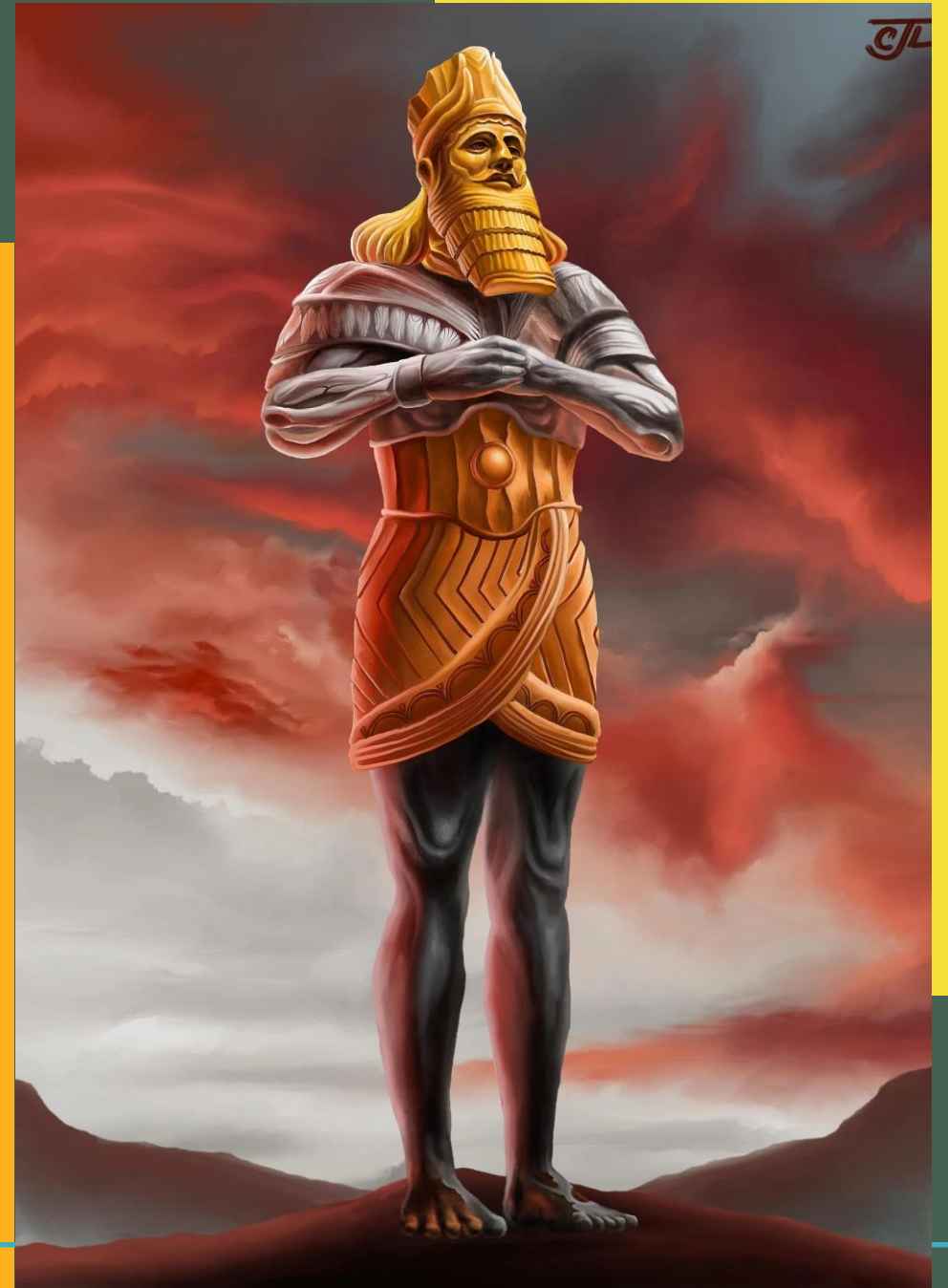


Nebuchadnezzar's Kingdom Dreams

Daniel 2: 1 – 49

The Reality of
The Eternal Kingdom



Troubling Dreams Trouble Everyone

Daniel 2:1-4

In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had *dreams*; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him.

Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.” Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.”

“Obsequious”??? Excessive flattery

Troubling Dreams Trouble Everyone

Daniel 2:4-6

Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." - IN HEBREW, BUT NOW A

CHANGE TO ARAMAIC THRU CHAPTER 7

The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "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, and your houses shall be laid in ruins.

But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation."

Daniel 2:7-13

They answered a second time and said, “*Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation.*”

The king answered and said, “I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm—

if you do not *make the dream known to me*, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change.

Therefore *tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation.*”

The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “*There is not a man on earth who can meet the king’s demand*, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean.

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 and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed.

So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

Daniel's Request and Prayer

Daniel's Humility and Wisdom – Requesting time...

Daniel 2:14-24

Then Daniel replied *with prudence and discretion* to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon.

He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel.

And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

Daniel's Prayer

Daniel 2:14-24

Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the 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.

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

Daniel's Praise

Daniel answered and said:

*“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong
belong wisdom and might.*

*He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings;
up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who
those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things;
things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.
with him.*

*To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have
you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to
known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the
known to us the king's matter.”*

Arioch's Relief

Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.”

The King and His Dream

Daniel 2:25-35

Then *Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste* and said thus to him: *“I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation.”*

The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, *“Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?”*

The King and His Dream

Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. [“**Rawz**” –

The King and His Dream

Daniel 2:31-35

“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, *mighty and of 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 of 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, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.



