

# *Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*

## **Verses 37-38 "Thou art this head of gold"**

The head of gold is interpreted as the kingdom of Babylon and was known for its gold. You don't have a kingdom without a king, so in a secondary sense, it represents Nebuchadnezzar. Not only is gold the most valuable metal, but it is the softest of metals.

There are only two verses dedicated to interpreting the head of gold as Babylon. Significant is the fact that the majority of the vision and the interpretations in this chapter as well as the succeeding visions will focus on the fourth kingdom and the events between the fourth kingdom and God's everlasting kingdom. This is the first kingdom in the sequence of the rise and fall of the earthly kingdoms mentioned in Daniel.

The prophets will begin addressing the spiritual issues of their day, but will always speak to the prophecies of the final events before Christ sets up His kingdom here upon earth. Not just the prophecies, but even the stories of literal events prophesy of the end time events to take place before Christ returns.

To understand these things,—to understand that "righteousness exalteth a nation" (Proverbs 14:34); that "the throne is established by righteousness" (Proverbs 16:12), and "upholden by mercy" (Proverbs 20:28); to recognize the outworking of these principles in the manifestation of His power who "removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21),—this is to understand the philosophy of history.

In the word of God only are these principles clearly set forth. Here it is shown that the strength of nations, and of individuals, is not found in the opportunities or advantages that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. It is measured by the fidelity with which they fulfill God's purpose.

An illustration of this truth is found in the history of ancient Babylon. To Nebuchadnezzar the king the true object of national government was represented under the figure of a great tree, whose height "reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: the leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all;" under its shadow the beasts of the field dwelt, and among its branches the birds of the air had their habitation (Daniel 4:11, 12) This representation shows the character of a government that fulfills God's purpose—a government that protects and upbuilds the nation.

God exalted Babylon that it might fulfill this purpose. Prosperity attended the nation until it reached a height of wealth and power that has never since been equaled—fitly represented in the Scriptures by the inspired symbol, a "head of gold." (Daniel 2:38)

## **Verse 39 The next kingdom after Babylon is represented by the breast & arms of silver:**

The metals in the image, symbolizing the different kingdoms, became less and less pure and valuable, from the head down. The head of the image was of gold, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, and the feet and toes of iron mingled with clay. So the kingdoms represented by them deteriorated in value and at the same time, the metals become harder and harder representing the deterioration of God's kingdom principles. Could this correlate to the hardening in rebellion as the end of human probation closes? As in the days of Noah, "that every imagination of the thoughts of his (man's) heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5)

Notice that this verse covers the next two kingdoms, one of which is identified as inferior. We don't find an interpretation for these kingdoms in this chapter, but we don't have to go far to find out who they are.

## **Verse 39 The fall of Babylon**

Babylon, shattered and broken at last, passed away because in prosperity its rulers had regarded themselves as independent of God, and had ascribed the glory of their kingdom to human achievement.

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 31) While

the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

God desired to save Nebuchadnezzar and in mercy warned him of the consequences of his pride.

Daniel 4:27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

Daniel chapter four records the repentance and transformation that finally came to Nebuchadnezzar. But we find that his grandson, Belshazzar, also had a prideful, rebellious spirit.

Daniel 5:22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; 23) But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

Thus the decree followed:

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

The power exercised by every ruler on the earth is Heaven-imparted; and upon his use of the power thus bestowed, his success depends.

### **The second kingdom of silver was the Medes and the Persians.**

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

### **The third kingdom of brass was Greece.**

Although the symbols change in Daniel 8, the succession of empires is the same as found in the previous two visions of Daniel. Here we learn that Greece is the third kingdom.

Daniel 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21) And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

### **Verse 40 The fourth kingdom**

The fourth kingdom of Daniel two is represented by the iron which continues into the feet and toes and until the stone smites the image and all the kingdoms crumble and are blown away and found no more, representing the end of Satan's kingdom principles which are finally replaced by the eternal kingdom. The focus or emphasis in this chapter, is on the events transpiring from the fourth kingdom till God's everlasting kingdom is set up.

It is very interesting to note that Babylon was noted for the amount of gold that it had, and the Medes and Persians were wealthy in silver. Greece was known for its brass weapons, and the fourth kingdom, Rome, has been called the Iron Roman Empire. Scripture even identifies the fourth kingdom as iron.

The sequence or chain of the events prophesied in all visions of Daniel stays the same and never changes, but the symbols of those events do change as seen in Daniel 7—11. In Daniel 7 you have a lion with eagle wings symbolizing Babylon. Next, you have a bear raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth symbolizing the Medes and the Persians also known as Media-Persia. Greece is symbolized by the leopard with four heads and four wings of a fowl on its back. The fourth beast, not identified in this chapter but has some of the same symbols as in chapter two, is Pagan Rome. Notice the similarities of iron, its strength, and its breaking in pieces.

