



CAPITOL COMMISSION[®]

The World Empires of History Prophesied Beforehand

JUNE 1-3, 2022

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Daniel 2:37-40 *You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the glory; 38) and wherever the sons of men inhabit, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has made you rule with power over them all. You are the head of gold. 39) But after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule with power over all the earth. 40) Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will break all these in pieces. (Legacy Standard Bible)*

SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE; IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED THEM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. THEN GOD BLESSED THEM, AND GOD SAID TO THEM, "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY; FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT; HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND OVER EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVES ON THE EARTH."

GENESIS 1:27-28

Why is Nebuchadnezzar addressed personally while all the others are referred to as kingdoms? How was this man "*the king of kings*"? What verb is repeated twice showing God's grace to Nebuchadnezzar? Did the king think that his gods and his resources were responsible for all his glory? Why are even "*the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky*" included? Had Nebuchadnezzar earned anything? What made him the head of Gold? In what ways did the next kingdom prove to be inferior? Was the empire of the bronze kingdom even larger than the previous two? What five repeated concepts described the iron empire? Into what empire did God send His Son?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 8-10: DANIEL 2:41-45 **THE WORLD EMPIRE OF THE END CONQUERED**
- JUNE 15-17: DANIEL 2:46-49 **DANIEL EXALTED & HE EXALTS HIS FRIENDS**

The terrified emperor sat in awe upon his throne as Daniel has not only astounded him by telling the king his precise thoughts prior to his dream, showing that God had graciously answered his questions, but he has accurately described Nebuchadnezzar's dream in detail. He sat in stunned silence, hardly believing that what his wise men had said was impossible, was occurring before his own eyes and being heard by his own ears. He had personally received an answer to the desires of his heart to know the future from another God, whom he and his counselors had never known. This was a personal God who cared enough to personally answer and yet powerful enough to not only reveal but even determine the future. And this personal God was Daniel's God who could give him precisely the same thoughts and dream! Now the king knew that he would get an accurate interpretation.

"THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN TO YOU THAT THE SALVATION OF GOD HAS BEEN SENT TO THE GENTILES AND THEY WILL HEAR IT!" ACTS 28:28

I. THE CELEBRATED KINGDOM DANIEL 2:37-38

Daniel could not have been more emphatic or clear in his words to his king. Literally he proclaims: "*You (yourself), O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven—the kingdom, the power, the might and the glory—has been given to you.*" Daniel immediately revealed to him, with the meaning of his dream, that everything that he had was not because of any of his abilities, heritage, wisdom, or foresight that he had acquired all that he enjoyed in his leadership—it was all a gift from Israel's God—"the God of heaven." Daniel had heard it just as clearly, even before his captivity, from the mouth of Jeremiah the prophet

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST (JUST NORTH OF THE BRIDGE CROSSING THE RAPPAHANNOCK)

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

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(27:1-8). God had even called Nebuchadnezzar “*My servant*” in verse six. By these words from Jeremiah, Daniel knows that the Babylonian kingdom will extend into the life of the king’s grandson (Belshazzar). Then Daniel certifies the transfer of leadership of the world, initially given in creation, from the Jews to the Gentiles: “*and wherever the sons of men inhabit, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has made you rule with power over them all.*” Daniel, as a Jew, knows the full force and tremendous privilege that is being passed from his people to this terrified Gentile emperor. He knows that this king is a tool in the hand of God to bring judgment upon his own people. Yet he faithfully reveals the truth to this wicked king who earlier had decreed Daniel’s own death sentence. Then he exalts his king with the climatic declaration from God: “*You are the head of Gold.*” According to God, as “*the head of gold*” he was the greatest Gentile king who would administer the greatest Gentile world government of all time!

“NOW I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, PRAISE AND EXTOL AND HONOR THE KING OF HEAVEN, ALL OF WHOSE WORKS ARE TRUTH, AND HIS WAYS JUSTICE. AND THOSE WHO WALK IN PRIDE HE IS ABLE TO PUT DOWN.” DANIEL 4:37

II. THE CONSIDERATE KINGDOMS DANIEL 2:39

Though the Babylonian empire had the shortest duration in that it was only extended twenty-three years after the death of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel made it clear that “*after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you.*” This Medo-Persian empire would conquer Babylon during the life of Daniel through the wisdom of Cyrus the Great, also seemingly referred to as “*Darius the Mede*” (Dan. 5:31). When the new king considered placing Daniel “*over the whole realm*” (Dan. 6:3), the other leaders tricked the king into making a law to only pray to him for thirty days, thereby paving the way to destroy Daniel. While Daniel spent the night in the lion’s den, the king spent the night

fasting on his behalf. Probably more important to Daniel was that God answered his prayer (Dan. 9:1-19), and not only revealed the precise prophecy of the coming Messiah, but moved the king’s heart to release the captives of Israel to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, with all the cost paid by the king, so that they might “*pray for the life of the king and his sons*” (Ezra 6:10). Though the enemies of Israel did everything that they could against the Jews, God used the leadership of this empire to defend them. The third “*kingdom of bronze,*” led by Alexander the Great, would also demonstrate unusual consideration to Israel. When conquering the world faster than anyone had ever done, upon meeting the High Priest who served in the Temple in Jerusalem, Alexander the Great was shown the prophecies of Daniel about him so that he left Israel alone while finishing his conquests.

ROME HAD THE REPUTATION OF CRUSHING ALL OPPOSITION AND RESISTANCE WITH AN IRON HEEL. WHEN OUR LORD WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM THE TRAMP OF ROME’S LEGIONS WAS HEARD AND FELT THROUGHOUT THE THEN KNOWN WORLD. LEHMAN STRAUSS

III. THE CRUEL KINGDOM DANIEL 2:40

The fourth kingdom is characterized by the strength of iron. The kingdoms of the world have declined from the most precious metal, gold, to the very least, iron, as the degeneration of mankind continues to be displayed. Daniel presents this last empire, the Roman Empire, as characterized by the metal of hammers and battering rams that smash and destroy. He uses five different verbs to describe the cruel devastation by which they were pictured: “*crushes,*” “*shatters,*” “*breaks,*” “*crush,*” “*break.*” Likely due to the prophecies of Daniel, the Jews throughout the world were initially the allies of the Roman Empire as it grew and conquered, but when they grew strong they turned on their allies and subdued Israel. It was into that setting that God sent His Son!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you ever taken the time to count up the many times and ways God has given you grace?
- 2) Is there anything that you own or abilities or leadership you have that was not given to you by God?
- 3) What has been and continues to be your response to all the grace that has been given you in Jesus Christ?