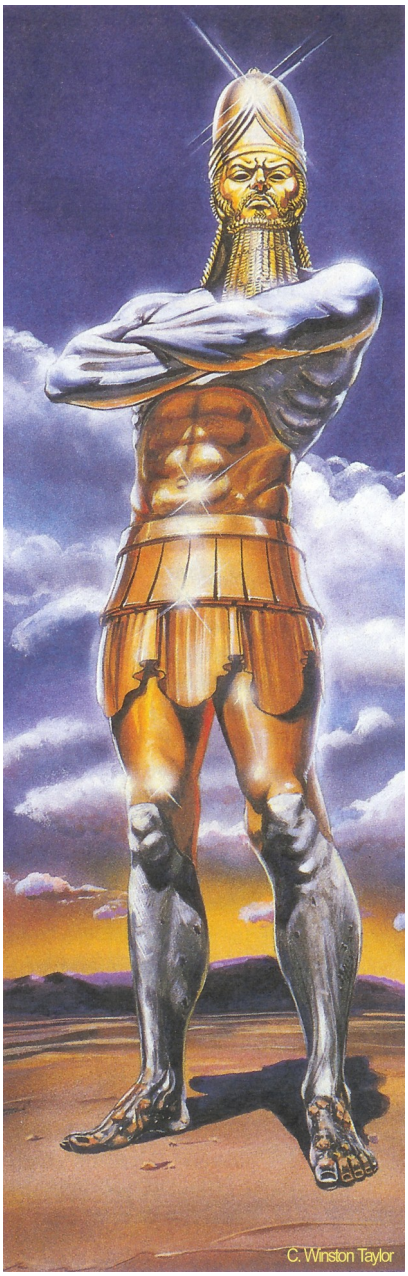
"THE KING OF KINGS IS IN CONTROL"

(The King's Dream is Interpreted)
Daniel 2:31-49
3-14-2021



INTRODUCTION: Verses 31-36

***The LORD is sovereign over this world's kingdoms.**
(God is in control!)

Four evidences of God's sovereignty:

I. The LORD <u>ESTABLISHES</u> the power of this world's kingdoms (v. 37-38)

II. The LORD <u>PREDICTS</u> the future of this world's kingdoms (v. 39-43)

III. The LORD will <u>DESTROY</u> this world's kingdoms (v. 44-45; cp. 34-35)

IV. The LORD will <u>REPLACE</u> this world's kingdoms (v. 44-45)
"Thy Kingdom come" - Mt. 6:10

A. Christ's Kingdom will come <u>personally</u> (v. 44a, 45a)

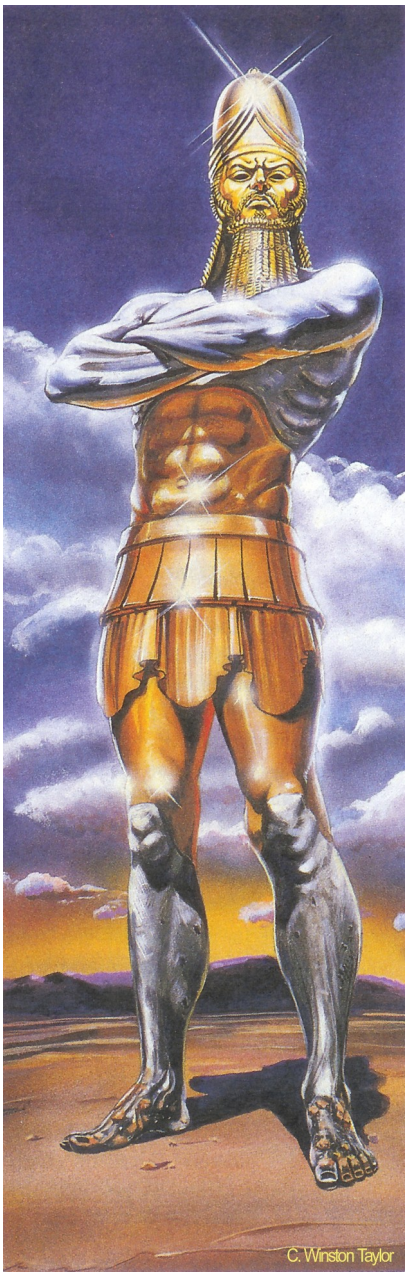
B. Christ's Kingdom will come <u>permanently</u> (v. 44b)

C. Christ's Kingdom will come <u>positively</u> (v. 45b)

CONCLUSION: Verses 46-49

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INTRODUCTION: Verses 31-36

There is much talk of a "New World Order" today!

The theme of Daniel is simply this:

God is in control of the course of history!

He controls kings and kingdoms,
emperors and empires
princes and parliaments

God has controlled yesterday (the past), is controlling today (the present), and will control tomorrow (the future).

