



Life More Abundant Bible Study **Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 2**

Consider what the bible says about the Babylonians (Chaldeans), particularly under King Nebuchadnezzar in Habakkuk 1:6-11 and Jeremiah 39:5-9.

Now consider that Nebuchadnezzar was contemplating upon his bed what was to come in the future for him and his kingdom and the Great God answered his questioning by providing a miraculous vision to this ruthless king, foretelling world events (v1, 29). What does this say about our God? Read Exodus 34:6, 7; Psalm 139; Jeremiah 25:1-9, 50:7; Ezekiel 21:3, 19; Matthew 5:45; Acts 10:34

What had King Nebuchadnezzar asked of the magicians, astrologers, and prophets (star gazers, wise men) of Babylon (v2-9)?

Notice the response by the *wise men* of Babylon in verses 10 and 11. Compare their statement regarding *the gods not dwelling among men* to the following verses:

- Isaiah 7:14; 9:6, 7
- Matthew 1:23, 25
- Jeremiah 23:23
- John 1:1, 14
- Deuteronomy 5:24

Now read 1 John 4:1-3. What do these verses suggest about popular Babylonian beliefs?

Consider the results had the Nation of Israel been faithful to their commission of spreading the gospel (good news) of salvation in the coming Messiah (God's everlasting covenant to mankind) with the Babylonian envoy in the time of King Hezekiah of Israel (see 2 Kings 20:1-19), over 100yrs prior to Israel's conquest by Babylon. Would such beliefs and doctrines as held by the Babylonian wise men have prevailed?

Having shown themselves to be wise men in the court of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and his three friends were also vulnerable to the death decree pronounced by the king (v12). The bible says that with *counsel and wisdom* Daniel answered the king's guard and sought to speak with Nebuchadnezzar.

After meeting with Nebuchadnezzar, what was Daniel's response to the urgent situation? See verses 17 and 18.

What was Daniel's response when God revealed both the king's dream and its interpretation? Highlight a few of the praises Daniel raises to God (verses 20-23).

Consider Daniel's proclamation in verses 27 and 28 when brought before King Nebuchadnezzar. To whom is he ascribing credit and praise for the revealed dream, while simultaneously revealing the falsehood of the Babylonian prophets (magicians and astrologers)?

Consider Daniel's response to having been given the answer to the king's dream in verse 30 and compare his response to Hezekiah's revelation to the Babylonian envoy in 2 Kings 20:1-19. Why could God trust Daniel to bear witness of Him, the true God, before providing the revelation?

The King's dream foretold the rise and fall of world empires from the time of Daniel unto the end of time. Let us discuss both the dream God had revealed to Nebuchadnezzar and its interpretation:

The Dream: (verses 31-35)

- Large image of a Man (statue) composed of different material
- Head of Gold
- Arms and Torso of Silver
- Waist of Bronze
- Legs of Iron
- Feet with ten toes comprised of iron and clay mixed
- A large stone that falls on the foot of the image and crushes all other metals, becoming a mountain that fills the earth

The Interpretation: (verses 36-45)

Head of Gold - Babylon: (605-539 BC)

The Nation of Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar is represented by this image (Daniel 2:38) because of its wealth, its power and glory. Babylon was known for its industry- its hanging gardens were a marvel of the ancient world. God ascribes the fall of Babylon to her gluttony, drunkenness and pride. Indulgence of appetite and passion were the foundation of all their sins. Called a "king of kings", a term ascribed to God alone in the bible (Daniel 2:37; Revelation 19:16), Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon also typify and foreshadow a blasphemous world kingdom and its head that in time would exalt itself against God, "so that he sits as God in the temple of God,

showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4). As a world empire, Babylon was most advanced in its study of the sciences and contributed this gift to the modern world. A description of Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom's glory is given later in Daniel 4:10-12

Chest & Arms of Silver – Mede-Persian Empire: (539-331 BC)

The Mede-Persian Empire under Darius and Cyrus which, as silver is less precious than gold, the subsequent kingdom was not as "glorious" and wealthy as Babylon. The two arms of the image represent the alliance of the Medes and Persians, whose combined strength subdued Babylon and formed this world power. The Medes and Persians were known for their strict conformity to government and legislation. When the king made a decree, whether written or verbal, it became law, never to be revoked. The king was as a god with his words and judgments (Daniel 6:7-9, 15). As a world empire, Mede-Persia is most well noted for its advancement in finance and financial systems. Many modern financial principles were derived from developments within the Mede-Persian Empire.

