

## IMMERSE: CHRONICLES

Week 9 – The Times of the Gentiles – Pt. 2

August 25, 2024

Dan. 2:31-35 (Turn to) – Daniel told the King that the dream consisted of an image and a stone. The image was human in form, it was great, and it was extremely brilliant (due to its shining metals)

Its head was made of gold; its breast and arms consisted of silver; stomach and thighs of bronze; legs that were made of iron; and feet composed of a mixture of iron and clay (pottery).

The metals that made up the statue clearly decline in value.

The stone in the dream had been cut out of a mountain without hands (vv. 34-35). The stone was not human in origin. In the dream, the stone appeared immediately and struck the feet of the image with such force that the feet were crushed. The entire image disintegrated into the consistency of chaff. The wind blew away every remnant of the image. The stone then became a large mountain (kingdom) that filled the entire earth! NOTE: The Babylonians believed that their gods came from the sacred mountain of the earth. Mountains were associated with deities. Daniel made it clear that the God of heaven will establish this last Kingdom!

Dan. 2:36-45 – The interpretation:

Babylon – Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. Marduk, the chief god of Babylon, was called the god of gold. Babylon used gold extensively in its buildings, images, and shrines. Walls and buildings were overlaid with gold.

Medo-Persia – conquered Babylon (circa 539-536 BC). Medo-Persia - breast and arms of silver. Silver signified money; silver was the standard of value. Medo-Persia was noted for basing its power on money. Medo-Persia was inferior to Babylon as it was a partnership empire and lacked the absolute unity that Babylon had enjoyed.

Greece – conquered Persia in 331 BC. Greece under Alexander the Great – belly and thighs of bronze. After Alexander had unified his kingdom, he died. His kingdom was divided among his four leading generals. However, only two of the divisions played an important role in history: two divisions headquartered in Syria (Seleucids) and in Egypt (Ptolemis). The Greeks developed bronze and used it extensively in their implements of war. Greece extended its power “over all the earth” (v. 39).

Rome – conquered Greece by 146 BC. Rome – legs of iron. The two legs – in 364 AD the Roman Empire was divided politically into two divisions – the Western Roman Empire with Rome as its capital and the Eastern Roman Empire with Constantinople as its capital. Rome was noted for its use of iron in its military weaponry.

Final stage of Roman kingdom (vv. 41-43) – feet and toes of image made of iron and clay. The Roman Empire would experience two distinct stages – an earlier and a later stage. The feet of iron and clay – iron is strong and clay is brittle. Feet/toes – this later stage will be characterized by division. The final stage of the Roman Empire could consist of a ten-nation confederation (Dan. 7:23-24 – ten kings or kingdoms). A revived Roman Empire that will take place in the future.

The Kingdom of God – represented by the stone in the dream (vv. 44-45). This Kingdom will be established by God, not by man! Characteristics: it would destroy and end all the Gentile kingdoms portrayed by the image in the dream.

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Since the stone represented both Jesus (Psa. 118:22; Lk. 20:17-18) and the Kingdom of God (Dan. 2:34-35; Dan. 2:44-45), its appearance in the dream portrayed the coming of the Messiah to establish that kingdom.

Jesus will come to establish the Kingdom of God when Rome will be in its foot and toe stage – in the future. Jesus will come to establish the Kingdom of God at His Second Coming (Matt. 25:31 - *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, THEN He will sit on the throne of His glory* (King David's throne [Lk. 1:32-33; currently – seated at the right hand of God. There are 100 verses noted via this link telling us that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God interceding for us - [https://www.openbible.info/topics/jesus\\_sitting\\_at\\_the\\_right\\_hand\\_of\\_the\\_father](https://www.openbible.info/topics/jesus_sitting_at_the_right_hand_of_the_father)

Dan. 2:44 stated that the Kingdom of God will be set up “in the days of those kings” – the kings who will rule the ten nation Revived Roman Empire in the future. The Kingdom of God would come in conjunction with Jesus' Second Coming.

There will be no coexistence of the Roman Empire and the actual Kingdom of God. After the stone crushed the image, every remnant of the image was blown away before the stone became a great mountain and filled the earth (vv. 34-35).

The view that the Kingdom of God was established during Jesus' first coming would require several centuries of coexistence of the Roman Empire and the actual Kingdom of God. The Western Roman Empire lasted more than 400 years after Jesus' first coming. The Eastern Roman Empire lasted more than 1400 years after that coming.

In Rev. 19 and 20 John spoke of when Jesus will appear in His Second Coming – that He will crush Gentile world power and then would rule the earth for 1,000 years.

This Millennial rule will be the first phase of the future Kingdom of God – the phase for this present earth. After the Millennium, the Kingdom of God will continue forever on the new eternal earth (Rev. 21-22) in which God reigns forever over a new heaven and new earth that is free from all opposition to His rule.

Since the Kingdom of God will take the place of the four Gentile kingdoms, it will be a literal earthly kingdom. As Jesus experienced humiliation on this earth, His victory in His death must see Him as exalted and magnified on this earth.

