

# A Kingdom That Shall Never Be Destroyed

God had warned the children of Israel all the way back in the days of Moses; if they would not keep his covenant, he would "bring a \_\_\_\_\_" to discipline them (Deut 28:49-50), and he did exactly that in the form of the Babylonian empire (2 Chron 36:15-17).



In **Daniel 2**, after mighty King Nebuchadnezzar had conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and carried off many descendants of Abraham to Babylon, he had dreams that no one could interpret...no one except Daniel, a young Jewish exile. In **Daniel 2:31-45**, Daniel reveals (with the help of God) that Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed of "a great image."

"The head of this image was of fine \_\_\_\_\_, its chest and arms of \_\_\_\_\_, its middle and thighs of \_\_\_\_\_, its legs of \_\_\_\_\_, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces... But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." (2:32-35)

In **Daniel 2:38**, Daniel made clear to the Babylonian king, "you are the head of gold." But "another kingdom" would arise after Babylon, "and yet a third kingdom" (2:39). Eventually, "a fourth kingdom, strong as iron" would rule the world (2:40). And here was the heart of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's prophecy:

"And in the days of \_\_\_\_\_ kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall \_\_\_\_\_ be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people... it shall stand forever..." (2:44)

**What an incredible prophecy!** How remarkable that we can trace through history the fulfillment of exactly what God foretold through Daniel!

- ▶ **Head of gold:** \_\_\_\_\_ Empire (625-539 B.C.)
- ▶ **Chest and arms of silver:** Medo-\_\_\_\_\_ Empire (539-331 B.C.)
- ▶ **Middle and thighs of bronze:** \_\_\_\_\_ Empire (331-63 B.C.)
- ▶ **Legs of iron:** \_\_\_\_\_ Empire (63 B.C. - A.D. 476)

And the real significance? "In the days of those kings..." **What kings?** In the days of the Roman Empire, "the God of heaven" would set up "a kingdom that shall never be destroyed."

More than 500 years later, a baby was born in an obscure part of the Roman Empire. In the days of "\_\_\_\_\_ Augustus" (Luke 2:1) Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. Jesus is the King of a kingdom that shall stand forever!



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's take a moment to reflect on the sad summary in [2 Chronicles 36:15-17](#). What can we learn?
  
- “The God of heaven” is seeking to make some basic points crystal clear to King Nebuchadnezzar in [Daniel 2:37-38](#). How would you summarize the big idea that Daniel is communicating?
  
- Let's carefully reread [Daniel 2:44-45](#) together.
  - What did God mean by, “nor shall the kingdom be left to another people”?
  
  - What is this “kingdom” that “the God of heaven” would set up?
  
  - How does this kingdom “break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end”?
  
  - Let's reflect on the significance of “and it shall stand forever.” What does this mean? Why does it matter? How should that promise impact our own lives, even today?
  
- Within the scope of one prophecy contained in a single chapter of the Old Testament, our God has described some of the most significant events in human history over the span of 1,000 years! How should that shape our thinking of ourselves, where and when we live?
  
- Are the details in [Luke 2:1](#) a coincidence? If not, what are we being shown?

## For NEXT Sunday:

- We'll examine Daniel's incredible vision in [Daniel 7](#) of “one like a son of man” who came “with the clouds of heaven” to “the Ancient of Days.” **What's it all about?**