

- **God troubled the sleep** of Nebuchadnezzar. He had something to say to him and to the world.
- **Magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans**, different kinds/groups of wise men.
- **God imparted revelations to men by means of dreams and/or visions** (Gen 20:6–7; 28:12–15; 37:5–11; 41:1–7; Mt 1:20; 2:12, 19)
- Change from Hebrew to Aramaic language, From 2:4 through 7:28. God is speaking to *the world*, not just to His nation. The subject is a **worldwide kingdom**.
- Wise men wanted to hear the dream so they could devise an interpretation to suit it. Nebuchadnezzar testing them. They failed, scheduled for death.
- King's **decree includes Daniel and friends**. Nebuchadnezzar's reaction is sign that he knows importance of the dream and desperately wants an interpretation.
- Daniel got an audience with Nebuchadnezzar, by faith promised interpretation. Called friends and prayed. Prayer first resort. Revelation came in night vision. He had gone to sleep trusting God.
- **"the God of heaven"** only in books of the captivity, including Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel. After departure of the glory of God from Jerusalem (Ezekiel 10), was addressed as "the God of heaven."
- **"mercies"** reveals basis of their prayers. God does not answer prayer because of worth, effort, character or the works of one praying.
- Daniel prays **7-fold praise and thanks**. He praised God because He is in **absolute control of**:
 - 1) the **times and seasons** – He can end one age and begin another
 - 2) **kings and rulers** – He can raise them up or bring them down –
 - 3) **Wisdom** –gives people the ability to rightly use their knowledge
 - 4) **Knowledge** – He can impart information and the ability to learn

And he praised Him because absolutely nothing is hidden from God

 - 1) He reveals deep and complex secrets
 - 2) He reveal hidden things that no one else knows
 - 3) He is the source of all revelation and enlightenment

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)

▪ **4-P's** for prayer today:

1. **PARTNERS** – He told his friends what was going on and asked them to pray with him
2. **PRAYER** – They prayed together for the answers they needed
3. **PATIENCE** – They waited (actually rested!) for God to provide the answer
4. **PRAISE** – They praised God for the answer

- Arioch had no desire to kill these wise men. Rushes Daniel into presence of the king with good news that dream will be revealed. King was probably skeptical - wise men had failed.
- Daniel introduces Nebuchadnezzar to "the God in heaven" – takes absolutely NO CREDIT.
- **LATTER DAYS**: used 14 X in OT: 3 X about Messianic age; 4X about Israel, 4X about 2nd Coming of Jesus, and 3X about Magog (in some Bibles "last days" is used)
- **"The times of the Gentiles"** is from day of Nebuchadnezzar through until the Lord comes to reign. "Latter days" refers to future, with special reference to coming of Messiah (Heb 1:1–2) and establishment of His kingdom (Micah 4:1–8). End of "the times of the Gentiles" runs concurrently with "latter days" of the nation Israel: both fulfilled during Great Tribulation period.

