

Daniel Chapter 2 describes the dreams of the ruthless, mighty King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, given to him by the God of heaven and earth. In answer to Nebuchadnezzar's musing about the future of Babylon, the lavish world empire that God permitted him to rule, God gave Nebuchadnezzar a panoramic view of world history from his time until the end of the world.



**Q:** *What does it say about God, that He would provide answers to the ponderings of a ruthless king who neither knew nor acknowledge Him as Sovereign (Daniel 2:29)?*

**A:** *Unknown to Nebuchadnezzar, God, Who loves all His children, foresaw him as one of His sons. Read: Jeremiah 27:6, 28:14; Dan 2:37; Acts 10:34; Matthew 5:44, 45; Exodus 34:6, 7; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:3, 4, 23*

Awakening from his sleep, Nebuchadnezzar could not remember what he had dreamt; neither could he find an interpretation for the dream. Let us see Nebuchadnezzar's response to this perplexing situation.

Consider the king's hostile and hasty request of the Babylonian wise men recorded in Daniel 2:2-12. As his trusted advisors, Nebuchadnezzar showed little patience for any stalling or delay in their response.

**Q:** *What were the wise men of Babylon's thoughts regarding the king's request?*

**A:** *The wise men felt the king's request was wholly unreasonable and impossible for men. They claimed that only the gods, "who do not dwell among men", could fulfill the king's request (Daniel 2:10, 11).*

**Q:** *How do the Babylonian wise men's thoughts about God compare to the following verses? Read Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 9:6, 7; John 1:1-4, 14; 1 John 1:1-3.*

Consider the possibilities had the Nation of Israel been faithful as God's ambassadors in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah, and God's **Everlasting Covenant** to humanity. A Babylonian envoy sent to Israel in the time of King Hezekiah, over 100 years prior to Israel's conquest by Babylon, may have been given knowledge of the true God and been converted from their pagan beliefs. The envoy's conversion undoubtedly would have changed the course of world history. Read 2 Kings 20:1-19; Isaiah 5:26 for an account.

Having shown themselves to be wise men in the court of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and his three friends were also in peril of the king's hasty death decree.

**Q:** *After meeting with Nebuchadnezzar, what was Daniel's immediate response to the urgent situation?*

**A:** *Prayer! See verses 17-19.*

**Q:** *Consider Daniel's proclamation to the king in verses 27-30. Why could God trust Daniel to be His witness?*



**A:** Daniel gave praise to God for answered prayer in revealing the king's dream and gave credit to Him rather than taking it to himself, unlike King Hezekiah of Israel.

The king's dream foretold the rise and fall of world empires, especially affecting God's people, from the time of Daniel unto the *End of Time*. Let us discuss both the dream and its interpretation, revealed by God.

**The Dream: (verses 31-35)**

- Image of a man composed of different material
- Head of gold
- Arms and torso of silver
- Belly and thigh of brass
- Legs of iron
- Feet with ten toes made of iron and *miry clay*
- A large stone strikes the feet of the image yet, crushes the entire image.



The stone becomes a mountain that fills the earth

**The Interpretation: (verses 36-45)**

The Bible often uses imagery to convey a message. As a principle, the Bible itself must interpret the imagery used. Let us see how the Bible interprets the king's dream.

**Head of Gold – Kingdom of Babylon: (Daniel 2:37-39)**



The Babylonian Empire, which reached its peak under Nebuchadnezzar, was founded by Nimrod and is represented by the head of gold, depicting wealth, power and world acclaim. The former empire of Babylon was known for its industry – its hanging gardens were a wonder of the ancient world. The king and his empire foreshadowed another future world kingdom that would also rule, yet speak blasphemously, as if it were God (see John 10:31-33; Mark 2:5-7).

**Chest & Arms of Silver – Medo-Persian Empire: (Daniel 5:28-31; 8:20; 9:1)**

Medo-Persia under co-conquerors Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian, was less glorious than Babylon, as silver is inferior to gold. The two arms represent the alliance between the Medes and the Persians, whose combined strength subdued Babylon and formed the second world empire in the Bible chronology. The Medes and Persians upheld strict conformity to



government and law. When the king made a written decree, it became an irrevocable law (Esther 8:8). The king was as a god, whose words and judgments were deemed infallible, without error (Daniel 6:7-9, 15).

