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**Subject:** Daniel 2 large

## DANIEL 2 LARGE

Fulfilled prophecy is perhaps the greatest evidence that God exists. Through the prophet Daniel, God revealed the rise and fall of history's great kingdoms, and even the fact that the Roman Empire would divide into the nations of Europe! As everything has happened just as God said, we can be sure that the last great event will soon occur...

v 1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon) Spring 603 - spring 602 BC.

...Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Ancient peoples placed a lot more importance on dreams than we do today. They were thought to be messages from the gods.

v 2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers... Astrologers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators, sorcerers and witches are an abomination that God will utterly destroy Mal 3:5; Rev 21:8; 22:15; Isa 47:13-14.

...and the Chaldeans for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king... All these groups (cf. Dan 1:20; 2:2, 10, 27; 4:7; 5:7, 11, 15) were basically religious. Because Daniel and his friends did not participate in their spiritualistic activities they were not summoned. Three texts (Dan 1:20, 5:7, 15) refer to "wise men" which is a descriptive term for all the classes.

v 3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. He could not remember it. See vs. 5, 8.

v 4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack... Aramaic, the language of the ruling class in Babylon.

...O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. "The historic events related in the king's dream were of consequence to him; but the dream was taken from him, that the wise men by their claimed understanding of mysteries, should not place upon it a false interpretation. The lessons taught in it were given by God for those who live in our day." E.G. White, Fundamentals of Christian Education, p412.

From here to the end of Daniel 7 is written in Aramaic, not Hebrew, as is the rest of the book of Daniel.

### v 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans...

The term "Chaldeans" used here refers to the religious groups whom the king had summoned. Non-Biblical writers such as Herodotus, Strabo, Diodorus, Siculus and others, also referred to these religious groups as "Chaldeans."

...The thing is gone from me... He could not remember it though he knew it was highly significant.

...if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. Ruins, or possibly public toilets. "Nebuchadnezzar began to see that the men whom he trusted to reveal mysteries through their boasted wisdom, failed him in his great perplexity..." E.G. White, The Youth's Instructor, 9th Jan. 1903.

This failure on their part indicated either their dishonesty (v 9) or

suggested that that they were withholding things from the king.

**v 6** But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.  
The king held out cursings & blessing as incentives.

**v 7** They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

**v 8** The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

**v 9** But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed...  
Until interest in the subject be gone.

...therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

**v 10** The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.  
They now charge the king with being unreasonable.

**v 11** And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

Babylon has always taught that God does not dwell in the flesh. However God has dwelt in His people by His Spirit throughout time. In time "...God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Tim 3:16  
Today He dwells in His people (John 14:23; Gal 2:20).

"The inability of the wise men to tell the dream, is a representation of the wise men of the present day, who have not discernment and learning and knowledge from the Most High, and therefore are unable to understand the prophecies." E.G. White, Fundamentals of Christian Education, p412.

**v 12** For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

"Dissatisfied with their evasive answer, and suspicious because, despite their pretentious claims to reveal the secrets of men, they nevertheless seemed unwilling to grant him help..." E.G. White, Prophets & Kings, p492.

The king therefore condemned all the 'wise' men to death.

"Nebuchadnezzar began to see that the men whom he trusted to reveal mysteries through their boasted wisdom, failed him in his great perplexity..."  
E.G. White, The Youth's Instructor, 9th Jan. 1903.

**v 13** And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.  
Apparently Daniel and his fellows had been absent at the wise men's meeting with the king.

**v 14** Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

**v 15** He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king?...  
Babylonians were known for their hastiness. "...the Chaldeans, that bitter and HASTY nation." Hab 1:6

...Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

**v 16** Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Daniel's promise to give an answer could appear presumptuous. However, the similarities of Daniel and Joseph's experiences may have indicated to Daniel that he would, as Joseph had done, interpret the king's dream. See comments on Dan 1:7.

**v 17** Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions.  
There is strength in unity of prayer.

**v 18** That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

**v 19** Then was the secret revealed...

The dream and its interpretation were given to Daniel.

...unto Daniel in a night vision...

In a dream. Apparently the answer to their prayer was delayed until Daniel was asleep that night.

...Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel was quick to thank God for answered prayer.

**v 20** Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his...

Daniel no doubt saw wisdom in God's dealings. He may also have seen God's wisdom in using an image to reveal the future. Such an image would have made a great impression on an idolatrous king. See comments on v 36.

**v 21** And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings...

"The powers that be are ordained of God." Rom 13:1. Kingdoms rise & fall when communities of men choose to rise up against one another. Wars are thus the product of human choice. God permits the outworking of men's choices and in thisway He is said to be active in the outworkings of human history.