- “the times of the Gentiles,” is different than term, “the fulness of the Gentiles.” Romans 11:25: “*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*” **The fullness of the Gentiles ends with the removal of the Church.** “The latter days” and “the times of the Gentiles,” are not synonymous with “the last days” of the Church. **“The times of the Gentiles” will continue into the Great Tribulation,** and God will again turn His attention back to the nation Israel.
- Nebuchadnezzar sees “awesome” statue. “*dechal,*” literally means formidable, terrifying, dreadful and inspiring fear. **This image elicited terror.**
- **God is speaking to Nebuchadnezzar in his own language, the language of the Gentile world then.** This dream relates to the whole of Gentile history.
- **Relationship between this image and the one in Chapter 3.** (later)
- Image was composed of four different metals: (1) head was made of gold; (2) chest and arms of silver; (3) belly and thighs of bronze; and (4) legs of iron, with clay mixed in at the feet
- **Image was top heavy.** Metals **decrease in value from top to bottom,** and **increase in overall strength,** until the feet. indicates continual deterioration in world empires, but strengthening.
- Division of sovereignty means weakness. There are two arms of Medo-Persian Empire. Graeco-Macedonian (Greek) Empire begins with one, but soon divided into four. Rome has two legs of iron subsequently split into “2” empires, eventuates* into ten toes which are composed of both iron and clay. The more divisions, the weaker a world power.
- **DEFINITE CORRELATION TO CHAPTER 7** and Daniel’s vision of the beasts in chapter 7. (*more later*)
- “*...while a stone was cut out without hands...*” indicates that stone is not of human making. It is not a human empire or government. This is God-made, divine origin.
- **WHAT, OR WHO, IS THIS STONE?** Throughout scripture Messiah is referenced as the “stone” and the “rock.” **Jesus is the Stone,** the living Stone, the foundation of our faith (1 Corinthians 3:11; Deuteronomy 32:15-18, 43:3-4; 1 Samuel 2:2; 2 Samuel 22:2-3; Psalm 27, Psalm 18, 28, 31; Isaiah 8:13-15; Matthew 7; 1 Peter 2:4-8). He is the **Rock of salvation,** and the **Rock of judgment.**
- The stone struck the image on the feet of iron and clay with such force that all the metals were pulverized. Wind blew the dust away. **ALL EARTHLY KINGDOMS WILL BE DESTROYED IN A MOMENT.** The stone grew and filled the whole world, taking the place of the image. God’s forordained government has now replaced all of human government. His Kingdom will fill the world. His intended ruler, Yeshua HaMashiach (the Messiah) will reign. **Not the case with first coming,** - THE STONE DID NOT FILL THE WHOLE EARTH THEN - awaits fulfillment after His glorious Second Coming.
- Nebuchadnezzar is said to be a “king of kings” –**BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN THE ENTIRE WORLD TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** God is bracketing history here. This Gentile history begins with a human “king of kings,” but is ultimately replaced by THE “King of Kings.”
- **Different metals represent world empires.** Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon identified as head of gold. (Jer 27:4-11)
- The **kingdom after Nebuchadnezzar will be inferior to his.** The third one will be inferior to the second, and the fourth will be inferior to the third. The fourth is worst of all.
- The **arms of silver represent Media and Persia.** (see Daniel 5:28) The inferior 2nd kingdom (silver) captured Babylon in about 539 BC, eventually known simply as the Persian Empire.

- **The third kingdom** would be a kingdom of **brass** and would “bear rule over all the earth.” Logically and historically, this is the **Graeco-Macedonian (Greek) Empire** by the year 323 BC.
- **“What about other kingdoms, like the Chinese dynasties?”** Key when interpreting Biblical prophecy, the Bible states that Jerusalem and Israel are the center of God’s world –as He sees it. (Ezekiel 5:5) Bible does not deal with nations that do not impact God’s plan for Israel, and eventually the whole earth. Other powers, empires, and dynasties have come and gone. Are not referenced in scripture unless they have some role in God’s overall plan for human government, AS IT REVOLVES AROUND HIS CENTER, JERUSALEM.
- **More attention directed to fourth** kingdom than to the other three kingdoms put together, Represented by the iron legs, extremely strong, of less value (inferior) than others. Most accepted and traditional interpretation of this 4th empire is that the legs of the statue were fulfilled by the Roman Empire, the most brutal. We are going to proceed here with this traditional interpretation that Rome is the 4th empire. There may be another interpretation.* (later)
- **ONLY 4 KINGDOMS:** Important to note there are only 4—not 5, if we interpret the legs as one kingdom. **It is the kingdom of the latter days.** This is the reason for the dream. God is speaking to Nebuchadnezzar, an idol worshiper, through this image, revealing what will be in the latter days.
- **Consensus is that no great world power follows Rome.** The Roman Empire is the last, and will be in existence in latter days. It “exists” today. All other empires were destroyed by an enemy from the outside, but Rome was conquered from its weakness within.
- Rome is viewed as living in the great nations of Europe today: Italy, France, Great Britain, Germany, and Spain are all part of the old Roman Empire. The Russian word “czar” is translated as “Caesar.” The German “Kaiser” is also “Caesar.” There are remnants of the old Roman Empire everywhere in our world today, including the democratic form of government.
- **The Antichrist**, or the Man of Sin (he is called by about 35 different names in Scripture), is the one thought to rule the revived Roman Empire.
- **Ten toes of statue** correspond to ten kings ruling simultaneously in end times. (Revelation 17:12). The ten toes correspond to the ten horns of the beast, and ten kings. **“...in the days of these kings...”** This points to the future final world kingdom that will at first be made up of these ten kings.
- **Daniel’s dream of chapter 7**, there are four beasts that represent these same four kingdoms. The fourth beast (ch. 7:7) had ten horns, corresponding to the ten toes of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. These horns are clearly identified as ten kings.
- **Clay is mixed with iron** (clay weakens iron!), the last form of the final world kingdom. The meaning of the combined clay and iron has been argued for centuries.
- Another very controversial opinion **“...they will mingle with the seed of men...”** Reminds of another “mingling” in Genesis 6: the “daughters of men” and the “sons of God,” often interpreted as being fallen angels uniting with human females to produce a hybrid, evil race. Many believe God brought the flood because of this great evil. Jesus said the end times would be **“as it was in the days of Noah”** (Luke 17:26) The days of Noah just prior to the flood, were days of incredible wickedness. Some believe the same conditions present then will also be present during end times, and may in fact be what verse 43 implies – the presence and intermingling of fallen angels (demons) with mankind, thus the iron and clay. There are many, many ideas about this verse. Most likely, at least on the first take, it will also mean a very disparate kingdom of various people.



