

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
Daniel 2:41-43

Daniel 12 – Marduk's Feet: Disunity in Unity

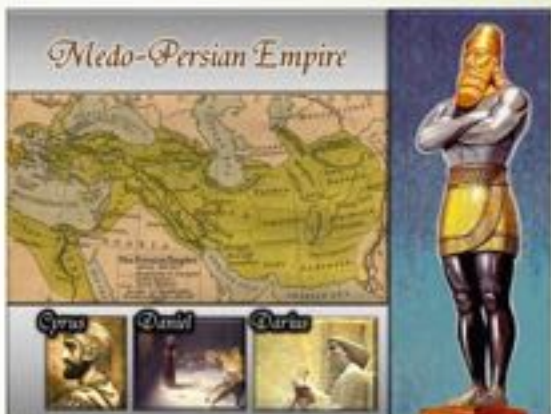
Head of Gold: Never Tarnishes

- Head controls body with 4 of 5 sensory inputs; interface of body and soul; Christ the head (Jc 1:18)
- Head unifies the diversity of the body; the interface between world and you
- Bridge of Ante- and Post Diluvian worlds; seeding all civilizations
- God-given laws over man (Jc 1:17)
- Babylonia pinnacle of Mesopotamian culture but mixed with idolatry, lies; ungodliness (Asebeia) (Jc 1:24-25)



Chest of Silver: Tarnishes Black

- Chest is Persia with arms being Media and Persia
- Arms for writing, with roads, to spread God's knowledge
- First Japheth empire, Egypt descended from Ham; God of Schem hiding, presaging coming Diaspora of today
- Spirit of God, life of body, air, water, blood are its metaphors (Jc 1:17, Jc 1:18, Jc 1:23-25)
- Cyrus only ruler openly anointed of God (Lungs/heart)



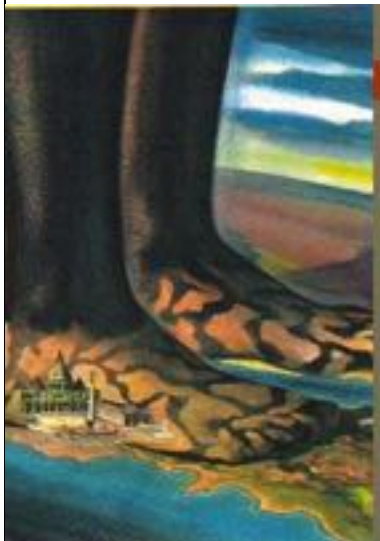
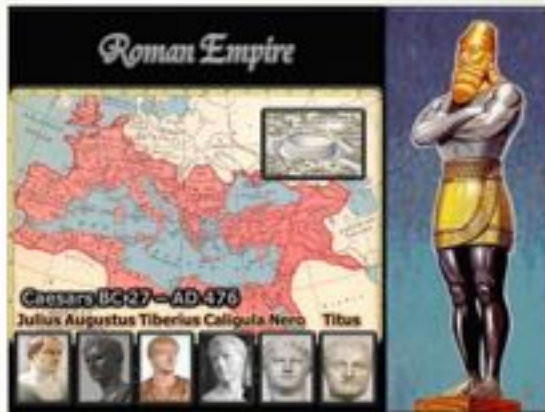
Bronze Loin-Thighs: Green Patina

- Alexander defeats Greece, Persia and Egypt; makes himself god (Ammon-Zeus)
- Single empire becomes two warring kingdoms with Judah torn by their conflicts
- Seeds world with Hellenism: man measure of all truth
- Rationalism masks fleshly passions AEB violence (1:20-24)
- Used of God preparing for Christ's gospel (2:13-17)



Legs of Iron: Rust Rots

- Rome divided throughout its history: obscure origins
- Absorbed admired qualities from other cultures
- ~~from~~ Man as the measure of all ~~to~~ Man is god (16:23)
- Government crumbled due to relativism: Rust
- Foundation of Western culture: U.S. to Russia



Feet of Iron & Clay: Disunity in Union

- Kingdom future to us though in the making since the end of Rome; Creation
- Builds on previous kingdoms but adds: unique non-metallic, modern dimension
- History cannot define this empire; prior empires can give clues about its nature
- Interpretations focused on identifying this empire with bizarre fantasies
- Vision defines what each empire adds to Satan's final empire: This is our focus normative hermeneutical interpretation
- Bible defines Bible; as math defines math

