

DIAMONDS FROM DANIEL

by

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CHAPTER TWO

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM WORLD HISTORY FORETOLD

Statesmen would do well to study and search the sacred scriptures. Important decisions could then be made in direct harmony with the Divine decrees. Daniel wrote the history of the Gentile nations as accurately as a historian could describe it today. He foresaw the end of the great Babylonian empire, the rise and fall of the Medo-Persian Empire, the coming and crashing of all Grecian greatness as well as the rise and ruin of the Empire of Rome.

The Bible holds the key to the present world situation.

Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams

- God used an ass to rebuke the madness of the lucre loving prophet, Balaam.
- He commissioned a raven to carry fresh meat to the hungry prophet Elijah.
- He ordained a rooster to reprove the backslidings of an apostle Peter.
- He stretched a roaring lion across the path of a Timnath descending Samson.
- He warned a sinning Saul through the bleating of an innocent sheep.

And He honored a heathen king with one of the most far reaching visions ever vouchsafed to mortal man. God is always doing the unusual.

His spirit was troubled

The dream had made a lasting impression upon the mind of Nebuchadnezzar. Conscience, which makes cowards of all wrong doers, was troubling the wicked monarch. His mind was distressed, his spirit was troubled.

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar must have carried with it an incontestable evidence of its divine origin and prophetic importance. Nebuchadnezzar was a troubler of God's people, but God was the troubler of Nebuchadnezzar.

We know not the restlessness and unease of many who live in great pomp and put on a big, boastful outside show. We look into their houses and watch their extravagant ways and are tempted to envy, but could we look into their hearts we should pity rather than envy them.

I have dreamed a dream

At sundry times and in divers manners God has revealed his righteous will to men.

- Pharaoh's dream of the fat and lean kine was skillfully interpreted by Joseph.
- Jacob's dream of a ladder was a foreshadowing of Christ who was to bridge the gulf between a holy God and sinful men.

God leads; guides and directs by his providences, by dreams, by His Spirit and by His word.

Syriac

Daniel 2:3 to 6:28 inclusive is written in the Aramaic or Syriac language. The remaining portion of the Book of Daniel was written in Hebrew. That which was of supreme interest to the Gentiles was written in their own language.

It seems as if God would say to the Gentile world, Read here what shall become of your pomp, pride, and power. Learn here the end of your boasted civilization and genius.

Your houses shall be a dunghill

The king's answer displays the arrogance, violence and impetuosity of his character. It also serves to illustrate the evil tendency and fatal effect of arbitrary power placed into the hands of puny man. The king's apparent anxiety to understand the dream might have been produced by his fear of some sudden revolution in his empire.

Whatever was in his mind he was determined to brook no delay in executing his barbarous decree.

Ye shall be cut in pieces

This passage strikingly illustrates the character of ancient monarchs. Nothing can exceed the ferocity, arrogance, wickedness, and arbitrary violence of these reckless rulers. Pride and passion seemed to prevail while human life was held horribly cheap. They were to be dismembered, limb from limb and thus their condemnation not only included death but also involved the deprivation of the rights of a proper burial.

A dunghill:

The greatest disgrace was thus to be inflicted on the memory of the condemned. Their punishment was therefore to be threefold:

- (1) death,
- (2) dismemberment,
- (3) disgrace.

Ye would gain the time

The king evidently thought that they were trifling either to give them time to invent something or make an escape after having packed up their belongings.

There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter

This sets forth the impotency of oriental arts and professions. There are some things beyond the reach of all human knowledge or created genius.

Apart from GOD'S REVELATION it is impossible to know GOD'S WILL. Daniel in the Old Testament received the interpretation from above and Christ became a man from heaven to reveal God's will in the New Testament.

They sought Daniel . . . to be slain

On account of the youth of Daniel and his companions they were left out of the consultative councils. They were deemed unfit for consultation, but not for condemnation. Here is a flagrant example of the injustice of the despotic king and counsellors. Satan was thus making a bold bid for the destruction of Daniel and his holy companions.

He would shew the king the interpretation

With confidence in God and using the language of faith, Daniel wisely answered Arioch. He evidently knew that the same God in whom he trusted had given Joseph wisdom while in Egypt and here revealed the fact that the same God lived in his own dark days.

Mercies from the God of heaven

All answered prayer is a mercy from the God of heaven.

