**He Removeth Kings and Setteth Up Kings – Daniel Chapters 1-2**

**Daniel 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:**

**Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:**

 **Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.**

**Daniel 2:45  Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.**

I. **The First World Empire Since The Tower of Babel**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A. God did not permit anyone to conquer the world**1. God confused Babel’s tongues2. Scattered of the descendants of Noah at Babel | **C:\Users\truck\Downloads\Daniel Pics\tower-of-babel.jpg** |

**B. God called the Hebrew Nation to be the leading nation of the world**

1. A witness to the rest of the world

2. Their disobedience and idolatry prevented this.

**C. 721 BC the ten tribes (Northern Kingdom) were captured**

1. Deported to Nineveh

2. By King Sargon of Assyria

**D. 606 BC, 115 years later, Judah (Southern Kingdom) were captured**

1. Deported to Babylon - By Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

2. Began the 70 years captivity in Babylon as foretold by Jeremiah.

**Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**

**E. Nations At War Wanting To Be The World Conqueror**

1. Babylon had already swallows up Assyria (With the descendants of Israel)

2. In BC 605 Pharoh-necho of Egypt, marched against Babylon At Carchemish

a. Was overwhelmingly defeated by Nebuchadnezzar

b. Carchemish – Assyria defeated what’s left of Israel now Nebuchadnezzar’s

3. This was foretold by Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 26:1-26)

4. The defeat of Pharoh-necho made Babylon a great empire

II. **Daniel And His Friends Deported To Babylon**

**Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.**

**Daniel 1:2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.**

**A. The deportation of Daniel and his friends Begins with a prophecy by Isaiah to the king of Judah, Hezekiah.**

**Isaiah 39:1 At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.**

**Isaiah 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.**

**Isaiah 39:3 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, *even* from Babylon.**

**Isaiah 39:4 Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that *is* in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.**

**Isaiah 39:5 Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:**

**Isaiah 39:6 Behold, the days come, that all that *is* in thine house, and *that* which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.**

**Isaiah 39:7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.**

**Isaiah 39:8 Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good *is* the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.**

**B. The First Deportation – Daniel And His Friends**

**1. In 605 B.C. Prince Nebuchadnezzar led the Babylonian army of his father Nabopolassar against the allied forces of Assyria and Egypt.**

a. He defeated them at Carchemish near the top of the Fertile Crescent.

b. This victory gave Babylon supremacy in the ancient Near East.

c. Now, Egypt's vassals, including Judah, are under Babylonian control.

d. Now, Assyria’s vassals, including Israel are under Babylonian control

**2. Shortly thereafter that same year Nabopolassar died**

a. Nebuchadnezzar succeeded him as king.

b. Nebuchadnezzar then moved south and invaded Judah- in 605 B.C.

c. He took some royal and noble captives to Babylon – Including Daniel

d. Some of the vessels from Solomon's temple

**II Chronicles 36:7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.**

**C. The Second Deportation – The Captivity of Ezekiel**

**1. The king of Judah at that time was Jehoiakim**

**II Kings 24:1 ¶ In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.**

**II Kings 24:2 And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.**

**II Kings 24:3 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did;**

**II Kings 24:4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.**

**2. Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin (also known as Jeconiah and Coniah) succeeded him in BC 598**

 a. Jehoichin reigned only three months and 10 days

**II Chronicles. 36:9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.**

b. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah again.

c. At the turn of the year BC 597.- took Jehoichin to Babylon

1. With most of Judah's remaining leaders

2. The rest of the national treasures including young Ezekiel

**II Kings 24:11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.**

**II Kings 24:12 And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.**

**II Kings 24:13 And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king’s house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.**

**II Kings 24:14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.**

**II Kings 24:17 And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father’s brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.**