 <h2>Law of Identity: What Does Daniel Say?</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To arrive at a coherent interpretation one must begin with a clear teaching of Scripture, exegesis; adding one’s opinion is eisegesis and invites error <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nebuchadnezzar reminded that he saw the feet of iron and clay; Daniel clearly reiterates that this vision is not his, he is merely God’s conduit for the K(k)ing ■ Emphasis focuses on divided kingdom; does references back to Rome (iron) which divided into Western, Latin, and Eastern, Greek, empires; Western man focus – Source ■ This kingdom begins with two inherently different concepts pretending to merge into one: Satan is strong and Man is fragile; Man leaves his body of clay at death ■ Spirit and physical cannot mix (Biology); Satan struggles to emulate God who used woman’s seed for Christ’s body to come as man; forced mixing of iron and clay, demon possession, resulted in uncontrollable people until demons removed (Jt 18:16, 20:21-22, 21:12-16, 21:14-15) 	
 <h2>One Kind: Angels</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Angels created as ministering spirits to serve man in salvation and in that sense they have a certain nature of God since He is also spirit! (Jn 4:23-24, Ps 139:14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lucifer created for certain purposes but sinned when he rebelled against God’s purposes for his creation; he wanted to be as God (Jl 14:12-14, 24:20:13-16) ■ Angels are not gods, do not possess qualities of God as evident by the fact they do not understand salvation; their nature is limited compared to man (Jn 1:10-12) ■ Angels that rebelled against their authorized position and proper abode, indwelt people, became out of control by the experience and chained in Tartar (Jn 9:3-6) ■ Scripture shows result of angels mixing with people seeking to emulate God’s work of preparing a body for Christ; results are disastrous (Jt 1:21-26, Mk 8:1-20, Lk 4:31-38) ■ Angels are not exempt from judgment for sin; remember, sin is rebellion and its mantra is, “There can be only one” (Jn 9:14) 	
 <h2>Another Kind: Man</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Man is the only other sentient creation of God; yet, man is very different from angels though in this creation man is lower than angels (Jl 9:4-6, 24:23-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whereas angels are spirit beings, man is a physical being made from this creation (Jt 4:27) ■ Man possesses God’s character though veiled in the flesh (Jt 1:24:25) ■ Sin separated man from God transforming his godly nature into ungodliness; yet, man still has a nature very different from angels (Jt 23:7, 22:71-91:3) ■ Angels administered the law but the new covenant gospel of Christ comes only through people; angels do not understand it (Jt 7:24-32, Gt 3:16-17, 19:21-3) ■ Scripture refers to man as clay several times giving us a direct metaphor of the clay in Nebuchadnezzar’s vision (Jt 2:15-16, 4:48, 24:18-19, 25:19-20, 26:4-5) 	

 <p>Man is the Clay: Satan is the Iron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Adam, who had been given dominion over <u>all</u> the earth sinned, he unwittingly became a slave to Satan; thus his dominion passed to Satan <small>(Ge 1:26-30; 2:19-20; 3:6-24; 4:1-11)</small> Satan a slave to his sinful nature and when he caused man to sin he insured his own judgment through man; he unleashed what he did not comprehend and has been trying to control ever since: Satan <u>failed</u> when he <u>succeeded</u> in Adam Satan is learning how to bring man under his dominion; Greco-Roman philosophy revival shapes modern governments; Man the measure of all and Man as god; however, Satan will use a man as intercessor pointing to him as god (Fake Christ) When Satan tempted Christ, he offered to make Christ viceroy over the empires of man; Christ did <u>not</u> dispute Satan’s authority showing Satan is behind <u>all</u> governments including the empires represented in Marduk’s statue <small>(Mt 28:18)</small> 	
 <p>Satan the Force Behind Empires: Isaiah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isaiah’s lament for the king of Babylon speaks of an expansive kingdom not realized by Old, Middle or Neo Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) but <u>does</u> apply to Satan; this gives significant insight into Satan’s limitations <small>(Is 14:3-22)</small> Satan rules kingdoms in wrath with continuous blows of persecution; this kingdom mimics Rome (Iron) which crushed all it encountered; internal decay Satan made the earth tremble, shook the kingdoms and made the world a desert with his wanton destruction to obtain his unwavering goal Yet, Satan’s power lay in his words, his lies, rather than inherent in himself; when he is seen of his judgment man will be astounded of his true weakness Satan reflected God’s glory but he mistook it for his own; he is like <u>all</u> sinners and will be equal in Sheol with those he sought to rule over as god <small>(Is 14:9-12)</small> Satan bypasses burial (spirit) he goes directly into Lake of Fire <small>(Rev 19:20; 20:10)</small> 	
 <p>Kingdom of Iron and Clay: Claims Unity – Torn by Division {Lies}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satan’s plan to gather people, who think very differently from himself, into a collective to fulfill his goal of being as God is inherently self-defeating <small>(Is 14:13-14)</small> Satan is <u>not</u> omniscient, these kingdoms represent his learning curve Just as Satan used violence since sinning, his empires rely on violence, wars, to enslave others; yet, man also seeks power apart from Satan; all are slaves to sin <small>(Is 28:17-18)</small> Satan used certain people as surrogates, government heads: Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander, Caesar, etc; however, these have also been used of God preparing the world for Christ’s coming: First and Second Satan consistently fails because he does not understand man who, in his sinful state, is also uncontrollable; force exacerbates man’s rebellious sinful nature This is evidenced by empires destroying, empires rather than joining together in a permanent bond (U.S. States’ Lincoln’s War for example) 	

What is Religion? What is Government?

