

Daniel; The Statue

1-11-15

Daniel 2:31–45 (ESV)

³¹ “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening.

Daniel Chapter 2 has some good life lessons that we will look at next week. However, this morning I am going to go immediately to Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the statue and Daniel’s interpretation. This statue is foundational in understanding end time prophecy. Everything we can understand about end time prophecy is built and based on understanding this revelation. All end time prophecy is built from this point.



Daniel 2:32–35 (ESV)

³² The head of this image was of fine **gold**, its chest and arms of **silver**, its middle and thighs of **bronze**, ³³ its legs of **iron**, its feet **partly of iron and partly of clay**.

³⁴ As you looked, **a stone was cut out by no human hand**, and it 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, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. **But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

Daniel's world has been destroyed. The people of God and the nation of God have been conquered. God's promises seem to have failed. At this point in time, God gives a dream to Nebuchadnezzar, the conquering king, revealing that God Himself will deal with the ungodly Gentile nations present and future. **God's promises have not failed and God will ultimately establish HIS kingdom on earth.** History revealed in advance is as follows:

The head of this image was of fine gold,

The first of the four world-empires was the Babylonian Empire of which Nebuchadnezzar was king, whose reign began in 605 B.C. It was to rule for about forty more years—till 562 or 560 B.C. This is current day Iraq.

The chest and arms of silver,

The silver empire was to be Persian Empire, which began with Cyrus the Great, who conquered Babylon in 539. This silver empire was supreme in the Near and Middle East for about two centuries. It stretched from Greece to India. This is current day Iran.

The middle and thighs of bronze,

The bronze empire was the Greco-Macedonian Empire established by Alexander the Great, who began his invasion of Persia in 334 B.C, crushed its last resistance in 331 B.C. By the age of thirty he had created one of the largest empires of the ancient world, stretching from Greece to Egypt and into ancient India.

The legs of iron,

The Iron Empire was the Roman Empire This empire was of far less value than gold, silver, or bronze, but Iron connotes toughness and ruthlessness, which accurately describes the Roman Empire. This empire included much of Europe as far as England, all of North Africa, and as far east as Iraq. Rome was a power from 280 BC to 476 AD. It was at its height in 117 AD. The empire was divided in two in 364 AD. The eastern part lasted until 1453 AD. Christ was born into this massive and prolonged empire. It was the Romans who crucified Christ. The Apostle Paul was a Roman citizen and was able to move freely throughout this empire.

The feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

This kingdom is a mystery. There is much disagreement as to the identity of this kingdom. Based on the previous flow of kingdoms, we can determine it has attributes of the previous one, iron. Therefore this kingdom has the domineering strength of the Roman Empire. Yet we see it is inferior and lacks unity as shown by the presence of clay plus the identifying visual of the ten toes. **This kingdom in fact seems to be a coalition of kingdoms.** We will look at this Kingdom after we examine the Rock that crushes this Kingdom.



The stone not cut by human hands,

The Rock cut out by no human hand is Christ. This is the second coming of Christ striking this last coalition of kingdoms and establishing His eternal kingdom. Other Biblical parallel passages leave us in no doubt that this fifth realm is the kingdom of God, ruled over by Christ. This is not Christ's humble birth in a stable. This is Christ returning in judgment to strike down this kingdom.

Now back to the fifth kingdom of the feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. **This is the mystery.** This is the place where much of the end time speculation centers. As we look at each of the succeeding kingdoms, we will notice that each metal is of less value, but greater in strength. Consistent with that trend this kingdom is powerful by the presence of iron. This iron is **related** to the legs, **but it is degraded** by the presence of clay. Also the additional lack of unity is reflected by the visual of ten toes. Therefore, we make the assumption that this is a **coalition** of nations. **What are the nations composing this kingdom.** Speculation: Number 1, because of the presence of iron in this kingdom and the previous Roman Empire, the make up of nations could be similar. Number 2, nations that are included in the previous Roman Empire yet not included in all the empires that came before it could be significant. Those nations include Europe and North Africa. However, using this same logic Iran would not be included in this kingdom because it was not included in the Roman Empire.

Foundation for understanding End Times Prophecy:

#1 First mention principle: Go to where the subject is first mentioned and build from that information.

Therefore, this statue is foundational to understanding End Times prophecy.

#2 Ten Toes; Ten Crowns; Ten Kings; Ten nations; Ten horns; all these typically reflect an end time view.

#3 Ten Toes - The last Kingdom will be a coalition of nations.

#4 **Speculation:** They will need a very strong leader to unite these nations; probably the anti-Christ.

#5 **Speculation:** This coalition of nations may include Europe and North Africa, but not Iran.

#6 Christ personally will judge these nations at His second coming and establish His Kingdom.

Read Daniel's Interpretation with our understanding:

Daniel 2:36 (ESV)

This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation.

Daniel 2:37–38 (ESV)

You, O king (Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon), the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, ³⁸ and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—**you are the head of gold.**

Daniel 2:39a (ESV)

Another kingdom (Persia - silver) inferior to you shall arise after you,

Daniel 2:39b (ESV)

and yet a third kingdom of bronze (Greece), which shall rule over all the earth.

Daniel 2:40 (ESV)

And there shall be a fourth kingdom (Rome), strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these.

Daniel 2:41-43 (ESV)

And as you saw the feet and **toes**, partly of potter's **clay and partly of iron**, it shall be a **divided kingdom (unknown until the time of the second coming of Christ)**, but some of the **firmness of iron** shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. ⁴² And as the **toes** of the feet were **partly iron and partly clay**, so the kingdom shall be **partly strong and partly brittle**. ⁴³ As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

(This Kingdom needs a strong ruler, the anti-Christ).

Daniel 2:44-45 (ESV)

And in **the days of those kings** the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵ **just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand (which is Christ the Lord and King)**, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.

Daniel 2:45b (ESV)

The great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.” **(God wants us to understand for the glory of God.)**

Our citizenship is in heaven. God will judge this world and the people in it. Therefore:

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore:

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.