

REVELATION

speaks peace

A New World Order

Does history provide us with any evidence that God exists, or that our world is actually headed somewhere? The answer is found in an ancient king's dream: the hand of God is still undoubtedly active in world affairs!

Daniel 2:1-13 — Nebuchadnezzar, king of ancient Babylon, had a disturbing dream that he couldn't ignore. Eager to know what it might mean, he called for his magicians and astrologers to explain it. There was just one catch—he wouldn't share the *content* of the dream with them! "I want you to tell me what I dreamed, and then tell me what it means. If you don't, it will cost you your lives!"

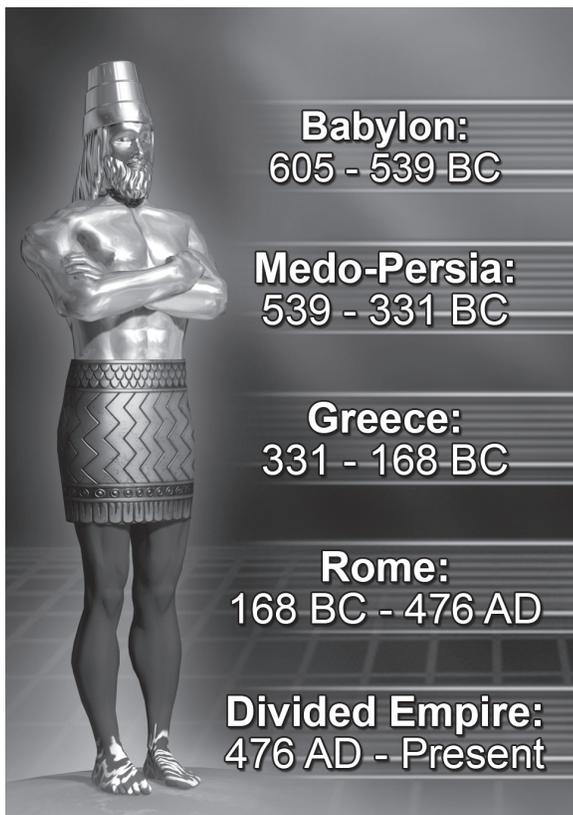
Of course, they couldn't do it, so Nebuchadnezzar ordered that them to be executed. This order unfortunately included a young Hebrew captive by the name of Daniel, who had been placed in the king's court. Daniel pleaded for more time (**Daniel 2:14-16**), promising Nebuchadnezzar that he would provide both the content of the dream and its interpretation.

Daniel 2:17-28 — Daniel quickly ran to find his Hebrew friends and spent time praying with them, asking God to reveal the secret of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. They knew, of course, that only God could read Nebuchadnezzar's thoughts (see, for example, I Kings 8:39). God did not fail Daniel, and showed him what he needed to know. (**Daniel 2:19**) Daniel appeared before the king the next day and explained the dream as promised.

Daniel 2:31-35 — In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a great statue made up of several different metals: a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay.

Then a great stone—"cut out without human hands" (**Daniel 2:34**)—smashes into the feet of the image and completely demolishes it. The wind then blows the rubble away, and the stone grows until it fills the whole earth.

Daniel 2:36-45 — What does it mean? Daniel explains the dream in great detail. Starting at the head of the statue, each successive metal represents a successive empire. The head of gold represents Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian empire. "You are this head of gold," said Daniel. (**Daniel 2:38**)



Babylon's powerful empire lasted from about 605 B.C. until 539 B.C., when the city was demolished by the Persian general Cyrus. Babylon is the head of gold.

The Medo-Persian Empire, represented by the chest and arms of silver, ruled from 539 B.C. until 331 B.C., when the Persians were defeated by the Greeks under Alexander the Great, represented by the belly and thighs of brass. In 168 B.C., however, the Greek empire was in turn crushed by the Romans, represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream by the legs of iron.

The Romans remained the dominant force in the world until 476 A.D., when the Barbarian tribes brought them to their knees. The Western Roman Empire disintegrated into 10 divisions, represented by the feet and toes of the image. (**Daniel 2:41**)

The Barbarian tribes eventually became the modern nations of Western Europe with the exception of three, which are now extinct:



ALEMANNI: Germans	ANGLO-SAXONS: British
VISIGOTHS: Spanish	LOMBARDS: Italians
FRANKS: French	HERULI: <i>Extinct</i>
SUEVI: Portuguese	VANDALS: <i>Extinct</i>
BURGUNDIANS: Swiss	OSTROGOTHS: <i>Extinct</i>

These Western European tribes, according to the dream, would try to “mingle with the seed of men” (**Daniel 2:43**), or reestablish the unity that was lost when the Western Roman Empire collapsed.

The reunification of the Western Roman Empire is a dream that has failed many times. European monarchs attempted to establish unity through intermarriage. Charles V tried to conquer and unify all of Europe, but was eventually forced to abdicate the throne. Louis XIV of France tried it. Napoleon tried it. The Kaiser tried it. Hitler tried it. And they all failed miserably because God told Daniel that “they will not adhere to one another.”

Those seven simple prophetic words have controlled destiny for more than 1,500 years now. The Western Roman Empire will not reunite because God said that it can't, and attempts continue to fail. The only thing that will unify the Western Roman Empire—and the rest of the world for that matter—is the arrival of the great stone of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, representing the kingdom that God Himself establishes. When will that happen? **Matthew 25:31** makes it clear: “*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.*”

We are now living in the toes of the image, in the “days of these kings.” (**Daniel 2:44**. Everything in this prophecy has already taken place except for one thing—the return of Christ! We don't know precisely when He is going to come, but we know it's getting close. So here is the important question: Are you ready for that glorious event?