

Daniel 2:24-45: The Dream.

I. (24-35) Daniel describes Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

God gave Daniel the knowledge and interpretation of the dream...

Jeremiah 8:9 - *The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD; so what wisdom do they have?*

Daniel's description is clear. This is a massive and spectacular **image** made of different materials (**fine gold...silver...bronze...iron...partly of iron and of clay**). The materials descended in value and strength from top to bottom, with **gold** at the top and **iron** mixed with **clay** at the bottom.

This spectacular image is destroyed by a **stone** made **without hands**, and what remains of it is blown away like worthless chaff, while the stone **became a great mountain and filled the whole earth**.

II. (36-45) The interpretation and fulfillment of the dream.

Daniel first accurately reported the *content* of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. This gave Daniel credibility when explaining what the dream *meant*, **the interpretation**.

i. Nebuchadnezzar is clearly said to be the head of gold.

Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was likened unto gold because it was an absolute monarchy and autocracy; the Babylonian Empire lasted 66 years.

ii. The Medo-Persian Empire is the Chest and Arms of Silver

Medo-Persia, a monarchial-oligarchy with the nobles equal to the king in all but office, is represented by silver lasted 208 years.

iii. The Greek Empire is the Belly and Thighs of Bronze/Brass

The third kingdom, of bronze, is the one which shall rule over the whole earth. Indeed, Alexander's Grecian Empire was the largest among those compared in the image (except the final government of the Messiah), lasting 185 years.

iv. The Roman Empire was the Legs of Iron

"Rome, a democratic imperialism, with military dominion dependent upon the choice of army and citizenry and administered in the spirit of martial law, is set forth by iron." Rome lasted 500 years.

- v. The Anti-Christ One World Government is the Feet partly Clay, partly Iron.

The kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile: This final world empire will be according to the nature of clay mixed with iron. It will have more the image of true strength than the substance of strength.

- vi. The Stone

This is the Kingdom of our LORD Jesus Christ that dismantles all human governments. The stone cut **without hands** shatters a confederation of kings, represented by the feet of the image, and then God's Kingdom dominates the earth. This describes a single, decisive event that shatters the image representing the glory of man's rule on earth; this event is still in the future. This wasn't Daniel guessing or thinking - this was God announcing the future. The only reason that God can predict history is because he can control it.

Psalm 118:22 - *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

1Samuel 2:2 - *“No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.*

Revelation 5:11-12 - *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*

Psalm 90:12 - *So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

Colossians 4:5 - *Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.*