"I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and CHANCE happeneth to them all." Ecc 9:11

...he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.

"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." Matt 25:29

**v 22** He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness...

That which cannot be known except by revelation. Daniel's words are very similar to Job 12:13-21.

...and the light dwelleth with him.

**v 23** I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom...

Compare with Ps 111:10; Ecc 2:6; Job 28:28.

...and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us...

Daniel and his friends. Compare with v17-18. This displays Daniel's humility.

...the king's matter.

**v 24** Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

Even before seeing the king, his first thoughts were to save the wise men, and in this he demonstrated God's mercy and grace. Like faithful Christian children in schools today, Daniel was no doubt hassled by the unfaithful during his education. However he did not seek revenge by allowing them to be slain, but sought rather to save them. "But I

say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matt 5:44

**v 25** Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man...  
Arioch was possibly trying to claim credit.

...of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.  
Arioch's reputation was now on the line. He must have trusted Daniel.

**v 26** The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

**v 27** Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men...

The educated class. By looking at the marks on sheep livers, flights of birds, the spread of a drop of oil on water, the shapes of clouds at sunset, the colour of dawn and many other 'signs' they thought that they could explain past failures, heal present diseases and secure future success. They valued dreams as direct communications from the gods and regarded stars and planets as very significant.

**...the astrologers...**

They interpreted omens and predicted the future.

**...the magicians...**

They attempted to protect people by warding off demons.

**...the soothsayers, shew unto the king.**

Daniel made it obvious that the magicians and astrologers were unable to do what they claimed to be able to do.

## **ASTROLOGY**

Modern astrology bases its predictions on the location of the constellations (stars) of the zodiac, not as they are today, but as they appeared in the days of the astronomer Claudius Ptolemaeus, who lived in the second century! As a result of the "precession of the equinoxes" (the pull of the sun & moon twisting the earth's poles, which results in the sun appearing to move slowly westward each year in relation to the constellations) since the second century, people who astrologers say are born under the sign Libra are really born under Virgo! Modern astrology attempts to regulate our lives by the constellations according to the positions they would have been had we been born eighteen hundred years ago! See Gauquelin, Cosmic Clocks, p78-80.

Furthermore Astrology's predictions are not supported by scientific observation. Aries & Scorpio are the signs under which soldiers are supposed to be born. An exhaustive study of 154,000 Marine re-enlistments in the USA has shown that persons born under Aries or Scorpio (supposedly war-like individuals) are no more likely to be soldiers than so-called peace loving Librans. Librans are supposed to become musicians and painters. A study of 2000 artists has not supported this idea either. See Peterson, Astrology. Compare a study of 50,000 persons in Gauquelin, Cosmic Clocks, p83-86.

Once accepted, superstitions are hard to shake off. Black cats, broken mirrors or the location of the stars just may have an affect on us, but only because of our fears! Let us teach our children not to be superstitious and tell them the story of Daniel 2.

"Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand." Ps 31:14-15

"Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it." Isa 47:13, 14.

**v 28** But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets...  
Daniel did not claim any credit.

...and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days...

Only the later part of the vision concerned the latter days. See Dan 10:14.

...Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

**v 29** As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter...  
From Daniel's time and after.

...and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

**v 30** But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.  
Prophecy convinces us that God is real. Fulfilled prophecy also causes us to examine our own hearts.

1Co 14:24-25 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is CONVINCED of all, he is judged of all. And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

**v31** Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image...  
Such an image would make a great impression on an idolater such as Nebuchadnezzar. See on verse 36.

...This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

**v 32** This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass.  
"Bronze" RSV.

**v 33** His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.  
This sequence of metals is frequently given in Scripture. eg. Num 31:22; Josh 6:19, 24; 1Chr 29:2.  
They were purified by fire. Clay items were to be purified with water. Num 31:23.

**v 34** Thou sawest till that a stone...  
There is a decrease in the value of the materials from gold down to iron & clay while there was an increase in strength. Some may consider the stone is even lower in value than clay, yet the stone represents Christ, whose kingdom will last forever! The stone was even stronger than all the metals which it blew to dust. See v 44-45.  
On the identity of the stone see: Ps 118:22; Isa 8:14; 28:16; Dan 2:44-45; Exo 17:6; Num 20:7-8; Zech 4:10. In the New Testament see Matt 21:42, 44; Acts 4:11; Rom 9:33; 1Cor 10:4. Ask Peter the pebble, he will tell you: 1Pet 2:4-8.

