

Daniel – Series Two
05- Nebuchadnezzar's Image
Chapter two
Lesson V
May 06,2009

I.. The Facts Stated about this Image seen in the Dream

- 1 2:21 God changing times and season, removing Kings and setting up Kings

And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Daniel 2:21

2. 2:22-28 it was God revealing secrets

He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter. Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise *men* of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel 2:22-28

- 3 2:26-28 God revealing what shall be in the *latter days*.

The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel 2:26-28

4. 2:29-30 the dream reveals what *shall come to pass*

As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for *any* wisdom that I have more than any living, but for *their* sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

Daniel 2:29-30

The image in the dream is all of God. It is a revelation of the plans of God in Gentile history, as we shall learn.

II Daniel 2:31-35 Daniel Describes the Dream

We must pay special attention to these verses before we try to interpret the meaning of the Image seen in the dream.

Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible. This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:31-35

1 Daniel 2:31

Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible.

Daniel 2:31

Nebuchadnezzar saw a great image. As we shall learn the image pictures the entire period of “The Times of the Gentiles”, a phrase used by Jesus in Luke 21:24.

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Luke 21:24

We also shall learn that it pictures the entire history of that which the Bible identifies as “Man’s Day.”

The verse also says “the form thereof was terrible.”

The history of the times of the Gentiles, the history of man’s day from the beginning until this very hour is best described by the word “terrible”. And the worst is yet to come.

- 2 Daniel 2:32 First the head of the image was of fine gold
Then the breast and arms of silver
Third the belly and thighs of brass
In this one verse there are **three** distinct, separate parts to the image

This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,
Daniel 2:32

- 3 Daniel 2:33
Then the legs of iron
The feet and toes of iron mixed with clay.
Two more distinct and separate parts to the image.

His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.
Daniel 2:33

- 4 Daniel 2:34
A Stone cut out without hands appears.
This Stone smote the image *on the feet and toes*
The whole of the Image was broken to pieces
The Stone that smote became a great Mountain , and filled the whole earth

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.
Daniel 2:34

III There is no doubt that all the parts of the Image are symbols.

- 1 Anything used as a symbol must have an other meaning than the ordinary meaning.
- 2 In other words symbols must represent something else than the literal meaning
- 3 Bible symbols can only be interpreted by the Bible
- 4 We also believe that each part of the image represents a different period of time.
- 5 To Illustrate:
It would not be consistent to say that the time of the “iron and clay” is the same as the time of the “iron” , anymore than it would be consistent to say that the time of the “silver” is the same as the time of the “gold.”
- 6 We will learn that the parts of the image represent Gentile World Governments.
- 7 The image does not represent human progress, but rather human failure.
- 8 We notice the image does not fit well with evolution. It pictures rather deterioration. As gold is more valuable than silver, silver more valuable than brass, the direction is not upward but downward. The iron mixed with clay seems to indicate a complete breakdown of Gentiles Kingdoms. Things will not get better but worse.
- 9 Jesus said the day would come when men’s hearts would fail them for fear *and for looking after* those things which are coming on the earth.

I do not know if we are seeing the beginning of that or not. I do know as I write these lines we are seeing the kind of trouble and world unrest that has been caused by a cartoon being published in a Denmark newspaper!

The words of a French editor of a newspaper seem to be an indication of the times. "Get the cartoon business settled, tomorrow it will be something else." He has his hand on the pulse of this world. It seems to me that the Lord is saying "Men do your best, but your best will not be good enough."

IV Daniel 2:36-45 Daniel Interprets the Symbols in the Dream.

This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Daniel 2:36-45

1 Daniel 2:37 is the introduction. "Thou, O King art a King of Kings. The God of Heaven hath given thee a kingdom."

Note verses, 18,19, 28 "The God of Heaven" Verse 23 "The God of my fathers."

Here we are mindful of Romans 13:1-4 ; 1 Peter 2:13-15; Titus 2:1-2 and 2 Peter 2:10-11

Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Daniel 2:37

Verse 18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.

Verse 19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Verse 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel 2:18,19,28

I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter.

Daniel 2:23

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:1-4

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

1 Peter 2:13-15

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

Titus 2:1-2

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2 Peter 2:10-11

2 Daniel 2:38 Thou art the head of gold.

And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold.

Daniel 2:38

So we are not assuming when we say, the head of the image not only represents Nebuchadnezzar the king but the Kingdom of Babylon of which he was the head.

We must not over-look the fact that his was the first gentile kingdom to have dominion Over the Kingdom of Israel.

In Chapter 3 we will read that Nebuchadnezzar made a great image covered with gold. It would seem he took the interpretation of the first part of the dream very literally, and it went to his head! Such is man.

But it also would seem he forgot the rest of the dream. People today believe part of God's Message, but how strange, they seem to forget the other parts of God's Message that include judgment, wrath, destruction and Hell. To preach the love of God without the other side of the truth is to proclaim a short gospel. Romans 11:22 speaks of the severity of God as well as the goodness of God. We learn about both in the Scriptures.

Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Romans 11:22

We must keep in mind that the same gospel that reveals the grace and love of God also reveals the wrath of God. Romans 1:16-18

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Romans 11:16-18