**Waist and Thigh of Brass – Kingdom of Greece: (Daniel 8:21, 22; 11:1-3)**



Brass, composed primarily of base metals and thus, reflective of the spiritual decline and receptiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, is fitting of the Greek Empire. Under the authority of its first and most prominent king,

*Alexander the Great*, Greece conquered Medo-Persia and all other world empires within twelve years. As an ancient empire, Greece is best known for its promotion of humanism, and its contributions to modern philosophy, thought, art, competitive sports, and higher learning.

**Legs of Iron – Roman Empire: (168B.C.-A.D.476)**

Rome is represented by legs of iron in the image. Rome conquered Greece yet, adopted much of its cultural and pagan religious practices. Iron was among the hardest known metals and is one that the Bible uses to symbolize strength and power – both civil and military.



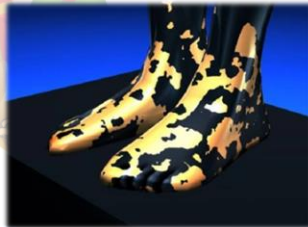
As a world empire, Rome is most noted for melding and integrating the cultural, religious, and governmental practices, including **Republicanism**, of prior empires.

*“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun” Ecclesiastes 1:9*

This truth is confirmed in the interpretation of the feet of iron and clay, having dual prophetic application.

**Feet of Iron & Clay – Divided Roman Empire: (A.D.538-1798)**

The break-up of the Roman Empire into 10 parts by barbarian tribes descending from northern and central Europe is the first fulfillment of this prophecy. Plagued by internal corruption, its expansive size, and weak executive leadership, the Roman Empire crumbled at the attacks of the 10 tribes.



The divided empire gave way to an unprecedented form of government, controlled by religious powers but enforced by civil authorities for 1,260 years (A.D.538-1798).

**Feet of Iron & Clay – 10 Kings Committing Fornication: (A.D.1798 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ)**

The book of Revelation describes 10 kings, civil authorities, that would arise for a brief period to rule with a treacherous religious world power (Rev 17:12-14, 17,

18). The melding of iron, a symbol of statecraft (Rev 12:5), and clay, a symbol of church-craft (Jer. 18:6, Isaiah 64:8), indicates an illicit relation [**spiritual fornication**] of two institutions that should never cleave together.

**Stone Cut Without [Man’s] Hands – Jesus Christ and God’s glorified people**



Amid these earthly empires, Jesus is establishing an *Eternal Kingdom* that will thresh the chaff from the wheat, will crush all earthly empires, and will fill the earth with God’s glory (Matt 6:10; Isaiah 60:1-3)! Comprised of ordinary people

like you and me who place their complete trust in Jesus’ finished works of salvation, God’s *Eternal Kingdom* will reign supremely and exclusively at Jesus’ *Second Coming*. The kingdom is built by the grace of God and power of the Holy Spirit, and not by man’s hands, giving assurance of the prophecy’s fulfillment (Matt 25:34; Heb 11:13-16)!

**Q: How can we be sure the Stone (or Rock) cut without man’s hands represents God’s Eternal Kingdom?**

**A: Read: 1 Peter 2:4-10; Ephesians 2:21, 22; Micah 4:1-4; Isaiah 41:15, 16; Jer 51:33; Micah 4:11-13; Jer 51:19-24**

Let us **purpose** to be part of **God’s Eternal Kingdom!**

For questions or additional Bible studies, please write or contact *Life More Abundant*  
PO Box 334 \* Goshen, VA 24439 \* [www.lifemoreabundantpa.com](http://www.lifemoreabundantpa.com) \* [biblestudies@lifemoreabundantpa.com](mailto:biblestudies@lifemoreabundantpa.com)

# Interpreting the King's Dream

## Daniel Chapter 2