...was cut out without hands, which smote [hit] the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.  
Exo 25 forbade human work on stones used for altars.  
The stone was cut out of a mountain "without hands;" that is, Christ's kingdom is to be set up without human devising, political movements or human intervention.

Before Christ's Kingdom is set up all earthly kingdoms will first be blown away "like the chaff of the summer threshing floors." Where there is chaff there is wheat. A people will be redeemed from the earth.

Christ's Kingdom of GRACE is presently growing but this prophecy speaks of the setting up of the Kingdom of glory. This Kingdom is not to be brought in peacefully or exist along side any other but is set up only after all previous systems have been destroyed.

The mountain into which the stone grew represents Christ's everlasting Kingdom. Mountains represent kingdoms (see Jer 51:24-25).

All the preceding kingdoms: Rome (iron), Greece (brass), Medo-Persia (silver), and Babylon (gold) are described as existing together when

the stone hits the feet and destroys everything. How can this be? In a sense all the earlier kingdoms live on, absorbed into the present system. (see Dan 7:12).

**v 35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them...

Where there is chaff there is wheat. This suggests that God's people alone, like precious grain, would be left alive. Compare with Matt 3:12.

Speaking of Himself, Christ said, "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Matt 21:44.

...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Mountains symbolize kingdoms. Compare with Jer 51:24-25. In verses 44-45 this great mountain is explained to symbolize Christ's everlasting kingdom.

**v 36** This is the dream; and we...  
God spoke through Daniel.

... will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

It is scarcely possible to have given the Babylonian king a better and more intriguing figure by which the coming of the Messianic kingdom could be presented, for the following reasons:

### **1. A GREAT IMAGE**

A great image or idol would make a powerful impression on an idol worshiper such as Nebuchadnezzar.

### **2. SEQUENCE OF THE METALS**

The sequence of the metals had already been enumerated on the great triumphal inscription of King Sargon II.

See Charles Bouffler, *In and Around the Book of Daniel*, p24.

About the same time the list was employed in Greece by Hesiod to designate (with the addition of "demigods" or heroes after bronze) the consecutive ages of man.

See Hesiod, *Works and Days*, lines 108-178, in Loeb Classical Library; Hesiod, *The Homeric Hymns, and Homerica*, p11, 13, 15, 17. Numerous later classical writers refer to the four ages. Plato, Ovid, and Claudian name all four metals.

### **3. THE VARIOUS METALS**

A Babylonian tablet names Enlil - a prototype of the god Marduk - the god of gold, and Anu and Ea the gods of silver and brass respectively. See *Cuniform Texts from Babylonian Clay Tablets in the British Museum*, part 24, plate 49, and introduction, p6.

In Ninib, the god of strength, Bouffler finds evidence pointing to identification with the god of iron.

See Bouffler, *op. cit.*, p34. Documentation given by Bouffler.

### **4. THE STONE**

A Sumerian myth tells how Ninurta, son of Enlil and prototype of Marduk, was attacked by various stones, and how he subdued them. In his address to the stones, condemning some to be pulverized, the victor significantly gives a place of unparalleled honour to the "mountain stone,":

"O praised one...O mountain stone...Like gold shall they treasure thee..." Langdon, *Semitic Mythology*, p123.

### **5. THE MOUNTAIN**

Nebuchadnezzar was constantly building or beautifying ziggurats, palaces and fortifications which he called, "mountain high."

"I made a great wall of huge stones the product of the mountains, and like the mountains I reared its summit." He built the Hanging Gardens for his favourite wife, to remind her of the mountains of her homeland. See Bouffler *op. cit.*, p49.

In the days of Nebuchadnezzar Marduk had replaced Enlil, the "Great Mountain," as "lord of the lands."

See Boutflower, op. cit., p45, 46, 43.

## 6. THE GREAT WIND

The Babylonian god Enlil's traditional role of "Lord of the wind," also belonged to Marduk. See Langdon, op. cit., p99.

In the fight with Tiamat, the female dragon of primeval chaos, he not only summons the four winds to his aid, but he rides to the attack on the wind and renders his opponent helpless by blasting a terrific wind down her throat, and so slays his enemy.

See Langdon, op. cit., p294, 300, 302.

**v 37** Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom...

God in His Sovereign wisdom allowed Babylon to exist.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Rom 13:1.

...power, and strength, and glory.

**v 38** And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. Nebuchadnezzar the king of BABYLON personified his kingdom. The golden head represented not just Nebuchadnezzar but his kingdom, for after it there would arise "another kingdom" (v 39). Daniel uses "king" as a synonym for "kingdom" as he does elsewhere in his book. Compare with Dan 8:20.

