

Daniel Chapter 2

To get the most from this article, read it with your Bible open and look up the verses it refers to!

Part of this is fulfilled; part is yet to happen. Knowing that parts of the prophecies in this chapter have been fulfilled already increases our faith and expectation that just as surely, the rest will yet come to pass! Let's see what we can expect yet to happen!

The prophet Daniel

Daniel was born sometime around 620 B.C. and was therefore already a teenager when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem for the first time in early 605 B.C. Daniel, along with other Jews of royal blood, was taken captive and brought to Babylon (Daniel 1:1–3, 6).

There he spent three years studying “the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans” (Daniel 1:4). He and his three friends were made wise men and counselors of the king (Daniel 1:19–20).

Daniel lived at least 72 years in Babylon, and his life there extended from the first year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar through the reigns of the succeeding five Babylonian kings, past the Fall of Babylon into the Persian Empire, through the governorship of Darius the Mede and the first three years of Cyrus the Persian (Daniel 10:1).

Daniel chapter 2

Daniel chapter 2 is the briefest and most concise overall picture of the history and future of the world in the entire Bible. The prophetic dream in this chapter describes five of the great empires of man from ancient Babylon to the final world empire of the Antichrist, which will be destroyed by the Kingdom of God. This dream was originally given to Nebuchadnezzar and was interpreted for him by Daniel during his reign (Daniel 2:1).

The second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign was approximately 603 B.C.

The dream

(Daniel 2:2–5) The king knew that it was a very *important* dream.

(Daniel 2:6–13) God's prophet Daniel was a captive in Babylon at the time this decree was made and was serving with some fellow Jews as one of the king's wise men.

(Daniel 2:14–18) Look how Daniel must have prayed and cried out desperately to God! He didn't know what to do, he didn't know the answer! How in the world could he possibly tell the king his dream, how could he interpret it, when he didn't even know the dream?—He prayed!

(Daniel 2:19–28) God alone is the One Who could reveal the king's dream and its interpretation to His prophet.

(Daniel 2:29–30) Daniel was faithful to give God all the credit and all the glory!

The image

(Daniel 2:31) Here now begins the description of one of the most amazingly prophetic dreams ever given to man! In this astonishing vision, each of the different parts of this “great and awesome” image symbolizes a different empire.

(Daniel 2:32–33) Looking closer, we see that each major part of this image's body is made of a different metal:

“*Head of gold*”—we'll look at the interpretation in verse 38.

“*Chest and arms of silver*”—we'll find the interpretation in verse 39.

“Belly and thighs of bronze”—interpretation comes in verse 39. (Bronze is translated as “brass” in the King James Version.)

“Legs of iron”—interpretation in verse 40.

“Feet part of iron and part of clay”—interpretation in verses 41–43.

“The Stone”—interpretation in verse 44.

(Daniel 2:34) This stone was not part of the glowing image but was “cut out of a mountain.” We’ll look at this more in verse 44 and 45. This great stone struck the image upon its feet. The reason it struck the image on the feet and not on the head, was because God wanted to show at what *time* the kingdoms of man would be destroyed!—In the days of the feet.

(Daniel 2:35) In the days of these ten toes, the stone will strike the image and the image will be turned to powder, “like chaff.” That will be the world’s last big dust storm, when God crushes the image and blows it all away! (See interpretation in verses 44 and 45.)

The head of gold = Babylon

(Daniel 2:36–38) According to God’s Word, the great kingdom of Babylon, the “golden city” of ancient times, with its great King Nebuchadnezzar, was the head of gold. He was the first part of the image. Babylon was also represented in other verses by gold (Isaiah 14:4).

Nebuchadnezzar later proclaimed God as the most high God above all other Gods, and he commanded all of his people to reverence the Lord (Daniel 2:47; 3:29; 4:37a).

The chest and arms of silver = Medo-Persia

(Daniel 2:39a, 32) Since the head is definitely pinpointed as Babylon, all we have to do in order to find out what this next kingdom was is to look at history to see which kingdom arose after Babylon. According to world history, the kingdom of Medo-Persia followed Babylon, conquering it in 538 B.C.

It is even specifically *named* later on in Daniel 5:30–31, as being the kingdom that conquered Babylon. Also, the prophet Jeremiah, about 55 years earlier in 593 B.C. had prophesied that the Medes would conquer Babylon (Jeremiah 51:11,28).