We receive answers to prayer not because of our merits or rights, but because of the mercies of the God of heaven.

We may receive nothing by way of recompense for our goodness or holiness, but all as the gift of God's goodness and grace.

Then was the secret revealed

The test was passed, the battle was won, the victory was complete. An all-night prayer meeting solved the pressing problem. The matter was spread before the God of heaven and then was the secret revealed. More secrets would be revealed if there were more all-night prayer meetings among God's holy people.

MORE PRAYER would bring MORE SECRETS and all would end in MORE PRAISE.

Then Daniel blessed . . . God

After prayer is answered, praise is in order. Daniel did not excitedly run off into the presence of the king of Babylon. He first of all had a shouting spell before the Lord God and then went in unto Arioch.

Wisdom and might are his

This is one of the great truths emphasized and illustrated in the book of Daniel. This book with it's mystic messages, it's strange symbols, it's days and dates, it's beasts and birds and it's times and half times sets forth in no uncertain terms that God is sovereign Lord and supreme ruler of all. WISDOM is not only knowing but knowing HOW, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY. The word *Might* speaks of ability to execute, rule or overrule according as wisdom directs.

God knows all things and can do all things. Thus is set for both the omniscience (wisdom) and omnipotence (might) of the God of the Bible.

He removeth kings and setteth up kings

God is the ruling and overruling one, setting up and removing kings as His wisdom directs and dictates. God is the overruling God, in wisdom knowing and in might working, setting up and casting down, permitting evil to work out its own ultimate destruction and preserving good to its full development and final triumph.

I thank thee

“Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee; for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.”

Here is a classical passage on the great question of thanksgiving. What a text for a Thanksgiving Day sermon.

I have found a man

How vain is man! In the ages past Satan said **“I will ascend—I will exalt myself.”** Pharaoh also said **“I will pursue, I will overtake.”** Arioch follows with his false **“I have found a man”** as if the discovery of Daniel and Daniel's abilities was owing purely to his own great diligence and sagacity.

I have found a man

A man. I have found a man. **“Gird up now thy loins like a man,”** God called to the fainting Job. Here is the need of the hour.

- MEN. Men, not methods.
- Men, not machinery.
- Men, not rules and regulations.
- Men, not plans and programs.

But MEN. Men like Daniel. **“I have found a man.”**

The latter days

This expression refers to the times of the Messiah. It takes in all time from the birth of Christ to his coming and kingdom. The latter days refer to the birth, ministry and millennial reign of Christ as Messiah. The crown rather than the cross is in view in the Old Testament.

That thou mightest know

God does not will that any man should remain in ignorance. Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is the most amazing panorama of world history ever unveiled to the mind of man by the mighty creator.

A great image

- A comprehensive outline of the prophetic future may be found in the book of ISAIAH.
- Interesting and instructive details as to the closing days of this age are given in the book of Zechariah.
- Ezekiel foretells the religious and civil state of Israel during the millennium.

The rise, growth, course, decay and doom of the Gentile powers are minutely unfolded in the prophecies of Daniel.

This image gives the outward imposing greatness and magnificence of the Gentile world-powers. The vision of Daniel and the beasts reveal the inward bestial condition of all world dominion.

Head of Gold:

This head of gold was Babylon with Nebuchadnezzar as its first God-ordained ruler. Babylon was called THE GOLDEN CITY (Isaiah 14:4; Jeremiah 51:7; Revelation 18:16). Babylon was by far the greatest and richest city of the world.

Romans: 15:4 **“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”**

Had Christ taken the earth kingdom at His first coming, He would have taken them from Satan's hands (Matthew 4:1-10). The present kingdoms and their passing glories belong to Satan and when he and they have filled up the measure of iniquity Christ shall descend and by force of His own Omnipotent arm He shall set up and establish His own universal and unending kingdom.

From Gold to Clay and from Stone to Mountain—gives the whole history of the world from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to the millennial kingdom of Christ.

Feet . . . part clay

The whole stately looking colossus of man stands on weak feet. ALL man's glory is supported only by mud! The world powers contain in themselves the elements of deterioration, devolution, decay, destruction and death. They stand on a foundation of clay. The mighty Metallic image lessens in specific gravity as it goes downward from the head of gold to the feet which are part clay.

The course, character and coming crisis of Gentile dominion and man's day is thus clearly declared.