**II Chronicles. 36:10 And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.**

**II Chronicles. 36:11 Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.**

**II Chronicles. 36:12 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD.**

**II Chronicles. 36:13 And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.**

**D. The Third Deportation – The Desolations**

**1. Approximately 11 years later, in 586 B.C.**

**2. Zedekiah made Judah’s puppet king**

a. Jehoikim's younger brother Zedekiah,

b. Nebuchadnezzar changed his name to Mattaniah,

c. He rebelled against Babylon's sovereignty

1. Secretly made a treaty with Pharaoh-Necho - pressure from Jewish nationalists (Jeremiah 37 - 38).

2. After a two-year siege, Jerusalem fell.

**3. Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem**

a. Burned the temple

b. Broke down the city walls

c. Took all but the poorest of the Jews captive to Babylon.

d. He also took Zedekiah prisoner to Babylon

1. He executed his sons

2. Put out the king's eyes at Riblah in Aramea

**2 Kings 24:17 And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father’s brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.**

**2 Kings 25:2 And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.**

**2 Chronicles 36:11 Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.**

**Jeremiah 32:3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;**

**Jeremiah 37:1 And king Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah.**

**4. Ezekiel prophesied about Zedekiah being deported but won’t see Babylon**

**Ezekiel 12:13 My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.**

**5. Jeremiah explains the prophecy:**

**Jeremiah 39:6 Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.**

**Jeremiah 39:7 Moreover he put out Zedekiah’s eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.**

III. **The Times of the Gentiles BC 606 -1st World-wide Empire ever seen**

**A. The Hebrew Captives**

**Daniel 1:3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king’s seed, and of the princes;**

**Daniel 1:4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.**

**Daniel 1:5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king’s meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.**

**Daniel 1:6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:**

**Daniel 1:7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.**

**1. Four Hebrew captives – Hebrew names changed**

a. Daniel - *God is my judge* - changed to Belteshazzar - *Whom Bell favors*

b. Hananiah - *Beloved of the Lord* - to Shadrach - *Illumned by the Sun god*

c. Mishael - *Who is as God -* to Mishach - *Who is like Venus?*

d. Azariah - *the Lord is my help* - to Abednego - *the servant of Nego*.

**2. They were of royal blood**

a. Were descendants of the good king Hezekiah

b. They were made eunuchs.

c. They were turned over to the ‘Prince of Eunuchs’ for 3 years

**3. Prince of Eunuchs changed their names**

a. To wean them away from their land and religion

b. Get them to adopt the religion and habits of Heathen Babylon

**B. Changing a man’s name does not change his character**

IV. **Daniel’s Test**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.****Daniel 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.** | **C:\Users\truck\Downloads\Daniel Pics\Daniel Refuse.jpg** |

**Daniel 1:10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.**

**Daniel 1:11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,**

**Daniel 1:12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.**

**Daniel 1:13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king’s meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.**

**Daniel 1:14 He consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.**

**The testing for Daniel and his companions was along the line of their religion. They were commanded to be fed with royal dainties and wine from the king’s table.**

**A. His Test Was Directed Against His Religion**

1. The Food and drink would be very attractive to the carnal nature

2. It most likely was not prepared kosher

3. It most likely was sacrifices to heathen gods

4. They knew that refusing would open them to ridicule

5. They knew it would cause them to be ceremonially defiled

**B. Daniel asked the 'Prince of the Eunuchs' that he might not defile himself.**

1. Asked for beans to eat

2. Asked for water to drink

3. Asked to be tested 10 days

**C. God honored his request**

1. Gave him favor with Melzar

2. Melzar granted the test even though it could mean his life

V. **The Result of the Test – God Honors A No Compromising Stand**

**Daniel 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat.**

**Daniel 1:16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.**

**Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**

**Daniel 1:18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.**

**Daniel 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.**

**Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.**

**Daniel 1:21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.**

**A. God Honors Their Trust**

1. Their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the Others

2. God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom

3. God gave Daniel understanding in all visions and dreams

**B. Nebuchadnezzar Honors Them**

1. The King ate and talked with them

2. The king was impressed

a. They had ten times the wisdom of his magicians

b. They had ten times the understanding of his astrologers

VI. **The Troubled King With A Dream From God**

**Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.**

**Daniel 2:2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.**

**Daniel 2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.**

**Daniel 2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.**

**Daniel 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.**

**Daniel 2:6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.**

**Daniel 2:7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.**

**Daniel 2:8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.**

**Daniel 2:9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.**

**Daniel 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king’s matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.**

