

GLEANINGS FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

DANIEL CHAPTER 2:31-49

31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32 This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. 39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. 41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. 47 The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.” 48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

1) List the materials used in the image from Nebuchadnezzar’s dream:

The head was made of _____ The shoulders & arms were made of _____

The belly & thighs were made of _____ The legs were made of _____

The feet were made of _____

2) What do you think “*a stone was cut out without hands*” means (vss. 34 & 35)? What do you think the stone represents?

3) According to Daniel’s interpretation of the dream how many kingdoms does the image represent?

4) What’s different about the kingdom represented by the stone that destroyed the image?

5) Which parts of the dream have been fulfilled?

6) Based on Daniel’s interpretation, when is the final kingdom going to be established?

7) Are the kingdoms represented by the head, chest & arms, belly & thighs, legs & feet literal (physical) kingdoms? What evidence can you provide for your answer from Daniel’s interpretation?

8) What’s left of the kingdoms represented by the gold, silver, bronze, iron, iron & clay after the image is struck by the stone? What do you think that means?

9) According to the dream & interpretation how large will the final kingdom be? Do you think it’s a literal (physical) kingdom or is it an allegorical or spiritual kingdom?

10) If Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is correct, how should you live your life?