Daniel 2:40 And 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.

Daniel 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

History reveals who these four beasts are, along with the dates in which they reigned.

Babylon	605 B.C.—539 B.C.
Medo-Persia	539 B.C.—331 B.C.
Greece	331 B.C.—168 B.C.
Pagan Rome	168 B.C.—476 A.D.

Although these were not the only nations in the world, these four represent the nations which interacted with God's people. As God predicted in Genesis 3:15, the battle would not only be between Christ and Satan, but between Christ's seed the righteous and Satan's seed the wicked.

Notice the fourth kingdom has three phases symbolized and continues until the stone hits the image on the feet and destroys the image.

1. The iron legs (Rome)
2. The feet and toes
3. The iron and clay

The fourth empire should arise, more fierce, more determined, and more powerful than any kingdom that had preceded it. As strong as iron, this kingdom would subdue and break in pieces all the nations of the world.

Daniel 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

It is important to notice the emphasis in chapter two with the interpretation is on the fourth kingdom and the events that transpire between the fourth kingdom and the eternal kingdom being set up. This sets a pattern that we will not only find in the succeeding visions of Daniel, but in Revelation as well. In Revelation, John begins recording his vision of events occurring during the Roman kingdom and ending with the everlasting kingdom of God set up on the earth in Revelation 21, 22.

The reason this is so is because the fourth kingdom represents the principles of Satan's kingdom of self exaltation and force most strikingly. The understanding of this truth will be critical when the final battle called the "mark of the beast" takes place. Revelation speaks of a sealing of both, the righteous and the wicked. All alive at that time will be manifesting either the kingdom principles of Christ or Satan, and will be individually convinced of their choice of whom to serve and will never change their mind, reaping the consequences of their choice.

We have an illustration in history that reveals a similar choice given and the consequences that came about due to the choices made. When Christ was before Pilate, the church was given an opportunity to choose between the kingdom principles of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died for His enemies, and the kingdom principles of Satan represented by Jesus Barabbas, who tried to save Israel by murdering their enemies.

The root words of Barabbas are "bar" (son) and "abba" (father), son of the father. Though included in the Syrian and Armenian versions as well as the New Revised Standard Versions, "Jesus," Barabbas' first name, was omitted by early church fathers in respect for Jesus Christ. Reported to be a member of Sicarii (a militant Jewish movement who sought freedom from Rome by force), Barabbas was a notable, (well known) prisoner,

robber and murderous insurrectionist. (Matthew 27:16; John 18:40; Mark 15:7). He was, in type, a “saviour” for the Jews from the Roman yoke.

Before the church, stood two men, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, and Jesus Barabbas, the son of the father. Israel chose the kingdom principles of Satan, the father of Barabbas instead of the kingdom principles of Christ’s Father. Which father will we choose when forced to make a choice?

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

What are the kingdom principles of our Heavenly Father? Christ who was an exact image of His Father stated:

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

God’s kingdom principles as revealed in the gospel, are humility, self-sacrificing, and liberty.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

2Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Just as the succeeding metals in this image become harder and harder, so the wicked become harder and harder and are finally hardened in their choice of whose kingdom principles they will manifest, and that is of Satan’s.

### **Verses 41-43 Potter’s or miry clay**

The symbol of clay represents Israel which was Christ’s church in the Old Testament time period, but in the New Testament, the clay represents the antichrist, the apostate church.

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand.

Jeremiah 18:1-6 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2) Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause thee to hear My words. 3) Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. 4) And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. 5) Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 6) O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

## **“The kingdom shall be divided”**

Iron and clay cannot mix. The iron represents the political state as it did in the legs of iron, and the clay represents the apostate church. When the church forms a union outside of marriage, in Scripture it is called spiritual adultery or fornication and is an illegitimate union which is not recognized by God. The apostate church in Revelation 17 is represented as a whore.

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2) With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

## **“There shall be in it the strength of the iron”**

As stated before, the iron continues till the stone destroys the image, representing those kingdoms manifesting Satan’s kingdom principles in contrast to how God rules His kingdom. The iron represents the political strength which was able to “break in pieces and bruise”, whereas the clay represents the weaker element, the church which has not the military might to accomplish her agenda. Revelation teaches us that there is a religious entity who desires to be worshipped by the whole earth, and that there is a kingdom who will enforce all to worship this church. This empowerment by the kingdom or state, mixed with the church is called “fornication”.

History reveals that this union, represented as the church appealing to the state for its strength, always results in persecution of God’s people. The Scriptures reveal examples of this illicit union and the persecution that follows in the accounts of Elijah, John the Baptist and Christ.

In the story of Elijah, we find the illicit union of King Ahab and his harlot wife, Jezebel, who along with her false prophets, served Baal the sun god, which we know ultimately represents Satan, resulted in the prophets of God slain and the search for Elijah to be slain as well.

