuchadnezzar** and the **kingdom of Babylon**, which **conquered Israel** from **605-539 B. C.**

Nebuchadnezzar's rule was viewed as a **worldwide empire**, in which he **ruled** over all **mankind** as well as over the “**beasts and the birds.**” He was the **supreme authority** in so far as **any man** could be.

B. The Chest and Arms of Silver (2:39a)

The **chest and arms of silver** represented the rise of the **Medes** and the **Persians**, which **conquered** the **Babylonian kingdom** in **539 B.C.**

Though the **Medo-Persian Empire** lasted for more than **200 years**, *longer* than the **Babylonian Empire**, it was considered “**inferior**” to it, as **silver** is compared to **gold**.

This **empire** lacked the **central authority** and **fine organization** that characterized the **Babylonian Empire**.

C. The Belly and Thighs of Bronze (2:39b)

The **belly and thighs of bronze** represented the **third kingdom** to arise. This was the **Grecian Empire**, led by **Alexander the Great**, who conquered the **Medo-Persians** between **334 and 330 B.C.**

Alexander's conquests extended as far **east** as the northwestern portion of **India**, an *extensive* **empire** that seemingly was over “**all the earth**”.

After **eight** short years **Alexander died**, and his **kingdom** was **divided** among *four* of his **generals**.

D. The Legs of Iron (2:40)

The **legs of iron** represent the **empire** that dominated the world after **Greece**—ancient **Rome**. This powerful **empire** “**crushed**” and **ruled** the **nations** of the world for almost **five hundred years** (146 B.C.-395 A.D.).

The “**two iron legs**” of the **image** are **interpreted** by many as the *eastern* and *western* **divisions** of the **Roman Empire**.

E. The Feet and Toes—Partly of Clay, Partly of Iron (2:41-43)

The **feet** and **toes** that had a **mixture** of **iron** and **clay**, represented a **divided kingdom** that consisted of both *strong* and *weak* **nations**.

As **strong** and **vast** as the **Roman Empire** was, it would eventually become characterized by *division* and *deterioration*.

The **peoples** and **nations** represented by the **iron** and **clay** would constitute **one kingdom**, but it would be a “**mixture**,” (2:41b) that would **not adhere** to **one another**, as **iron** does **not combine** with **clay**.

They would continue to retain **separate cultures**
and their own **national identities**.

The **ten toes** represent a **final form** of this **empire (Roman)**,
which consists of **ten kings** (or **nations**) ruling **jointly** in the **latter days**.
This **empire** would be comprised of both **strong** and **weak nations**,
and would eventually be led by an **evil world ruler**
known as the **Antichrist** (2:42, 7:24-24).

F. A Stone cut out “without hands” striking the Image at its feet (2:44)

In his dream **Nebuchadnezzar** had seen a **stone, cut out without hands**,
striking the **great statue** on its **feet** and **crushing it**. (2:44)

During the **time** of the **ten king coalition** (ten toes),
God will bring **judgment** upon the **world**, and bring to an **end**
Gentile domination over **Israel**.

In **scripture**, a **stone** is used as a reference for the **Messiah**
(Psalm 118:22; Isa. 8:14; 28:16; I Peter 2:6-8),
and many interpret this to be the time of the **second coming of Messiah**,
who will “**strike the nations**, and...**rule them** with a **rod of iron**.” (Rev. 19:15)

G. The Stone becoming a “great Mountain” and filling the whole earth (2:35b,44)

In **scripture**, a **mountain** is often a **symbol** for a **kingdom**.
(Isaiah 2:2-4) (Micah 4:1)

After this “**striking stone**” subdues the **nations**,
He will set up a **worldwide kingdom** that will endure **forever** (2:44).
This **kingdom** is the **Messianic kingdom** that was promised
to **Israel** throughout the **scriptures**
(Psalm 145:13, Daniel 4:3, 34, Micah 4:7, Luke 1:32-33).

Closing Comments