

“A Great Image – A Great Prohecy!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Last Week:** Remember, “Daniel’s **Problem** moved him to **Prayer**, Answered **Prayer** moved him to **Praise**, & **Praise** lead him to **Proceed!**”
 - 1.1.1. Daniel’s Prayer (2:20-23) sets up this ½ of the chapter...God sov. over the kings & their kingdoms.
- 1.2. Poor Neb., he would conqueror the whole world, but not be able to conqueror his own heart!
 - 1.2.1. Daniel will show that a **Pure Heart** is better than a **Powerful Heart!**

2. **THE INTERPRETER! (24-30)**

- 2.1. (24) Daniel graciously pleads for his opponents.
 - 2.1.1. That’s the kind of man Daniel was!
 - 2.1.2. **Remember:**
 - 2.1.2.1. God works best in “**impossible**” situations!
 - 2.1.2.2. “**Prayer**” is our most stable source of help!
 - 2.1.2.3. To be “**specific**” with our Praise!
 - 2.1.2.3.1. Daniel didn’t give a **generic**, “Praise the Lord!” or, “God is Good!”
 - 2.1.2.3.2. But Praised Him for **specific** things (20-23)
 - 2.1.2.3.3. **Q:** Would you rather here your boss say, “you’re good”; or, “you did a good job on that last report you sent me”?
 - 2.1.2.3.4. **Maybe you’d take your boss saying either? ☺**
- 2.2. (25-27) Daniel brought before the king.
- 2.3. (28-30) To God be the Glory!
 - 2.3.1. (28) He made sure they didn’t think “**he**” had the power.
 - 2.3.1.1. **Q:** When God uses you, how do **you** tell the story?
 - 2.3.1.2. (Boastfully)? Texan in Manila/big belt buckle, “I led 278 souls to Christ!”
 - 2.3.1.3. I’m guilty of proudly being the hero of my own stories before. **Have you?**
 - 2.3.1.4. **Prov.3:7** “Do not be **wise in your own eyes**;”
 - 2.3.1.5. **Prov.26:12** “Do you see a man **wise in his own eyes**? There is more hope for a **fool** than for him.”
 - 2.3.1.6. **Rom.12:16** “Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be **wise in your own opinion.**”

- 2.3.2. “Later Days” – Future events.
- 2.3.3. (30) Why Daniel got the Dream & its Interpretation.
 - 2.3.3.1. 1st why he **didn't** – not his own “smarts”.
 - 2.3.3.2. But because [1] God wanted to spare our lives [2] God would reveal the condition of your heart to you Neb.

3. **THE DESCRIPTION! (31-35)**

- 3.1. (31) A Great Image!
 - 3.1.1. It was awesome/terrible/scary.
- 3.2. (32,33) Its Description!
 - 3.2.1. Show overhead.¹
- 3.3. (34,35) The Flying Stone!
 - 3.3.1. “Without hands” – not an earthly kingdom but heavenly.
 - 3.3.1.1. See vs.45 ‘The God of heaven...’.
 - 3.3.2. We’ll discuss in more detail in vs. 44,45.

4. **THE INTERPRETATION! (36-45)**

- 4.1. These metals represent Future World Powers!
 - 4.1.1. **Gold** Babylon Empire;
Silver/Medo-Persian Empire;
Bronze/Grecian Empire;
Iron Roman Empire;
Iron & Clay/The revived Roman Empire.
- 4.2. This describes 4 kingdoms + 10 kings.
 - 4.2.1. This may be ancient history to us but remember, Daniel is writing during the Babylonian reign(500's bc), these other empires weren't empires!
 - 4.2.2. Note the metals increase in strength **Gold** → **Iron** (soft to hard); but diminish in value!
- 4.3. (37,38) **Gold/Head = Babylon Empire**
 - 4.3.1. Note Babylon is called **Gold** in **Is.14:4** “that you will take up this proverb against the king of **Babylon**, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, The **golden city ceased!**”

¹ From Swindoll, Daniel pg.32

- 4.3.2. **Why Gold? - Historians** tell us the city dripped with Gold! “All the walls & buildings were overlaid in gold” says, **Herodotus** (a Gk. Historian who visited Babylon 90 years later}
- 4.4. **(39a) Silver/Chest & Arms = Medo-Persian Empire**
 - 4.4.1. A dual empire, they worked together to defeat Mighty Babylon.
 - 4.4.1.1. The Euphrates river ran around (causing a mote) & through Babylon. – The Medes & Persians diverted the Euphrates river, causing the water level to drop, enabling them to enter at night.
 - 4.4.2. The **Kurds** are the present day **Medes!**
 - 4.4.3. **Iranians** are the present day **Persians.**
 - 4.4.3.1. They’ve had a long-standing relationship. - Maybe this is the reason **Iran** opened up its doors to the **Kurdish people** fleeing Saddam Hussein a few years back.
 - 4.4.4. This kingdom was made up of a king Darius the Mede, but also very powerful “Princes”.
 - 4.4.4.1. So strong the king couldn’t change a law w/o these nobles consenting.
 - 4.4.4.2. Which is why this authority structure was “**inferior**” to Babylon(39a)
 - 4.4.4.3. **Example** of this is in Esther when she asked the king to revoke wicked Haman’s decree. The king said to Esther "**You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke.**" (Esther 8:8)
 - 4.4.5. **Why Silver? –** Silver became prominent for coinage in Ancient Persia.
- 4.5. **(39b) Bronze/Belly & Thighs = Grecian Empire**
 - 4.5.1. Led by Alexander the Great.
 - 4.5.2. “**all the earth**” wasn’t said of the last kingdom.
 - 4.5.3. Alexander, at age 33, sat on the banks of the Euphrates River crying, because he had “**no more worlds to conquer**”.
 - 4.5.4. He brought the “**Hellenistic period**” in which brings the **Greek culture & language** before Christ was to be born, & the N.T. was to be written.

