

DANIEL 2
SESSION TWO
A DREAM AND A KINGDOM
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1. Compare verses 36 and 45. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was true and involved future events.

Bible prophecy – history saw it fulfilled

Eschatology – the study things last and final – end time events

2. “Nebuchadnezzar's dream covered the prophetic panorama of Gentile history” from his reign until the forthcoming reign of Israel's Messiah.

The dream was political in nature. This dream prophesied Gentile empires between Nebuchadnezzar's reign and the reign of Jesus Christ.

In Luke 21:24 Christ refers to this time period as “ the times of the Gentiles.”

3. In the centuries that followed, history recorded the fulfillment of each prophecy.

(The toes may be the one exception and may represent a political system yet to come.)

Each portion of the statue represents a world empire (see v. 21).

Consider the historical fulfillments:

- The head made of gold (vv. 32, 37-38)

Famous ruler: Nebuchadnezzar

Historical fulfillment: The Babylonian Empire, 626-539 B.C.

- The chest and arms made of silver (Dan. 2:39)

Historical fulfillment: The Medo-Persian Empire, 539-331 B.C.

Famous ruler: Cyrus the Great (See Isa. 44:24,28; 45:1-4)

- The belly and thighs made of bronze (vv. 32, 39)

Historical fulfillment: The Grecian Empire, 331-63 B.C.

Famous ruler: Alexander the Great

- The legs made of iron (vv. 33, 40-43)

Historical fulfillment: The Roman Empire, 63 B.C.- A.D. 476

Famous rulers: Octavian (entitled Augustus), Tiberius, Nero

- The feet made of iron and baked clay (vv. 33, 41-43)

Possible interpretations: The two feet may represent the outgrowth of the divided

Roman Empire. As stated earlier, the toes on the feet may very well represent a

political system yet to come. Ten horns foretell a ten-kingdom (or ten-nation)

confederacy that will operate jointly at the time of Christ's return

(Dan. 7:7,24; Rev. 13:1; 17:12).

4. Compare Daniel 2:34-35 to 2:44-45. The rock represents the kingdom of Messiah, the

Lord Jesus Christ. This kingdom will fill the whole earth. Explore the symbolism in

Joshua 8:30-31 and Psalm 118:22-24 (quoted in 1 Pet. 2:4-8).

Joshua 8:30-31 – altar uncut stones by human hands

Psalm 113-118 the Hallel – recited at Orthodox Passover meals – “He who says, does. He speaks, and it comes to pass.”