**Daniel 2:11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and couldn’t remember it****B. He called for his religious people to tell him the dream****C. Wise men needed the dream to give interpretation****D. The king was furious** | https://i.pinimg.com/originals/fd/d9/e1/fdd9e1075d2123d5d92c5c54f82b62d6.jpg |

1. Nebo blamed the Wise men for stalling for time

2. They would receive gifts if they told the dream and interpretation

3. If they did not tell him the dream and interpretation

a. They would be cut into pieces

b. Their houses would be turned into a dunghill

**E. The Chaldeans, “ interpretation could come only from “gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh”**

**F. Why Did God Give Nebuchadnezzar The Dream?**

**Jeremiah 27:4 And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters;**

**Jeremiah 27:5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.**

**Jeremiah 27:6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.**

**Jeremiah 27:7 And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son’s son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.**

**Jeremiah 27:8 And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.**

VII. **The Furious King**

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| **Daniel 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.****Daniel 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.****A. The Magicians’ answer angered the king****B. Nebuchadnezzar decreed that all wise men of Babylon be killed****C. This includes Daniel and his friends** | **https://i.pinimg.com/originals/9d/14/36/9d14369e774a9861036fb6d05bd32c0b.jpg** |

VIII. **Daniel’s Response**

**Daniel 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king’s guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:**

**Daniel 2:15 He answered and said to Arioch the king’s captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.**

**Daniel 2:16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.**

**A. Daniel Asked Arioch what was happening – Arioch informed Daniel**

**C. Daniel went before Nebuchadnezzar**

**1. Asked for time**

**2. Daniel would show the king what his wise men could not**

IX. **An All Night Prayer Meeting**

**Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:**

**Daniel 2:18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.**

**Daniel 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.**

**Daniel 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:**

**Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:**

**Daniel 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.**

**Daniel 2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king’s matter.**

**Daniel 2:24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.**

**Daniel 2:5 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.**

**Daniel 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?**

X. **The Dream Revealed**

**Daniel 2:27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;**

**Daniel 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;**

**Daniel 2:29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.**

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| **Daniel 2:30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.****Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.****Daniel 2:32 This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,****Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.****Daniel 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.** | C:\Users\truck\Documents\Bible Studies\Daniel\dstatu02.jpg |

**Daniel 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.**

**Daniel 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.**

XI. **The Interpretation**

**A. The Image**

**Daniel 2:37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.**

**Daniel 2:38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.**

**Daniel 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.**

**Daniel 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.**

**Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.**

**Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.**

**Daniel 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.**

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| **B. The Stone****Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.****Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.** | **C:\Users\truck\Documents\Bible Studies\Daniel\Mountain-2.jpgC:\Users\truck\Documents\Bible Studies\Daniel\Mountain-3.jpg** |

XII. **The Symbols of the Dream**

**A. The image symbolizes the four great World Empires**

**B. The mountain from which the Stone was cut without hands is Israel**

**C. The Stone cut without hands is the virgin born Jesus Christ**

XIII. **Some Observations of the Dream**

**A. The Vision tells us about the characteristics of the world empires**

1. It is about their governmental unity

2. It is about their succession in history

**B. There are only to be four great World Empires on the earth from Nebuchadnezzar to the Second Coming of Christ.**

**C. These four are represented by the four metals of the Image.**

**D. Men like Napoleon and Hitler hoped, plotted and warred to establish a Fifth World Empire – they all failed**

XIV. **Fulfillment In History**

**A. The** **Babylonian** **Empire**

1. The 1st Empire is pointed out by Daniel as Babylon – Nebuchadnezzar

2. Nebuchadnezzar died after reigning forty-four years - in B C 561

3. He was succeeded by his son Evil-Merodach

a. Had an dishonorable reign of two years

b. Assassinated by his brother-in-law, Neriglissar

4. Neriglissar seized the throne

a. reigned for about four years

b. Was killed in battle in BC 556.

