

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S FIRST DREAM: INTERPRETATION
(Daniel 2:31-49)

- I. A Terrifying IMAGE Representing GENTILE Kingdoms (2:31-43)
 - A. Head of GOLD is BABYLON
 - B. Chest and arms of SILVER is Medo-PERSIA
 - C. Abdomen and thighs of BRONZE is GREECE
 - D. Legs of IRON is ROME
 - E. Feet and toes of mixed IRON and CLAY/TILE is FUTURE
 - 1. A divided kingdom composed of UNLIKE materials
 - 2. A divided kingdom composed of INDEPENDENT PARTS
 - 3. Most think it represents a REVIVED form of ROME
 - 4. A few think it represents MUSLIM nations and that the anti-Christ will be ISLAMIC (Geoffrey King, *Daniel*, 1966)
- II. A Powerful STONE Representing CHRIST'S Kingdom (2:44)
 - A. Characteristics
 - 1. Will emerge from OUTSIDE the GENTILE kingdoms
 - 2. Will be set up by GOD
 - 3. Will never be DESTROYED
 - 4. Will never be left to OTHER PEOPLE
 - 5. Will destroy and break in pieces FORMER kingdom
 - 6. Will FILL the EARTH
 - 7. Will stand FOREVER

- B. Amillennial/Postmillennial Interpretation
 - 1. Established when the CHURCH was founded
 - 2. Fulfilled in Christianity's spread HISTORICALLY
 - 3. Historical PROBLEMS

- C. Premillennial Interpretation
 - 1. God's kingdom still FUTURE and UNFILLED
 - 2. Christ will destroy world kingdom at His RETURN
 - 3. Gentile kingdom will be destroyed as an act of GOD
 - 4. Only view that interprets vision LITERALLY

III. An Affirmation of Certain FULFILLMENT (2:45)

- A. This dream was a MESSAGE from GOD

- B. God has revealed what SHALL happen

- C. Nothing can PREVENT this COURSE

IV. A King's RESPONSE to the Message (2:46-49)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar BOWS before Daniel as representative of GOD

- B. Nebuchadnezzar ACKNOWLEDGES Daniel's God
 - 1. Deliberate contrast with BABYLON'S GODS
 - 2. Recognition of God's SUPERIORITY to all others

- C. Nebuchadnezzar PROMOTES Daniel
 - 1. Gave Daniel RICH GIFTS
 - 2. Made Daniel RULER over Babylonian PROVINCE
 - 3. Made Daniel CHIEF of all the WISE MEN

- D. Daniel speaks for his FRIENDS
 - 1. Indicates Daniel's HUMILITY
 - 2. Indicates LIMITS of Daniel's AUTHORITY