Babylon was called the "golden city" (Isa 14:4; Jer 51:7) and boasted the wonderful hanging gardens, built by Nebuchadnezzar for his favourite wife who loved the tree-covered hills of her home country, Media.

A century and a half later the Greek poet Aeschylus (who died 456B.C.) similarly wrote of Babylon as "teeming with gold." Herodotus (who died 424B.C.) was amazed at the lavishness of the gold within the sanctuary of Bel-Marduk.

See Loeb Classical Library, Aeschylus, Vol. 1, p115; Loeb Classical Library, Herodotus, Vol. 1, p227, 229. Also Charles Boutflower, In and Around the Book of Daniel, p25.

A great religious centre, Babylon was the centre of world idolatry. Under Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon became the superpower of its day. Fortified by massive walls and watered by the river Euphrates which flowed under its walls and through the city, it was thought to be impregnable.

**v 39** And after thee shall arise another kingdom...

History and Scripture show that in 539-8 BC the combined kingdom of "the MEDES and the PERSIANS" (Dan 5:28-31), led by Cyrus, conquered Babylon. They diverted the river Euphrates, upon which Babylon sat, (i.e. was built over) and they went up the river bed, under the river gates, and took the city by surprise to fulfil the prophecy: "The word that the Lord spake against Babylon...A drought is upon her waters; they shall be dried up." Jer 50:1, 38. See also Jer 51:11, 28; 2 Chron 36:20.

"[Babylon had] stored provisions enough for very many years; so they cared nothing for the siege; and Cyrus knew not what to do...whether, then someone advised him in his difficulty, or he perceived himself what to do, I know not, but this is what he did...drawing off the river by canal...he made the stream to sink till its former channel could be forded. When this happened the Persians who were posted with this intent made their way into Babylon by the channel of the Euphrates...and brought them to a miserable end." Herodotus, Book 1, sec 191; A.D. Godley, Loeb Classical Library, p239.

...inferior to thee...

Medo-Persia was "inferior" to Babylon not in size, as Medo-Persia was more vast than the Babylonian Empire, but in moral worth.

Daniel probably did not know who this succeeding kingdom was until he read the handwriting on the wall years after Nebuchadnezzar's death. See Dan 5:28.

The historian Herodotus says Persia received tribute from subject

states, paid mostly in silver talents.

...and another third kingdom of brass [or bronze], which shall bear rule over all the earth.

About 200 years later, at the battle of Arbela in 331 BC, GRECIA, (the semi-Greek Macedonian empire) led by Alexander the Great, ended the Persian reign and began to "bear rule over all the earth" that is, it conquered everything it attempted to."

It is interesting to note that the Greek soldiers were known for their bronze armour. Herodotus tells that Psammtichus I of Egypt, an older contemporary of Nebuchadnezzar's father, saw in the invading Greek pirates the fulfillment of an oracle that foretold "men of bronze coming from the sea." Herodotus, i, 152, 154.

Nebuchadnezzar was probably already aware of the Greeks "another king from the west, clad in bronze," as Josephus puts it.

See Josephus, Antiquities, book 10, chap. 10, sec. 4, in Loeb Classical Library, Josephus, vol. 6, p273, and note i.

Javan's "vessels of brass" (Eze 27:13) takes on new significance when one learns that Javan is seen to refer to the Ionian Greeks.

In Dan 8:5-7, 20-21 the angel Gabriel clearly foretold that "Grecia" would conquer "Media and Persia."

**v 40** And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron...

Like the other metallic sections, the iron represents a singular "kingdom." The iron of the legs represents ROME, from its coming to power until its break-up into the nations of Europe.

...forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. Following Greece, Rome rose to worldwide power, as is shown by the fact that Cæsar Augustus could issue a decree "that all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1).

"...the images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations or their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome." Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Edward Gibbon, chap. 73, par 43.

Polybius, a Roman historian, wrote:

"...the Romans have subjected to their rule not portions, but nearly the whole of the world (and possess an empire which is not only immeasurably greater than any which preceded it, but need not fear rivalry in the future.)" Polybius the Histories, translated by W. R. Patton, Loeb Classical Library, Vol. 1, p7.

No single rival conquered Rome, but Rome fell apart.

The four metals thus represent, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Any decent History book will confirm the sequence. Stewart C. Easton's college textbook, The Heritage of the Ancient World, lists on its table of contents, "The Chaldeans and the New Babylonia," "The Great Persian Empire," "The Greek Civilization," and "The foundations of the Roman Empire."