In Daniel 2 we see God's absolute sovereign rule in the affairs of men and His superiority over the pagan gods. We see the destruction of Gentile dominion by God and the replacement of it with His kingdom that will last forever. The Kingdom of the God of heaven will conquer all Gentile world dominion. The Kingdom of God exalts and magnifies the God of heaven alone!

Following Daniel 2....

Daniel 3 – King Nebuchadnezzar creates a great statue that was to be an object of worship – 9-ft. high and 9’ wide at the base – made of gold. Daniel’s 3 friends refused to bow down. Thrown into the fiery furnace heated up 7 times hotter. King Neb witnessed the three men walking in the furnace and he observed a fourth individual...

Daniel 4 – Neb’s coming to faith!

Daniel 5 – Wickedness of King Belshazzar of Babylon – handwriting on the wall. Medo-Persia conquers Babylon.

Daniel 6 – Daniel in Darius’ court. Enemies of Daniel in the Medo-Persian Empire. Daniel thrown in the lion’s den and miraculously protected. Daniel thought to be 85 years old.

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Daniel 7 – Fifty years after interpreting Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the grand image, Daniel is given a dream which parallels Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the image concerning the rise and fall of the four Gentile world empires. This vision came to Daniel after the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, but before the Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire. Daniel sees the Gentiles empires as four strange beasts, all of which will be destroyed and then followed by God’s future, forever kingdom which will be established by the “Son of Man.”

Daniel first observed in his vision:

“four winds of heaven” – what Daniel saw was a worldwide event brought about by the working of God and His Spirit. The word for “wind” (Heb. *ruach*) is also translated “spirit” and “breath. Daniel saw the “four winds of heaven” stir up the great sea into a chaotic state.

“the great sea” – the beasts are said to come out of the “great” sea (Dan. 7:2). Waters are often used of the Gentile nations of the earth (Isa. 8:6-8; 57:20; Jer. 6:23; 46:7-8; 47:2; Matt. 13:47-80). When the sea is used symbolically in the Bible, it typically represents the world of nations (Isa. 17:12-13).

“the four great beasts” represent four great Gentile kings/kingdoms (Dan. 7:17, 23) – the same kingdoms which were represented by the great image of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel chapter two. All four kingdoms rose from the same chaotic world conditions. In Daniel 2, the king dreams of the earthly kingdoms as an “enormous, sizzling statue, awesome in appearance (Dan. 2:31). However, Daniels see the same kingdom as hideous beasts (Dan. 7).

The first great beast to arise out of the sea of Gentile nations was said to look like a lion and have the wings of an eagle. The first beast represented the kingdom of Babylon. Dan. 7:4b- a radical change occurred to the lion with the eagle’s wings. *I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.* The transformation that is revealed appears to be the great spiritual change that took

place in King Nebuchadnezzar which was documented in Daniel 4. Because Nebuchadnezzar wanted to believe that *he* ruled instead of God, Nebuchadnezzar would be driven from men by those who hated him. Daniel told Neb that his dwelling would be with the beasts of the field, and they, Neb's enemies, would make Neb eat grass like oxen. This would all occur till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

Dan. 4:35 - *And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:*

Dan. 7:5 - The second beast that emerges out of the great sea is said to resemble a bear that is raised up on one side and has three ribs in its mouth. This beast represents the kingdom of Medo-Persia which was the second empire in Neb's image in his dream. The bear having one side raised higher than the other speaks to the partnership within the Medo-Persian Kingdom. The Persians had more authority than the Medes. The three ribs in the bear's mouth might possibly have represented the three kingdoms Medo-Persia conquered: Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.

Dan. 7:6 - The third beast in Dan. 7, in Daniel's dream and visions was like a leopard with four wings and four heads. This represented the kingdom of Greece. What is emphasized by this

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beast is the swiftness of conquest. Under Alexander the Great, Greece conquered the known world faster than any other ancient power. Alexander the Great died when he was 32 years of age. His kingdom was divided into four parts by four leading generals represented by the four heads of the leopard.

Dan. 7:7-8 - The fourth beast did not resemble any known animal. Rome succeeded Greece as world ruler by 146 BC. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup> *I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, (an eleventh horn) a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous (boasting) words.*

The ten horns represented ten kings and their kingdoms, and the little horn represented an eleventh king and his kingdom. The ten horns and the little horn rose out of and were part of the fourth beast – the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire is so very terrible, cruel and destructive

It should be noted that the little horn rose up “among” the ten horns (v. 8). This indicates that the antichrist would begin to come to power while the ten kings/kingdoms (European union of sorts) would be present on earth.

The Roman Empire would experience three stages of history:

- The beast stage – Dan. 2 (iron legs).
- The ten horn or ten kingdom stage – Dan. 2 – ten toes; Dan. 7 – ten horns.  
(NOTE: Rev. 17:3, 7, 12-16 – at the time of the writing of Revelation by the Apostle John, these ten kings had not yet received their kingdom!)
  - Rev. 13:1-2 - John identifies the ten horns as ten rulers wearing their crowns who are all in existence together and are part of the Beast’s rule – in the future.
- The antichrist stage – Dan. 2:42-44 - *its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.* <sup>34</sup> *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.*