

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel's Privileges

The prophets of the Old Testament were given insight into events that would take place in the future. While many pronounced impending judgments, others were allowed to foretell the coming of the Messiah or give descriptions of the end times. However, the prophet Daniel had a perspective unlike any other; God allowed him to see the rise and fall of human empires, even the details of the final empire (Anti-Christ). These future kingdoms we now refer to as the empires of ancient history, and now that they've come and gone, we can clearly see what it was that God foretold through Daniel:

Daniel 2

"O King, in your vision you saw a huge statue of a man, shining brilliantly, frightening and awesome. The head of the statue was made of gold, its chest and arms were of silver, its belly and thighs were of bronze, its legs were of iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and clay. As you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain by supernatural means. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits. The whole statue collapsed. The pieces were crushed as small as chaff on a threshing floor, and the wind blew them all away without a trace. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth."

Here are some observations to note:

- The metals increase in strength but decrease in purity and value.
- The Medes and Persians were represented by two arms which united in one chest (one empire).
- The Greeks started with one ruler, Alexander, but were divided after his death (belly and thighs).
- The Romans' legs were the separate rule of the Western (Latin) Empire and the Eastern (Byzantine) Empire.
- Some commentators believe the feet to represent a future ten-kingdom coalition with some trace of Roman influence (thus the iron).
- The Rock that struck the feet is Christ's Second Coming; His kingdom will supplant man's final empire (Anti-Christ).
- Note the prophetic gap between the legs and the feet. It includes Christ's first coming and the Church Age.

