






Daniel 14 – Judaism Legitimized

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Daniel 2:46-49

Head of Gold: Never Tarnishes

- Head controls body with 4 of 5 sensory inputs; interface of body and soul; Christ the head (Col 1:18)
- Head unites the diversity of the body; the interface between world and you
- Bridge of Ante- and Post-Diluvian world; seeding all civilizations
- God-given laws over man (Ro 13:1-7)
- Babylonia pinnacle of Mesopotamian culture but mixed with idolatry, lic; ungodliness (Asebeia) (Col 2:8-10)

Chest of Silver: Tarnishes Black

- Chest is Persia with arms being Media and Paria
- Arms for writing, with roads, to spread God's knowledge
- First Japheth empire, Egypt descended from Ham; God of them hiding, presaging coming Diaspora of today
- Spirit of God, life of body, air, water, blood are its metaphors (Isa 17:11; Jn 14:15-17 1Co 12:3-11)
- Cyrus only ruler openly anointed of God (lungs/heart)

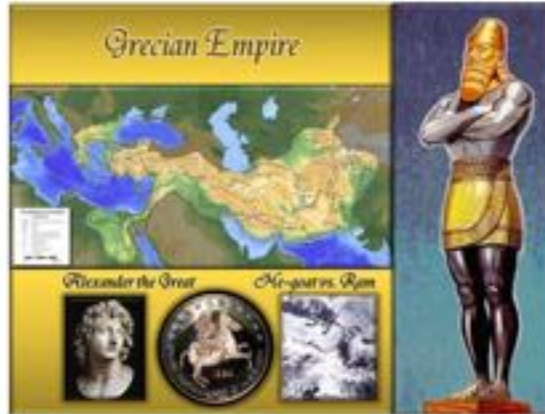






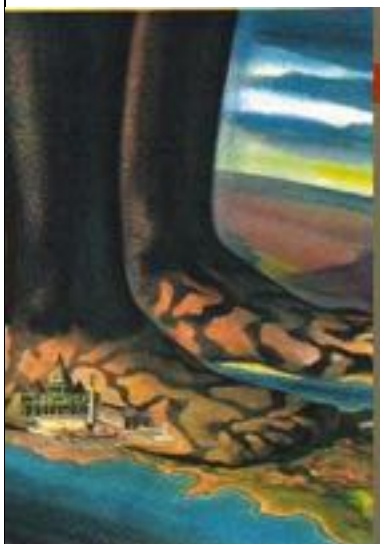
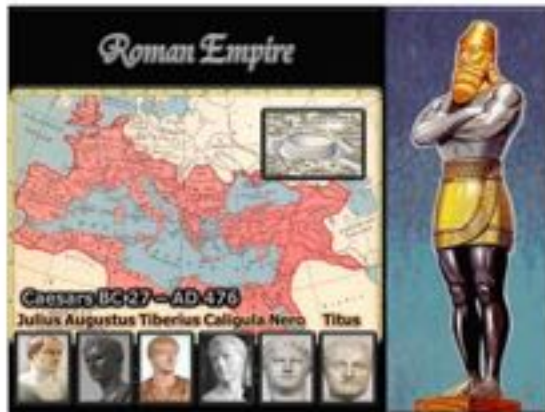

Bronze Loin-Thighs: Green Patina

- 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 (2Ti 2:20-26)
- Used of God preparing for Christ's gospel (Ep 1:5-12)



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 (Ge 3:5)
- 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

Stone from God Destroys Marduk


- Stone destroys **all** previous human kingdoms and religions
- Stone not fashioned by human hands but by God – As Granite made at Creation (Ge 1:3-5)
- In these **Last Days** God reveals His Kingdom never be defeated or destroyed – Based in Christ
- This is the **Day of the Lord** – The Millennial Kingdom Period

Transitional Verses: What Did Nebuchadnezzar Learn?

- These verse have a dual purpose
 - Daniel completed his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's vision
 - Simultaneously Daniel shows us Nebuchadnezzar's response
- Understanding what is occurring requires remembrance of Babylonian religious ceremonies discussed in previous lessons
 - King has just threatened to execute all wise men, creating enemies
 - Daniel, a foreigner and not on their team, has embarrassed these wise men
 - King annually divests himself of authority kneeling before Marduk and high priest
 - King painfully slapped by the high priest and his suitability to rule is questioned
 - Nebuchadnezzar promotion of Daniel as head wise man secures his kingship


Nebuchadnezzar Acknowledges God: Marduk Not Replaced

- Asebeia man personifies the attributes of god with the various aspects of nature to create a pantheon of gods and goddesses (pg 118-120)
 - Each pantheon had one god who was leader; worshiped centered on this god
 - Idol was a considered focusing point rather than the god itself
 - Each city had its own god-idol; defeating the city and taking its idol to include in victor's pantheon showed superiority of one's moral source over others
 - Wars would be fought to reacquire a city's idol; showed respect to the god who would then bless the culture
- Nebuchadnezzar is not acknowledging God as God
 - Nebuchadnezzar is simply saying that he recognizes Daniel's God
 - Nebuchadnezzar has not replaced Marduk; he remains the chief pantheon god




Babylonia Recognizes Judaism: Edict of Legitimacy

- Nebuchadnezzar showing respect to Daniel's God through Daniel
 - It was not a rejection of one's own gods to kneel before an ally's god; simply acknowledging the ally's god as a show of respect
 - Nebuchadnezzar is awed that Daniel's god could know his dream; therefore, he is respecting Daniel's god, thanking him for providing proof to authenticate Daniel's interpretation when the other gods would not honor their intercessors
 - Nebuchadnezzar's prostration is a sign to his people that Daniel's god is legit; his edict legitimizes Judaism in his kingdom; Jews could worship openly
 - Nebuchadnezzar orders an incense offering, signifying prayers, performed before Daniel to his god as a sign of respect to God; he is not worshiping Daniel
 - Daniel is witnessing; Nebuchadnezzar has taken been made aware of God's presence, but this is a first step; to force a confession would be premature



Understanding Nebuchadnezzar's Worldview

- Nebuchadnezzar's worldview, and man's worldview in general throughout history, replaces God's truth with man's lies legitimizing sin (Job 1:19-24)
 - Man depicted the gods as independent of but greatly influencing man's affairs
 - Man believed success could be obtained if one could discover the gods' wills and align one's plans accordingly; this was the purpose of the wise men
 - Insights into the gods' machinations were usually vague, difficult to discern
 - Daniel's details of Nebuchadnezzar's vision were unusually precise though without elaboration; it would have been beyond Nebuchadnezzar's understanding
- Today, God provides very precise details into His nature and His plan in His Bible but modern man demands obfuscation to justify sin; form of paganism (Job 28:19-28)



Daniel Promoted: Daniel Asks for his Companions

- Nebuchadnezzar promotes Daniel as Head Wise Man and as governor over the capital city of Babylon to keep Daniel in his court; form of protection
 - Daniel asks his three friends be given subordinate positions in his administration; this protects him from the one he displaced and his bureaucratic allies (Trump)
 - These are young foreign men with different faith and values making them targets for the Chaldean bureaucracy; they can mutually protect each other
 - The three friends are dependent on Daniel; this makes them vulnerable should Daniel not be present to protect them as will occur in our next lesson
- What did Nebuchadnezzar learn? His own greatness, not God's
- What did you learned from Nebuchadnezzar's vision as it was written for your instruction? (Job 32:11)