5. Neriglissar’s son Laborosoarched succeeded him

a. He was an imbecile child

b. In nine months he was beaten to death

 6. Nabonidus seized the throne for 17 years - son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar

a. Had married the widow of Neriglissar

b. The whole period Babylon was threatened by the Persians

c. He went on a military expedition when Medes & Persians took Babylon

7. With the death of Belshazzar the Babylonian Empire ceased to exist.

**B. The Medo-Persian Empire**

**1. Darius the Mede Seized Babylon and became the 2nd World Empire**

**Daniel 5:30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.**

**Daniel 5:31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.**

**2. In the Vision of the Ram and He-Goat (Daniel 8:20)**

a. The two horns of the Ram - correspond to the two arms of the Image

b. Babylonian Empire was single-headed - the Medo-Persian was a dual Empire

1. Left arm of the Image representing Media the weaker

2. Right arm Persia the stronger Kingdom.

**3. The Medo-Persian Empire is represented by the ‘Silver’ of the Image**

a. As silver is inferior to gold

b. So the Medo-Persian Empire was inferior to the Babylonian.

c. This was true

1. Not in territory because Cyrus conquered more

2. But in wealth, luxury, and magnificence.

d. Cyrus was named in the Scriptures 175 years before he took Babylon.

**Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.**

**Isaiah 45:1 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;**

**Isaiah 45:2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:**

**Isaiah 45:3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.**

**Isaiah 45:4 For Jacob my servant’s sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.**

**7. He was foreordained by God 100 years before he was born – 2 reasons**

a. To Take Babylon

1. He diverted the river – took Babylon through the river gate

2. The two leaved gates and the gates shall not be shut - true of the inner gates of Babylon, in the river walls, on the night of the siege

b. Give an Edict in BC 536 for the Jews’ return and the Temple rebuild

**8. Cyrus made his uncle Darius, the king of Media, governor**

1. An act of courtesy - Media was the older of the two Kingdoms

2. Cyrus had other military campaigns to attend – Darius ruled 2 years

3. The same year Cyrus' father died BC 536 - Cambyses, king of Persia

a. Made Cyrus the only monarch of the Dual Kingdom.

b. Cyrus left the Empire to his son Cambyses, after 7 years

**9. Cambyses reigned seven years and five months - until BC 522**

**10. Eight monarchs followed in succession**

1. Until BC 335

2. Their reigns varied from seven months to 46 years each

**11. Darius Codomanus became the last of the long line of Persian kings**

1. He was a good guy – maybe along and splendid career?

2. As he ascended the throne

a. It was time for the Silver to give place to the Brass

b. BC 330 Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire.

**C. The** **Greek** **Empire**

**Daniel 8: 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.**

**1. The angel Gabriel - He-Goat that destroyed the Ram - Medo-Persia**

**2. The Great Horn between his eyes is the first king - Alexander the Great**

**3. Brass is an inferior metal to Silver**

a. The Empire & Alexander as its head, didn’t last long

1. After eight short years he died of alcohol and marsh fever

2. BC 323 – He was 33 years old

b. His Empire was divided among four of his generals

**4. Note - Nowhere does it say that there is no break in succession in Empires**

a. From BC 323 to BC 30 when the Romans succeeded the Grecian

1. The Grecian Empire was not a single Empire

2. Was a four part Empire

3. Made up of Thrace, Macedonia, Syria, and Egypt.

b. One by one they fell until the Romans conquered Egypt in BC 30

**D. The Roman Empire**

**1. The Fourth or Roman Empire is not named in the Book of Daniel**

a. It is mentioned in Daniel 9:26

b. After the Messiah’s crucifixion Jerusalem and the Temple were to be destroyed by a People, from whom later should come a prince

