

Daniel 2 - Dream & Interpretation

- ²⁴ Therefore Daniel went 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; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."
- ²⁵ Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."
- ²⁶ The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

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- **V 24:** So Daniel asks Arioch to the king because he had received the dream and its interpretation from God (v 19)
- Arioch takes credit for “finding” Daniel to provide an answer to Nebuchadnezzar
- This may sound arrogant, but Arioch was taking a huge chance. If Daniel couldn’t do it, Arioch would suffer at the king’s hand as well as Daniel.
- The king asks Daniel if he’s able to provide the information he wanted.

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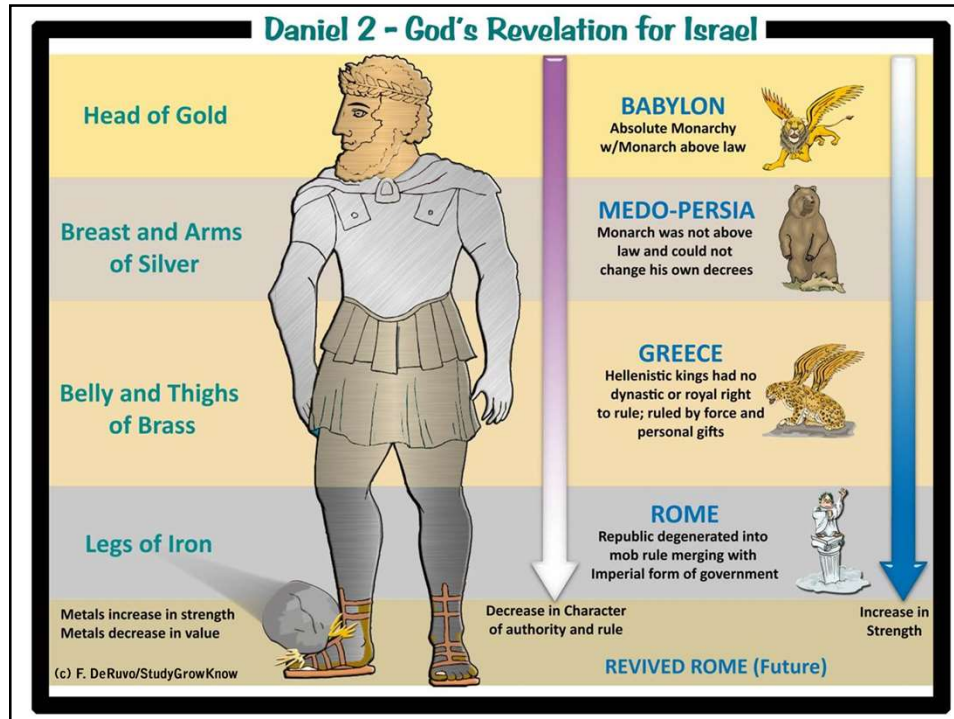
- ²⁷ Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. ²⁸ But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: ²⁹ As for you, O king, thoughts came *to your mind while* on your bed, *about* what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. ³⁰ But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for *our* sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

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- **V 27:** Daniel immediately points the king to God Almighty, pointing out that all of his wise men could not provide what only God could.
- **V 28:** “latter days” – is a reference to what would occur WAY down into the future
- **V 29:** Daniel first tells Nebuchadnezzar what his dream WAS...
- Daniel points out that it was not his own wisdom that received the answer...
- It was for the king’s benefit from God so he could understand what he dreamed and what the dream meant

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- ³¹ “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor *was* excellent, stood before you; and its form *was* awesome. ³² This image’s head *was* of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.



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- ³⁶ "This *is* the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. ³⁷ You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸ and 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. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

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- ⁴² And *as* the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and ^[a]consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ 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.”