- Its COURSE is downward, from gold to clay.
- ITS CHARACTER is bestial and senseless, from a man as seen by Nebuchadnezzar to a beast as seen by Daniel.
- ITS COMING CRISIS is yet future when Christ the Smiting Stone descends and pulverizes it to powder.

That this smashing of the Gentile world powers by the Smiting Stone cannot refer to Christ at His first advent may clearly be seen by remembering that the fourth kingdom of the LEGS OF IRON was then in existence whereas The Stone falls upon the feet . . . part iron and part clay.

EXCELLENT and TERRIBLE

Excellent, in that it attracts. The bright lights, entrancing music, fashionable parties and feasts, scientific accomplishments, education, sports, bank accounts, stocks and bonds, etc.

Terrible because of that which repels. Lust, murder, robbery, adultery, strife, war and hell, etc.

Excellent and terrible

Here is a two word complete description of the kingdoms of the world.

Excellent and terrible, characterize the history of all Gentile powers from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to the coming of Christ with His Saints. There is that which attracts and also that which repels. There is that which is excellent but side by side with the excellent there is that which is terrible. These features are to characterize this age and continue until Christ sets up His millennium.

A stone . . . upon his feet

Christ is the stone (Isaiah 8:14; Psalm 118:22; Acts 4:11). The Stone smites the image, not in the head (Babylonian times) nor in the body (Persian and Grecian times) nor in the legs (Roman times in which Christ was born as a babe) but on the feet and toes (yet future). Not when Babylon was broken, nor when Persia perished, nor when Greece was given to its four generals, nor at the birth, death or resurrection of our blessed Lord, nor on the day of Pentecost, nor at the Reformation, did this mighty colossus crash. It still exists. The ten toes and ten horns are yet to come and anyone today with eyes to see and ears to hear must be aware of the fact that the tribulation comes on apace. The Antichrist with the mark of the Beast seems just around the corner. Then the coming of Christ to reign and the imposing Colossus shall crash.

Men . . . beast . . . fowls

This was the dominion originally given to man and which he forfeited by sin (Genesis 1:28 and 2:19-20). The same was given to Noah after the flood and later delegated to the Gentiles under Nebuchadnezzar. Instead of using all good things for the glory of God and the good of mankind they abuse the trust for self. Not until the return of Christ shall the lost inheritance be fully restored.

Part of iron and part of clay

Deterioration, decay and devolution mark the course of Gentile dominion. It begins with gold and ends with mud. Gold is more precious than silver; silver than brass; brass than iron; iron than clay. The difference between shining gold and slimy clay is immense.

This prophecy strikes the death blow to the modern evolutionary hypothesis. The evolutionists and the modernists have this image down side up. They have stood Nebuchadnezzar's image on its head. Moreover, the first power (Babylon) was a unit, the second (Medes and Persians) dual; the third (Greece) became quadruple; the fourth (Rome) in its final form is to be decimal-ten toes in the image and ten horns in the beast. Thus there is deterioration by admixture and also by division.

Constitutional unity declines until it fades out into democratic license, communistic killings and socialistic suicide. IRON denotes the monarchistic, imperialistic, unyielding element while clay presents the plastic and popular element and the two cannot blend.

The feet and toes, part of potter's clay

The tremendous weight of imperial government is here seen to be resting on a base which is composed in part of potter's clay. Here is strikingly set forth the present uncertain, unstable, insecure and already tottering governments of earth with all their boasted scientific inventions and civilization. The whole ponderous mass is seen to be standing on a foundation part of potter's clay.

The last Great War almost spelled the collapse of our vaunted twentieth century culture and civilization. The next war will find the whole world utterly bankrupt and its civilization doomed.

The whole superstructure is here seen to be resting on a weak foundation, part of potter's clay. It is with holy awe that we perceive the soon termination of the times of the Gentiles and the arrival in power and glory of God's King from heaven.

The distance between gold and mud is immense and yet in such terms the divine penman sets forth the deterioration and devolution of the kingdoms and nations of the earth. Modern unbelief with its evolutionary hypothesis has the metallic man standing on his head.

The feet and toes

Babylon (B.C. 606-538).

Medo-Persia (B.C. 538-331).

Greece (B.C. 331-168).

Rome (B.C. 168-A.D. 476).

The feet of iron (strength-monarchy) and clay (weakness-democracy-socialism and anarchy) (A.D. 476—?)

