

# Times are Crazy, Live For God

*Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these: Daniel 2:27,28*

## HOW IS GOD MAKING "THIS" ALL FIT?

Daniel 2:29- *"As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.*

30- *As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.*

31- *"You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.*

32- *The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,*

33- *its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.*

34- *While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.*

35- *Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.*

36- *"This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.*

The various materials and parts of the statue represent the different Gentile kingdoms that would one day be completely destroyed and replaced by the divine King. (Chuck Swindol - Daniel - p 25)



Head of gold: Kingdom of Babylon: 606- 536 BC

Nebuchadnezzar is seen as pre-eminent: he was sole authority.

Arms/Chest of Silver: Kingdom of Medo-Persia: 536-330 BC

The Medo-Persian empire lasted longer than Babylon and conquered more but is seen as inferior because the ruler was not in total control.

Belly/Thighs of Bronze: Kingdom of Greece: 330 BC to 65 BC

Greece under Alexander ruled most of the world but lacked organization and had much less control than those who came before.

Legs of Iron, feet of Iron and Baked Clay: 65 BC to ...

Initially Rome was a Republic led by a Democratic government. When Augustus Caesar consolidated power it became an empire. The final form of the Roman empire is seen in a consolidated European Union.

Rock cut out, not by human hands: Jesus Christ and His Kingdom:

Psalm 118:22-23- *The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

Ps 2:9- *You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.*

## WHERE DO "I" FIT?

37- *You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;*

38- *in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.*

39- *"After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.*

40- *Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.*

41- *Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.*

42- *As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.*

43- *And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.*

44- *"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.*

45- *This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."*

46- *Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.*

47- *The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."*

48- *Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.*

49- *Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.*