



God's Grand Story: The Future of the World (Daniel 2)

May 21, 2023

According to many Biblical prophecies, the end is near. **Jesus is coming back soon!**

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had a dream that greatly troubled him. He called in his wise men and asked them to tell him his dream and its interpretation. When they couldn't interpret his dream, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the execution of all the magi in his court. Daniel prayed to God for a vision of the dream and its interpretation, and God granted his request. He then went to the executioner and said,

Daniel 2:24b — "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king."

Daniel continued:

Daniel 2:27-28 — "Daniel answered before the king and said, 'As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.'"

Daniel then described the king's dream and its interpretation.

Read Daniel 2:29-35

Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar that his dream was about the kingdoms of the world—his own kingdom and those that would succeed it. He told the king that the colossal metallic image represented four successive world powers that would rule over Israel and the Middle East in the days ahead.

God revealed the meaning of the dream of the statue in four kingdoms, but five sections:

1. Head of Gold: Babylon—Nebuchadnezzar's Kingdom

Daniel 2:37-38 "You, O king...are the head of gold."

2. Upper Body of Silver: Medo-Persian Empire

Daniel 5:28 "PERĒS—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."

3. Lower Body of Bronze: Empire of Greece

Not only does history confirm that Greece was the empire that succeeded the Medo-Persians, but Daniel himself affirmed it by naming Greece specifically in another vision:

Daniel 8:21 "The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece..."

4. Legs of Iron: The Fourth Empire

Daniel 2:40 "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces."

Daniel names the first three kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece) but he does not name the fourth. The only kingdom in history that can fulfill all of the Biblical descriptions of the fourth kingdom is the historical Islamic Caliphate, which began shortly after the death of Muhammed, the prophet of Islam.

The three kingdoms to be broken into pieces and crushed are Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The word "crush" could refer to geography (the conquered territory), or it could refer to the erasure of the language, culture, and religion of the conquered peoples. The historical Islamic Caliphate both completely conquered all the lands of the previous three kingdoms, as well as erased the language, culture, and religion of the people groups they overtook.

Daniel 2:34-35 — "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the

stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

Christ's Kingdom is described as “a rock cut out, but not with human hands.” The Messianic Kingdom specifically destroys the final kingdom of the Antichrist. But in doing so, it says that Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece are also all destroyed “at the same time.”

If the Islamic Caliphate were fully revived today, and Jesus returned and conquered this empire, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece would all be completely destroyed as well.

5. Feet of Iron and Baked Clay: The Last Empire Before Jesus' Return

There is continuity between the legs and the feet through the element of iron as well as the fact that Daniel never refers to the fifth empire as a separate kingdom. The legs of iron are the historical Islamic Caliphate, and the feet of mixed iron and clay are a revived version of the Islamic Caliphate.

Daniel 2:41— “In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron...”

After Muhammed died, a division broke out between the **Shi'a**, who believed the successorship belonged to Muhammad's relatives, and the **Sunnis**, who believed the successorship belonged to Muhammad's companions. This division has defined Islam from its earliest days to modern times.

The final kingdom that Christ will come and destroy when He comes again will be a revived Islamic Caliphate. This same vision was seen by the other prophets of the Old Testament.

But Daniel's prophecy of the end does not end with the Islamic Caliphate winning.

Daniel 2:44— “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”

The Four Factors of the End Times:

1. The Israel Factor requires the nation to be:

- a) living in the Promised Land
- b) living in and controlling Jerusalem
- c) equipped with a strong military
- d) speaking Hebrew
- e) keeping the Sabbath law
- f) living with a functioning temple*

2 Thessalonians 2:4— “who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”

According to 2 Thessalonians, the Antichrist will come to a Jewish temple and commit the Abomination of Desolation. For that to happen, the temple must be rebuilt, as it was destroyed in AD 70. Today, there is a strong movement in Israel to rebuild the temple.

2. The Islamic Factor

Not only does Israel need to be a nation back in the promised land, controlling Jerusalem, speaking Hebrew, with a strong military, and a functioning temple, it needs to be surrounded by enemies that want to destroy her. Watch for countries like Iran (Shi'a) and Turkey (Sunni) to come together against Israel.

3. The Birth Pains Factor

Watch for wars and rumors of wars, ethnic violence, earthquakes, hurricanes, pandemics, and famines.

4. The Great Commission Factor

By 2038, every language will have a Bible translation finished or at least started.

Matthew 24:14— “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Jesus is coming soon!

Luke 21:34-36— “Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”