The years given for Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome severally are not intended to cover the entire history of these nations, but only the period during which each of these great powers exercised world dominance. The long dash after A.D. 476 signifies that we are still in the divided state of the Roman Empire, which division is to continue until Christ returns.

Part of potter's clay

Daniel foresees the democracies of our own Laodicean age —foretells the disintegration and disruption resulting therefrom.

“Look for the waymarks as you journey on,
Look for the waymarks, passing one by one;
Down through the ages, past the kingdoms four—
Where are we standing? Look the waymarks o'er.

“Down in the feet of iron and of clay
Weak and divided, soon to pass away;
What will the next great, glorious drama be?
Christ and His coming, and eternity.”

Mixed with miry clay

The prophecies of Daniel reveal the fact that constitutional unity in government was to decline until it finally fades out into democratic license and communistic anarchy. The decline from gold to clay gives the death blow to Evolution unless the metallic man is made to stand upon his head.

IRON denotes the strength of imperialism and the unyielding element in monarchies whereas CLAY sets forth the plastic and popular elements of democracy. The two cannot blend.

They shall not cleave one to another

Here is a plain prophecy of the breaking up of world governments and world civilization. The world economic and monetary conference held in London in 1933 with SIXTY-SIX nations in solemn assembly sat in the world famous city of London. The eyes of the world were focused on London. Hopes were high, but all hope centered in man is vain. The conference collapsed. **“They shall not cleave one to another.”**

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and one King— CHRIST—is God’s program for the race. Here is the most down-to-date exhibition and illustration of this remarkable prophetic passage.

In the days of these kings

The time of the destruction of the present world order is clearly revealed. **“It is in the days of these kings.”**

After the rapture of the Church, after the apocalypse of the Antichrist, and while the earth is ruled by ten dictators with Antichrist at the head, the smiting stone (Christ) will descend and with one supernatural, smashing stroke destroy all Gentile dominion and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. All other kingdoms shall be broken in pieces and consumed by the Smiting Stone and then shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

Christ’s kingdom shall know no decay, and shall never be in danger of revolution. It shall never be destroyed. Christ shall be a King unconquerable and unconquered—a monarch without a successor.

In the days of these kings:

Here is a definite time set for the Stone to do its smiting work.

THE TEN KINGS which arise after the rapture of the Saints will rule over that part of the world which was once governed by the Old Roman Empire. Five of those kings will rule over the Eastern Division and five over the Western Division of the now divided and disrupted Roman Empire. Ten kings will be ruling over the divided Roman Empire just before the apocalypse of the Antichrist and three years and a half after the Antichrist has begun his devilish, wicked work, Christ, the Smiting Stone shall descend, and sweep the whole sinful business from the face of the earth.

Seizing the reigns of government in his own Sovereign hands Christ shall fill the earth with His own presence, power and glory, and the oft repeated prayer, **“Thy Kingdom Come”** shall at last be answered for Christ shall be Supreme.

The next event for which all creation waits is the Return of Christ.

At His Second advent the sleeping saints shall awake and the living saints shall be raptured and all together shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Hell shall be let loose on the earth. Ten kings, rulers, dictators shall arise and rule the earth. During the dictatorship of the ten kings the Antichrist shall appear. The incarnation of willfulness and wickedness, the Antichrist shall soon dominate the world and after seven years of hell on earth the Smiting Stone shall descend, and destroy the world empires of man and the Stone having done its Smiting work shall roll on until He fills the earth.

“Even so, Come, Lord Jesus!”

The stone:

The smiting stone falls in a destroying judgment on the feet part iron and clay, pulverizing it to powder. This is just the opposite of a so called gradual evangelization and conversion of the world by the gospel, or the Church. The Church is to be subject to the powers and hence the destroying judgments cannot be dealt by Christians. The Stone is Christ Himself and the judgment awaits His return.

The stone was cut out without hands

A NEW MOVEMENT FROM WITHOUT changes the whole course of history!

Man had nothing to do with it. It was not of the earth. It was A STONE. It was a stone cut out without hands. It was a supernatural, smiting, smashing, destroying, demolishing stone, and its descent changes the whole course of human history.