- God's nature is the source of right and wrong, morality, since He is creator (Jk 1:1-2; 1:3, 20; 1:13-18)
 - Sin is rebellion against God, rejecting God's morality; i.e., ungodliness (Jk 1:24-25)
 - Sinful man, God's image, divine to morality; worship acknowledges the source of one's morality; One is always in state of worship as it informs one's morality
 - Man's god(s), metaphors, legitimized morality but discarded as man's measure of morality was self, like Satan; but sinners are unstable in all ways (Jk 1:24)
 - Religion is a collective of like-minded people reinforcing their morality, and its source, via rites and ritual; members joining the group must accept the source
 - Government is a collective of like-minded people focusing their morality on the group via laws preventing change to another morality – Wars are struggles of moralities
 - Government cannot exist without religion, basis of right and wrong, as government legislates morality by force to preserve and expand the group; differences despised

Satan's Future Kingdom Government and Religion Together

- Satan's future kingdom, iron and clay, evidence this reliance on religion to promote government to enslave people with their consent, if possible
 - Satan stands on the shore of the sea calling for his human representative, the Antichrist who willingly submits to Satan's indwelling (Jk 12:17-13:12)
 - False Prophet arises from the land receiving power from Satan promoting Antichrist's government providing proof basis supported by signs (Jk 13:11-14)
 - False Prophet unites all false religions into his overarching union; Foundation; man is the measure of all focusing them on Satan's intercessor, Antichrist
 - Idol built with the consent of the governed and, like emperor worship, all who do not pay obeisance die; Again, like Rome (iron)
 - All who worship the Antichrist who points to Satan, are allowed to live in a centralized, rationed economy based on asebeia (ungodly) morality

Satan's Failure to Emulate Christ

- Christ's kingdom formed by each person receiving a new nature, new covenant of grace has always been God's gospel plan (Jk 2:10; 3:21-22; 9:3-23)
 - God, through the Son, unified with Man that was not present at creation; man created in the flesh was apart from God who came to teach him but did not dwell with him (Jk 2:1; 3:1; 12:42; 13:1-2)
 - Demonic attempts to indwell people against their will have been disastrous; displays the powerlessness of Satan, demons, unless one allows the indwelling
 - Satan, with his demons, remain separate from man; the two cannot be one; even people become one through marriage showing the vast gulf between Satan and people; angels know nothing of unity but every person does (Jk 22:22)
 - No matter how much force is brought to bear, the two kinds cannot unify; attempts to do this result in rebellion, one vs the other; all trying to be gods until all eventually acknowledge Christ as God (Jk 23:1-11)

Summary of Marduk's Statute: The Metals

- This is a very brief overview of Daniel's interpretation and our historical perspective of the previous empires of Marduk's statute
 - Gold – Never tarnishes; Nebuchadnezzar saved to shine like the sun (vs 12:41-42)
 - Silver – Tarnishes black; Cyrus anointed of God and used to send Jews back to Jerusalem; yet, no record of his or his posterity's salvation – Zoroastrianism
 - Bronze – Green patina; Dulls the sheen; Alexander quickly spread Greek culture but succumbed to Oriental mysticism to declare himself a god; then he died
 - Iron – Rusts Red; Unhalted, rust destroys the metal; Caesar turned Rome from an oligarchy, rule of the few, into a monarchy, rule by the one, who is worshiped
 - Iron and Clay – These appear strong but cannot become a unity and succumb to decay of sin and destruction

Summary of Marduk's Statute: The Religions

- Empires require morality and kings cannot rule without people (vs 14:26)
 - Head – Received law from higher source; king was mediator and interpreter of the law for the people
 - Chest – Empire made the laws but the king was subject to the laws and could not change them without risk of removal or disintegration of the empire
 - Loins – Laws governed by man's philosophies; this was a transition from higher source of law to man as the source of law; this debate continues today
 - Legs – Laws arbitrarily contrived according to the dictates of the ruler who is god; all authority comes from the ruler, yet he is subject to the whims of the mob
 - Feet – Laws based on Greco-Roman ideals but tailored to enslave the people with their consent to Antichrist who is legitimized by the False Prophet of new faith

Impossible to Name this Kingdom: Revealed When its time has Come

- Satan's Ten-State coalition cannot be identified until its time; attempts to do so have drawn people away from sound exegesis (vs 22:1-18; 24:1-17)
 - This kingdom comes because God allows sinners to realize their dream of a world without Him; this is why Christ said world gets worse, not better (vs 24:18-19; 1:18-22)
 - Satan's government is a top-down tyranny but man's government is a bottom-up democratic tyranny, yet both reject God and rely on force for compliance; however, they remain incompatible
 - Even though Antichrist is successful in his confederation; he cannot unite all people into one government; Armageddon is his attempt to do so by force; Violence, degradation and death based on lies (vs 24:18-19; 1:18-22; 19:17-21)
 - Christians must focus on gospel evangelization, not government (vs 24:18-22)
 - All kingdoms removed when Christ returns to establish His kingdom (vs 24:14)