- 4.5.5. **Why 2 thighs(32)?** – Alexander left his kingdom to his 4 generals.
 - 4.5.5.1. Only 2 of which became powerful.
 - 4.5.5.2. [1] Empire of Syria– That was the Seleucid Dynasty.
 - 4.5.5.2.1. Much bigger than Syria today.
 - 4.5.5.3. [2] Empire of Egypt – Ran by the Ptolemies(Talamee)
 - 4.5.5.3.1. Controlled all of N. Africa.
- 4.5.6. **Why Bronze?** – History lets us know Greece heavily used Bronze.
All their soldiers were outfitted w/Bronze shields!
- 4.6. **(40) Iron/Legs = Roman Empire**
 - 4.6.1. 2 legs represent, according to history, the **East & West** divisions.
 - 4.6.1.1. Constantine made **Constantinople**(present day Istanbul) the East’s capital 33ad.
 - 4.6.1.2. The split was “religious in nature” – The **Greek Orthodox church** split (East/Turkey)from the **Roman Catholic church**(West/Rome).
 - 4.6.1.3. Thought hey had many differences (*allegiance to the Roman Pope*) the motivation was rooted more in “political” things.
 - 4.6.2. **Why Iron?** “Strong as Iron...break in pieces” – Rome didn’t take over or just defeat their enemy, they “crushed them”!
 - 4.6.3. Rome was never destroyed, or taken over, but it simply **fell apart**, from the inside out(morally & spiritually).
- 4.7. **(41-44a) Mixed Iron & Clay/10 Toes = Revived Roman Empire**
 - 4.7.1. **Revived** because it is an extension of the old Roman empire (after a gap of time...see 44a “in the days of the king”).
 - 4.7.1.1. You here it called the “**European Common Market**”. Or, the European Economic Community (EEC). Headquarters are in Geneva.
 - 4.7.1.2. **Boarders are relaxed** - I saw this in Austria, where Eric made a wrong turn & in 5 minutes & we were in Italy.
 - 4.7.2. We’ve been given the description of **4 kingdoms** & now not a kingdom but **10 kings** “they will not adhere to each other”(43).
 - 4.7.3. We will talk again about these guys in **Daniel 7**, & it’s in **Revelation 17**.
 - 4.7.4. **Why Iron & Clay?** – symbolize an unstable extension of the Roman Empire.
 - 4.7.5. We are rapidly approaching **the end of time**. We see society cracking more & more each day.

- 4.8. **(44b-45; 34,35) The Stone**
- 4.8.1. The **Stone** is the Messiah, who will destroy the kingdoms of this world at the end of the tribulation(Armageddon) to set up His own Kingdom...the **Mountain** that fills the earth!
- 4.8.2. This vision covers the “**times of the Gentiles**” – See Lk21:23-28.
- 4.8.2.1. This “time” starts with The **Gentile** King Neb invasion of Judah, to the 2nd coming of the Messiah.
- 4.8.2.2. During this time the Gentile powers dominate the nation of Israel. – No descendant of David sits on the Throne.
- 4.8.3. Jesus is referred to as a **stone** in many places:
- 4.8.3.1. **Mt.21:42-44** “Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The **stone** which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'? "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you(**Israel**) and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. "And whoever falls on this **stone** will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."
- 4.8.4. “**Certain & sure**” - This will happen...God says so!

5. **THE PROMOTION!** (46-49)

- 5.1. Here we have a very powerful king on his face before a little Jewish lad.
- 5.1.1. Unfortunately Neb will forget this later & have to learn this important lesson of Gods Sovereignty ...**the Hard Way!**
- 5.1.1.1. Where God lowers him to animal status!
- 5.2. (48) “**over**” – That’s why they want him to become “lion lunch” in a few chapters.
- 5.3. (49) When you come to God’s throne, then you don’t have to fear any King’s throne!
- 5.3.1. Daniel knew “**the God of heaven**”!
- 5.3.1.1. His mercy(18) – that He answers prayer(19-23) – He reveals secrets(28) – He establishes rulers(37) - & will one day set up His own Kingdom(44).
- 5.4. Remember all investments in earthly kingdoms are **temporary** at best!
- 5.4.1. Invest your life in something that will last...the kingdom of God.
- 5.4.2. See Luke 2:13-21
- 5.4.2.1. Q: What empire are you building?
- 5.4.2.2. Q: In which kingdom are you investing?