**v 41** And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided...

TEN divisions - THE NATIONS OF EUROPE WHICH AROSE FROM THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The Roman Empire was broken up in the fourth and fifth centuries A.D. among Barbarian invaders from Northern & Eastern Europe.

The toes of the image suggest that the fourth kingdom, Rome, would be divided into ten, but the interpretation in Daniel 2 makes no mention of their number. We find the number of divisions in Daniel 7 where the same series of four great kingdoms is described again, under the symbols of "four great beasts." From the fourth beast come ten horns, declared to be "ten kings [kingdoms]." These ten kingdoms correspond with the feet and toes of iron and clay into which the image's legs divided.

The Roman Empire was weakened by wealth, luxury, and excess, and she could not withstand the onslaught of the rude barbarian tribes from the north and east of Europe. By 476AD 10 kingdoms had been established. Those which survived make up the nations of Europe today, and are still distinctly divided. Some have been notably strong,

others weak. The prominent barbarian tribes which became the kingdoms of Europe are:

1. **Aleman** - Germans
2. **Franks** - French
3. **Burgundians** - Swiss
4. **Suevi** - Portugese
5. **Vandals** - Extinct
6. **Visigoths** - Spanish
7. **Saxons** - English
8. **Ostrogoths** - Extinct
9. **Lombards** - Italy
10. **Heruli** - Extinct.

For an extended article on this subject see comments on Dan 7.

...but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

The iron was Rome and the Roman influence continued into the feet and toes in the form of Roman Catholicism.

"The image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, while representing the deterioration of the kingdoms of the earth in power and glory, also fitly represents the deterioration of religion and morality among the people of these kingdoms. As nations forget God, in like proportion they become weak morally." E.G. White, The Youth's Instructor, 22 Sep 1903

**v 42** And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.  
Some European kingdoms are strong, some weak.

**v 43** And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry [from a word meaning "damp "or "sticky"] clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men...

The four metals had represented earthly governments - State powers. The clay represents a new distinct element - the religious or Church power.

#### **UNION OF CHURCH & STATE**

Evidently "they" who mingle with the seed of men are not the seed of men. They must therefore be the "seed," or children, of God. Here then is foretold the mingling, or attempted union, of the church with the world. Such a union is as unnatural as attempting to mix iron & clay, and is destined for dissolution.

"The great crime in the marriages of the days of Noah was that the sons of God formed alliances with the daughters of men. Those who professed to acknowledge and revere God associated with those who were corrupt of heart; and without discrimination they married whom they would." MYP p456. See Genesis 6:2.

Ezra 9:2 "... the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass."

"The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God's forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves." (MS 63, 1899) 4BC p1168.

#### **...but they shall not cleave one to another.**

Royal and common marriages among the nations of Europe have also failed to bring about unity.

A partial unity was brought about by the uniting of the Roman Catholic Church (the papacy) and some of the European nations during the Dark Ages, but this Religious-Political system - The Holy Roman Empire - did not last. With the advent of the Protestant Reformation in the

16th century, protesting the errors & abuses of misdirected Catholicism, Europe began to withdraw their support from the Vatican. In France, papal hypocrisy and abuses led to a rejection of all religion, giving rise to the Atheism of the French Revolution.

"All the reigning princes in Europe are closely related." The Royal Relatives of Europe, World's Work, Oct. 1914

**...even as iron is not mixed with clay.**

The Roman Empire has been described as history's Humpty Dumpty. After Rome's downfall in 476 AD "all the king's horses and all the king's men (the warriors and statesmen of fifteen centuries have failed) "couldn't put Humpty together again."

Six notable rulers who have tried in vain to defy the prophecy & reunite Europe were:

1. **Charlemagne** (of the Franks) 8th century
2. **Charles V** (of Spain) 16th century
3. **Louis XIV** (of France) 18th century
4. **Napoleon** (of France) 19th century
5. **Kaiser Wilhelm** (Germany) 20th century
6. **Adolf Hitler** (Germany) 20th century

The image of chapter 2 exactly parallels the vision of the four beasts in chapter 7. The fourth beast of chapter 7 represents the same kingdom as the iron legs of chapter 2. The ten horns of the beast correspond to the divided feet and toes of the image. These horns are said to be ten kings which should arise; and they are just as much independent kingdoms as are the beasts themselves, for the beasts are spoken of in precisely the same manner; namely, as "four kings which shall arise." Dan 7:17. The ten horns do not denote a line of successive kings, but kingdoms which exist contemporaneously; for three of them were plucked up by the little horn. The ten horns represent the ten kingdoms into which Rome was divided, and these horns correspond to the divided feet and toes of Dan 2.