The phrase "latter days" (2:28) demonstrates the prophetic significance of this dream.

The Importance of Studying Eschatology

What is the purpose for studying prophecy?

1. To teach us what God's plans are
   A knowledge of Bible prophecy "provides the believer with an optimistic philosophy of history" (Alva McClain)

2. To inspire us about the greatness of God (Is. 46:9-11)
   (He is omniscient [He knows all] and He is sovereign [He controls all])

3. To assure us of the unity and reliability of Scripture
   A vast portion of the Bible is given to predictive prophecy. It is said that 333 distinct prophecies were literally and exactly fulfilled at the first coming of Christ (the chances of this happening by accident have been computed as 1 in 87,000--plus 90 more zeros).

   For every verse speaking of Jesus' first coming in Scripture, there are eight which speak of His second coming.

4. To encourage us to be faithful to God and His Word

God's future program is a source of:

a. Comfort to the sorrowing Christian (I Thess. 4:13-14; John 14:1-4)

b. Strength to the Christian enduring testing (II Cor. 4:14-18; Rom. 8)

c. Warning to the lazy, unfaithful Christian (II Cor. 5:9, 10)

d. Correction to the Christian who places too much value on this life (II Peter 3:10-12)

e. Reproof to the Christian who becomes doctrinally careless (II Thess. 2:5; II Pet. 1:19)

f. Cleansing for the Christian who keeps his eyes on Christ and His future glory (I Jn. 3:2-3)
(cp. W.E. Blackstone, Jesus is Coming, p. 180)

5. To wake us up to realize the extreme urgency of the hour in which we live (Rom. 13:11-12). God's longsuffering is so that others might be saved (II Pet. 3:8-9, 15)

6. To prepare us for the most dreadful time of persecution in human history -- the 70th week of Daniel (commonly called "The Tribulation Period") (Rev. 14:12)

7. To bless us with God's revelation about the future (Rev. 1:3)

V. 31

"A great <u>image</u>" = a large <u>statue</u>.

As will be evident, this statue represents the major four kingdoms
or empires of ancient history, and the Gentile dominion during the "times of the Gentiles."

This image (statue) represented kingdoms that were:

1)<u>Large</u> in size ("great" = enormous or exalted)

2)<u>Splendid</u> in prosperity ("brightness" = dazzling shining brilliancy)

3)<u>Dreadful</u> in power ("terrible" = fearful appearance, frightening)

V. 32

1. Head . . . . . Gold
2. Chest & arms . . . . Silver
3. Stomach and thighs . Brass
4. Legs . . . . . Iron
5. Feet . . . . . Iron mixed with clay

V. 32-33

NOTE: This image is not meant to describe all of the world's major powers (Ex. It does not describe the Egyptian dynasty nor the Assyrian Empire, which preceded Babylon). Rather, it begins by describing the Empire of Babylon (SEE: V. 38ff) and the following empires to the end of the Gentile-dominated world.

Observations:

1. The Image depicts 4 distinct empires (evident by the four metals - 1) gold; 2) silver; 3) brass; 4) iron)

2. The fourth empire (the "iron" one) has two aspects [two time frames]. Proof:

   a. Legs = iron
   b. Feet = iron/clay

3. Each empire is inferior in worldly quality to its preceding empires. Proof:

   a. The decreasing value of the metals:

      Fine (pure) Gold --- Silver --- Brass --- Iron --- Iron/Clay

   b. The lower level of each part of the image (begins at the "head" and descends to the "feet" [toes, v. 42]).

   Each kingdom deteriorates not in size, scope, or longevity, but in magnificence.

   The downward progression from best to poorest goes contrary tot he theory of evolution. The course of sin will reach its apex when the final stage of the fourth kingdom is fulfilled.

4. Each kingdom is militarily stronger (the metals are progressively stronger,

possibly picturing increased military might) [NOTE: V. 40 - "strong as iron"]

V. 36

Daniel, by the wisdom of God, gives the king both the dream and its interpretation.

V. 37

"A king of kings" - Nebuchadnezzar stands out as Premier among the ancient pagan rulers (NOTE: Jesus is "The King of kings" - Rev. 19:16).

***The LORD is sovereign over this world's kingdoms.**
(God is in control!)

Four evidences of God's sovereignty:

I. The LORD ESTABLISHES the power of this world's kingdoms (v. 37-38)

V. 37

"God . . . hath given thee a kingdom . . ." - God is sovereign over the affairs of nations. He gave Nebuchadnezzar what he had.

V. 38

Nebuchadnezzar reigned over all the known world. And it was God who gave him such authority.

Sovereignty -

Psalm 62:11 - "God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God."

