

"THE BOOK OF DANIEL"

Chapter Two

Review:

1. The beginning of Babylonian domination - Daniel 1:1-2 - In the third year of Jehoiakim (ca. 605 B.C.)

2. This was the first of three times that Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem (605, 597, 586 B.C.)

3. DANIEL AND OTHERS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL TRAINING...

1) _ _ _ _ _ (God is my judge) - Belteshazzar (a servant of Bel)

2) _ _ _ _ _ (the Lord is gracious) - Shadrach (inspired by the sun god)

3) _ _ _ _ _ (who is what God is?) - Meshach (who is what the moon god is?)

4) _ _ _ _ _ (the Lord helps) - Abed-Nego (servant of Nebo)

4. DANIEL MAKES A DECISION... His commitment was to "not defile himself" with the king's food:

Lesson Three

Daniel 2:1-16;

Jeremiah 25:1 “The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon),”

It was in the first year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign that Daniel was carried captive, Jeremiah 25:1, three years Daniel had been under tutors; at the end of which he was presented to the king, as is related in the preceding chapter; and yet the following dream was in the second of his reign: this creates a difficulty.

The second year was actually the fourth year of his reign, reckoning from the time he reigned conjointly with his father, though the second of his reigning alone: Or yet it seems best of all to render the words, with but in the second year, in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar; that is, in the second year of Daniel's ministry in or under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar;

I. Nebuchadnezzar challenges his magicians, sorcerers, et al, to tell him both the dream and its interpretation, and they are unable - Daniel 2:1-13;

A. God reveals the secret of the dream to Daniel in a night vision - Daniel 2:14-23;

B. Daniel praises God for wisdom and for making known to him the King's dream - Daniel 2:20-23;

C. Daniel approaches the king and explains that God has made known to him both the dream and its interpretation - Daniel 2:24-30;

D. Daniel then tells the dream, and gives the interpretation of it, to the amazement of Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel 2:31-49;