In the story of John the Baptist, we find the illicit union of King Herod (the state), and Herodias the harlot (the church), with whom he was fornicating, resulting in John being beheaded.

In the story of the sentencing of Christ, we find the illicit union between Pilate (the state), the ruler over Jerusalem, Israel (the church), resulting in the crucifixion of Christ.

In all three examples you find a harlot woman having an illicit union, instigating the persecution of the righteous and needing the state power to implement her agenda.

## **“They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men”**

There have been several attempts to unite into a world empire but God has foretold this will never happen just as iron cannot mix with clay, despite the historically frequent intermarriages between the families of heads of state.

The following lists some of the attempts to unite Western Europe.

- A. D. Charlemagne
- A. D. Charles V
- Louis XII
- Napoleon
- Kaiser Wilhelm
- Adolph Hitler
- European Common Market

## Verses 34, 35, 44, 45 “The stone” = “the kingdom of God”

cut out without hands (vs 34)

cut out of the mountain (vs 45)

smites the image (vs 34)

breaks to pieces the image & the wind carries it away (vs 35)

breaks in pieces & consumes (vs 44)

became a great mountain (vs 35)

filled the whole earth (vs 35)

it shall never be destroyed & it shall stand forever (vs 44)

## The “stone”= Christ in His remnant church

The stone primarily represents Christ. But, the stone secondarily represents His remnant church, those who have received His mind and have brought every thought into the captivity of Christ reflecting His character perfectly.

Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. . . 9) But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God. And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner Stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

## The “stone”= the judgment

The stone has yet another interpretation. As we study the prophetic outlines of each of the visions in Daniel we find that the judgment of Daniel chapter seven and the cleansing of the sanctuary of Daniel chapter eight correlate with the stone smiting the image in Daniel chapter two. (See chart below). We judge ourselves by the reception or rejection of His word.

1 Peter 2:6-8 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner Stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the Stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the Head of the corner, And a Stone of stumbling, and a Rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Matthew 21:42-44 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The Stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the Head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43) Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God

shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44) And whosoever shall fall on this Stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

John 12:47, 48 And if any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48) He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

In other words, we judge ourselves by the receiving or rejecting of His words.

The stone represents the principles of God's kingdom as witnessed by His church revealing how He deals with the rebellion of Satan and his followers. Just as Satan's accusations against the character of God and His kingdom principles were destroyed by the revelation of the love of God and His Son in that they were willing for Christ to die in order to save their enemies, so we, the church, will also demonstrate that character of love casting down these earthly kingdoms who have manifested the same self exalting and forceful character of Satan their master.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

### **Verses 46, 47**

The King Nebuchadnezzar worships Daniel not understanding that worship is only due the Creator but He does acknowledge that God is a God of gods and Lord of Kings and the only revealer of secrets. In the next chapter we will find that this knowledge had not yet reached his heart.

### **Verses 48, 49**

Daniel and his fellow captives are promoted in the kingdom.

### **Summary:**

From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory. Babylon, with all its power and magnificence, the like of which our world has never since beheld—power and magnificence which to the people of that day seemed so stable and enduring—how completely has it passed away! As “the flower of the grass” it has perished. So perished the Medo-Persian kingdom, and the kingdoms of Grecia and Rome. And so perishes all that has not God for its foundation. Only that which is bound up with His purpose, and expresses His character, can endure. His principles are the only steadfast things our world knows.

## *Chart of The Sequence of Events in Daniel*

<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Daniel Two</b>	<b>Daniel Seven</b>	<b>Daniel Eight</b>	<b>Daniel Eleven</b>
Babylon	Head of Gold	Lion	None	None
Media-Persia	Breast & Arms of Silver	Bear	Ram	Darius the Mede 3 Kings of Persia
Greece	Belly & Thighs of Brass	Leopard	He Goat	Greece
Pagan Rome	Legs of Iron	Dreadful & Terrible Beast	Little Horn	King of The North
Divided Rome	Two Legs of Iron Eastern & Western Rome	Ten Horns	Little Horn	King of The North
Church & State Union	Feet & Toes of Iron & Clay	Little Horn	Little Horn	King of The North
Judgment	Stone Cut Out Without Hands	Judgment Set, Books Are Opened	Sanctuary Cleansed	Tidings Out of The East & North
Earthly Kingdoms Destroyed	Stone Hits The Image & Crumbles It	Dominion Taken Away	Broken Without Hand	Comes to His End With None to Help Him
Stone Becomes a Mt & Fills The Earth	God's Kingdom Set up on Earth	God's Kingdom Set up on Earth	None	God's Kingdom Set up on Earth

Prepared by Cindy Robinson  
 Website: [propheciesoflove.com](http://propheciesoflove.com)  
 YouTube Channel: Prophecies of Love