- **The God of heaven** (*as opposed to any of man's gods*) would then set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:5–6; Micah 4:1–8, Luke 1:32–33. This is reference to **the 2nd coming** of Jesus. His coming is going to be climactic, catastrophic, and cataclysmic (Revelation and Daniel). This kingdom was never established during Jesus' earthly ministry, as noted in the statements in Matthew 19:28; Luke 19:11; and Acts 1:6–8.
- Jews were and are expecting One who will deliver them from oppression and set up his kingdom on earth. Not expecting one who would die. OT scriptures clearly detail one Messiah, two comings. **The first time he came as the suffering servant** (Isaiah 53), **the second time will be as King and judge**. Jews couldn't reconcile this. Devised 2 Messiahs, *Messiah ben Joseph*, suffering Messiah, and *Messiah ben David* –King Messiah. (Isaiah 34, 63 and Ps 2; Zech 14:3-5; Joel 3:1-2; Matt 21:42-44)
- **God will set up this kingdom on earth at the conclusion of the Battle of Armageddon.** (Revelation 19:19-21) Revelation 20:4–6 describes Jesus' ruling and reigning over the earthly kingdom predicted in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- Gentile kingdoms eventually ending in a cataclysmic coming of a "large stone" directly refutes amillennialism. Some believe that the 1000 year kingdom of Revelation 20 is occurring in a *spiritual* form today and is not literal. This ignores the fact of a cataclysmic event to come that will completely obliterate all man-operated and originated kingdoms and divinely and literally fulfill OT prophecies.
- **"...the great God ..."** is Yahweh, Elohim, El Shaddai, the Creator of heaven and earth. Daniel distinguishes the one true God from the polytheistic pantheon of gods of Babylon.
- Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that Daniel's God was bigger than any other, but it obviously **was not a "salvation experience"** as we find out in the next chapter.
- Nebuchadnezzar uses the same phrase as Daniel in describing God – the revealer of secrets (v. 29)
- Daniel given **two important positions**: ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief of the wise men. Greatly influenced "wise men" both of that day, and for many years to come.
- **Daniel remembered his friends in his promotion** and had them assigned as aides to administer Babylon. Daniel **sat in the gate**, a strategic position of honor as chief counselor near the king.

ANOTHER APPROACH TO INTERPRETING THE LEGS OF IRON...(predominantly advocated by Joel Richardson (pen name) and others.)* Essentially 2 major theories to explain legs of iron - will seriously affect entire end time view of prophecies:

1 –Roman Empire Theory: The legs of iron are the Roman Empire, and therefore the antichrist and his final world empire will come from Europe/North Africa, or the vestiges of the old Roman Empire (revived Roman Empire theory).

2 –Islamic Empire Theory: The Empire was not the "world" empire that concerned Israel the most, or was "central" to her. Old Roman Empire predominantly European/North African nations today. Was another "biblical world" empire after Rome, called the "Islamic Empire." This view then states that the antichrist and his empire will come from the Middle East, and perhaps specifically from Islam.

(for more information on this theory, see the complete chapter notes on Daniel 2 at www.RockofAges.org)