Again, the stone does not crowd out the Colossus, it does not diffuse a transforming influence over it; it does not change nor regenerate the image making it a devout God-fearing worshipper. The stone smites, smashes, crushes, destroys and demolishes the metallic image and demolition is not conversion nor is smiting and smashing, salvation. The action of the stone is a judgment action, not of grace; it ruins, rather than regenerates. The times of the Gentiles end in wrath and ruin, not in repentance and regeneration. The Stone (Christ) does not fill the earth until after the crash of the Gentile Colossus.

Seven times in the sacred scriptures our Lord is called a stone. It is the symbol of STRENGTH, DURABILITY, and FIRMNESS. Man may make bricks, but he cannot make a stone! Christ is the Stone (Acts 4:10-11). Christ came in the form of a servant and thus became a stone of stumbling to the nation of Israel. Israel fell on this stone and was broken (Matthew 21:44).

- Christ is the Rock upon which the Church is built and other foundation must no man lay.
- Christ is the Stone who is to fall on the stately Colossus of man and grind it to powder (Matthew 21:44; Daniel 2:34-35).
- Christ is the Stone who shall descend and fill the earth.

Nothing was left but the stone. The image was pounded into powder. It was smashed and swept from the earth. The Stone rolled on and on until it filled the earth.

One of the dominant notes of modernists, evolutionists and postmillennialists is that man will end war and that man will bring in the millennium. Since the granting of the franchise to women, many women politicians and would be prophets have affirmed that women and mothers shall end war and bring in the millennium.

May we at once go on record as saying that it is not the business of man, either in the world or the church to end war or bring in the millennium. THE BRINGING IN THE MILLENNIUM OF PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS WAITS THE COMING OF THE SMITING STONE. The God of heaven and not man is to set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. The God of heaven and not the Church is to establish the immovable and imperishable Kingdom of Christ among men.

These world powers were neither transformed, converted or regenerated. They were pulverized, broken in pieces, the wind carried them away and NO PLACE WAS FOUND FOR THEM.

All world power is idolatrous, self willed, sinful, intolerant, defiant of God, blasphemous and incurably corrupt.

This wicked world has always:

- Defied God,
- Dishonored Christ,
- Denied his authority,
- Clubbed its Abels,
- Mocked at its Isaacs,
- Sneered at and stoned its saints,
- Poked fun at its prophets,
- Flung its holy youth into furnaces of fire,
- Dropped its Daniels into divers dens,
- Beheaded its fiery Baptists,
- Persecuted its Peters and Pauls,
- Slain its saints with the sword.

Thank God, that in a day which is soon to dawn the Smiting Stone shall descend, smite the world governments and world empires, smash them in pieces, pulverize them into powder and sweep them from the earth so that no place shall be found for them. May God hasten such a day.

From earliest times God began to send the glad message that sin was not forever to stain the earth. RIGHT, shall not forever be on the scaffold and WRONG shall not forever be on the throne. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN shall yet finally and forever destroy the serpent whose head he wounded on Calvary.

Enoch also prophesied saying “**Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints.**”

We await the glad hour when Christ shall finish His ministry of intercession on high and come again in power and glory to usher in the kingdom which shall never pass away. That long expected day we sincerely believe is at hand.

“Upon its feet”

The stone did not fall upon the head, or arms, or legs, but upon the feet.

- Not when Babylon fell (HEAD).
- Nor when Persia was conquered (ARMS).
- Nor when Greece was defeated (BODY).
- Nor when Rome was in ruins (LEGS).

But UPON ITS FEET, composed of part iron and part clay.

- NOT at the birth of Jesus for then none of the world empires were either smitten or smashed.
- NOT at the death of Christ for then HE was smitten, despised and rejected of men.
- NOT when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost for that was during the reign of the LEGS of IRON and they certainly were not destroyed on the day of Pentecost.
- NOT when Saul of Tarsus was converted and changed to Paul the missionary for that also was during the sovereignty of THE LEGS OF IRON.

They smote the Apostle, took off his head and enabled him to win a martyr's crown. THEN Rome was the smiter and Christ, John, James and Paul were smitten. NOT in past, but in the future when the Antichrist shall be at the head of the ten Kingdoms with their ten Kings, shall Christ the Smiting Stone descend and smash the sinful kingdoms of the world and the stone shall roll on until it fills the earth with millennial peace, purity and prosperity. The Stone (Christ) cut out without hands (Divine Christ) shall break in pieces the empires of man.