The kingdom of Persia is depicted here by two arms. The Medes were the first nation to be incorporated into the Persian Empire. Previous to Cyrus, the Medes had dominated the Persians, but Cyrus beat the Median king at the Battle of Persepolis. Afterwards many Medes held important places in the Persian Empire.

Historical Notes

Media, an ancient country of Asia, corresponds to the northeastern section of present-day Iran. The inhabitants, who were known as Medes, and their neighbors, the Persians, spoke Indo-Iranian languages that were closely related to Old Persian.

Beginning about 835 B.C. the Median tribes became subject intermittently to the kings of Assyria.

In 625 Median king Cyaxares (r. 625–585 B.C.) drove the Scythians out of Media and imposed his rule over the Persians. He attacked the Assyrians next and captured the city of Ashur (614 B.C.). In 612, in alliance with the newly independent kingdom of Babylonia, he captured the city of Nineveh and overthrew the Assyrian Empire. He chose as his capital the city of Ecbatana (present-day Hamadan, Iran).

In about 550 B.C., the Persians, under Cyrus the Great, revolted against a later Median king Astyages (r. about 584–c. 550 B.C.). Joined by a portion of the Median army under a chief named Harpagus, they took Ecbatana and deposed the Median king. From that time Media was politically subservient to Persia; the Persians, however, regarded the Medes as equals, and thenceforth the two peoples were considered as one.

The belly of bronze = Greece

(Daniel 2:39b) We know from history that this third kingdom of bronze, the one to follow Persia, was the Grecian Empire.

In a later chapter Daniel specifically prophesies that Greece will be the conqueror of Medo-Persia (Daniel 8:21–22). This was fulfilled in 333 B.C., 219 years after the prophecy was given, when Alexander the Great led the Greek army in conquering the Persian Empire.

The symbolism of the Greek Empire as a belly was appropriate for a few reasons. The Greeks were known for being uninhibited about sex, and made nude statues of the human body that showed all the sex parts.—It was therefore fitting that they were also symbolized by the thighs and sexual parts in the image.

The Greeks were also interested in philosophy, religion, and spiritual things, and it is held by almost all religions that the seat of the spirit is in the belly (John 7:38–39).

Historical notes

Alexander the Great (356–323 B.C.), king of Macedonia, is known as the conqueror of the Persian Empire. He began his war against Persia in the spring of 334 B.C. During the next ten years, his conquests extended Greek influence as well as the Greek civilization and language throughout a Macedonian empire that ranged as far east as northern India and as far south and west as Egypt.

Alexander's army defeated the Persians under the leadership of King Darius in the Battle of Guagamela on October 1, 331 B.C. Darius fled and was later slain by two of his own generals. Babylon surrendered after Gaugamela.

Alexander arrived in Babylon in the spring of 323 B.C. In June he contracted a fever and died. Following the death of Alexander, the Macedonian generals began to partition his vast empire among themselves. The disagreements arising from this division resulted in a series of wars from 322 to 275 B.C., many of which took place in Greece.

The legs of iron = Rome

(Daniel 2:40) Since we already have the fulfillment of actual history, we know that this fourth kingdom was Rome. Rome was the tough, iron-fisted kingdom, which clamped down with iron military rule over the entire known (Western) world in the days before Christ. Rome is symbolized here by two legs of iron: Was Rome ever divided into two parts? Yes! It was often administered governmentally as two different halves, the Western and Eastern regions, and in its decline it was completely divided into an Eastern and Western Empire. The Western Empire had its capital at Rome, and the Eastern Empire, later called the Byzantine Empire, had its capital at Constantinople.

Italy, which was the heart of the Roman Empire, is even shaped like a leg!

Rome was the strongest of all these world empires. That's why it is symbolized here by iron. And why was Rome not only the strongest, like iron, but also like a pair of legs? Because they were great on marching! They were the first world empire to build a network of paved roads. They built big stone highways everywhere and the main purpose of their paved roads was so their Roman legions could march rapidly to quell any revolt that would break out.

What's the longest part of the image?—The legs! And of all those empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome—which of those empires ruled the longest?—Rome! In fact Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, was only finally conquered in 1453 A.D., about 1700 years after Rome had conquered Greece.

The feet and toes = strong and weak governments of the Endtime

(Daniel 2:41) The iron which continues from the legs down into the feet and toes of the image is sort of a continuation of the Roman Empire. After its fall, Rome was broken up into the “iron” and “clay” countries of the feet and toes. These represent the basic types of governments the world has known since the fall of Rome: strong and weak governments.

