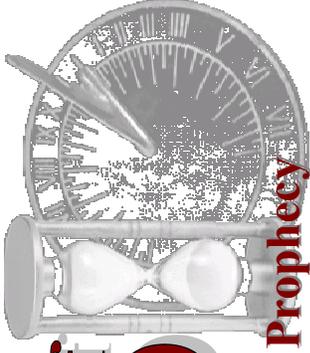


The Time of **THE END**



Studies on Bible Prophecy

Lesson 3

“A Kings Dream”

In a previous lesson we discovered that Jesus is the Messiah and theme of prophecy. Now we are going to look at the prophecy of Daniel chapter two and see if this theme continues.



1. **May we understand prophecy?**
2 Peter 1:19,20

2. **What did Christ say of Daniel's prophecy?**
Matthew 24:15



Gold = Babylon

The head of gold represented Babylon, which was the ruling world power from 612-539 B.C.

Silver = Medo-Persia

The chest of silver represented Medo-Persia, the ruling world empire from 539-331 B.C.

Bronze = Greece

The thighs of bronze represented Greece, the dominant world ruler from 331-168 B.C.

Iron = Rome

The legs of iron represented Rome, which enjoyed world supremacy from 168 B.C.-A.D. 476.

Iron and Clay = the Divided Empire

The feet that were partly iron and partly clay represented a divided empire that would not cleave together. No single power has ruled the world since A.D. 476, and it will remain divided until Christ's return.

Stone = Christ's Eternal Kingdom, His Word, and His Law

ANSWERS: (1) YES! (2) That we are to understand the prophecies of Daniel. (3) He had a terrible dream but could not remember it. (4) God in heaven. (5) The future of the world. (6) The kingdom of Babylon. (7) Three inferior kingdoms represented by silver, brass, and iron. (8) The kingdom of the Medes and Persians. (9) Over 200 years. (10) The kingdom of Greece. (11) Rome! (12) It would be divided. (13) By intermarriage. (14) The kingdom of God. (15) The stone that was cut out without hands (not man-made). (16) The Gospel must be preached to the entire world before the end will come!



Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon, the then-superpower of most of the (so-called) "civilized" world. Just two years previous to the events we are about to examine, the nation of Israel had been invaded. Many captives had been carried away to Babylon, among them Daniel and his three friends. Like all kings, even pagan kings, Nebuchadnezzar had many things on his mind. His kingdom was powerful, his city a wonder, his safety assured, his needs and desires catered to; his will supreme. But all of this wasn't enough. Even kings dream dreams and one night the God of heaven gave to him a dream.

3. Why was Nebuchadnezzar troubled?

Daniel 2:1 (Read verses 1-35)



4. Who gave this dream to the king?

Daniel 2:28

5. What was the dream to reveal?

Daniel 2:29-36



Nebuchadnezzar, a worshiper of the gods of the Chaldean religion, was an idolater. An image was an object which would grab his attention and respect. Earthly kingdoms were represented by this image, and below the head of gold was body composed of inferior metals descending in value until they reached their basest form in the feet and toes of iron mingled with miry clay. The whole image was then dashed to pieces, and made like the empty chaff. It was finally blown away where no place could be found for it, after which something durable and of heavenly worth occupied its place. In the place of these kingdoms, the kingdom of God shall be set up and have no end.

6. Whom did the head of gold represent?

Daniel 2:37,38

16. What must take place before Christ's kingdom is established?

Matthew 24:14

"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14." White, The Acts of the Apostles, p. 111.

Can you see the importance of knowing and understanding prophecy? I want to be a member of the Eternal Kingdom, how about you?



In 'Lectures on the First Two Visions of the Book of Daniel,' pp. 34-36, William Newton states: "And yet if, as the result of these alliances, or of other causes, that number is sometimes disturbed, it need not surprise us. The iron was 'mixed with clay.' For a season, in the image, you might not distinguish between them. But they would not remain so. They shall not cleave one to another.' The nature of the substances forbids them to do so in the one case; the word of prophecy in the other. Yet there was to be the attempt to mingle-- nay, more, there was an approach at mingling in both cases. But it was to be abortive. And how marked the emphasis with which history affirms this declaration of the word of God!"

14. What eternal kingdom was to be set up in the days of these kings?

Daniel 2:44

We here reach the climax of this stupendous prophecy. When Time in his onward flight shall bring us to the sublime scene here predicted, we shall have reached the end of human history. The kingdom of God!

15. What represented this eternal kingdom in the dream? *Daniel 2:45*

Centuries before the Saviour's advent Moses had pointed to the Rock of Israel's salvation. The psalmist had sung of "the Rock of my strength." Isaiah had written, "Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation." Deut. 32:4; Ps. 62:7; Isa. 28:16. Peter himself, writing by inspiration, applies this prophecy to Jesus. He says, "If ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious: unto whom coming, a living stone, rejected indeed of men, but with God elect, precious, ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house." 1 Peter 2:3-5, R. V. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11. "Upon this rock," said Jesus, "I will build My church." In the presence of God, and all the heavenly intelligences, in the presence of the unseen army of God, and all the founded His church upon the living Rock. That Rock is Himself, --His own body, for us broken and bruised. Against the church built upon this foundation, the gates of hell shall not prevail." White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 413.



The character of the Babylonian Empire is indicated by the head of gold. It was the golden kingdom of a golden age. Babylon, its metropolis, towered to a height never reached by any of its successors. Situated in the garden of the East; laid out in a perfect square said to be sixty miles in circumference, fifteen miles on each side; surrounded by a wall estimated to have been two hundred to three hundred feet high and eighty-seven feet thick, with a moat, or ditch, around it.