1) The king had seen a great image

4 Metals Statue

Gold

Silver

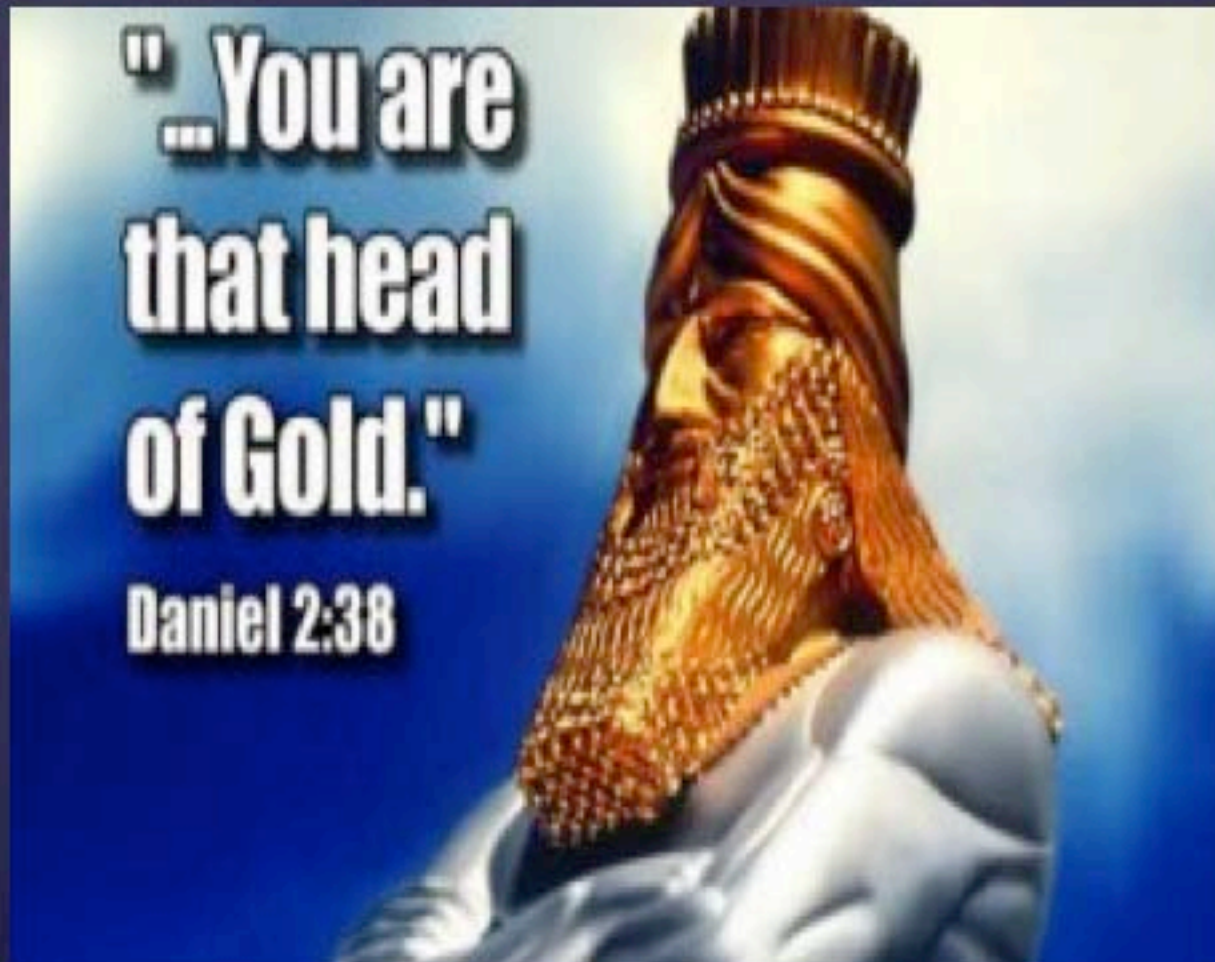
Bronze

Iron



**Christ
the
Stone**

a) With head of gold



b) With chest and arms of silver



c) With belly and thighs of bronze



d) With legs of iron, and feet mixed with iron and clay



The Great Image

606 to 561 B C
Nebuchadnezzar's
Reign

Head of Gold
Kingdom of Babylon

538 B C
Fall of Babylon
Under Cyrus

Arms of Silver
Medes & Persian
Kingdom

330 B C
Alexander
The Great

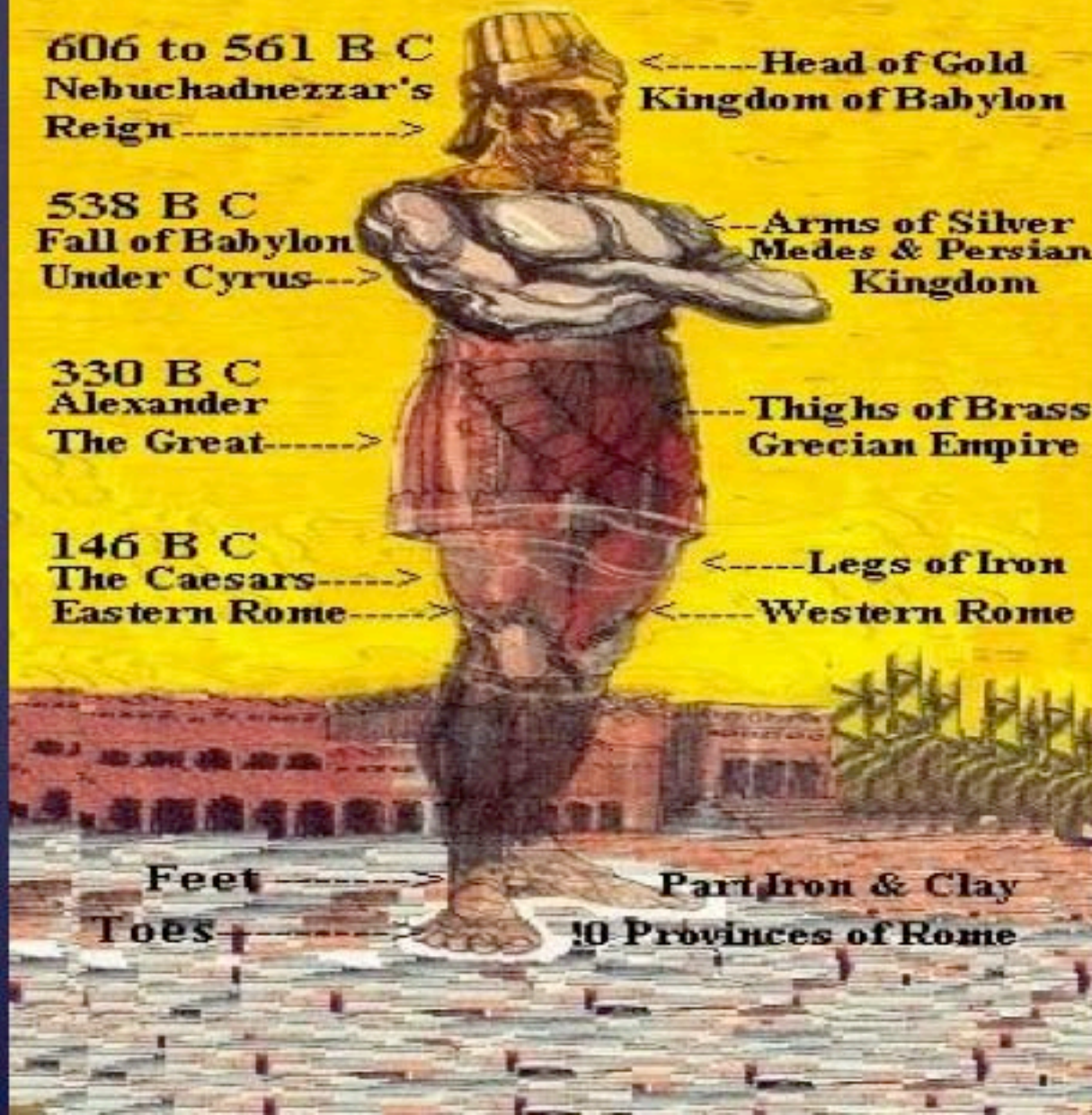
Thighs of Brass
Grecian Empire

146 B C
The Caesars
Eastern Rome

Legs of Iron
Western Rome

Feet
Toes

Part Iron & Clay
10 Provinces of Rome



In September 476 AD, the last Roman emperor of the west, Romulus Augustulus, was deposed by a Germanic prince called Odovacar, who had won control of the remnants of the Roman army of Italy. He then sent the western imperial regalia to Constantinople. The Roman empire in western Europe - a centralized super state which had been in existence for 500 years - had ceased to exist, its single emperor replaced by upwards of a dozen kings and princes. (Dr. Peter Heather) (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans>)

2) The great image was destroyed by a stone made without hands. Genesis 49:24 “...his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),” (ESV)

a) The image representing the rise and fall of four (4) world empires.

b) The stone representing a kingdom that God would set up

3) The king praises God, and exalts Daniel along with his three friends.

II. There are certainly two key thoughts expressed in this chapter...

A. God is a revealer of secrets - Daniel 2:19, 22, 28-29, 47;

B. God can make known the future and bring it pass - Daniel 2:28-29, 21;

C. But of particular interest to us ought to be the "kingdom" in verse 44...

1. Which the God of heaven Himself shall set up.

2. Which shall never be destroyed, but consume other kingdoms and stand forever.

III. Several questions naturally come to mind concerning this "kingdom"...

A. When would God set it up?

B. Has it been set up as foretold?

C. If it has, and if it shall never be destroyed...

1.) Where is it now?

2.) What is the future of this kingdom?

3.) Can we be a part of this indestructible kingdom?

[In the next lesson, we shall endeavor to provide the answers to these questions.]

"Abridge It!"

Reminiscent of the Arabian Nights is the story of Prince Zemire, who, upon succeeding his father on Persia's throne, sought for a guiding history of the past. Twenty years after the initial assembly of his learned men, a caravan of twelve camels, each bearing 500 volumes, came to the prince. Following a speech, the secretary presented the 6,000 volumes. Now fully occupied with the duties of government, the king expressed his gratitude. But he added, "I am now middle-aged, and even if I live to be old, I shall not have time to read such a long history. Abridge it!" Another score of years passed, and three camels came with 1,500 volumes for the king. But he declared, "I am now an old man. Abridge it further and with all possible speed!" After the lapse of ten years, a small elephant