**Daniel 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.**

**Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

c. We will know him as Antichrist.

d. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70AD

1. Antichrist is to be the last Emperor of the Roman Empire

2. Antichrist is the Little Horn of the Fourth Wild Beast that corresponds to the Iron of the Image

**Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.**

**Daniel 8:9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.**

**2. There are three things that we are to note about the Fourth Empire**

a. The legs take up at least half of the Image in length

1. In proportion the Roman Empire was to last longer than the others

2. This we know from history to be true.

b. Second, the Image is divided into 2 legs - Empire divided

1. Eastern Division - Capital at Constantinople in 364 AD

2. Western Division – Capital at Rome in 364 AD

c. Each foot of the Image is divided into five toes

1. These ‘Ten Toes’ still have not manifested

2. The historical fulfillment of the Image is not complete yet

**3. Observation of the four empires**

a. The first Empire was a single unit

b. The second empire was dual

c. The third became quadruple

d. The Fourth Empire in final form will be Ten-Toed.

**4. The Roman Empire visibly does not exist today - but its laws, etc., are a controlling power among the nations**

**5. The Empire in a visible form will consist of "Ten Federated Kingdoms,"**

**6. Represented by Ten Toes - The last Gentile Emperor - the Antichrist.**

# E. The Feet And Toes

**1. The legs are of iron the feet and toes are of iron and clay**.

a. A mingling - but no commingling.

b. No union of the iron and the clay

c. This continues until the feet are smashed by the Stone

**2. The Governments will become increasingly unstable**

a. The Babylonian Empire was an absolute autocracy

b. The Medo-Per**s**ian Empire was not an autocracy

1. The Emperor was bound by certain the **Laws of the Medes and Persians**

2. Once an Edict was issued it could not be recalled

c. The Grecian Empire was a Monarchy

1. But supported by a Military Aristocracy

2. It was as weak as the ambitions of its leaders

d. The Roman Emperors were nominally elected by the people

1. The people were not allowed to legislate for them

2. The people could not interfere with them

3. Their despotic way is symbolized by Iron

4. Rome was noted for her Iron-Rule.

e. The Government grows weaker in form with the Feet and the Toes

1. Made up of Iron and Clay.

2. Imperialism mixed with Democracy

3. The image goes an absolute autocracy to a democratic monarchy

a. Or the rule of the Head by the Feet,

b. A Government where people are swayed by self-interest politicians

c. A Government where people are swayed by demagogue

d. This government is the weakest

e. Opens the door for Socialism, Communism, Anarchy, Antichrist

**3. The only Government that will work and is eternal is the Stone Empire**

**F. The Stone Kingdom**

**1. A Stone was cutout without hands**

a. Smote the Image at the feet

b. Brakes all the metals to pieces.

c. They all became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors

1. The wind carried them away

2. That no place was found for them: and the

**2. The Stone became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth**

**A. The interpretation of this is given in verse 44**

**Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.**

**Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.**

**B. "IN The Days Of These Kings." - What kings?**

1. Not the kings of the Four World Empires or the four metals

a. Would only bring us down to Christ’s First Advent

b. Would make Christianity the smiting Stone

2. It is the kings of the Ten Federated Kingdoms or the Toes of the Image.

**C. Christ is the Stone in Scripture - The Stone is not Christianity it’s Christ**

1. To the Jews He was "A Stone of stumbling and rock of offence”

2. The Stone that the builders rejected, to become the Head of the Corner

3. Christ must have had Daniel in mind when He said

**Matthew 21: 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

**Matthew 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**

**D. The smiting was not at Christ’s First Advent, but His Second**.

1. The Stone smites the image - the image does not smite the Stone.

2. Did Christ at His First Advent smite and destroy the Roman Empire? No

3. The Roman Empire smote Him and was the cause of His death.

4. The Falling of the Stone is still in the future - His Second Coming.

**E. The Mountain that the Stone is cut without hands is Israel**

1. From Israel Christ came.

2. Jacob confirmed this when he blessed his sons

**Genesis 49:24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:**

3. The Stone that fills the whole earth *is* the Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

**F. The 4 Empires symbolized by the image were literal Kingdoms.**

**G. The Stone Kingdom that takes their place will be a literal Kingdom – it will conquer and control the whole earth.**

**H. It was this Kingdom - not a spiritual kingdom, that Christ taught His Disciples to pray the words - "Thy Kingdom Come"**