The stone does not diffuse a transforming, sanctifying influence over the image of gold, silver, brass and iron. Neither does the stone slowly crowd out the Colossus nor change it into a pious peaceful worshipper of God.

The stone does not purify the kingdom of the world, IT PULVERIZES THEM and *there is quite a difference between purification and pulverization.*

The Stone does not sanctify the image; it smashes it to smithereens. The Stone does not transform either the monarchies of Babylon, (Head) or Persia, (Arms) or Greece, (Body) or Rome (Legs) or the democracies of Earth, (feet part iron) (strong) (and part clay), (weak). It pulverizes them.

The Stone comes down from the skies and with terrific force crashes into the feet and smashes the image to powder. The Stone neither converts nor consecrates nor cleanses the Colossus.

It crashes into it and crushes it to powder.

After the Stone has done its work there is not anything left either of Monarchies or Democracies. The Stone fills the earth, thank God! Christ is Conqueror. The Saviour is supreme. Hallelujah!

And worshipped Daniel

Here is the proud and mighty monarch of all the world upon his face before God's holy prophet. Thus is set forth the future humiliation and prostration of all world powers during the coming Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

The stone became a great mountain

The stone came from the mountain originally. It was a part of a magnificent mountain in the beginning and after crashing into the Colossus and smashing it in pieces it ends in becoming a great mountain which fills the earth. The Stone came from heaven in the first place and it ends by bringing heaven to earth.

The stone . . . break in pieces

The stone smites the image, smashing it into powder. By one crushing blow the old kingdoms of man's day and man's sway crash and crumble and the new kingdom of Christ fills the earth.

“And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

“And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:11-16).

The day is surely approaching when all Christ's enemies shall become his footstool. It does not pay to go against God. When THE STONE falls it will grind to powder all upon whom it falls.

Victorious over all opposition, Christ shall break in pieces and consume the kingdoms of the earth. The kingdom, the peace and increase of his government shall know no end.

After Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Britain and the rest of earth's empires are swept from the groaning earth and their place knows them no more the Kingdom of Christ shall flourish and the followers of Christ shall reign with Him.

Notice:

1. The stone which is to break in pieces was not evolved from the kingdoms that preceded it. It was **“CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAINS.”**
2. The stone which is to break in pieces and fill the earth was **“CUT OUT WITHOUT HANDS.”** Human effort does not establish the kingdom or convert the nations.
3. The stone **“break in pieces.”**

The end of man's rule, man's day, man's way and man's kingdom will come with a crash.

TO ISRAEL Christ was a Stone of Stumbling. Christ warned them that **“whatsoever shall fall upon this stone shall be broken”** (Matthew 21:44). They fell upon it and as a nation were broken.

TO THE CHURCH, Christ is the living head corner stone and foundation stone (Matthew 16:16-18). The stone which was set at naught by the Jews became the head of the corner, and other foundation can no man lay for there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved.

TO THE GENTILES, Christ will be the Smiting Stone, who, suddenly appearing shall fall upon them and grind them to powder. The Babel tower of man's civilization shall crash, world dominion by the Gentile nations shall end, and Christ shall fill the earth with righteousness and peace. The Gentile world system is not to be destroyed by the gradual processes of prohibition, disarmament conferences or mass conversions but by a sudden, severe, supernatural blow from a DESCENDING SMITING STONE. The smiting stone becomes a great mountain only after the destruction of the world system of Gentile government and rule.

At His first coming Christ was smitten and crucified. He was put to death by the fourth empire under which he was born as a babe. The destruction of Gentile world rule awaits His second coming in power and great glory. The crushing blow is still suspended. In the meantime Gentile rule follows the course as marked out in this marvelous vision.

That the stone does not refer to the gospel may be clearly seen by the fact that man has nothing to do with either the appearing or the falling of the stone. Smashing is not salvation. Crushing is NOT conversion. Destroying is NOT delivering nor is Pulverizing the same as purification.

The dream is certain

Nebuchadnezzar was thus exhorted to give earnest heed to the dream and its interpretation. It was not an ordinary dream. It was a perfect revelation of things to come.

An Oblation and sweet odours

Making presents of perfumes was regarded as a mark of reverence and honor. The king intended to do Daniel great honor.

Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face

The mightiest monarch of all history is here seen prostrated before the devout Daniel. Men must either bow and bend or be broken. Selah!