Clay in God's Word symbolized the people (Isaiah 64:8).

“The kingdom shall be divided.” Since the fall of Rome there has been division amongst the nations, with no one power completely dominant, though some—like Napoleon and Hitler—have tried. At times, equally powerful “Empires” have existed simultaneously, such as the British, French, Spanish, etc., but no one nation has ruled over all of God's people since the Romans.

(Daniel 2:42) “The kingdom shall be partly strong”—iron—”and partly fragile”—clay.

(Daniel 2:43) They “will not adhere one to another.” This is seen in the divisions of the world today.

However, the soon-to-arise empire of the Devil-possessed dictator known as the Antichrist (which we will cover in detail in a later class), will for a very brief period, unite all of these iron and clay nations, ruling the world in some kind of One World Order. Many Bible teachers have said that “the kingdom,” the Antichrist world empire, will be a revival of the old Roman Empire. The nations represented by the 10 toes will be united under the Antichrist, and although the kingdom will be a mixture of iron and clay, he is going to make it pretty much all iron, uniting them all with his iron hand.

The Rock = Jesus/The mountain = The Kingdom of God

The stone was cut out of a mountain completely separate from the image. Other passages also refer to Jesus as a stone (Matthew 21:42–44; 1 Peter 2:6).

“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner”—of this new Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:44).

The stone that “struck the image” (Daniel 2:34) is Jesus, and this “great mountain” that “filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:35) is none other than the Millennial Kingdom of God, Christ’s Kingdom on Earth (Micah 4:1–3).

Christ will set up His Kingdom on Earth, in the Millennium at the end of the Battle of Armageddon. (Revelation 19:11–21).

This stone smashes the image by force and destroys it and leaves nothing of it! It says the wind carried away man’s governments “as chaff” (Isaiah 17:13).

Notice the return of Jesus was not in the legs (Rome), but on the feet, “in the days of these kings” at the very end of man’s governments.

“These kings”: Other passages mention there being 10 kingdoms (nations) that form the Antichrist empire. We will look at that subject in later classes.

God’s Kingdom will then “fill the whole earth.”

World history in a nutshell

(Daniel 2:45) This image represents a historical sequence of the great empires of man.

“The interpretation thereof is sure.” We know exactly what’s going to happen!

(Daniel 2:46–48) Daniel interpreted the king’s dream and advised the king wisely, so the king made him the highest man in the kingdom aside from himself.

Where are we now?

We believe that today we are living in the time of the feet.

From the symbolism of the feet we know that the final Antichrist Empire will be a very strange type of government. It will be a mixture of these iron and clay nations, ruling the world in some kind of new global order. There are all kinds of theories about this ranging from the United Nations to the European Union.

Reflections: Dreamscape

A message from Jesus

I give you dreams that make you feel certain ways for a reason; they’re part of My plan. I teach you and train you through your dreams. I test you and try your spirit. If you feel discouraged or depressed in your dream, or that no one loves you, I *use* that kind of dream to spark a hunger in you to reach others who feel the same way. I give you tastes of what other people go through, so that

you can relate to and have a broken heart for them. I even sometimes let you have an argument in your dream, or say things that hurt others, so you can see the effect it would have in real life.

Dreams have so many purposes. They're like a simulator, a virtual reality. In Job 33:15, I explain that I open the hearts of men in their dreams and instruct them upon their beds in order to take away their pride. I test and try you and present you with decisions in your dreams. If you make the *right* decision, you continue to grow. Even when you make the *wrong* decision, it can sometimes keep you from making the same mistakes in real life and end up having to suffer the consequences for them. In this way I'm able to rewire your thoughts as you sleep. Your guardian angels are also very active in planning your dreams, and they counsel you and help you to make the right decisions.

When you have a *bad* dream, it's often just to get you desperate, or it's an attack of the Enemy, or perhaps you've gone to sleep on the wrong channel, thinking negative thoughts. Dreams like these must be rebuked and fought against. This, too, is part of your training. It stirs you up to fight, and you learn to attack and resist the power of the Enemy.

Pray over your dreams before you go to sleep. And when you wake up, if there's something you remember from what you dreamed, prayerfully ask Me about it. If there's a dream you *can't* remember, don't worry about it. Just pray that your *spirit* will learn whatever lessons I was teaching you, even if you can't remember it in the physical. Everything I do has a reason—it's planned—even your dreams!