Psalm 75:6-7 - "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south." But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another."

Cp. Hannah's song - I Sam. 2:6-10

SEE: Daniel 4:34-35

"Thou art this head of gold" - Nebuchadnezzar is personifying the kingdom of Babylon.

Babylon was known as "The Golden City" (Is. 14:4).

II. The LORD PREDICTS the future of this world's kingdoms (v. 39-43)

V. 39

Specifically God predicts the:
--Longevity (length)
--Quality
--Sequence (succession)

Of this world's kingdoms.

"After thee shall arise another kingdom" - Specifically a reference to the Medo-Persian Empire under Darius the Mede (Dan. 5:36-31)

"Inferior to thee" (just as silver is inferior to gold - v. 32) - The Medo-Persian Empire was nowhere as great as the Babylonian empire in its highest glory.

"Another third kingdom" = Greece, under Alexander the Great, who sought to conquer the known world and to force his Greek culture and language on the people he conquered.

V. 40

"The fourth kingdom" = Rome, under the Caesars, was "strong as iron" as it cruelly crushed its enemies with its iron swords, weaponry, chariots, etc.

V. 39ff

"This image depicted a period of time referred to as "the times of the Gentiles" (Lk. 21:24), beginning with Nebuchadnezzar (587 B.C.) and continuing through the 70th week of Daniel, until Christ's literal return to the earth. During the "times of the Gentiles," no son of David will proper, ruling over Israel (Rosenthal, June 1990, "Zion's Fire" p. 5)

God gives the same prophecy as this image in chapter 7. However, rather than describing each kingdom as a part of a statue, God describes each kingdom as an animal:

1) Lion - Babylon (v. 4)
2) Bear - Medo-Persia (v. 5)
3) Leopard - Greece (v. 6)
4) Dreadful beast with iron teeth - Rome

This animal is described as having 10 horns (which correspond to the 10 toes - 2:42). These horns are said to be kings that will reign during the time

of the Antichrist (Daniel 7:19-27).

V. 41

In the same fashion in which the Antichrist (the final human global leader) will be fatally wounded and rise again (Rev. 13:3ff), so his kingdom (Rome) will experience a revitalization.

Rome was in power when Christ came the first time, and in some sense she will be when He returns the second time.

Just as there exists a gap in time between the first 69 weeks and the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy (9:25-27), so there exists a gap in time between the legs and the feet and toes.

"Potter's clay" = baked clay that is very brittle.

"The kingdom shall be divided" = a composite; a mixture of "iron" (strong nations) and "clay" (weak nations).

V. 42

Strong nations and weak nations will combine to form a "one world kingdom."

V. 43

This final kingdom will be a mixing ("mingle themselves") but not a genuine unity ("they shall not cleave one to another").

III. The LORD will DESTROY this world's kingdoms (v. 44-45; cp. 34-35)

V. 44

"These kings" = the kings that will be mingled together (v. 43); i.e. the ten toes (v. 42).

Some wrong interpret the falling of the stone to Christ's first coming -- An impossibility in light of the fact that there are still Gentile kings (rulers) and kingdoms today. Such kingdoms will end only when Christ returns for His second coming.

NOTE: When Christ returns for judgment, it will be a literal, visible, supernatural, devastating judgment. Jesus did not come "spiritually" in 1914, as the Jehovah Witnesses claim, for some form of "investigative judgment."

V. 45

Whom does the "stone" represent (v. 45)?
Answer: Jesus Christ!

Proof - See v. 34-35:

1) Jesus Christ is called a "stone" or "rock" in Scripture.

--"Spiritual rock" in the O.T. (I Cor. 10:4)
--"Stumbling stone" (Rom. 9:33)
--"Rock of offence" (I Pet. 2:8)
--"Cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20; cp. Mt. 21:42)
--The "foundation" stone (I Cor. 3:11)
--"The Lord is my rock and my fortress" - Ps. 18:2
(cp. Ps. 18:31, 46; 28:1; 31:2-3; 40:2; 42:9; 61:2, 6; 71:3; 78:35; 89:26; 92:15; 94:22; 95:1; cp. I Sam. 2:2; II Sam. 22:3, 32, 47; 23:3)
--The "stone" in prophecy (Zech. 3:9; cp. Rev. 5:6)

2) It's a stone "cut out without hands" - Points to the supernatural nature of the destruction; not of human origin.

The use of "hands" speaks of human effort; Christ accomplishes his work, however, without hands - without human cooperation or "works" (Col.

2:11; Heb. 9:11)

NOTE: Also may have reference to the nature of Christ and point to His uncreated existence

3) The image will be struck at its feet

The feet include 10 toes (v. 42) which are said to be the 10 kingdoms or kings (v. 44). It is Christ Jesus who destroys the 10 kings upon His return at His second coming (Rev. 17:7, 12; 19:19).

