

Daniel Lesson 3; From Mystery to Revelation

The Study of Daniel Chapter 2

Memory Verse

Daniel 2:20 (ESV) “Daniel answered and said: ‘Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might’ ”

Icebergs in the waters around Greenland drift in different directions.

The Immanence of God – Sunday 604 BC

Immanence = conception of God being present throughout the universe.

Acts 17:27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

Daniel 2:1–16 What crisis do the Hebrews face because of the dream that the Lord gives to the king?

Genesis 41:8 (NKJV) Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.

Judges 7:13–14 (NKJV) And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, “I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.” Then his companion answered and said, “This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.”

The Prayer - Monday

Daniel 2:17–18 (NKJV) Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

***Matthew 18:19 (NKJV)** “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”

Daniel and his friends burst into a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Daniel 2:20–23 (NKJV) Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. ²¹And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. ²²He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. ²³“I thank You and praise You,

O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king’s demand.”

The Image: Part 1

Brought in by Daniel Arioch; 2:24–30

Daniel 2:29–35 READ As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this;...

The Interpretation

Daniel 2:36–38 (NKJV) “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. ³⁷You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.

Daniel 2:39 (NKJV) But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

Babylon – “this city which is the delight of my eyes, which I have glorified, may it last forever” – Nebuchadnezzar II

***2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)** while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The Image: Part 2

Daniel 2:36–45 (NKJV) “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

1. The head of gold represents Babylon (626–539 B.C). Indeed, no other metal could better represent the power and wealth of the Babylonian Empire than gold. The Bible calls it “the golden city” (Isa. 14:4) and “a golden cup in the Lord’s hands” (Jer. 51:7; compare with Rev. 18:16). The ancient historian Herodotus reports that an abundance of gold embellished the city.

2. The chest and arms of silver stand for Media-Persia (539–331 BC). As silver is valued less than gold, the Medo-Persian Empire never attained the splendor of the Babylonian. In addition, silver also was a fitting symbol for the Persians because they used silver in their taxation system.

3. The belly and thighs of bronze symbolize Greece (331–168 BC). Ezekiel 27:13 portrays the Greeks as bartering bronze vessels. Greek soldiers were noted for their bronze armor. Their helmets, shields, and battle-axes consisted of brass. Herodotus tells us that Psammetichus I of Egypt saw in invading Greek pirates the fulfillment of an oracle that foretold “**men of bronze coming from the sea.**”

4. The legs of iron aptly represent Rome (168 BC–AD 476). As Daniel explained, the iron represented the crushing power of the Roman Empire, which lasted longer than any of the previous kingdoms. Iron was a perfect metal to represent the empire. Christ was born

For more than 500 years, Rome appeared to be invincible—her flag waving from the British Isles to the Arabian Gulf

- The great English historian Edward Gibbon, wrote: “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.”
- The Babylonian Empire stood for 66 years; the Medo-Persian Empire for 208 years; the Grecian Empire for 185 years, and the Roman Empire stood for more than 500 years.

5. The feet partly of iron and partly of clay represent a divided Europe (AD 476–second coming of Christ). The mixture of iron with clay provides a fitting picture of what happened after the disintegration of the Roman Empire. Although many attempts have been made to unify Europe, ranging from marriage alliances between royal houses to the present European Union, division and disunity have prevailed and, according to this prophecy, will remain so until God establishes the eternal kingdom.

Today, concrete – comprised primarily of water, aggregate and cement reinforced with iron – is the most widely used building material in the world. Jan 23, 2015

The iron mixed with the clay represent a kingdom that is a mixture of government and man-made religion.

Our calendar is Roman, the names for the days of the week and the month we get from Rome.

The Stone

Daniel 2:45 (NKJV) *Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, 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 will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.*”

Exodus 20:25 (NKJV) *And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.*

Deuteronomy 27:5 (NKJV) *And there you shall build an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them.*

Genesis 28:18–19 (NKJV) *Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel;*

Zechariah 3:9 (NKJV) *For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes.*

Deuteronomy 4:13 (NKJV) *So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.*

1 Samuel 17:50 (NKJV) *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him.*

Matthew 7:24 (NKJV) *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:*

We should note that the image of Daniel 2 is made of gold and silver, which are metals related to economic power. The bronze and iron, which were used for tools and weapons, Iron and miry clay make concrete. Number one building material in the world’s cities.

Babylonian Empire 605 BC to 539 BC.

Medes and Persians 538 BC to 331 BC.

Greeks 331 BC to 169 BC

Rome 168 BC to about 476 AD.

10 Divisions of Rome 476 to our day

Notice each material is a less valuable than the one before it but harder. Each kingdom reigns longer than the one before it.

Gold is softer than silver, which is softer than bronze, which is softer than iron which is softer than, concrete, which is softer than stone. But the stone last forever.