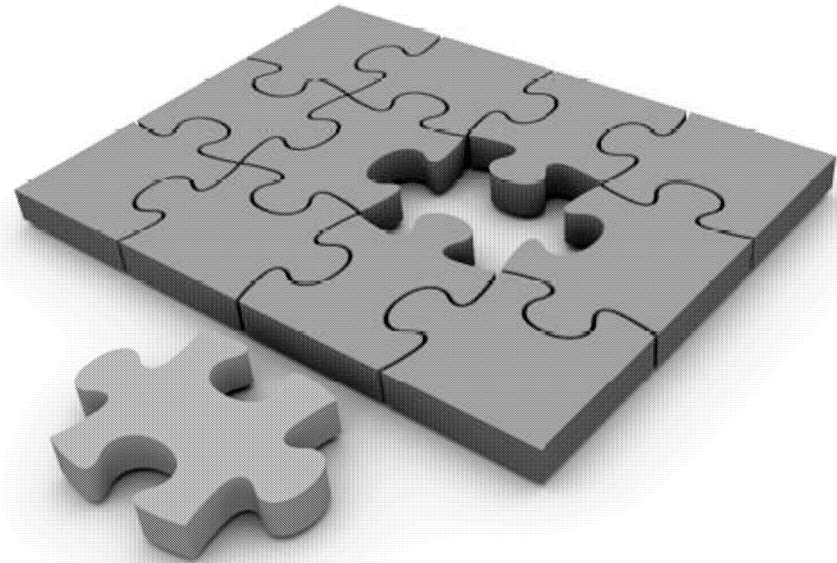


Studies in Daniel – (Study 7)
A kingdom that will never be destroyed

Reading: Daniel 2:37-45

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: " 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone ; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'.

(Matthew 21:42)



Living a godly life in an
ungodly world

Having revealed the contents of Nebuchadnezzar's dream; as required back in 2:5, Daniel is now able to interpret it.

Read: Daniel 2:37-45

- 1) In verses 37-38 Daniel seems to build up the position the king holds. *What is Daniel doing here?*
- 2) Nebuchadnezzar would have been flattered at being told that he was the head of gold. *Now that the other parts of the body clearly represent things that will mainly happen long after his time, why has God revealed this to the king now?*
- 3) What is the kingdom that Daniel is referring to in verse 44?

Read again verses 34-35 and 44-45.

- 4) What does the rock represent and what other scriptures would support this?
- 5) What are the characteristics of this kingdom that God sets up?
- 6) As we reflect on this incident, how can we pray for those in authority in our nation and world; that God would trouble them and reveal Himself to them; even through us?

Background Information

There has always been a debate as to which kingdoms the different parts of this statue represent. Consequently we face the danger of getting bogged down by definition and counter-definition, whilst missing the real point of the subject matter in hand.

A characteristic of Old Testament prophecy is that God, in revealing His longer term purposes (such as the first Advent of Christ or the End times leading to the Second Coming), often parallels it alongside shorter term history.

We might therefore conclude that the overall thought of this dream is that the statue stands for every world dominion that man builds. Indeed the number four is often used to represent the 'four corners of the earth'.

Having said that, there is also a definite pattern in the interpretation of the king's dream which begins with him and concludes with the establishing of the kingdom ushered in by the coming of Christ in the gospels.

Quote: "God wished, under this figure, to represent the future condition of the world till the advent of Christ. This is the reason why God joined these four empires together...since the second sprang from the first, and the third from that of the second" (Calvin).

The four immediate kingdoms represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream can therefore interpreted as follows:

Part	Material	Empire	Domination
Head	Gold	Babylonian	606 BC - 539 BC
Chest and Arms	Silver	Mede/Persian	539 BC - 331 BC
Belly and thighs	Bronze	Greek	331 BC - 146 BC
Legs and feet	Iron and Clay	Roman	146 BC - 476 AD