



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## The World Empires Revealed to the End

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**Daniel 2:31-36** *You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32) This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33) its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34) 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. 35) Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36) This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. (NKJV)*

Why is the greatness of this image repeated twice? Was this image so big and awesome that it was terrifying to the king? Is the beginning and end of this description emphasized? Why do the metals devalue as they continue down this great image? Does iron and clay mix well to form a strong base for this mammoth image? Does this snapshot dream turn into a video? How can a stone be cut out without hands? What velocity would it take to pulverize this whole massive image? How is it possible that not a trace of it is left? What happens to the stone? What pronoun points to Daniel's humility?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > JUNE 1-3: DANIEL 2:37-40 **GOD WRITES THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD FROM THE BEGINNING**
- > JUNE 8-10: DANIEL 2:41-45 **THE WORLD EMPIRE OF THE END CONQUERED**

Nothing is more important to Daniel than giving all the glory to God. When the dream was revealed to Daniel, he was overwhelmed that God should choose such a wicked, Gentile king, quick to become enraged and commit murder in shedding innocent blood, to reveal all the future history of the world. He was even more overwhelmed that God had graciously given this mystery to him. Thus he first glorified God by writing Him a song that exalted His gracious character and perfect attributes. Then Daniel immediately went to Arioch, the king's executioner and stopped the shedding of innocent blood, and asked Arioch to bring him before the king. Arioch naturally takes all the glory possible by acting as if he had found Daniel who had the answer for the king's dream. In contrast, Daniel not only gives glory to God, but he refuses to take any glory whatsoever for himself. Either we will naturally tend to glorify ourselves like Arioch or we will intentionally plan and work to glorify God like Daniel does at every possible opportunity.

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*BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO WALKS NOT IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY, NOR STANDS IN THE PATH OF SINNERS, NOR SITS IN THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL; BUT HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, AND IN HIS LAW HE MEDITATES DAY AND NIGHT. HE SHALL BE LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATER, THAT BRINGS FORTH ITS FRUIT IN ITS SEASON, WHOSE LEAF ALSO DOES NOT WITHER; AND WHATEVER HE DOES SHALL PROSPER. **THE UNGODLY ARE NOT SO, BUT ARE LIKE THE CHAFF WHICH THE WIND DRIVES AWAY; THEREFORE THE UNGODLY SHALL NOT STAND IN THE JUDGEMENT, NOR SINNERS IN THE CONGREGATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS. FOR THE LORD KNOWS THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT THE WAY OF THE UNGODLY SHALL PERISH.***

PSALM 1:1-6 (EMPHASIS ADDED)

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*FOR WHOEVER EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLED, AND HE WHO HUMBLING HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED. LUKE 14:11*

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### BIBLE STUDIES

- WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – FAIRFAX – DENNY'S, 10473 FAIRFAX BLVD.
- THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY'S, 9963 HULL STREET ROAD (LOCATED AT HULL & COURTHOUSE)
- FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

# Virginia

## The World Empires Revealed to the End

### I. THE TERRIFYING MODEL

DANIEL 2:31

Nebuchadnezzar was most impressed with power and glory and such were his motivations in building his empire. He far outshined his father who had already thrown off the Assyrian yoke from the Chaldeans and then had annihilated them at the Battle of Carchemish. In his dream Nebuchadnezzar was dwarfed by the immense size of the image before him. The greatness of it was also in its massive weight in the metals combined with its intimidating size. Literally Daniel described it as being “*mighty and of exceeding brightness ... and its appearance was frightening.*” This king whose capital city of Babylon included the massive tower of Babel, the Ziggurat, was terrified by the height, weight, glory and dazzling appearance of this formidable structure before him.

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THIS IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HEAVEN THAT GOD IS TRANSFERRING THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS EARTH FROM THE JEW, FROM JUDEA, FROM ISRAEL, INTO THE HANDS OF THE GENTILES. W. A. CRISWELL

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### II. THE TYPES OF MATERIALS

DANIEL 2:32-33

This image begins well with a head of gold, but this was not only gold, it was fine gold or pure gold, revealing that the only part of the structure that pictured a singular unity, also presented the most valuable and pure substance. Currently the price of gold is about one hundred times that of silver. Since the head contains the primary sensory and communication skills, this part will present what is necessarily good in world government. Since the head controls the rest of the body, this part will also present what is the best model in controlling the nations. Also the head is where the crown is worn, presenting the greatest honor, and this head will best model the correct use of honor and exaltation. Finally, the head has the only sensory organs that can see at a distance, and this head is being given the opportunity to see what will happen regarding world dominion for the

rest of time. The second part of the image is the “*chest and arms of silver.*” Silver is still a precious metal, though not only of less value, it also loses its sheen and tarnishes. This model of world government would have much less value and would be tarnished by human error. The silver is in the chest which houses the most vital organ to life, the heart, and there would be an example of a proper heart in world dominion. It also included the arms, used to work and build, and what was most important would be built during their rule. The next part would point to the power and swiftness with which one can run or move in that “*its belly and thighs*” were “*of bronze.*” And finally, the least valuable and not at all considered a precious metal, “*iron*” depicted the division of the legs, and is even mixed with baked clay in the feet. This shows clearly the law of entropy in the development of the government of the world. While mankind has always thought he was better than previous generations, the opposite is true.

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THE WORLD GROWS WORSE AS IT BECOMES OLDER ... EXPERIENCE ALSO DEMONSTRATES HOW THE WORLD ALWAYS DEGENERATES, AND INCLINES BY DEGREES TO VICES AND CORRUPTIONS. JOHN CALVIN

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### III. THE TERRIFIC MANIFESTATION DANIEL 2:34-36

Suddenly there is action and a supernatural “*stone was cut out without hands.*” The king inherently knows this action was accomplished by Deity. It smashes the feet with such velocity and fury that the whole image, with even the heavy precious metal, is crushed so fine that it all becomes like chaff blown away “*so that no trace of them was found.*” This same result (no trace found) occurs in Exodus 32:20 and of the Temple by the words of Christ (Matthew 24:2, Mark 13:2, Luke 19:44, 21:6). In contrast to “*no trace,*” “*the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*” This “*stone*” becomes everything to all upon the earth! Daniel humbly includes his friends with the pronoun “*we*” before the king.

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you intentionally plan and work to glorify God in your private and public life?
- 2) Are you a model and example in your exercise of government as a public servant?
- 3) Is what you are doing going to have lasting value or be like the chaff of the threshing floor?