



The God of Heaven

DANIEL 2:25-49

The God of Heaven

- ▶ “The God of Heaven” is a unique name of God in the book of Daniel, used five times in chapter 2 alone
- ▶ Among the Babylonians, the **chief God** is the one that rules the heaven. All other gods and creatures are under His authority.
- ▶ Daniel understood this clearly. This name speaks to the mindset of the people he wants to reach (i.e. Chinese bible)



- ▶ Paul did the same thing with the Athenians (Acts. 17:21-34). We should do the same in our generation with our neighbours.
- ▶ “The God of Heaven” also refers to the passing of time, since that generation was heavily into astrology and believed that the heavens told what was to come. And Daniel was about to explain that there is a God that rules all heaven, including **time**.
- ▶ (v.27-30) Daniel didn't used this opportunity to just introduce the Lord to the king, he also **gave all the glory to God**.



The Great Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The great image that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. Each section represents a world-ruling superpower. Each succeeding metal is less valuable, but each succeeding metal is stronger, as each empire was more powerful than the last.

Silver—Chest and Arms

The silver chest with two arms signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

Bronze—Belly and Thighs

This section represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, which swallowed up Persia.

Iron—Legs

The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterized the Late Roman Empire.

Iron & Clay—Feet and Toes

Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay—a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bond well. These represent the final phase of the Roman Empire, which will be made up of ten kings, some strong and some weak.

Gold—Head

This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.



The Great Image

- ▶ (v.31) Mighty and bright—these empires will **dominate** the world and Jerusalem with their power and culture, and will be frightening too
- ▶ (v.32) The Head of **Gold**—the first empire will be Babylon (v.38)
- ▶ (v.32) The Chest of **Silver**—Persia came after Babylon (v.39)
- ▶ (v.32) The Belly of **Bronze**—the Greek came after Persia (v.39)



Iron & Clay Feet

- ▶ (v.33) The legs of **Iron**—at first the **Roman empire**, then divided into the Eastern and Western empire (v.40) It specifically mentioned its destructive power (i.e. iron sword)
- ▶ (v.33) The final period of Gentile rule will consist of a **divided kingdom**, some parts weak and some strong. Although united it is not mixed (v.41-43)
- ▶ The **10 toes** on the feet refers to the ten kings in this union (Rev. 13:1; 17:12; also see Dan. 7:7-8)



Jesus Will Establish His Kingdom

- ▶ (v.34-35) “a stone was cut out by no human hand” it is **made** but not by **man**, this refers **Christ** and His virgin birth, which is God’s doing and not of man. He will come to remove all Gentile nations and establish His everlasting kingdom (v.44)
- ▶ (v.35) This concludes the times of Gentile, (Luke 21:24) when God returns as the king on earth of His own people. Therefore this vision is a record of the whole course of history from Daniel’s time to the Second Coming of Christ.



Conclusion

- ▶ Do not use the newspaper to **interpret** the Bible. When the prophecy is fulfilled, no one can doubt it by looking back on it. But until then it will remain a **mystery**.
- ▶ God is still the God of Heaven today, we need not fear the day to day politics of the world. We can trust that God is in charge of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
- ▶ We can use prophecy to bring others to God like Daniel. Remember to relate God to them in a way that they can understand and relate to, yet never change the truth.