

Greater Works Christian Church

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The Image of Daniel 2, Part 1

The Image of Daniel 2 is often used by many to describe the times and events of the “End Times.” In order for us to have a healthy and correct understanding of the times we live in we need to have a clear understanding of Daniel 2 and the image described in this chapter.

Questions and Discussion: Briefly share what your opinions or ideas are about “The End-Times.”

Example:

Do you believe in the rapture? Why do you feel this way?

Do believe in a one world government led by the anti-Christ? Why do you feel this way?

Do you believe the Temple will be rebuilt then destroyed again? Why do you feel this way?

Please briefly express any end-time beliefs you may have.

The events leading up to v.25.

v.1) Nebuchadnezzar has a dream.

v.2-3) Nebuchadnezzar summons all the Magicians, Astrologers, Sorcerers and Chaldeans (wise men).

v.4) Nebuchadnezzar says to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."

v.5) Nebuchadnezzar refuses to tell them the dream but demands that they tell him his dream along with the interpretation or they and their family will be destroyed.

v.6) He promises that the one that can tell him his dream and gives its interpretation will be greatly rewarded.

v.7-9) The Chaldeans ask Nebuchadnezzar for the dream so they can interpret it but he remains firm.

v.10-11) The Chaldeans say, “There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has *ever* asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

v.12-13) Nebuchadnezzar becomes angry and orders the death of all the wise men of Babylon.

v.14-18) Daniel asks for some time to focus on the king's demands. Daniel and his 3 companions (Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) take it to prayer.

v.19) Daniel receives the answer from God. Daniel is shown the dream and given its interpretation.

v.20-23) Daniel and his companions praise God for His goodness.

v.24) Daniel asks Arioch to set an appointment so he can speak to the king.

While under the threat of death Daniel took this petition before the king. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah remained humble and faithful to God, so when the edict was given to destroy the wise men, God intervened.

No one was able to answer king Nebuchadnezzar except for these four Hebrews. They remained faithful to God and He honored them.

Questions and Discussions: It is said, "Leaders and Problem Solvers." Put yourself in the shoes of these Wise Men working for Nebuchadnezzar. Their lives and the lives of their families were threatened unless someone could supernaturally know the king's dream and interpret it.

How would you respond to such a demand? How would you handle this situation?

Daniel 2:25-49

25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

29 As for you, O king, thoughts came *to your mind while* on your bed, *about* what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for *our* sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

Daniel not only reassures Nebuchadnezzar that he knows the dream and its interpretation, but that is the “God in heaven who reveals secrets”.

God set all of this up to show Himself strong to Nebuchadnezzar. No one else could reveal what the king asked except the ones that served Ye’hovah. Only the One True God could reveal this.

Note: Get ready for this type of thing to happen again. There will be problems that no one has the answers for except those who serve Christ and have an intimate relationship with Him.

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor *was* excellent, stood before you; and its form *was* awesome.

32 This image's head *was* of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 "This *is* the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

Here Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar what his dream. This was the first half of getting himself out of trouble.

God revealed the dream of one man to another. Keep this in mind. God wants to increase our Prophetic abilities so that we function like this all the time. The world needs answers. God has all the answers that the world needs. Who will be like Daniel and ask God for the deep answers to the world’s problems?

Questions and Discussion: With everything we see going on in the world it is clear that our world leaders need problem solvers around them. What can we do as believers to be the problem solvers for the nations?

37 You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all— you *are* this head of gold.

The 1st Kingdom= King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire (as the Head of Gold). Nebuchadnezzar reigned from 605BC to 562BC. This is the era when this story begins.

39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

The 2nd Kingdom= The Medeo-Persian Empire (the Chest and Arms of Silver). These rose during the time of Daniel and are spoken of in the book of Daniel.

King Darius= Medes

King Cyrus= Persian

The 3rd Kingdom= The Greek Empire (Belly and Thighs of Bronze).