4) The phrase "brake them in pieces" - points to Messiah's (Christ's) work of judgment yet to come (Ps. 2:7; Rev. 2:27, 12:5, 19:15).

5) The stone after destroying the world's kings and kingdoms becomes a "great" mountain and fills the earth" (v. 35). This can only refer to Christ who will establish His kingdom (SEE: Isaiah 2:1-4; cp. Micah 4:1-4; Rev. 20:1-10).

V. 35

"Broken to pieces together" - Each kingdom depicted by the image come to an end and a new kingdom comes "after" (v. 39).

This new kingdom thus absorbed the worldly elements of the previous kingdoms. Hence, when Christ destroys the image at its feet, He obliterates the composite of all the world's kingdoms.

All of the world's kingdoms of the past, present, and future Tribulation will end when Christ's returns for Armageddon.

His coming marks the culmination or the final and complete destruction of the times of the Gentiles.

[NOTE: To study the composite nature of the fourth kingdom, SEE: Rev. 13:1-2; cp. with Dan. 7:4-7. A conglomeration of the leopard, bear and lion is pictured, manifesting the whole political Satanic beast system.]

"Chaff" - NOTE: Normally when the metals described become crushed, cut, etc., they retain their weight and value. In this dream, the image was obliterated so that not a trace remained.

IV. The LORD will REPLACE this world's kingdoms (v. 44-45)

V. 44

NOTE: Christ's kingdom does not co-exist with the world's kingdoms. It replaces them!

"Thy Kingdom come" - Mt. 6:10

The reason Jesus told us to pray "Thy kingdom come" is because it has not come yet! But one day it will!

A. Christ's Kingdom will come personally (v. 44a, 45a)

God's kingdom personified by His Son, the Stone (Jesus Christ), will suddenly crush and consume the world's powers in the "Day of the LORD." His kingdom will then stand forever!

B. Christ's Kingdom will come permanently (v. 44b)

Theological note: The four previously mentioned kingdoms were literal, therefore there is no good, hermeneutically consistent reason to not view the last kingdom as literal also!

"Kingdom . . . shall never be destroyed" - the future millennial kingdom (Rev. 20:1-10) is the initial stage of God's eternal kingdom. At the end of the Millennium Christ will deliver this kingdom up to God the Father (I Cor. 15:24-28).

"The kingdom shall not be left to other people" - In contrast to man's kingdoms which were all absorbed by their conqueror, Christ's kingdom will not be taken over by anyone!

C. Christ's Kingdom will come positively (v. 45b)

NOTE: The guaranteed certainty of fulfillment -

"Shall come to pass hereafter"
"The dream is certain"
"The interpretation thereof is sure"

> Just as Jesus said: "heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35).

CONCLUSION: Verses 46-49

V. 46

The king, realizing the authenticity of Daniel's interpretation falls down and worships him.

V. 47

Nebuchadnezzar gives credit where Daniel wanted it to go (cp. v. 28) - to God!

V. 48

Nebuchadnezzar keeps his promise (2:6).

V. 49

Daniel always had the vest interest of his companions in mind. Daniel requests that they work with him. He could, therefore, delegate to reputable, reliable and godly men.

They had oversight over Babylon, and Daniel was even above them.

"To sit in the gate of the king" means to hold a royal office and be a chancellor or prime minister. It's like having an office in the White House adjacent to the President's.

"The tenth decade of the twentieth century may well be the most momentous period of time in the annuls of human history. Men and nations are in convulsions. The planet earth, like a great skein of yarn, is unraveling. Sin, transgression, wickedness, and

rebellion are the marching orders of the day.

--Russia is being dismantled.
--Eastern Europe is thrashing about.
--Western Europe has become materialistic and godless.
--Israel and the MIddle East remain a powder keg, ready to explode.
--China remains an isolationist nation and an enigma.
--Many third-world nations continue in poverty and revolution.
--America, the once "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave," has become like a basket of overripe summer fruit (rotten, smelling, and ready for judgment)."

(Rosenthal, p. 7, Zion's Fire, June/July 1990)

Nebuchadnezzar dream has a four-fold application:

1) To the Gentile Rulers - do not grow proud! Your kingdom (reign) will not last forever.

2) To the nation of Israel - Quit struggling to establish your kingdom without the king (Your only hope is the "stone cut out without hands").

3) To the unsaved - "Put not your trust in princes..." (SEE: Psalm 146:3-5, 10)

   Ps. 118:8-9 - "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes."

4) To the believer - Love not the world (system) (I Jn. 2:15-17). "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth" (Mt. 6:19-21). Live holy godly lives in view of what is in store for the future (II Pet. 3:10-11).