**I. If He meant a Spiritual Kingdom and it is here now - we shouldn’t pray "Thy Kingdom come," because it is already here.**

XV**. Nebuchadnezzar’s Response**

**Daniel 2:46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.**

**Daniel 2:47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.**

XVI. **Daniel’s Reward**

**Daniel 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.**

**Daniel 2:49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.**

IX. **Application**

**Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**A. Daniel and his friends had no hope of returning to Jerusalem**

1. At least not for seventy years

2. They had every reason for falling in with the customs of the land.

**B. They did not act as they did because they foresaw**

1. Prosperity or 2. Security

3. Power - They had every reason to expect the reverse

**C. The Outcome**

1. Daniel made the Chief of the Governors over all the wise men of Babylon

2. The counsellor of Belshazzar

3. Prime Minister under Darius.

**D. We should also live the separated life- Be an example**

1. We also find ourselves captives in the Babylonian life of wordliness and pleasure

2. Many instead of being transformed are conformed to this world.

3. Many are living a life of compromise – no example

**E. The outcome is a life of powerlessness and spiritual barrenness**

**F God is waiting to reveal to us His dreams and visions out of His Word**

**The Babylonian Captivity Facts and Dates**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Babylonian Kings** |
| **Babylonian Captivity Deportations** |  | Nabopolassar | 626-604 BC |
| Date | 605BC | 597BC | 586BC |  | Nebuchadnezzar | 604-561 BC |
| Deported To | Kings Court | Nebuchadnezzar’s Canal | Nebuchadnezzar’s Canal |  | Amel-Marduk(Evil Merodach) | 561-559 BC |
| Deportees | Key Royal Families | 10,000 + King | Rest + king |  | Nergal-sharusur(Neriglissar) | 559-555 BC |
| Notable Deportees | Daniel & Friends | King Jehoiachin, Ezekiel, 10,000 Skilled Craftsmen | King Zedekiah, Balance of the people |  | Labashi - marduk | 555 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  | Nabunaid (Nabonidus) | 555-539 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  | Belshazzar | 553-539 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Babylonian Captivity Returns** |  | **Media -Persian Kings** |
| Date | 538 BC | 458 BC | 444 BC |  | Cyrus | 538-529 BC |
| Leader | Zerubbabel | Ezra | Nehemiah |  | Cambyses | 529-521 BC |
| Work | Build Temple | Read / Translated Law | Rebuild the Walls of Jerusalem |  | Smerdis | 521 BC |
| Reference | Ezra 1-6 | Ezra 8,10; Nehemiah 10 | Nehemiah 2; Daniel 9:25 |  | Darius I | 521-485 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  | Xerxes I - Ahasuerus | 485-464 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  | Artaxerxes I - Longimanus | 464-423 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  | Xerxes II | 423 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  | Darius II | 423-404 BC |
|  |  |  |  |  | Artaxerxes II | 404-358 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Cyrus’ Proclamation (Ezra 1:1-4) in 538 BC Fulfilled Jeremiah’s Prophecy: Jeremiah 25:11-14; 29:10
2. Isiah had prophesied about Cyrus and even naming him 150 before this: Isiah 44:21-28; 45:1- 5.
3. Cyrus conquered Babylon on October 12, 539 BC, and personally entered it October 29, 539 BC
4. The Temple is begun in 536 BC,. The exile only lasts 50 years after 538 BC. 70 Years figured from 605 BC
5. The Rebuilding discontinued in 534 BC, and resumed in 520 BC., completed in 515 BC.
6. Rebuilding begun under Cyrus and completed under Darius I
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