carried their abbreviated work, this time merely 500 volumes. "We have been exceeding brief," said the remaining members of the assembly. "Not yet sufficiently so," replied the king. "My life is almost over. Abridge again!" When after five more years the secretary returned alone, and on crutches, leading a small ass burdened with one large book, the king was breathing his last, unable to read it. Yet in 213 words, the prophet Daniel described the course of history and its meaning more accurately than all the historians of the ages! Read Daniel 2:38-44. Verse 28 of this chapter answers our fundamental human need as it gives the assurance, "There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets." We live in an age which has endeavored to outlaw God and revelation by stress on the absolute reign of physical law. The materialistic science of the past three centuries, and the philosophy of men such as Kant,

have asserted that the laws of nature operate uniformly, inexorably, and independently of any divine Lawgiver. Thus the universe is represented as a closed system, unable to reveal to its prisoner any sure knowledge of the supernal realms beyond. Some scientists and philosophers have forgotten that although a bird may not fly out of its atmosphere, the Creator of bird and atmosphere is free to insert His finger into time and space and place it lovingly upon the bird. There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and He has intervened in history to offer man revelation and redemption.

Ford, Desmond (2012-12-19). Daniel and the Coming King (Kindle Locations 1108-1135). Good News Unlimited (Australia). Kindle Edition.

Daniel 2

Comments

Thou art this head of gold

605 BC -- Neo-Babylonian Empire established After thee shall arise another kingdom

530 BC -- Medo-Persians under Cyrus conquer Babylon;

Another third kingdom of brass 331 BC -- Greeks, led by Alexander the Great, subjugate Persia

The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron.

168 BC -- Rome becomes the mistress of the ancient world.

30 AD -- Christ crucified

The kingdom shall be divided... The feet were part of iron, and part of clay 476 AD -- Rome disintegrates They shall not cleave one to another.

1643-1715 -- Louis XI of France endeavors to weld Europe together

1804-1815 -- Napoleon seeks to conquer Europe

1914-1918 -- Germany's bid for domination in World War 1 1939-1945 --

Hitler's efforts, like those of his predecessors, fail

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Prayer Time