Belly & Thighs of Bronze – Greek Empire: (331-168 BC)

Bronze gives the appearance of gold but is much stronger and durable. This metal represents the Greek empire whose war materials historians note were made of bronze. Under the authority of Alexander the Great, Greece conquered the Mede-Persians and the rest of the then known world in eight short years. As a world empire, Greece is most well noted for its contributions in philosophy, thought, and higher learning.

Legs of Iron – Roman Empire: (168BC - 476AD)

Rome, the Iron Empire, is represented by legs of iron in the image. The Iron Empire routed the Greeks but adopted much of its culture and religious practices. Historically, iron was among the hardest known metals that the bible uses to symbolize strength and power - both civil and military. As a world empire, Rome is most widely noted for its contributions to modern governmental systems, particularly civil government and Republicanism.

Feet partly of Iron Partly of Clay: (508AD-538AD; 538AD-1798AD; 1798AD – 2nd Coming of Christ)

The bible clearly illustrates that there is nothing new under the sun and that history repeats itself. Such is the case in the dual interpretation of the feet and ten toes of the image. The first fulfillment of the prophecy is in the dissolution of the Roman Empire into 10 parts by European Barbarian Tribes, completed in 476AD. These ten tribes descended upon a weakened empire, on the decline as of 330AD when divided by the seat of authority being moved to Constantinople by the Emperor Constantine. Plagued by internal corruption, its extensive size, and weak executive leadership, the kingdom crumbled at the hands of the tribes. The bible also illustrates the fulfillment of the second aspect of the prophecy occurring near the close of time, when God will "setup a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44). The book of Revelation describes the 10 toes as ten kings [civil

authorities – Kings, Governors, Rulers] that will arise for a period of time to rule with an apostate world power (Revelation 17:12-14, 17). The iron - a symbol of state craft, and the clay - a symbol of church craft, indicate the illicit relation of two institutions that should never cleave together. The fact that the clay is referred to as miry clay (v41) suggests that the church is a corrupt or polluted entity (Isaiah 57:20). It is through this corrupt church that the enforcement of civil authorities and church legislation will be jointly enforced by the combined agencies of the 10 kings and the apostate world power.

Stone cut without (man's) hands: (End of Time)

In the midst of these earthly empires, the God of heaven and earth will establish an eternal kingdom that will fill the earth, will subdue and crush all confederated earthly empires (Isaiah 8:9-13) and will eventually reign eternally. That the kingdom is built without the strength and might of man, but by the power of God's Spirit (John 1:12, 13), giving added confidence that this prophecy is sure and true.

Let us consider the Stone or Rock cut without man's hands. How can we be assured of its interpretation? Let us read the following verses:

- Deuteronomy 32:3, 4
- 1 Samuel 2:2
- Psalm 18:2, 31
- Psalm 95:1
- 1 Corinthians 10:4
- Ephesians 2:20
- 1 Peter 2:6
- Matthew 21:42, 44

What are the characteristics of the kingdom represented by the Stone? What does Daniel say of the vision and interpretations veracity? See verses 44, 45

What season of year is the kingdom said to destroy all other earthly kingdoms? Prophetically what does this mean (v35)? What is meant by "chaff of the summer threshing floor"? (see Matthew 3:11, 12).

Consider Nebuchadnezzar's response to Daniel giving both the vision and its interpretation. Was God pleased by Daniel's efforts?

Consider Daniel's fate for his faithfulness. Should we always expect such lavish material rewards for good works? If not, what should we hold onto? See Luke 10:19, 20; Matthew 25:21, 23

Consider the character of Daniel in requesting that his friends also share in the rewards by being promoted. How does Daniel's act reflect the behavior we should have towards those who have aided or blessed us?

How has imagery been used in describing prophetic events, namely the rise and fall of nations in this chapter of the bible?

What key messages can be derived from this chapter of Daniel?

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms, and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the [Life More Abundant Bible Study](#) website.



BABYLON

HEAD OF GOLD



PERSIA

CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER



GREECE

THIGHS OF BRONZE



ROME

LEGS OF IRON



DIVIDED EUROPE

FEET OF IRON & CLAY





The Rock...

Christ's Eternal Kingdom