**v 44** And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed... Daniel uses the words "king" and "kingdom" interchangeably. See comments on Dan 8:23.

**CHRIST'S KINGDOM SET UP**

At the time this kingdom is set up, there will be a plurality of kings existing contemporaneously. These kingdoms cannot refer to the four preceding kingdoms; for it would be absurd to use such language in reference to a line of successive kings, since it would be in the days of the last king only, not in the days of any of the preceding, that the kingdom of God would be set up.

The Kingdom of God was set up after the stone hit the image on the feet. The stone cannot refer to Christ's first advent, because when Christ came Rome was one united superpower, whereas the stone hit the image upon the feet AFTER Rome had divided into the feet and toes of iron and clay (the 10 nations of Europe AD476).

Christ is the stone which will pulverize the image. Speaking of Himself, Christ said, "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Matt 21:44

**The reigns of the various kingdoms get longer and longer:**

**Babylon** 605 - 539

**Medo-Persia** 539 - 331

**Greece** 331 - 169

**Rome (pagan & papal)** 169 - the Second Coming

**Christ's Kingdom** Second Coming to eternity!

...and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms...

At Christ's coming the nations are not to be converted, but destroyed (Rev 19:11-21). Those "filthy" when Jesus comes are forever lost. (Rev 22:11-12)

...and it shall stand for ever.

**v 45** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone [compare with Matt 21:44] was cut out of the mountain without hands...  
"Without hands" means by Divine power. See Heb 9:11, 24; 2 Cor 5:1; Col 2:11.  
Christ's kingdom is not to be brought in by human devising. Thus all efforts to establish Christ's kingdom by political or military means are misdirected.  
Mountains represent kingdoms (see Dan 2:35). The stone is Christ. The mountain from which he was cut is the great universal kingdom of God.

...and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold...

God sees past kingdoms as still present:

(1) Though the earlier nations represented by the metallic sections had their dominions taken away, yet in a certain sense they live on and will be fully destroyed when the stone strikes.

(2) The end-time beast of Rev 13 is made up of the previous beasts (nations) of Dan 7. This shows that though the previous nations lost their dominion, yet in a sense they still exist, amalgamated in the beast.

(3) Of the first three beasts in Dan 7 we read, "they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time." Dan 7:12. The fourth beast itself exists till its destruction after the judgment.

God clearly sees all previous powers as still living even though their dominions have been taken away. Thus their complete destruction is to occur at the brightness of Christ's Second Coming. (2 Thess 2:8)

...the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The fact that Daniel could tell the king his dream, confirmed to the king that the interpretation was also correct.

**v 46** Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face [so stunning was this miraculous explanation], and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.  
We do not know if the oblations were actually offered. Daniel probably refused this worship. See Acts 10:25-26; 14:11-18; Rev 19:10).

**v 47** The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

The ability to reveal the future had, and still has, a powerful convicting effect. Many trace their first belief in the God of the Bible to a conviction brought about by the Bible's ability to reveal the future.

**v 48** Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.  
Compare this with Joseph's experience. Gen 41:41-42.

**v 49** Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon:  
Daniel did not forget his faithful friends]

**...but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.**

The gate was where kings sat as judges, and where councils were convened. See Amos 5:15

## **COMMON ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATIONS**

### **IS THE THIRD KINGDOM GRECIA, BUT ONLY DURING THE LIFETIME OF ALEXANDER?**

This would be as erroneous as confining the Babylonian empire to the reign of Nebuchadnezzar alone, or that of Persia to the reign of Cyrus alone. The third kingdom parallels the third beast of Dan 7 - the four headed leopard, which is clearly more than an individual king. It also parallels the Goat of Dan 8 which includes the four horns (kingdoms) which arose after Alexander died.

### **ARE THE LEGS OF IRON ALEXANDER'S GREEK SUCCESSORS?**

1. Each metal represents a new kingdom which came to power through conquering the previous power.

2. Alexander's successors (his four leading generals) did not conquer his empire, but simply divided it among themselves after Alexander died.
3. Alexander's successors are symbolized by the four heads, all on the same leopard, of chapter 7, and the four horns, all on the same Grecian goat, of chapter 8.
4. Alexander's successors do not constitute a new kingdom as far as the Bible is concerned, but constitute part of the Grecian kingdom.

