

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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KINGDOMS Daniel 2: 26-45

*"THE DREAM IS CERTAIN, AND THE
INTERPRETATION THEREOF SURE."*

Daniel 2:45b

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KINGDOMS

Daniel 2:45

The Lord Jesus, teaching His disciples in Luke said that *“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”* (Luke 21:24) God gave the pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar the outline of history that can be called the “times of the Gentiles”. God gave this prophecy in the form of a dream that the young man, Daniel interpreted for the great king. God gave the interpretation of the dream, not because Daniel was so wise in himself but *“for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king.”* (2:30b) Those that would interpret the dream were Daniel and his three Hebrew companions. The interpretation of the dream proved to be a five part outline of the Age of Gentile Kingdoms culminating in the destruction of the Gentile kingdoms by the rock cut out of the mountain with out hand. (Daniel 2:45)

The dream was of a great statue that was composed of various materials. The head of the figure was made of Gold and represented

Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon itself. (2:38) The chest and arms were made out of silver and represented a kingdom that was inferior to Babylon. Historians define this section as the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. They took over Babylon after Nebuchadnezzar's reign. The two kingdoms are represented by the two arms. The "belly and thighs" of the figure are made of brass. Brass is less valuable than either gold or silver but also stronger and more durable. This image is defined by the Greek empire led by Alexander the Great. Daniel seems to reinforce this interpretation in Daniel 8:21 where he indicates Greece as the "rough goat". Next we see that *"His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay"* (2:33) Rome is seen in the image of two very strong legs of iron. This image represents the two divisions of Rome in the Eastern and Western empires. At this point the vision culminates in a rather strange and unexpected image. Daniel saw the legs terminate in two feet that were made of iron and clay. They form ten toes. Each of these toes being a kingdom. The mixture of iron and clay is

strange because clay and iron will not adhere to each other. It makes a very weak and unstable foundation for the statue. The image seems to indicate that the strength of the kingdoms will be mixed with the “seed of men”. The other kingdoms were totalitarian empires dominated by kings and emperors. These ten kingdoms are led the people of the nations. Jesus will one day come “when all empires have passed away, in the days of the ten toes, in the days of a multi-national world. This means it could be now, today, for the prophecy has long been fulfilled. There will never be another world empire and this stone, according to the Word of God, will strike after all the empires of the world have passed away.” (Criswell. Vol. 2 P. 76)

According to Daniel 2 this statue will be destroyed by “*a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*” (2:34) In scripture the Messiah is often represented in the image of a store or a rock. “The stone that smote the great image and

destroyed it is Christ, the Rock, the Son of God.” (Criswell. Vol. 2 P. 76)

In Psalm 118:22-23 Jesus is the “stone the builders rejected.” In Isaiah 28:16 Jesus is the foundation stone laid by God in Zion. In I Corinthians Jesus is referred to by Paul as the Rock the people in the wilderness drank from.

The fifth kingdom is the Messianic kingdom of the Stone. “Interpreters of all schools – reverent Christians, Jewish, rationalistic-unbelievers – agree that this refers to the Messianic Kingdom . . . and so refers to the prophecy to the Second Advent and the establishment of a Millennium (cf. Revelation 20) (Wycliffe. P. 780) In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 3 John the Baptist is preaching righteousness in Israel. He introduces his message with, “*Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” (Matthew 3:2) He was preparing the people for the ministry of the Lord Jesus. Jesus was beginning His work of the Kingdom which will find its complete fulfillment when He established His rule over the nations

of the earth. This is the picture Daniel saw of this fifth kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Nebuchadnezzar saw the sweeping panorama of Gentile world history. It began with Babylon and ends with the Kingdom of Christ in the last days. *"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."* (2:45) In this God has shown His interest in and ability to direct the course of mankind. He has revealed Himself to the King and to us today. All those with eyes to see and ears to hear should attend to His message.

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