

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Part 6

Introduction: In our study of Daniel, we have been looking at chapter 2, and we are in the verses in which Daniel is interpreting the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. We have looked at some of the details of the dream. We have seen that the king saw an image of a man made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and iron mixed with clay. Then there was a stone not made with hands that came and struck the image at the feet and destroyed all the metals and the stone grew and filled the earth.

The metals in the image represent the Times of the Gentiles and they are the Gentile kingdoms that will rule from the time of Zedekiah (the last king to sit on the throne in Jerusalem, which was the throne of David) until the reign of Jesus Christ in the coming Kingdom.

Notice Daniel 2:36-39

Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold and therefore the first Gentile kingdom to rule the world was the Babylonians. The second kingdom was pictured as two arms and breast of silver. Last week we discovered that this kingdom was the Medo-Persian Empire. Cyrus would rise in this empire, and he would be the man who would bring the 70-year captivity to an end.

Isaiah 44:28

²⁸ That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

These words were recorded more than 100 years before Cyrus was born. Ezra tells of the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Ezra 1:1-3

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

² Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

³ Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.

➤ The Interpretation

➤ Part 3

Notice Daniel 2:39 again.

After the rule of the Medes and the Persians there would be a third kingdom of brass. This would be Greece. How do we know this? In Daniel 8:21 we are told that this kingdom will be Greece. We also see this in Daniel 10.

Daniel 10:18-20

¹⁸ Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

¹⁹ And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

²⁰ Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

This would be the Empire of Alexander the Great and it would come to power in 331 BC and continue to 63 BC. It is interesting to know why the Greeks were portrayed as the bronze kingdom. Notice the words of Showers.

"Why did God represent Greece with bronze? The Greeks developed this metal highly and used it extensively in their implements of war."

Notice the words of Barnes.

"The Greeks were distinguished for their "brazen armor," and the appellation, the "brazen-coated Greeks", is that by which they were designated most commonly by the ancients."

I want to show you what is recorded in the First Book of the Maccabees.

"And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chetiiim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece, And made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth, And went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted and his heart was lifted up."

Notice Daniel 2:40

Here is the fourth kingdom and it is the kingdom of iron. This is the Roman Kingdom. The Bible tells us more about this kingdom than any of the others. We will see this kingdom again in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:7

⁷ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Let us consider a few thoughts concerning this fourth kingdom.

1. It is very different.

Daniel 7:3-6

³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

⁵ And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

⁶ After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

The first three kingdoms are presented as known animals. There is a lion, a bear, and a leopard. But this fourth kingdom was like no other animal.

2. It is frightening.

Daniel 7:7, 19, 23

⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

¹⁹ Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

This kingdom would be a kingdom that would be extremely terrifying in its rule and especially to Daniel's people.

3. It is a kingdom that is anti-God.

This Roman Kingdom will be revived and it will be from this kingdom that the Anti-Christ rules the world. The world and the Jews of the Tribulation will see in this kingdom the Satanic trinity at the pinnacle of its evil.

Revelation 13:4-7, 11-16

⁴ And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

⁵ And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

⁷ And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Let us get back to the Iron Kingdom. In phase 1 it will be the kingdom that ravages Jerusalem in AD 70. When this happened more than one million Jews died. The Romans did things to the Jews that were unspeakable, and in this the Jews were dispersed over the entire world. This would also be the kingdom that would crucify Jesus Christ. These are some of the reasons why the beast of Daniel 7 is seen as being dreadful.

Notice Daniel 2:41

Here the iron continues. It presented as the feet of the image, and it is made of iron mixed with clay. This will be the kingdom of the Anti-Christ. So, what we are looking at is the continuation of the Roman Empire. We are not told that this iron kingdom was overthrown. History tells us that this Roman Empire just slowly faded over time. Then when we come to the feet and the toes it will revive back to power again. Now what we do not see in Daniel 2 is the gap that exists between the legs and the feet. The gap would be the period of time which we live in now and it is a gap of well over 2000 years. That is the Church Age. There is a gap in here that Daniel did not see. Let me just say that God has done this before when prophecy has been given.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

The Old Testament prophets such as Daniel could not see the church age that we live in.

1 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰ *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:*

¹¹ *Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.*

Conclusion:

Notice the words of Dean on the Roman Empire.

Gold is the Babylonian Empire, silver is the Medo-Persian Empire, brass is the Greece Empire and iron represents the Roman Empire, which lasted from 146 BC until the final collapse of the eastern half of the empire in 1453. [The fall of Rome] began with the defeat of Carthage in 146 BC, it was divided into an eastern and western empire in 395 AD, the west ended in 476 but the eastern empire continued until 1453. So Rome gradually and slowly dies out. It doesn't end by a military defeat, you can almost point to the day when Babylon was defeated, you know when Cyrus invaded Babylon. You know when the Greeks, under Alexander, defeated the Persians. We know when Rome defeated the Greeks, but Rome, unlike these other empires is not defeated militarily by another empire overnight. Now there were many defeats, there were the invasions of the Huns and various other barbarians from the north but it's a gradual dying out, and it's not till 1453 when the Moslems conquer Constantinople that the eastern empire goes out, but by then it is decadent, it is rotted on the inside, morals are gone, it's given over completely to the mysticism of the Eastern Orthodox Church. By that time Rome just internally collapsed.