This city, with its sixty miles of moat, its sixty miles of outer wall, its thirty miles of river wall through its center, its gates of solid brass, its hanging gardens rising terrace above terrace till they equaled in height the walls themselves--this city, containing it itself many things which were themselves wonders of the world, was itself another and still mightier wonder. But it would come to an end!

Please notice: Jeremiah 27:1-11, God gave the kingdom to Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel 26:7-11, the fall of Tyre. Ezekiel 29:18,19, Egypt given as wages for work against Tyre.

7. What kingdoms were to follow Babylon?

Daniel 2:39,40

Please notice: *Jeremiah 51:11,27,28*, down-fall of Babylon foretold and Medes named. *Isaiah 45:1-3*, Cyrus named 113 years before he was born. *Jeremiah 51:45,46*, God's sign to His children. *Isaiah 47:5-13*, the doom of the city. *Daniel 5:1-28*, the night of pleasure. *Jeremiah 51:14*, the entry of the army. *Jeremiah 51:31,32*, the announcement taken to the king. *Jeremiah 51:30*, the failure of the Babylonian army to defend the city. *Jeremiah 50:35,37,46; 51:53-58; Isaiah 13:17-22*, the destruction of Babylon.

8. What did the silver (breast and arms) represent?

Daniel 5:28-31



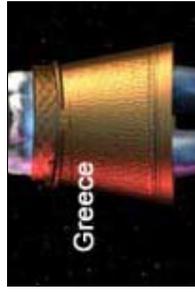
The succeeding kingdom, Medo-Persia, is indicated by the breast and arms of silver of the great image. It was to be inferior to the preceding kingdom. At the taking of Babylon, Cyrus, as an act of courtesy, assigned the first place in the kingdom to his uncle, Darius, in 538 B.C. But two years afterward Darius died, leaving Cyrus sole monarch of the empire. This kingdom ruled from 538-331 B.C.

9. How long did Medo-Persia rule?

From 539(8)-331 B.C. (Uriah Smith, *Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 51).

10. What did the brass symbolize?

Daniel 8:20-21



ANSWER: Grecia (Greece)

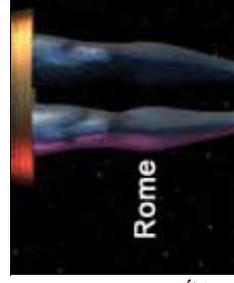
The first king of Greece was Alexander the Great. He was called 'The Great' because of the swiftness of his military victories and his conquering of the then known world. The deciding point in the conflict between the Grecians and Persians was reached on the field of Arbela in 331 B.C., where the Grecians, outnumbered 20-1 by the Persians, won a decisive victory.

After conquering his last foe, Alexander claimed for himself divine honors. He often murdered his friends in his drunken frenzies. Having sat through one long drinking spree, he was immediately invited to another, when, after drinking to each of the twenty guests present, he twice drank, says history, incredible as it may seem, the full Herculian cup containing six quarts. He was seized with a violent fever, of which he died eleven days later, Jun 13, 323 B. C., at the age of 32.

The empire was then divided between his four generals, Ptolemy; Cassander; Lysimachus; and Seleucus.

11. What empire followed Grecia?

Daniel 2:40, 8:23-25; Luke 2:1-4

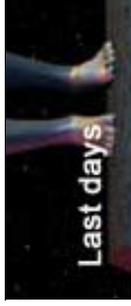


What kingdom succeeded Greece in the empire of the world, for the legs of iron denote the fourth kingdom in the great image? The testimony of history is full and explicit on this point. One kingdom did this, and one only, and that was **Rome**.

The historian Gibbon says: "*The arms of the republic, sometimes vanquished in battle, always victorious in war, advanced with rapid steps to the Euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine, and the Ocean; and the images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome.*"—Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. 3, p.161.

12. What change was to come to the kingdom of iron?

Daniel 2:41,42



The ten toes of the image denote the ten parts into which the Roman Empire was divided. This division was accomplished between A.D. 351 and 476 by varying barbarian tribes. The ten nations which were most instrumental in breaking up the Roman Empire, and which at some time in their history held respectively portions of Roman territory as separate and independent kingdoms are: *A.D. 351, Franks (France); Alemanni (Germany); A.D. 406, Burgundians (Switzerland); Suevi (Portugal); Vandals in northern part of Africa; A.D. 408, Visigoths (Spain); A.D. 449, Anglo-Saxons (England); A.D. 483, Ostrogoths (Italy); Lombards, part of Italy; Heruli, part of Italy.*

Names Then

Alemanni
Franks
Bergundians
Suevi
Anglo-Saxons
Visigoths
Lombards
Heruli
Vandals
Ostrogoths

Names Now

Germany
France
Switzerland
Portugal
England
Spain
Italy
Italy (Is no More)
Italy (Is no More)
Italy (Is no More)

13. How would these kings try to strengthen themselves?

Daniel 2:43

There were always conflicts raging between these barbarian tribes as one tried in vain to be the world ruler. To avert future conflicts, benevolent rulers resorted to the expedient of intermarriage to ensure peace, until by the opening of the twentieth century it was asserted that every ranking hereditary ruler of Europe was related to the British royal family. Alliances may come, as we see the European Union touted today, and it may appear that the iron and miry clay of the feet and toes of the great image have finally fused, but God said, "*They shall not cleave one to another.*" It may seem that old animosities have disappeared and that the "ten kings" have gone the way of all the earth, but "*the Scripture cannot be broken.*" John 10: 35.