

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Part 7

Introduction: In our study of Daniel, we have been looking at the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream by Daniel. We have looked at the first 3 Gentile kingdoms that are represented by the gold, silver, and the bronze.

Notice Daniel 2:36-39

After the third kingdom there will be a fourth which we started to look at last week. The fourth kingdom is the Roman Empire, and it is in two phases. Phase 1 was in power when Jesus was alive and it was never conquered by another Gentile kingdom but only faded slowly away. We looked at how this fourth kingdom is different than all the other kingdoms.

Notice Daniel 2:40

We get another picture of this kingdom in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:3-7

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.*

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.*

Here is the same prophecy 50 years later and here the Gentile kingdoms are represented by animals, but the fourth kingdom is so dreadful and terrible that there is no animal that could represent it. There are several reasons why it is portrayed this way.

1. In AD70 it would be the Romans that would kill over 1 million Jews.

Notice the information from Bible History.

"The Roman army numbered 30,000; while the Jewish army numbered 24,000. According to Tacitus there were 600,000 visitors crowding the streets of Jerusalem for the Passover. After five months the walls were battered down, the great Temple was burned down, and the city was left ruined and desolate, except for Herod's three great towers at the northwest corner of the city. These served as a memorial of the massive strength of Jerusalem's fortifications which Titus of Rome had brought to rubble. The legions of Rome brought the captives to Caesarea and after over one million Jews were killed, 95,000 captives were taken as prisoners, and among them was Josephus, the ancient Jewish historian."

2. It would be in Rome phase 1 that Jesus Christ would be crucified.

3. It will be in Rome phase 2 that the Satanic Trinity will reach its pinnacle of evil.

➤ **The Revived 4th Kingdom and the Eternal Kingdom**

Let us keep in mind that there is a gap in this prophecy between verse 40 and 41 this would be the Church Age which is the age we are in today. Daniel could not see this age. He would see the Roman Empire in phase 1 and phase 2, but he could not see the valley between the two empires.

Notice Daniel 2:41-43

Here we see that the feet and the ten toes are made of a mixture of iron and clay. The clay tells us that this kingdom is fragile just as clay would be fragile. But what are we to make of the iron and clay? We know that if iron and clay are mixed together, they will not bond to one another and that seems to be the idea here. It seems as though in the different cultures under this empire that there are going to be people that are going to resist the government and it will be under the government's power that they will be forced to accept the rule over them. Let us notice what John records in Revelation.

Revelation 13:1-2, 7, 11-12

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

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.

Notice here that the Anti-Christ is given power over all kindreds, tongues, and nations. Then the False Prophet CAUSES the people to worship the Anti-Christ. This tells me that many will resist and they will be forced to worship. Keep in mind, this will be a tyrannical government.

Notice the words of Benware.

"In interpreting this it must be noted that these two elements of iron and clay must carry with them the same basic content as the other metals on the statue. In other words, the gold, silver, and bronze represented the cultures and peoples of the first three empires. So, it is entirely consistent to think that the iron and clay stands for people and cultures. The apparent problem with the feet and toes is that the various nationalities, cultures, philosophies, forms of government and races are not going to mix well together in the final phase of man's rule. . . . they are kept in union by external forces only. They simply do not blend into a cohesive unit."

Notice Daniel 2:44

There is a question that arises here. What "kings" is Daniel referring to? Is it the kings of all the Gentile Empires? Is it a reference to the ten toes being ten kings? As far as we know Daniel did not know the ten toes would represent ten kings. He will not get this information for another 50 years.

Daniel 7:23-24

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.

²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

The ten kings here are represented by ten horns, and they are the same as the ten toes. So which kings does Daniel refer to in 2:44? It has to be the ten kings that will come to power in the iron kingdom. The kings of the previous kingdoms will not exist in the iron kingdom.

Revelation 17:12-14

¹² And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

¹³ These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

¹⁴ These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Notice Daniel 2:44 again.

Now we see that it is in the days of these kings that God will set up a Kingdom that will NEVER be destroyed for it is an eternal Kingdom.

Daniel 7:27

²⁷ And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

This seems to present a problem when we read Revelation 20.

Revelation 20:1-5

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Here we see that the Kingdom is 1000 years. But Daniel tells us it is eternal so how are we to understand this?

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

²⁴ Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

²⁷ For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

²⁸ And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

When all enemies are destroyed the Kingdom will be given to the Father and the Father and the Son will both reign in the eternal state as the Kingdom is established there forever.

Revelation 22:3

³ And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

Let me show you when the last enemy is destroyed.

Revelation 20:14

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The last enemy is death, and it is destroyed right after the earth reign of Jesus Christ.

Notice Daniel 2:44-45

The next point to see is how this last Kingdom arrives.

Notice Daniel 2:34-35

Here we see that it comes suddenly and destroys the Gentile kingdoms. Then it becomes a mountain and fills the earth. From this we learn that the Kingdom does not come in slowly. It will come suddenly and when it does there will be no more Gentile kingdoms. I point this out because there are those who see this Kingdom as spiritual and believe it was ushered in at the first coming of Jesus Christ. They believe the Kingdom will fill the entire world through the preaching of the Gospel. That is NOT what we see here!

Notice Daniel 2:45 again.

We are told that the stone was cut without hands. What does this mean? It means that this Kingdom finds its source apart from man and is completely from God. The previous kingdoms are all about man but not this Kingdom. This Kingdom finds its source apart from this world.

John 18:36

³⁶ Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Luke 19:12

¹² He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

It is a Kingdom that is not from here. It is not made with hands because that which man makes with his hands is defiled for man imposes his will upon that which he makes. When we read of things not made with hands it is speaking of that which cannot be defiled by man.

Exodus 20:24-25

²⁴ *An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.*

²⁵ *And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.*

Conclusion:

Let us notice something that is very encouraging.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Our new glorified bodies will never be defiled or contaminated. They are bodies that are from God not made with man's hands.

Notice what Paul said about our salvation.

Colossians 2:10-11

¹⁰ *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

¹¹ *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:*

Getting back to the Kingdom; man will have no part in bringing about the Kingdom because the Kingdom is from God and it will not be defiled by the will or the ways of man.