#### SHOULD NOT THE FOURTH KINGDOM BE SOUGHT IN WESTERN ASIA, RATHER THAN EUROPE, BECAUSE THE FIRST THREE KINGDOMS AROSE THERE?

The third kingdom (Grecia) actually arose in Europe. Why not, then, go a degree farther west for the place where the fourth great kingdom should be founded?

There is no Biblical requirement that the four kingdoms must arise in the same region. Each of the first three kingdoms possessed territory which was peculiarly its own. Analogy requires that the fourth should also.

#### DO THE TWO ARMS REPRESENT THE TWO PARTS OF THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE?

The Jewish historian Josephus sees significance in the two arms as representing the twin powers of Media & Persia.

Josephus paraphrased the Scriptures as follows, "The head of gold represents you [Nebuchadnezzar] and the Babylonian kings who were before you. The two hands and shoulders signify that your empire will be brought to an end by two kings. But their empire will be destroyed by another king from the west, clad in bronze, and this power will be ended by still another, like iron..." Josephus, Antiquities, book 11, chap 10, sec 4, p273-275, in Loeb Classical Library.

There is no more safety in reading meaning into the number of arms than there would be reading meaning into the number of the fingers, navel, ears, etc. We must let the Bible explain itself, and as the Bible gives no meaning to the fact that there were two arms, we should not delve into private interpretation. Chapters 7 and 8 do indeed show that the Medo Persian kingdom which conquered Babylon was a two part empire but this aspect is not clearly stated in Daniel 2 itself.

#### DO THE TWO LEGS REPRESENT THE DIVISION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE INTO WESTERN & EASTERN ROME?

(a) If the legs represented Rome after it had divided into East & West in 330A.D. then what part of the image represented the 500+ years of Rome before it was divided? The legs do not indicate the divisions into East & West as the legs were two in number from their very beginning and represent Rome from its beginning to its division as represented by the feet and toes.

(b) In explaining the vision Daniel made no significance of the number of legs, ears, fingers etc. Therefore there is no safety in our doing so. Any claims as to the significance of the number of legs or other appendages is speculation and without Biblical support.

(c) There is no suggestion of an Eastern & Western division of the fourth kingdom in the parallel vision of Dan 7. The fourth kingdom was represented as ONE beast just as in Daniel 2 it was represented by ONE metal.

#### DOES THE STONE REPRESENT THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST?

The stone striking the image cannot represent Christ's first advent and the subsequent setting up of His kingdom in men's hearts because:

(a) Christ's first advent occurred in the time BEFORE Rome was divided, whereas the stone struck the image on its feet AFTER Rome had been divided into the nations of Europe. See Dan 7.

(b) While it is true that Christ's kingdom of grace is growing now as people accept Him, His kingdom of glory is to be set up when He returns, as He taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom COME." Matt 6:10; cf. Matt 26:29.

(c) The transition between the kingdoms was with VIOLENCE especially so with the stone Kingdom which destroyed and blew everything away before it with great violence. This cannot refer to Christ's first advent, for He said, "...the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Luke 9:56. Neither can the destroying stone refer to the gentle and peaceful spread of the gospel among the nations by the church.

(c) The kingdom resulting from the stone's impact is not to exist alongside any other kingdoms. ALL is blown away and the territory is entirely cleared BEFORE the mountain fills the whole earth. Such a

situation did not occur at Christ's first advent or during the growth of the church. If the 1900 years of Christian history is the setting up of God's "kingdom" then the symbolism of a stone striking an image and blowing everything away, is inappropriate.

(d) Consistency requires that the stone kingdom describes a literal kingdom as all the preceding kingdoms were literal. It cannot therefore be the spiritual kingdom which is now being made up.

(e) Christ's kingdom spoken of in Dan 2 is that which will be set up when He comes at the Last Day to execute His Judgment at the sounding of the seventh and final trumpet. Several passages refer to the setting up of this Kingdom in the future:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Rev 11:15.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who SHALL judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom."

2 Tim 4:1

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, THEN shall he sit upon the throne of his glory...Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt 25:31-34.

#### DO THE LEGS REPRESENT ROME AND BRITAIN AND AMERICA?

Certain organizations such as the Jehovah's Witness Watchtower, teach that the legs represent Rome, Britain and the USA.

(a) The Legs cannot be the kingdom of Britain and the Republic of the USA because the Bible shows that the legs represents a "KINGDOM" (singular kingdom).

(b) Each of the previous metal sections was explained to represent a kingdom. Consistency requires that the iron also represents a kingdom.

