

## Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's dream and God's plan for Gentile powers through the end of the age.

*Recap: The pattern of those whose hearts are undivided.*

1. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him. He demanded that his wise men not only interpret it but tell him what the dream was. Failure was under penalty of death.

Daniel 2:1-12

2. Daniel requests time so that he can ask God to solve the mystery.

*Step 1: Time as a precondition of God's plan.*

Daniel 2:13-18

At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him. (Dan 2:16)

3. God reveals the dream to Daniel in a night vision. Daniel's response is to glorify God.

*Step 2: Praise and acknowledgement as a response to God's power.*

Daniel 2:19-23

4. Daniel lets the official know he has the interpretation, and he is brought before the king. But he clarifies that God is source of the interpretation.

*Step 3: Glorification as an outworking of God's purposes.*

Daniel 2:24-30

5. The dream itself is a revelation of God's plan to the end of the ages of man (secular powers). In other words, it's a prophecy that begins with the current world power (Babylon) and leads to the time frame of God's kingdom.

<sup>31</sup> "Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. <sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. <sup>34</sup> While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind

swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup> “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. <sup>37</sup> Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; <sup>38</sup> in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

<sup>39</sup> “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. <sup>40</sup> Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. <sup>41</sup> Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. <sup>42</sup> As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

<sup>44</sup> “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.” (Daniel 2:31-45)

Head of Gold	Babylon	626 - 539 BC
Chest & Arms of Silver	Medo-Persia	539 - 331 BC
Belly & Thighs of Bronze	Greece	331 - 146 BC
Legs of Iron	Rome	146 BC - AD 476
Feet of Clay & Iron	Divided Kingdom	End Times
Rock cut from mountain	Kingdom of God	Eternity

6. Nebuchadnezzar falls to the ground in acknowledgement of God’s power and lifts Daniel and his friends to become administrative heads.

*Step 4: God validates his servants and advances his purposes.*

Daniel 2:46-49