

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Part 8

Review/Introduction: For the past 7 or 8 weeks we have been looking at the dream which Nebuchadnezzar had in Daniel 2. In the dream the king saw a large statue/image in the form of a man. It was made of different metals as well as one foreign substance. The head was gold, the chest and arms were silver, the belly and thighs were brass, and the legs were iron, and the feet and toes were iron and clay mixed. Each one of the metals represented a Gentile kingdom. This entire image represented the Times of the Gentiles.

Luke 21:24-27

²⁴ And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

²⁵ And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

²⁶ Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

²⁷ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory

The Times of the Gentiles started when Nebuchadnezzar removed Zedekiah from the throne in Jerusalem. Zedekiah was the last king from the line of David to sit upon the throne and so his removal started the Times of the Gentiles and the Times of the Gentiles will end when Jesus sits on the throne in Jerusalem in His Kingdom.

The image in the king's dream was in the form of a man because these kingdoms are all about humanism. These kingdoms are a culmination of the best that man can produce. We see the deterioration in the metals which is a picture of what happens to man over time if left to himself apart from God. He will continue to decline until he gets to the place in which God must step in and judge man's kingdom before he destroys himself completely. We can see that in the flood of Noah's day.

The hardness of the metals from gold to iron speak of the way man will rule as times progresses. When the world gets to the last of man's kingdoms it is iron and it will be a

tyrannical rule at its pinnacle led by the Anti-Christ. Man's rule will move in the direction of militarism as these kingdoms deteriorate.

We have looked at each of these kingdoms and we considered the fact that there is a gap that Daniel did not see somewhere around the ankles. The gap is the Church Age that we are living in right now. As we get to the feet the material changes and there is clay mixed with the iron.

Notice Daniel 2:40-43

This mixture could possibly be the different cultures and different lifestyles during the Tribulation. It may well be those who resist the tyrannical government over them during the Tribulation as they are forced to comply. This 4th kingdom is much different than all the other Gentile kingdoms. We see that in Daniel 7 in a prophecy that Daniel will be given 50 years later.

Daniel 7:7, 19

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.

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;

➤ **The Eternal Kingdom**

Notice Daniel 2:44

Here we see that God will set up a Kingdom that will NEVER be destroyed for it is an eternal Kingdom. This is the Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ. But the verse tells us it will be eternal and in Revelation 20 we are told it is to be 1000 years. How can it be both?

It will exist 1000 years on this earth and then it will be handed to the Father and the Kingdom will be transferred to the eternal state.

Revelation 20:4

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.

Here we see that the Kingdom is 1000 years. Now let us notice what Paul wrote concerning what will happen after 1000 years.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

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.

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.

Now we need to focus upon how the Kingdom of Jesus Christ arrives.

There are two parables that **MUST** be understood because there are many who twist these parables to fit their theology.

Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

³² *Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

There are those who use this parable to teach that as the Gospel is spread through the world it causes the world to become Christianized, and it becomes a world where all peoples are safe and secure. In other words, they teach that the spread of the Gospel will result in Jesus bringing the Kingdom to the earth after the governments have been changed through the Christian influence. But that is far from the meaning here. This is a picture of what will happen to Christendom as time moves on. The birds here are representative of demons and their influence upon Christendom. We see this effect today because in many churches Satan and his demons have found a place of lodging as these churches have abandoned the Word of God. Let us notice another parable.

Matthew 13:33

³³ *Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

There are those who teach that in this parable the leaven is the Gospel, and it is spreading through the entire world until the world is Christianized and then Jesus will return to rule and reign. This is not what is being taught here. Leaven NEVER represents the Gospel in the Bible, but it represents sin. This parable tells of the spread of sin in the age we are in.

The belief behind this teaching is that the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is spiritual and we are living in it today and it is the Gospel's influence that is changing the governments/kingdoms of this world and one day they will all be governments which God will be honored in.

But does this theology fit the framework in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar? It must fit to be correct because the framework in the dream is the foundation for all future prophecy.

Notice the words of Adam Clarke as we see his distorted view.

"First, The stone began to strike the image, when the apostles went out into every part of the Roman empire, pulling down idolatry, and founding Christian Churches. . . . Secondly, But the great blow was given to the heathen Roman empire by the conversion of Constantine . . . a.d. 312 . . . The stroke which thus destroyed idolatry in the Roman empire is continual in its effects; and must be so till idolatry be destroyed over the face of the earth, and the universe filled with the knowledge of Christ. . . . This smiting has been continued by all the means which God in his providence and mercy has used for the dissemination of Christianity, from the time of Constantine to the present: and

particularly now, by means of the British and Foreign Bible society, and its countless ramifications, and by the numerous missionaries sent by Christian societies to almost every part of the globe."

This is not what is taught in Daniel 2.

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. The Gentile kingdoms will all be destroyed before the Kingdom fills the world. It is not that the Kingdom fills the world and forces out all the corrupt Gentile rule.

The Bible teaches us that the kingdoms of the world will be destroyed NOT reformed.

Psalms 2:7-9

⁷ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Isaiah 63:1-4

Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

² Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?

³ I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

⁴ For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

Conclusion:

The Kingdom that God will set up is a literal Kingdom. It will exist on earth for 1000 years and then it will be transferred to the eternal state where it will exist forever. It must exist on the earth where it was lost in the beginning.

Notice the words of Pentecost:

"Apart from the reign of Christ here on earth and apart from His rule God's purpose for man would never be brought to conclusion. God's purpose for the earth would be unrealized and the problem generated by Satan's rebellion would never be resolved. Thus the physical, literal reign of Christ on earth is a theological and biblical necessity unless Satan is victorious over God."