(c) In Dan 2 the Watchtower locates Britain and the USA BEFORE the division of the fourth kingdom into the feet and 10 toes of iron and clay. However in Dan 7 they claim that the little horn, which arose "AFTER" the division of the fourth kingdom (Dan 7:7-8), is Britain and the USA! This view does not harmonize the Scriptures.

(d) The fourth kingdom of iron was divided. Dan 7 shows that this fourth kingdom was divided into 10 kingdoms. Britain & America are not a kingdom and they have not been and will not be divided into 10 kingdoms.

#### THE STONE

In response to Luther's anti-papist protest, two Catholic theologians declared that the Papacy was the fifth kingdom, the stone kingdom, of Daniel 2. This is error because:

(1) Christ taught us to pray, and even Catholics say, "Thy kingdom COME." Matt 6:10; compare with Matt 26:29. The Kingdom cannot therefore be the Church of Rome which presently exists.

(2) The kingdom resulting from the stone's impact is not to exist alongside any other kingdoms. ALL is blown away BEFORE the mountain fills the whole earth. Such is not fulfilled by the Catholic church, which exists along side other kingdoms.

(3) Scripture interprets the stone for us as Christ NOT the Catholic church. See: Ps 118:22; Isa 8:14; 28:16; Dan 2:44-45; Exo 17:6; Num 20:7-8; Zech 4:10.

In the New Testament see Matt 21:42, 44; Acts 4:11; Rom 9:33; 1Cor 10:4. Who is the stone? Ask Peter the pebble, he will tell you: 1Pet 2:4-8.

#### THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Kingdom of God is revealed in different aspects:

1. God as King
2. His territory - The Universe
3. His throne - The centre and seat of government
4. His law - His rule of government
5. His subjects- Those who are loyal to him

This kingdom is now in operation and always has been. Christ has not yet taken His Kingdom, and will not until He returns. He is presently operating as Priest on His Father's throne, gathering subjects for His Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is literal and spiritual. In order to become a subject of Christ's literal Kingdom one must enter His spiritual Kingdom by accepting His law as the rule of life. This work is not heralded by pomp and show but is a silent opening of the heart

to God and the entrance of His Spirit into the believer.

#### THE LESSONS OF DANIEL 2

Dan 2 shows that history is under the control of a Higher Power than earthly kings and rulers. It is God who "removeth kings, and setteth up kings." (Dan 2:21).

"Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world's great empires - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome." Ed p176; PK p535.

"Our position in the image of Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the toes, in a divided state, and of a crumbling material, that will not hold together." 1T p361.

#### THE IMAGE OF A MAN

Daniel 2 has the image of a man.

Daniel 7 has the eyes of a man (Dan 7:8)

Rev 13 has the number of a man (Rev 13:18)

Paul in 2 Thess spoke of the "man of sin."

The image of a man was destroyed. Those who refuse to let the Holy Spirit transform them into the image of Christ will likewise be destroyed.

#### JUDGMENT IMPLIED, STATED, LOCATED

In Daniel 2 JUDGMENT is IMPLIED. Christ will not destroy the wicked nations without first judging them.

In Daniel 7 JUDGMENT is STATED. (Dan 7:9-10)

In Daniel 8 the JUDGMENT is LOCATED (Dan 8:14)

Dan 2 shows Christ's kingdom will be restored, but a kingdom needs a king.

Dan 7 shows Christ taking His role as King. He is presently a Priest.

Dan 8 shows Christ in His role as Priest which will soon come to an end when all have heard the gospel and His people have ceased from sin.

#### WHY ARE OTHER NATIONS NOT REPRESENTED IN DAN 2?

There were other great empires, but Biblical prophecy mentions only those nations which especially affect the majority of God's people. As few of God's people lived in the Parthian, Kushan or Han empires they do not figure in prophecy.

The throne of David was the throne of God: God's kingdom on earth. In Eze 21:27, God speaks concerning the throne of David & Israel which, at the time of the following words, were subject to the King of Babylon.

"I will overturn, overturn, overturn it; and it shall be no more till he come whose right it is, and I will give it him." Three overturns from Babylon awaited, that is, to Persia, to Grecia and to Rome. Then it should be no more; God's earthly throne ceased to exist, but the spiritual Israel lived on among the nations, but still in civil subjection to earthly powers. And so it will remain till He comes whose right it is. Christ will come and take the throne of His father David, and rule over his people forever.

#### EVIDENCE OF THE DIVINE

The fact that this prophecy was written over 600 BC, in the days of the Babylonian Empire, should stun those who deny the Divine origin of Scripture. The following chapters of Daniel give even greater details.