~ Daniel 2:34-44 ~

The Dream Interpreted

Daniel 2:36-43

³⁶ “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation.

³⁷ You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, ³⁸ and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—*you are the head of gold.*

³⁹ *Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.*

The Dream Interpreted

Daniel 2:36-43

⁴⁰ *And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these.*

⁴¹ *And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay.*

⁴² *And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle.*

⁴³ *As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.*

The Dream's Certainty

Daniel 2: 44 - 45

⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the *God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,*

⁴⁵ 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. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. *The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.*”

The Dream's Certainty

Head of GOLD: Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire – overthrown by Persia in 539 b.c.

Chest/Arms of SILVER: Persia ruled over the Jews for 200 years – then were conquered by the Greeks in 333 b.c.

Middle/Thighs of Bronze: The Greeks ruled over the Jews for 187 years and were conquered by the Romans in 146 b.c.

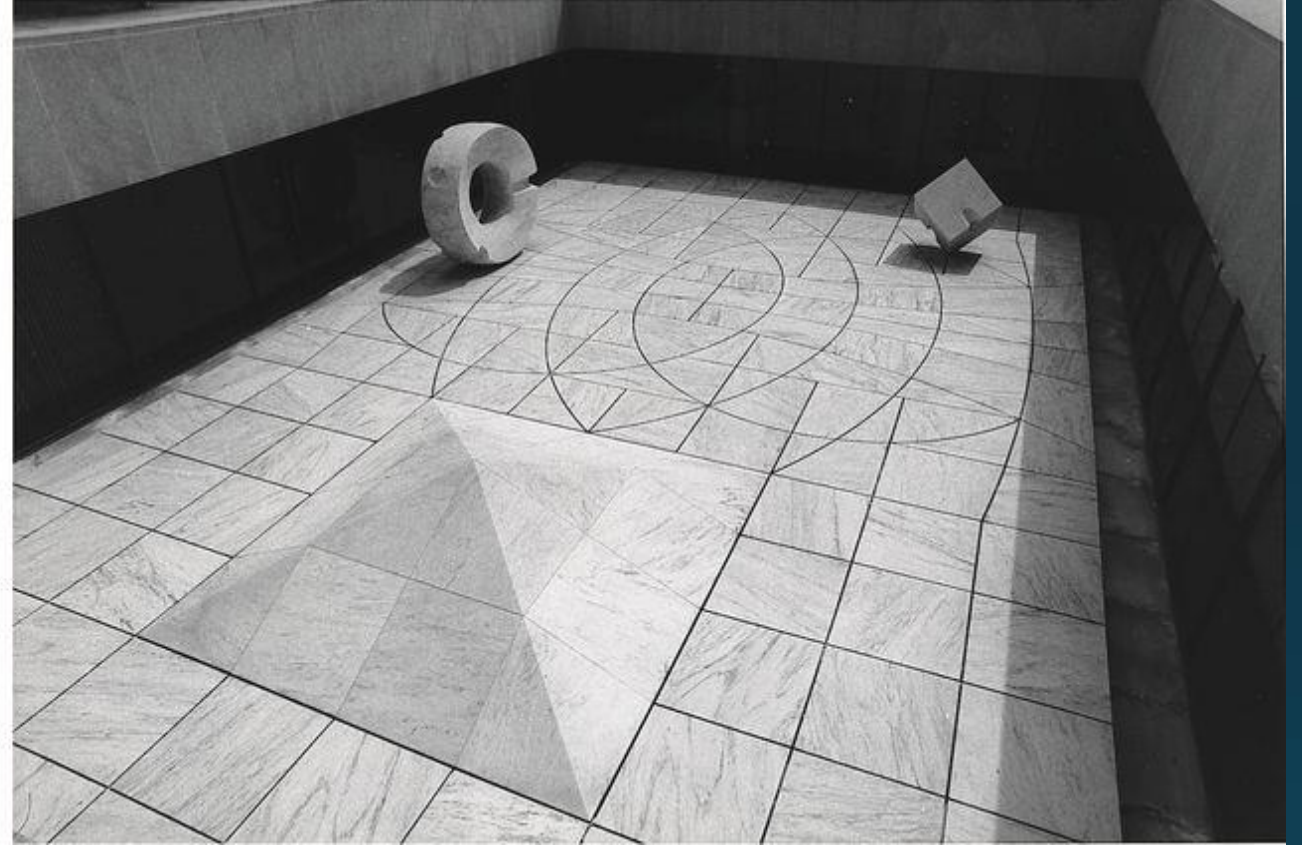
The legs of Iron and feet of Iron/Clay: Rome ruled over the Jews through the days of Jesus, and the Church, and fell in 476 a.d.

“The people will be a mixture but will not remain united” (NIV 2:43)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

1. The Kingdoms of Men arise and fall, but the Kingdom of God lasts throughout all of History. God Sovereignly rules over all.
2. Our Identity is one who serves God's Kingdom –
Colossians 1:13, He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
Matthew 6:33
But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
3. The utter futility of Paganism – a life apart from God's Kingdom.
 - Genesis 41:24, *"I told this to the magicians, no one could explain it"*
 - Paganism is a world of fear, darkness, ignorance for life.

The Sunken Garden at Yale University



A pyramid stands as a symbol of time. a huge doughnut standing on its side which symbolizes energy. a huge die perched on one tip as if ready to topple any which way. It is the way. It is the symbol of chance. This is the world view of modern man: 'a self-existing universe universe consisting of energy, time and chance.'

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

The Statue is a LIE...but the truth is:

Daniel 2:44-45

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever...The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”