

NEBUCHADNEZZAR SEES THE BIG PICTURE

PROLOGUE | Hebrew Introduction – Placing Daniel in Babylon (1:1-2:4)

PART 1 | Aramaic Main Body – **Announcements to the Nations (2:5-7:28)**

A. Vision of kingdoms (ch 2 – image with four valuable metals, ultimately crushed)

A. What was the dream? (2:31-35)

1. The _____ form of a statue, with four or five sections (v31-33)
 - a. Descriptions like “great image, whose splendor was excellent... was awesome” indicate what first captured the _____ of the king.
 - b. The four _____, and the mixture with clay are described in detail.
2. The _____ work of a divine stone (v34-35)
 - a. “cut without hands” indicates a divine origin, not a _____ origin.
 - b. The stone strikes the feet, then the _____ statue is crushed and eliminated, and finally the stone became a mountain filling the earth.

B. What did the dream reveal? (2:36-45)

*The audience of this interpretation is King Nebuchadnezzar (v36 “before the king”)

1. Gold (v37-38)

- a. “You are this head of gold” clearly identifies Nebuchadnezzar and his _____ kingdom as the first of a series of kingdoms represented in the dream.
- b. “For the God of heaven has given...” clearly identifies who is _____ over Babylon and the kingdoms which would follow.
 - Parallels in Daniel – 7:4, 17
 - Why did God elevate Babylon? (Ezra 5:12, Luke 21:20-24)

2. Silver (v39a)

- a. An _____ kingdom will succeed Babylon.
 - Parallels in Daniel – 7:5; 8:3, 20 (“Media and Persia”); 11:2
 - Babylon’s downfall was predicted in other prophecies – Jeremiah 27:7, Habakuk 2:8

3. Bronze (v39b)

- a. Yet “another, a _____ kingdom” will succeed Babylon’s successor, ruling “all the earth”.
 - Parallels in Daniel – 7:6; 8:5, 21 (“the kingdom of Greece”); 11:3-35

4. Iron & iron mixed with clay (v40-43)

- a. "The fourth kingdom" will be remarkably _____, at least initially. (v40)
- b. The clay indicates that the strength will diminish – "the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly _____." (v41-43)
 - Parallels in Daniel – Daniel 7:7-8, 19-26; 9:26-27

5. Stone cut without hands (v44-45)

- a. In the days of the fragile kings, the God of Heaven will establish the final kingdom of the earth, which will _____ come to an end.
 - Parallels in Daniel – 7:13-14, 27
 - Key parallels: 2 Sam. 7:16; Psm. 2:7-9; Matt. 16:16-17, 21:33-45; Rev. 11:15, 19:11-20

Four needed clarifications for the church:

1. This is a _____ kingdom through which God will rule the world.
2. This kingdom was not established at Christ's _____ coming.
3. The _____ today is not this kingdom, though members of the church will play a role in this kingdom in the future.
4. So, we are not _____ the kingdom of God on earth right now.

- b. God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to know the _____ of these future events.
 - What was God doing to Nebuchadnezzar?

C. How did Nebuchadnezzar respond? (2:46-49)

1. He is overwhelmingly _____ by Daniel's God (v46-47)
2. He _____ Daniel and, at Daniel's request, also his three friends (v48-49)

**What kind of God do we have?*