

Hope for Today

A King's Dream vs Your Future

Shortly after their graduation King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that troubles him. Let's read **Daniel 2:1** "And in the second year of the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, with which his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him." And so he calls in the wise men of his time, and puts the challenge to them. He knows the dream and its meaning is important, so he issues a strange demand. "Tell me the dream and its interpretation"

Here is the reply of the wise men. **Daniel 2:4** "Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, 'O King, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.'"

But the king is insistent. **Daniel 2:5** "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb"

Daniel 2:10 "The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand," This is an impossible request and they know it!

Watch what happens now. **Daniel 2:11-12** "The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed." And it is at this point that Daniel comes onto the scene. Summoned from his home to be executed, he finds out the reason, and decides to put this in God's hands.

Daniel 2:16 "And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king" so he asks for time, to seek God for wisdom and an answer.

And so he goes to his 3 friends and proposes that they pray. **Daniel 2:18** "and told them to seek mercy from God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon."

Daniel 2:19 "Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven."

God still hears and answers prayer!

Daniel 2:20-21 "Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and set up kings: He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding,"

So Daniel goes back to the king. Note the conversation. **Daniel 2:26-27** "The king declared to Daniel, Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation? Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show

to the king the mystery that the king asked” Sounds like he has no answer. Contrary, he is underlining the Divine source of his solution!

Daniel 2:28 “But there is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets, and makes known to the King Nebuchadnazzar what shall be in the latter days.” James Montgomery says, “There is a God in heaven which is the supreme theme of the book, and the cardinal principle of the Bible.” A Critical Exegetical Commentary on the book of Daniel, pg.162

And so Daniel begins to unpack the dream. **Daniel 2:31-35** “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were broken to pieces together, and they became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that no place was found for them. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This is the dream. And we will tell its meaning before the king.”

Fascinating, but what does it mean? Watch now as Daniel unpacks the meaning of the dream.

Daniel 2:37-38 “You, O king, are a king of kings, **You are this head of gold.**”

1. **Head of Gold = Babylon.** And what a city it was with the famous “Hanging gardens of Babylon”. Look at the size of ancient Babylon compared to other famous ancient cities. Babylon: 10 miles (16 km) around. Rome was only 6 miles (9.6 km), and Athens 4 miles (6.4 km). Truly Babylon was great.

But Daniel continues to tell what the arms and chest of silver symbolise. **Daniel 2:39** “And after you shall arise **another kingdom** lower than you....”

2. **Chest and Arms of Silver = Medo-Persia (539-331 BC)**

Again look at how God had prophesied about the first king of this united Medo-Persian kingdom that would follow Babylon. **Isaiah 45:1** “ So says Jehovah to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have made strong in order to humble nations before him, And I will loosen the loins of kings, to open before the two-leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut.”

But Daniel is not finished. **Daniel 2:39** “... an **another third kingdom** of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.”

Now when we go to Daniel chapter 8, God had made it very clear what kingdom would conquer and rule after Medo-Persia. **Daniel 8:21** “ And the shaggy goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king.”

3. **Waist and thighs of bronze = Greece (331-168 BC)**

Look at this statement in **Historical Library Book 17, Chapter 12** about Alexander the Great, Greece's first and most successful ruler

"I am persuaded that there was no nation, city, nor people..... where his name (Alexander the Great) did not reach.....there seems to me to have been some divine hand presiding over his birth and actions." – *Adrian*

History of Rome Book 3, Chapter 10 says

"On June 22, 168 B.C., at the Battle of Pydna, perished the empire of Alexander the Great, 144 years after his death." And this was because, as God had seen, there would be a 4th kingdom after Greece.

Daniel 2:40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron."

4. Legs of iron = Rome 168 BC-476AD

"The images of gold, silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the Iron Monarchy of Rome." - *Edward Gibbon*

Rome would be the last world empire to rule. After her, would come a division of the kingdom, as seen by Daniel. **Daniel 2:41** "And as to that which you saw: the feet and toes, part of potters' clay and part of iron; the kingdom shall be divided."

Feet of Iron and Clay = Divided Europe (476 AD – present)

The table below shows the 4 kingdoms leading to the division of Rome.

Head of Gold	Babylon	Daniel's Day - 539 BC
Chest & Arms of Silver	Medo-Persia	539-331 BC
Waist and Thighs of Bronze	Greece	331-168 BC
Legs of Iron	Rome	168 BC-476AD
Feet of Iron & Clay	Divided Europe	476 AD – PRESENT

Below is a table showing some of those 10 tribes and the modern nations, which they formed the basis of.

Anglo-Saxons	British
Franks	France
Alamanni	Germans
Lombards	Polish
Ostrogoths	
Burgundis	
Heruli	
Visigoths	
Vandals	
Suevi	Spanish

But the Bible had clearly said that "they would not cleave (stick/adhere) to one another" Look at the record of history and men's attempts to unite Europe. Men of power and means!

Charlemagne
Charles IV
Louis XIV
Napoleon
Kaiser Wilhelm
Hitler

But the Bible had said in Daniel 2:43 “but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron does not mingle with clay” And that is why they all failed. None could unite the world!

Let’s watch as Daniel explains in Daniel 2:34 “You watched until a stone was cut without hands, which struck the image upon its feet which were of iron and clay, and broke them to pieces.”

Daniel 2:44-45 “....the God of Heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed..... it shall crush and destroy these kingdoms and shall stand forever. Just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold. The great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

So what is this stone that strikes the image on the feet? What does it stand for?

Ephesians 2:20 “being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone”

Matthew 21:44 “And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him” Remember that in the parable of the men who built houses He had said that if anyone built on the Rock, Christ Jesus, their house would stand. **Jesus is the rock/stone!**

So...

John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also.”

God not only knows the future of the world, He also knows YOUR future as well!

Praise God that through the Cross Jesus guaranteed our future!