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Description of Image “Times of the Gentiles”

- Head of Gold
- Breast and Arms of Silver
- Belly and Thighs of Brass
- Legs of Iron
- Feet and Toes Part Iron/Part Clay

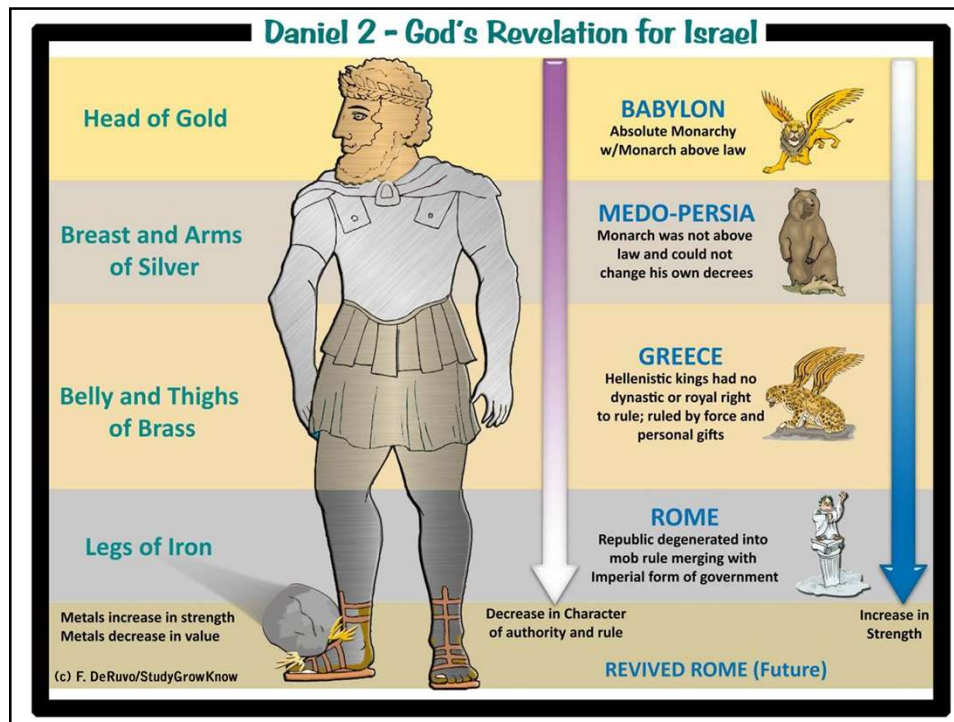
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- The identities of the empires has been universally agreed upon by Bible scholars and history has verified **Daniel 2**.
- Because of the unqualified accuracy of the identification of these empires, some within the last century or so have stated that Daniel was actually written AFTER the fact by an imposter.

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The Statue Itself

- The statue is comprised of a number of different metals and clay.
- Nebuchadnezzar saw this statue in his dream. It was not a statue, in life but represented something that would *become* real – like images from Revelation, etc.
- But what is the LITERAL meaning of this image?



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- Two things to note about these **METALS**:
 - They **Increase** in *Strength*
 - They **Decrease** in *Value*
- The fulfillment then is that these empires will
 - **Increase** in strength of one empire over the other
 - **Decrease** in character of authority and rule
- The image is finally destroyed by a **Stone**
 - Cut without hands – emphasizes divine nature

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- Times of Gentiles' **1st Empire**
 - Head of Gold – most valuable of metals on statue
 - **One Nation** – ruled by Nebuchadnezzar
 - From God's perspective, this first empire began the Times of the Gentiles
 - This refers to the time when foreign nations will control Israel and/or trample the holy places
 - Times of the Gentiles is God's response to Israel's rebellion

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- Times of Gentiles' **2nd Empire**
 - Two Arms of Silver united into Breast of Silver
 - **Two nations – Medes and Persians (v. 39a, Medo-Persian Empire)** .
 - This empire is declared inferior to previous
 - Lacked inner unity of Babylon – **1st Empire**

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- Times of Gentiles' **3rd Empire**
 - **Belly and Two Thighs of Brass** – Greek (Hellenistic) Empire (**v. 39b**)
 - Might also represent Syria and Egypt as they arose *from* the Greek Empire
 - They controlled Jewish territory and Jerusalem

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- Times of Gentiles' **4th Empire (Roman Empire)**
- *Goes through Several Stages:*
 1. **United Stage (v. 40)**
 2. **Two Division Stage (v. 41)**, has strength of iron
 3. **Ten Division Stage (vv. 42-43)**, iron and clay (See **Rev 13:1ff** for future fulfillment)
 - Part of this empire is strong; part weak and fails to coalesce
 - Notice the long progression of Roman Empire in history (31 BC – 1453 AD)

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Times of Gentiles' 4th Empire – Roman Empire

