

“MAN CAN’T: GOD CAN

Daniel Chapter 2: Part 2

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INTRODUCTION

In the last message we saw that four great earthly empires would rise and fall and that God would crush and destroy these empires suddenly and irreversibly in its 4th manifestation—resulting in the establishment of a new empire established from Heaven—one that would endure forever and would never be ruined and “left for another.”

There are several important matters that we must consider.

- 1) Will this empire be literal or spiritual in nature? And is it present or future?
- 2) What are the main principles that we can discern from this Great Image in the dream?
- 3) Is it possible that this kingdom described in Daniel 2 can be the New Testament Church?

We will examine these questions in order.

- I. IS THIS MESSIANIC EMPIRE LITERAL OR SPIRITUAL IN NATURE?
IS THIS MESSIANIC EMPIRE PRESENT OR FUTURE IN EXISTENCE?

Our basic conclusion is that it is earthly in nature and millennial (future) in existence. Here are the reasons:

- A. This kingdom is established by God—not man. [Can’t be happening during man’s earthly kingdoms]
- B. This kingdom is parallel with the earlier kingdoms it replaces. [Must Be earthly]
- C. This kingdom is set up while the 4th empire still exists in its **final form** of 10 toes (cf. chapter 7). *This was never true during the Roman empire!*
- D. This kingdom rises suddenly—not by a gradual, long process. [Such a gradual process would be true of either the post-millennial or the a-millennial views.]
- E. This kingdom is established after a decisive blow against the earthly kingdoms—a blow that totally obliterates the earthly kingdoms; it is a **catastrophic action**.
- F. This kingdom grows into a huge mountain [kingdom] that fills the earth—**after the crushing of the earthly kingdoms**.
 - Such is not nor has been the case in this era.
 - Today the image of Gentile world power is still standing.
 - The Church is not even close to being dominant—the only time it was somewhat dominant was during the time of apostasy and worldliness of Christianity. **And even that dominance did not endure, and it was replaced by other human empires!**

- II. WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS IMAGE?

- A. There is a continuous succession of world dominions and they are interconnected until Messiah’s kingdom is established—cf. v. 44: “In the days of those kings.” **This prophecy**

sees no GAP. [The only GAP we see in Daniel is in the prophecy concerning **God's people—Israel** (Daniel 9). *This prophecy shows us the times of the Gentiles.*

- B. During these kingdoms, there is a progressive division of sovereignty that climaxes in the **10 toe state**: Unified Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greek empire divided into 4 regions; Roman Empire divided between East and West, and then 10 ways.
- C. The metals in the image depict a progressive deterioration in the character of the ruler's authority. This deterioration is evidenced in:
 - 1. The metals representing each kingdom: *Gold, Silver, Bronze, Iron.*
 - 2. The position of the kingdoms in the image: *Head, torso, loins, legs and feet.*
 - 3. The specific gravity of the metals—the heaviest metals at the top; the image is top heavy and weak in its feet.
 - 4. All of this manifests a trend that is the **opposite of evolution**; man is getting worse.
- D. The metals of the image evidence an improvement in the strength of the metals.

But there is one more important question we must consider: Can this new kingdom represent the New Testament Church?

III. WHY THIS KINGDOM CANNOT BE THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

- A. The New Testament Church Is Not a Political Establishment (We are to be subject to political authorities—Rom 13 etc.
- B. Except in the Apostolic Church, Church Growth is quiet and imperceptible; it is not violent or catastrophic. Also, compare the **forceful winds** of verse 35.
- C. The Church has not overcome Gentile kingdoms—nor will it (See Revelation).
- D. The Spread of the Gospel is **not** a Smiting act. Such a concept is even contrary to New Testament Ethics: be subject, suffer and die if necessary.

Conclusion of Message

D. Devotion to God and Dignity for Daniel

- 1. Worship and Praise toward God (46-47)
- 2. Promotion of Daniel and his three friends (48-49)

CONCLUSION

Daniel had an important place in preparing for the soon reception of Judah's Captives

All this happened because he refused to compromise (Ch. 1)

We serve a Great God: Omnipotent, before whom the world is impotent.

Humble yourself before Him; His Name is Wonderful!