Gabriel the Angel told Daniel of this kingdom coming after the Persian kingdom in the story of Gabriel, Michael and the Prince of Persia. Gabriel told Daniel that he and Michael had fought with the Prince of Persia, and that the Prince of Greece was coming (Daniel, chapter 10).

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others.

The 4th Kingdom= The Roman Empire. This empire was described as Iron because of its military strength and cruelty.

41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 And *as* the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

Notice that this passage DOES NOT call the feet and toes of this image The 5th Kingdom. It is important to understand that the feet and toes still represent the Roman Empire.

From the legs of Iron to the Feet of Iron and Clay mixed, it is the Roman Empire.

The Feet of Iron and Clay Mixed show that at a certain point in time the Roman Empire was to be divided and weakened. It does not mean that the Empire has ended just yet, but that it has become weak because of the mixture and division.

Caesar Augustus reigned from 27BC to 14AD. While he reigned the Roman Empire was divided into 10 Provinces.

The 10 Provinces under Caesar Augustus:

1. *Achaea (27BC)*
2. *Hispania Tarraconensis (27BC)*
3. *Galatia (27BC)*
4. *Gaul (22BC)*
5. *Raetia (15BC)*
6. *Alpes Maritimae (14BC)*
7. *Hispania Ulterior (13BC)*
8. *Germania Magna (12BC)*
9. *Judea (6BC)*
10. *Rome*

Note: Several resources speaking on the Provinces of the Roman Empire at the time of Christ name several more provinces than the 10 above. Whether there were exactly 10 provinces or more is not relevant to the prophecy of the Image representing the kingdoms leading to Christ.

Each Province had a king set over it that answered to Rome. This is the meaning of the Ten Toes of Iron and Clay Mixed. There was political uncertainty and unrest during this time, as Caesar Augustus attempted to stabilize the Empire.

There was often wars between the provinces that cause internal conflict in the empire. Just as we see as at the time of Christ and leading up to the destruction

44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Key Phrase- “in the days of these kings...” Not the Kings of entire image, but the kings represented by the toes and feet of the image (in the list above). This means the Kings of a certain point in time in the Roman Empire.

Keep in mind that Caesar Augustus ruled from 27BC to 14AD, and the Roman Empire was divided into 10 Provinces, each with a king ruling over the province.

Questions and Discussions: The Bible is clear when the Kingdom of God was established in the earth. The Kingdom of God was established “in the days of these kings...” Why then do many modern preachers say these things haven’t happened yet? Is it possible they are wrong? Is it possible they are right? Please explain why you feel the way you do.

The Kingdom that God sets up was established at the time of “these kings”.

45 Inasmuch 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 will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

The "Stone" represents Christ. God cast Christ at the feet of the Image, breaking in pieces the entire image.

v.35) Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Not only was the "Stone" to be revealed at the time of these kings, but was to become a Kingdom that consumed all the other kingdoms represented.

Christ came just as this story shows, and He set up His Kingdom during that time period.

Jesus had 12 disciples that he personally trained, and 120 disciples on the Day of Pentecost. Today there are approximately 2,234,993,663 believers in Jesus Christ (2013 estimates).

When Jesus walked the earth there was about 300 million people on the planet. There are more people that believe in Christ today than when Jesus was on the earth.

The "Stone" has truly become a Mountain!

Questions and Discussions: When we look at the facts Biblically and historically, we find that the Little Stone is becoming a great mountain.

What can we do in our day and time to help fulfill this prophecy? What is our part in this prophecy?

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

47 The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."

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 administrator over all the wise *men* of Babylon.

49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel *sat* in the gate of the king.

The pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar turned himself towards God because Daniel solved the king's problem.

Conclusion: As we can plainly see in this story, the “End-times” doesn’t play out exactly the way many are saying it will. The Bible clearly teaches that the Kingdom of God was established and will fill the whole earth. As ambassadors of God’s Kingdom we are to expand the boundaries and influence of God’s Kingdom until the whole earth is consumed by the God’s rule and dominion.

Questions and Discussion: How has this study challenged your understanding of “End-Time Theology?” Please explain how this study has helped or hurt your understanding of the end-times.