

# **End Times and the Coming Kingdom**

**Who will be the final world superpower?**

## The Great Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The great image that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. Each section represents a world-ruling superpower. Each succeeding metal is less valuable, but each succeeding metal is stronger, as each empire was more powerful than the last.

### Silver—Chest and Arms

The silver chest with two arms signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

### Bronze—Belly and Thighs

This section represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, which swallowed up Persia.

### Iron—Legs

The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterized the Late Roman Empire.

### Iron & Clay—Feet and Toes

Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay—a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bond well. These represent the final phase of the Roman Empire, which will be made up of ten kings, some strong and some weak.

### Gold—Head

This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.



- ✓ **Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. This indicates the supreme power and strength of the Babylonian rule, i.e. autocracy**
- ✓ ***'But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours...' (Dan.2:39). The Medes and Persians formed a dual-monarchy which was weaker than the autocracy of Babylon. Persian law was superior to their king***
- ✓ ***'...then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth'* (Dan.2:39). In 331 BC Alexander overthrew the Persian army. By the time of his early death, he created a universal empire and universal culture. After his death his kingdom was divided under 4 generals**

***'And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others' (Dan.2:40)***

**Rome conquered all the territory of the 3 preceding kingdoms and more territory.  
Then divided into East and West = the 2 legs**

**Four kingdoms but one image**

**Each successive kingdom is less autocratic and consults more with the will of the people. Thus, is characterized by changeableness and weakness**

**\*The feet and toes of iron and clay is a 10-nation confederacy arising at the end of the age**

**\*Some of these nations will be ruled by a dictator and the others by a democracy**

**\*Just as iron and clay do not mix, neither will these two forms of government - autocracy and democracy**

**\*The result is that they will rule until the time of the Antichrist**



**\*The four parts of the image correspond to the four beasts of Daniel 7 - lion, bear, leopard and fourth = 'dreadful, terrible, exceedingly strong' with 10 horns**

**\*Among the 10 horns of the 4th beast a little horn arises. He is a man of 'fierce countenance'**

**\*Because of the troubled times the 10 kings will invite him to become world ruler**

**\*He will accept and will enter into a treaty with Israel for 7 years**

**\*At the end of three and a half years will break his treaty and will turn in fury upon the Jews**

**\*It will be the 'day of Jacob's trouble', the Great Tribulation**

## **The Stone and the Everlasting Kingdom**

***'You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth'***

**(Dan.2:34-35)**





**The Stone is Jesus. He was cut out without hands, i.e. human instrumentality**

***'Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation"'***

**(Isa.28:16)**

***'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'? ... And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder"'***

**(Matt.21:42-44)**

**Is it Jesus at His 1st or 2nd coming?  
Has the kingdom come or is it coming?  
There is both a present and future aspect to the  
kingdom**

**It is referring to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus because:**

- ✓ **He did not smash Rome at His first coming.  
Rome smashed Him**
- ✓ **Neither is the Stone's conquest said to be  
gradual but instant**
- ✓ **Also, the everlasting kingdom does not fill the  
earth until the image has fallen and been taken  
away. *'Then the seventh angel sounded: And  
there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The  
kingdoms of this world have become the  
kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He  
shall reign forever and ever!"'* (Rev.11:15)**

***'Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS'***

**(Rev.19:11-16)**

## **Jesus will reign forever**

*'He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end'*

**(Lk.1:32-33)**

*'I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed'*

**(Dan.7:13-14)**



## **His Kingdom will be over all the earth**

***'And the LORD shall be King over all the earth'  
(Zech.14:9)***

***'...His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from  
the River to the ends of the earth' (Zech.9:10)***

***'Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all  
nations shall serve Him' (Psa.72:11)***

***'Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and  
given Him the name which is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of  
those under the earth, and that every tongue  
should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the  
glory of God the Father' (Phil.2:9-11)***

## **He will reign in righteousness and peace**

*'Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore'*

**(Isa.2:2-4)**

**The world shall be delivered from the curse, the  
bondage of corruption**

*'The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD AS the waters cover the sea'*

**(Isa.11:6-9)**

**There will be no more Satan and no more sin**

***'Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished'***

**(Rev.20:1-3)**



- ✓ **There is a divine climax for the human race. It is the kingdom of God**
- ✓ **The kingdom of God is mentioned approximately 160 times in the New Testament**
- ✓ **When the Bible refers to God's kingdom it always refers to His reign, His rule**
- ✓ **There is both a present and future aspect to the kingdom of God**
- ✓ **The kingdom of God is manifested whenever and wherever God's rule is exercised and submitted to**
- ✓ **We reject 'Lordship salvation'; but we do not reject the Lordship of Christ. He is Lord**