

BIBLE MARKING NOTES ON DANIEL 2:28-45

Daniel Chapter 2

²⁸But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

²⁹As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

³⁰But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for *any* wisdom that I have more than any living, but for *their* sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

³¹Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible.

³²This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

³³His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

³⁴Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

³⁵Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

³⁶This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

³⁷Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

³⁸And whosoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold.

³⁹And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

⁴⁰And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

⁴¹And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

⁴²And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

⁴³And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

⁴⁴And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

⁴⁵Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar's Image

¹Refers to "the time of the end" (of the Gentiles). See Hos.3:4-5; Jer. 30:24; Deut. 4:30; Ezek. 38:16. The prophecy revealed events associated with the return of Christ and Armageddon.

²Nebuchadnezzar's dream would also reveal the unfolding of history from his time.

The Metals of the Image

– lessen in specific gravity as they go downward.

Gold – Nebuchadnezzar's power was of God – Vv.37-38.

Silver – Power in Persia depended on nobility of person.

Brass – In Greece power was not of birth but through individual influence.

Iron – In Rome power was dependent on popular choice.

The Dream Revealed

¹*dechal* – "to slink"; cause fear; i.e. to be formidable.

²The heaviest metal of image – it was top heavy. Represents the first and greatest empire – Babylon (606-539 BC).

³Medes followed by Persians (two arms) - 539-334 BC.

⁴Grecian Empire (334-67 BC) divided into King of North (Seleucid) and King of South (Ptolemaic).

⁵Western (ecclesiastical - Rome) and eastern (political - Constantinople) legs of the Roman Empire (67 BC->).

⁶Remnant of the Roman Empire – Catholicism in Europe.

⁷Remnant of Barbarian nations – European Democratic Republics.

⁸Not a human power – Ex. 20:22-25; 1 Sam. 17:40. Refers to the Kingdom of God of which Christ is the nucleus – Lk. 17:20; Matt. 21:44.

⁹Order reversed - destruction begins in days of feet.

¹⁰The image must stand complete with all its parts for it to be thus destroyed in the latter days (v.28).

¹¹Symbol of worthlessness – Job 21:18; Ps. 1:4; 35:5; Isa. 29:5.

¹²Symbol of ruling power – the Kingdom of God (Ps. 72:3).

The Dream Interpreted

History of Babylon – Nebuchadnezzar ruled 43 years from 606-563 BC; his son **Evil-Merodach** ruled 2 years from 563 BC; **Neriglissar** his son-in-law ruled 4 years from 561 BC; **Laboresoarched** (Neriglissar's son) ruled 9 months in 557 BC; **Nabonidus** ruled 18 years sharing the throne with his son **Belshazzar** who was killed by Cyrus 539 BC.

¹Cp. Gen. 1:26. Nebuchadnezzar was given temporary dominion by God.

²Babylon a city of golden splendor (Dan. 3:1).

³The Medo-Persian standard of currency was silver.

⁴Greeks worshipped Ea the god of brass. They traded in brass and used brazen armour.

⁵Rome used iron weapons and armor. Symbol for harsh rule.

The formation of the feet

¹Rome divided into political (Constantinople) and ecclesiastical leg (Rome) in 324 AD.

²Its strength was its religion - Catholicism.

³garav – Rt. to braid, i.e. intermix; to traffic (as if by barter); also to give or be security (trans. "be surety" Gen.44:32; Prov.6:1; 11:15; 20:16), i.e. as a guarantor.

⁴Roman Empire divided by Barbarian invasions 4-6th centuries.

⁵Symbolises the fragile union between autocratic Catholicism and Republican democracies of Europe.

Catholicism would take the initiative to unite itself with democratic nations of Europe (contrast "seed of men" with "king's seed" 1:3).

⁷Judgement will fall in days of the "toe" kings on the image united as one by Russian and Papal alliance – V.35.

⁸In 2 stages – Gogian confederacy in Israel (Ezek.38&39; Zech.14:1-4; Joel 3), and Catholic Europe the following 40 years (Rev.14:8-20).

The Image power represents a uniting of territories once occupied by the 4 world empires. Proof lies in the detailed description of the Gogian confederacy in Ezek.38 – e.g. Persia, Gomer (western Europe), Magog (Germany). The 4 beasts of Daniel 7 which amplify the metals of the image are said to "devour much flesh", i.e. capture the territory of their predecessors. The first 3 beasts also survive into the Kingdom (Dan. 7:12).