# 2: Daniel 2:24-49 2-17-00

“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 conquer the whole world, but not be able to conquer 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 conqueror”.

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 they 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 God’s 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?