

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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## MAN OF WISDOM

Daniel 2: 24 - 49

*"HE THAT REVEALETH SECRETS MAKETH KNOWN"*

Daniel 2:30

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# MAN OF WISDOM

*“HE THAT REVEALETH SECRETS MAKETH KNOWN”*

Daniel 2:30

One of the underlying purposes of the book of Daniel is to demonstrate the fact that God is in control. He is in control of the affairs of nations and in the affairs of men. As Nebuchadnezzar is introduced to the reader in the book of Daniel, he is portrayed as a powerful pagan king. As he proceeds through the book he is introduced to Jehovah, the true God of Heaven by Daniel and his companions as they serve God in his court. God does this for the purpose of telling everyone that He is the one on the Throne and is determining the direction of history. In Chapter two of Daniel the king learns that *“there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.”* (Dan. 2:28a) Nebuchadnezzar will be transformed by Good and in the end of chapter four he proclaims *“Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk-in pride he is able to abase.”* (Dan. 4:37) The story

of his transformation is one of the purposes of the first half of this Prophecy. It underlines the truth that God is in control of the lives of men.

The context of Chapter two is the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar of a giant statue made of various materials. God gave him this dream to show him *“what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.”* (Vs. 29) Daniel used the situation as an opportunity to proclaim to all those of Babylon that *“there is a God in Heaven.”* (Vs. 28) When God granted Daniel the wisdom to interpret the king’s dream, it launched Daniel’s long career as a political leader, trusted advisor and well-known prophet. God continued to use Daniel in the courts of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar and Darius, kings of Babylon.

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar, interpreted by Daniel, provides an overview of world events in the millennia yet to come. Jesus, Himself, described what Nebuchadnezzar saw as the *“times of the Gentiles.”* (Luke 21:24) The king saw in his dream the image of a great statue, a colossus. Daniel explains it to the king in verses 31 through 35. Many students see the accuracy of this prophecy and conclude that it must have been written as history around 165 B.C. as though it was prophecy. They say that

he did this in order to encourage the Jewish people of his day. The truth however, is the dream was given to the king to illustrate God's influence in history and to encourage people to follow God and trust Him as their God.

“Daniel’s interpretation, given to him by God, explains that the statue represents a series of kingdoms, each less glorious than the one before, as indicated by the decreasing value of the metals. Daniel identifies Nebuchadnezzar as the head of gold, stating that God has given Nebuchadnezzar much power (Daniel 2:37-38). The next kingdom to arise will be inferior to Babylon, as will the next. ‘Finally, there will come a fourth kingdom, strong as iron. . . . It will crush and break all the others’ (Daniel 2:40)

Finally, the feet of mixed clay and iron ‘will be a divided kingdom’ (Daniel 2:41) During the time of this final world empire, the ‘rock’ will smash them all to bits, a prediction that ‘God . . . . will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed’ (Daniel 2:44). All previous earthly kingdoms will be brought to an end.” (Questions)

History has identified the image's kingdoms by the descriptions of the prophecy. Daniel, himself, identified the head of the statue as being Babylon. The breast and arms represent Persia which came after Babylon. The belly and thighs are of brass and are interpreted as the Greek Empire. Rome can only be the iron legs. The fifth kingdom has been interpreted in different ways but the best explanation seems to suggest that this kingdom is yet to be seen. Most believe that the clay/iron will be the kingdom of Antichrist and will be a revived Roman empire. According to Revelation 17:12-12 the Antichrist will lead a coalition of ten nations (the statue's ten toes?). We know that Christ will defeat the forces of the Antichrist (Revelation 17:14). After that, Jesus will set up His kingdom – the rock smashes the image – and the kingdoms of this world will “become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15).

Daniel tells us that, *“the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and*

*the interpretation thereof sure.”* (Vs. 45) If the first four prophecies came to pass just as God revealed they would, it is hard to doubt that the final kingdom will come to pass just as it is given to us. Jesus Christ will rule the nations of men and all will one day give allegiance to Him. (Phil. 2:9-11)

[Material for this lesson found on found on the web site, [/www.gotquestions.org/Nebuchadnezzars-dream.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/Nebuchadnezzars-dream.html) And is designated (Questions)]

## Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



### KINGDOMS REPRESENTED

#### **Head of fine gold**

Babylonian Empire

#### **Breast and arms of silver**

Medes' and Persians' Empire

#### **Belly and thighs of brass**

Macedonian Empire

#### **Legs of iron**

Roman Empire

#### **Feet and toes of clay**

Kingdoms that arose after  
the fall of the Roman Empire

<https://www.lds.org/manual/old-testament-seminary-student-study-guide/daniel-2?lang=eng>

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