- Totally unique from previous empires:
 - Totally subdues and crushes all that precedes it
 - This empire is particularly emphasized in the text regarding the Times of Gentiles
 - Never really completely goes away even though Rome did finally fall
 - Governments in Europe continue to try to resurrect Roman Empire in some form

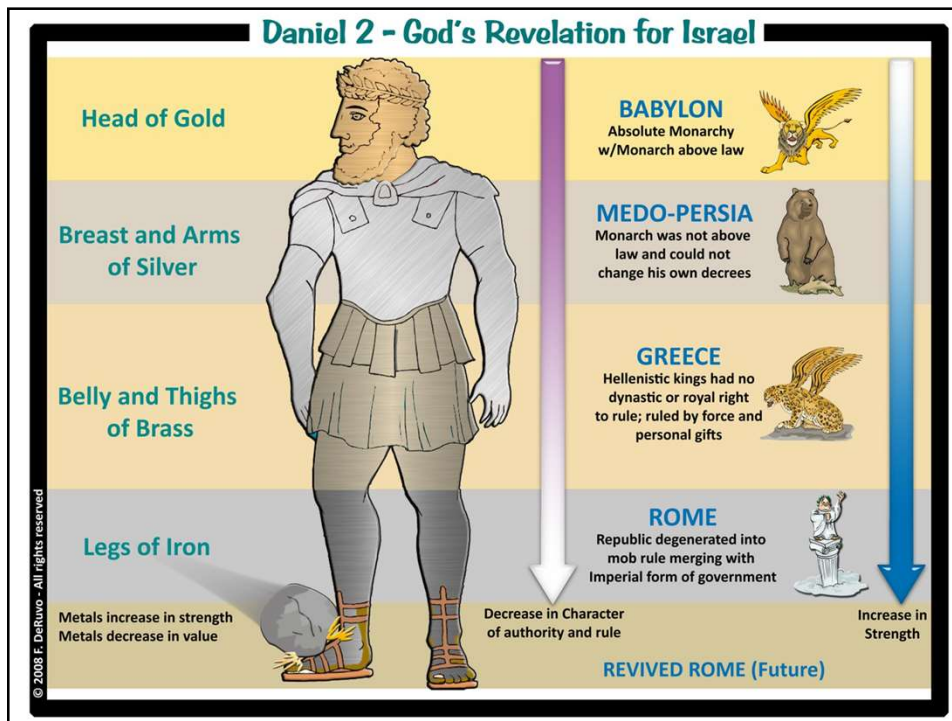
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5th Empire – Millennial Kingdom




- Will not be Gentile, but Jewish (**vv. 44-45**)
 - Two **symbols** used here; consistent with usage elsewhere
 - **Stone**: used symbolically is always 2nd Person of Trinity
 - **Mountain**: used symbolically is always a symbol of a king, kingdom, or throne
 - The **5th Empire** will be God's own physical kingdom

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- **Summary of Daniel 2**
 - The Babylonian Empire #1
 - The Medo-Persian Empire #2
 - The Hellenistic (Greek) Empire #3
 - The Fourth Empire #4
 - United Stage
 - Two Division Stage
 - Ten Division Stage
 - Messianic Kingdom #5



Times of the Gentiles (A) Daniel 2:31-45

1st Gentile Empire	2nd Gentile Empire	3rd Gentile Empire	
BABYLON Head of Gold	MEDO-PERSIAN Arms/Breast of Silver	HELLENISTIC Belly/Thighs of Bronze	Alexander's Empire Dividing Among Four Commanders After His Death <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ptolemy<ul style="list-style-type: none">EgyptJudeaArabia/PetreaSeleucus<ul style="list-style-type: none">SyriaBabyloniaIndiaCassander<ul style="list-style-type: none">MacedoniaGreeceLysimachus<ul style="list-style-type: none">ThraceBithynia
586 B.C. → 606 to 536 B.C.	539 to 331 B.C.	331 to 323 B.C.	To 0 B.C. and Christ's Birth →
Ruler: Nebuchadnezzar <i>Lion-like Beast w/Eagle's Wings</i> 	Rulers: Darius/Cyrus <i>Boar-like Beast Devouring Flesh yet Lopsided</i> 	Ruler: Alexander the Great <i>Leopard-like Beast w/Four Wings</i> 	

pages 20-24 in Footsteps

Questions? Comments?