Daniel sat in the gate of the king

Everything in Chapter 2 is not only historic but is also prophetic. The moral state of Gentile times to the end is therein set forth. Not only so, but chapter 2 is prophetic of the final triumph of God's people. Daniel was made ruler over the whole province of Babylon. His three friends (Jews) were set over the affairs of the province under Daniel, all of which is a foreshadowing of the final triumph of God and God's saints.

The Dream of Nebuchadnezzar (chap. 2).

The key:

The Great Image

“There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets and maketh known—what shall be in the latter days—what shall come to pass hereafter” (2:28-29).

THE VISION

THE INTERPRETATION

“Behold a great image” v. 31	A prophetic foreview of all world government.
“This image’s head was of fine gold”	Nebuchadnezzar.
“His breast and his arms of silver”	The empire of the Medes and Persians under Cyrus and Darius (two arms)
“His belly and his thighs of brass”	The third world empire of Greece under Alexander the great.
“His legs of iron”	The iron empire of Rome.
“His feet part of iron and part of clay”	The devolution from gold to clay strikes a death blow to evolution. The critics have turned this image upside down. The strength of monarchy mixed with the weakness of DEMOCRACY. Our democratic age was thus foreseen by Daniel.
“Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands”	The stone typifies Christ the Conquering King.

“Cut out without hands”	Supernatural, Divine.
“Which smote the image upon his feet”	Christ shall destroy all world governments and reign without a rival. Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome, as world empires were to pass away before the apocalypse of Christ as King.
“Upon his feet”	The glorious appearing of Christ as King of kings was to be during the democratic age. We are now living in the feet era of this great image wherein the iron of Monarchism and fascism is mixed with the clay of democracy, socialism and communism. Daniel foresaw it all.
“And brake them to pieces”	This strikes the death blow to the evolutionists and the conversionists alike. The world is not to be converted by the preaching of the gospel. It is to be smashed to smithereens by the appearing of Christ as King.
“No place was found for them”	World Government is to be swept from the earth. Man’s day and man’s rule are to cease and God’s day is to dawn. Man and man’s government are incurably corrupt and must be swept away.
“The stone became a great mountain”	After world governments have been smitten and smashed, Christ will set up his millennial Kingdom of righteousness and peace.
“The stone filled the whole earth”	“Thy kingdom come” at last is answered. (1) Superhuman (cut out without hands) (2) Universal (filled the earth) (3) Perpetual (it shall stand for ever, v. 44)
“The Kingdom shall be divided” v. 41	We are now living in the era of the divided Roman empire. There is the iron rule or misrule of autocracy with the clay rule or misrule of democracy.
“The toes of the feet”	The tenfold division of the old Roman Empire was thus clearly foreseen by Daniel. The number TEN speaks of completeness, and hence a prophecy of complete division and disruption as well as a prophecy that in the end time ten kings shall rule the earth just prior to the apocalypse of Christ as King.

“They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men”

Here is a distinct prophecy of the breaking down of racial barriers. Kings were to mingle, mix with and marry peasants and races intermix, intermingle and intermarry. This has been minutely fulfilled.

“But they shall not cleave one to another”

Unity impossible. A plain prophecy of the failure of League of Nations, World courts, World Monetary Conferences, World Disarmament Conferences, Peace Conferences and marriage of Royalty with commoners. All was foreseen clearly by Daniel. History is simply the fulfillment of prophecy. Prophecy sure sheds a lot of light on history.

“They shall not cleave”

Who or what can unite England and Ireland, France and Germany, Japan and Korea, Japan and China, Mohammedanism and Christians. The world empire of a united Babylon or Rome has passed and passed forever and neither the Napoleons nor the Kaisers of past, present or future can possibly unite them again. We challenge the world to either destroy the Jew, the Bible, or the Church, or bring about another world empire. The next world empire is to be the empire of Christ. Napoleon was doomed to failure by Daniel the prophet. Had the Kaiser of Germany understood Daniel he never would have attempted world dominion. The same applies to Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin, et al. We are now living in v. 43 of Daniel 2.

“In the days of these kings”

The ten kings as represented by the ten toes shall arise during the great tribulation.

“Shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom”

The next universal world empire shall be the empire of Christ which shall never be destroyed. “The dream is certain and the interpretation thereof sure” v. 45.

~ end of chapter 2 ~

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