

Daniel 2

Daniel Chapter 2 is the briefest and most concise overall picture of the history and future of the world in the entire Bible. This dream was originally given to Nebuchadnezzar and was interpreted for him by Daniel during his reign.

One night, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed.

The men replied, "The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people." The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed.

Then Daniel went home and told his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego what had happened. He urged them to ask God to show them his mercy by telling them the dream and its meaning, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. That night God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel in a vision.



Daniel told the king:

“King, in your dream you saw a large statue in front of you that was very large and shiny. It was very impressive. The head of the statue was made from pure gold. Its chest and the arms were made from silver. The belly and upper part of the legs were made from bronze. The lower part of the legs was made from iron. Its feet were made partly of iron and partly of clay. While you were looking at the statue, you saw a rock that was cut loose, but not by human hands. Then the rock hit the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold broke to pieces all at the same time. The wind blew them away, and there was nothing left. No one could tell that a statue had ever been there. Then the rock that hit the statue became a very large mountain and filled up the whole earth.

That was your dream. Now we will tell the king what it means. (Daniel 2:31-36)





King, you are the most important king. The God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. He has given you control, and you rule over people and the wild animals and the birds. Wherever they live, God has made you ruler over them all. King Nebuchadnezzar, you are that head of gold on the statue.

“Another kingdom will come after you, but it will not be as great as your kingdom. (Daniel 2:37-39)

According to world history, the kingdom of Medo-Persia followed Babylon, conquering it in 538 B.C.

Next, a third kingdom will rule over the earth—that is the bronze part. (Daniel 2:39)

We know from history that this third kingdom of bronze, the one to follow Persia, was the Grecian Empire.



Then there will be a fourth kingdom. That kingdom will be strong like iron. Just as iron breaks things and smashes them to pieces, that fourth kingdom will break all the other kingdoms and smash them to pieces. (Daniel 2:40)

Since we already have the fulfillment of actual history, we know that this fourth kingdom was Rome. Rome was the tough, iron-fisted kingdom, which clamped down with iron military rule over the entire known (Western) world in the days before Christ.

Rome is symbolized here by two legs of iron: Was Rome ever divided into two parts? Yes! It was often administered governmentally as two different halves, the Western and Eastern regions, and in its decline it was completely divided into an Eastern and Western Empire. The Western Empire had its capital at Rome, and the Eastern Empire, later called the Byzantine Empire, had its capital at Constantinople.

The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix. (Daniel 2:41-43)

The iron which continues from the legs down into the feet and toes of the image is sort of a continuation of the Roman Empire. After its fall, Rome was broken up into the "iron" and "clay" countries of the feet and toes. These represent the basic types of governments the world has known since the fall of Rome: Strong and weak governments; dictatorships and democracies.

During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. (Daniel 2:44)

The stone that "struck the image" (Daniel 2:34) is Jesus, and this "great mountain" that "filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:35) is none other than Christ's Kingdom on Earth! Jesus will take over the world and restore it to the beauty of the Garden of Eden again.



Then the king said to Daniel, "I know for sure your God is the God over all gods and the Lord over all kings. He tells people about things they cannot know. I know this is true because you were able to tell these secret things to me." (Daniel 2:47)

