

The Composition of the Image Daniel 2:31-49

INTRO: Daniel is standing before King Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful man of his day. Daniel opens to the king the secrets that the God of heaven has revealed to him (vs 28). What the men of the world could not do; the man of God could. The wise of the world were baffled; the man of God was blessed and came with the answer from above.

What Daniel revealed to the king was prophecy. Prophecy about his kingdom and kingdoms yet to come, including the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I. VSS 31-35, COMPOSITION OF IMAGE DESCRIBED

- A. Vs 31, The king does not say: “You got it wrong.” For he knew that Daniel got it right. The king remembers the greatness of the image and the brightness of it.
 - 1. “Image” according to Hitzig speaks of a great statue in human form.
 - 2. The “brightness” of the image is described as excellent, unusual, and dazzling.
 - 3. “Terrible,” the image terrified the great Nebuchadnezzar. If you do not know the Lord, the interpretation of the image should terrify you.
- B. Vss 32-33, The revealing of the dream continues with the description of the metallic makeup of the image.
 - 1. From the head of gold, the metallic makeup of the image becomes less valuable.
 - a. The head alone is a united whole.
 - b. The silver is divided in the arms and the breast. The abdomen and thighs are of brass. The legs are of iron, and the feet are part iron and part clay.
 - 2. As we go from head to foot, we see the deterioration of value and weight. Gold is heavier than silver; silver is heavier than brass; brass is heavier than iron; and iron is heavier than clay.
 - a. As the materials decrease in weight, specific gravity, they increase in hardness with the exception of the clay in the feet.
 - b. The image that king Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream is top heavy and very weak in its feet.

- C. Vss 34-35, The stone cut out without hands.
 - 1. Vs 34, “Without hands” means without the use of hands or tools. The stone hits the feet of iron and clay and breaks them into pieces.
 - 2. Vs 35, The stone “cut out without hands” grinds the entire image into pieces that become as “the chaff of the summer threshingfloors.” The wind carries them away and “no place was found for them.” When the stones work of grinding is finished, it becomes a great mountain filling the whole earth.

II. VSS 36-45, CLARIFICATION OF THE DREAM

- A. Vs 36, The dream and its clarification came over 2,500 years ago. The prophecies of the dream have and are being fulfilled. History has proven and will continue to prove that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God.
- B. Vs 37-38, Nebuchadnezzar is called here the “king of kings.” This place of power, as Daniel says, is given to Nebuchadnezzar by God. God is sovereign; He is aware of all that has and is happening.
 - 1. All that the king had, physically and materially, came from God.
 - 2. In verse 38, Nebuchadnezzar is attested as the number one human authority on earth. “Thou art the head of Gold,” is a reference to Nebuchadnezzar as the personification of the images head. When Herodotus, noted Greek historian, went to Babylon 90 years after Nebuchadnezzar, he found a city filled with gold architecturally; gold was everywhere (Isa 14:4).
- C. Vs 39, The next kingdom that will come, Nebuchadnezzar is told, will be inferior to his.
 - 1. The Aramaic word for “inferior” means “downward from thee, earthward to thee.” This is the beginning of the downward spiral of metallic value from Nebuchadnezzar indicating the decline in value, declining in weight.
 - 2. The kingdom following Nebuchadnezzar was the silver or Medo-Persian Empire (539-331BC).
 - 3. Following the Medo-Persian empire was that of Greece-brass (331-168 BC).
 - 4. Evolution teaches just the opposite of the truth of Daniel. Evolutionists begin with clay and evolve upward. Evolution

is a lie. Man is not getting better; he is devolving not evolving. Man is going down from gold to clay.

D. Vs 40, The fourth kingdom spoken of by Daniel is that of Rome (169 BC-476 AD). The Roman army captured and subdued everything in its path. The Roman Empire was ruthless in many ways.

1. The Roman Empire (Iron) was strong militarily, but weak internally, morally, wicked, and fleshly. Rome fell from the inside.
2. The very immorality that took Rome down is now infecting the US. If we do not turn around, you and I, then America is doomed to Rome's demise: collapse from within.

E. Vs 41-43, The revived Roman Empire.

1. Vs 41, "The kingdom shall be divided."
 - a. Morris says: "The two divisions of the Roman Empire, centered in Rome and Constantinople, continued for along time, as is suggested by the length of the legs. After the fall of political Rome, the empire continued in ecclesiastical form as the Roman and Byzantine Catholic churches" (1258 Defenders Bible).
 - b. Remark of historian Robert Payne: "The Roman empire perished and went on living. Long after the capital had become a small town outside the frontiers of the Byzantine empire and long after the last Roman legionary marched down the Flaminian Way, its civilization held sway in the West. The legacy of this most worldly of empires was to lie largely in the realm of ideas— in law, language, literature, government, attitudes, and styles. In innumerable ways, as century followed century, men's minds were to respond to a presence that was shorn of all the panoply of power while gradually becoming transfigured into a dominion of the spirit and of thoughts."
2. Vs 42-43, These verses bring us to the end times, the time just before the coming of Christ to earth.
 - a. These verses deal with an attempt to combine (iron), a ruler with unlimited power and (clay) democracy. The ruler with unlimited power will be the anti-Christ. The clay will be the rulers of the ten toe nation of the

a Daniel. One day those who mock you will ask for your help and prayers. Daniel was a burning bush for God.

- C. Vs 48-49, Daniel got a big promotion and his friends were not forgotten. God is good.

CONCLUSION: History is his His-story. God is sovereign and will prevail.

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Feb 14, 2010