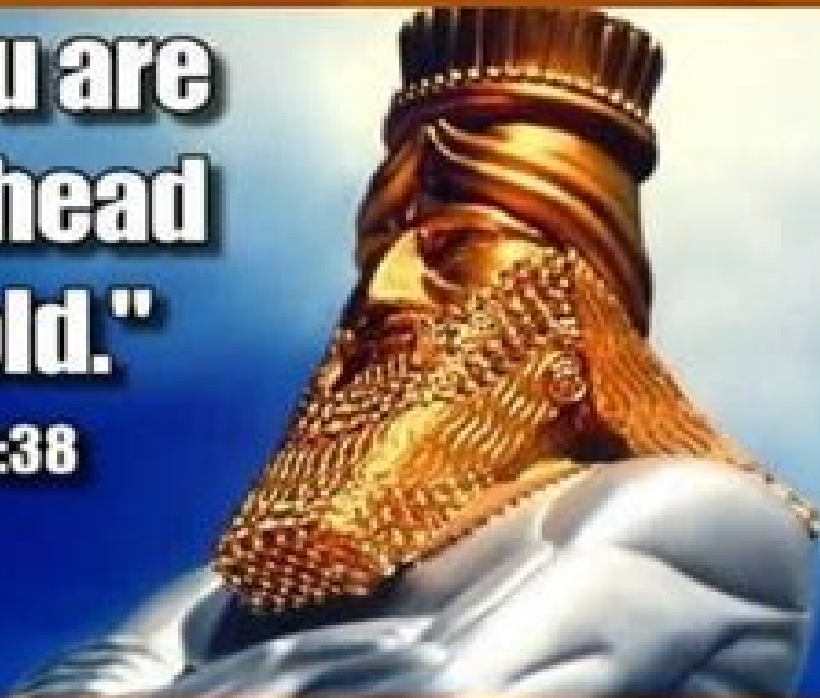


The dream of King Nebuchadnezzar

**"...You are
that head
of Gold."**

Daniel 2:38



Daniel 2: 30-49

As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me,
not because I have greater wisdom than other living men,
but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation
and that you may understand what went through your mind.

The humble messenger and the amazing message.
It's for you.





"You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.

In his dream, he had been staring in amazement at an impressive statue.

The Babylonians were 'into' statues

The head of the statue was made of pure gold,

He gives the details of its unusual construction in **descending** order of height and value.



its chest and arms of silver,



its belly and thighs of bronze,



its legs of iron,



its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.



And apart from the feet the description is in **ascending** order of strength ...
– eg. gold is a soft metal in contrast to iron

While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands.



A different material (rock) appears but it has a supernatural origin (not man-made).

It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.



The point where the rock begins to destroy the statue is at the bottom.

Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer.

The wind swept them away without leaving a trace.

Once the 'base' is destroyed the rest of the statue is destroyed and becomes powerless and useless – as the wind blows away chaff. All gone completely.



But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

The rock remained and from its small beginning grows until it fills the earth.



This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

This was Daniel's confident statement

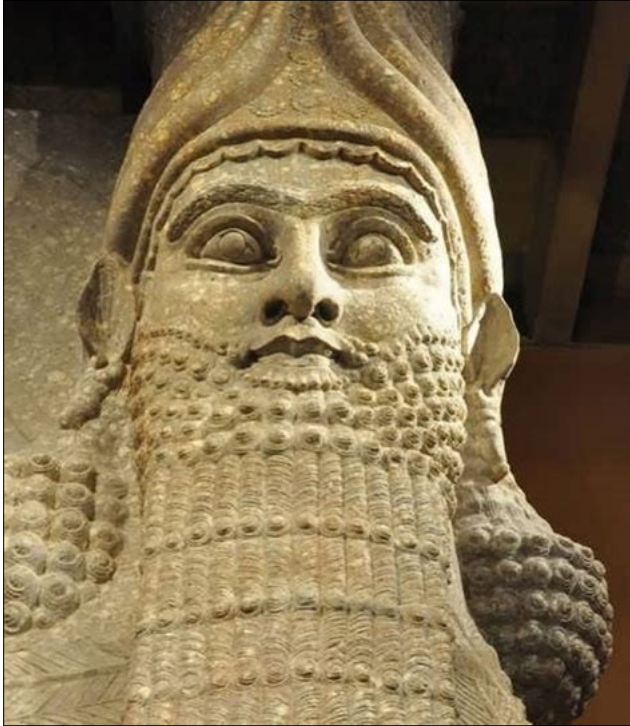
- That was it!

Now in the light of being given the dream, the interpretation will be authentic (we will interpret? Me with the Lord's help)



What does it all mean?

You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;



Nebuchadnezzar's 'glory' has a similar description to that given about the first ruler – Adam.

Your position is a gift from the supreme God (of heaven = over all and not limited to earth.)

in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all.

Like Adam, he was given lordship over the creation - with the responsibility to rule it properly.

Jeremiah 27:6 Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him.



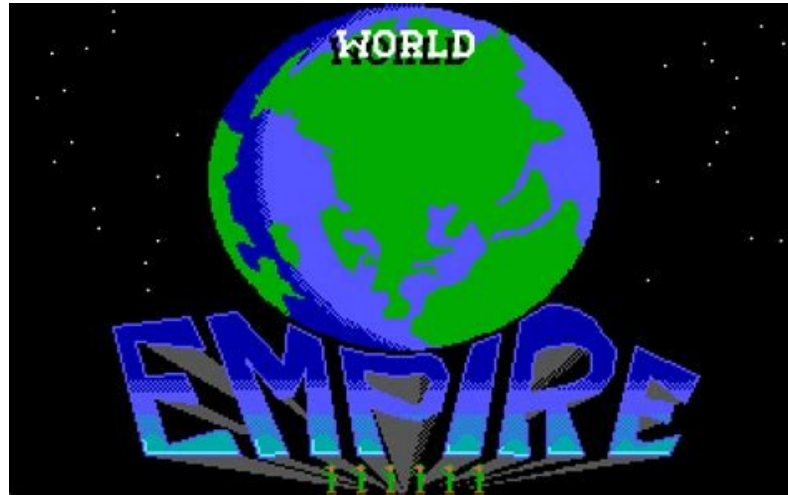
You are that head of gold.

Starting with you – Did he feel good that he was the gold one?



"After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours.
Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

After you – you won't be here for ever – you are mortal,
comes a future kingdom (empire) with less glory (silver versus gold).
That will be followed by a third empire whose boundaries extend even
further (whole earth ? Middle east ?)



Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

Finally:-

– the last in the dream sequence comes a fourth empire – noted for its strength and destructive power



Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture (*in marriage*) and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

The 2 legs suggest a divided empire followed by even further division in the structure of the feet

It is made up of an inherently and unstable mix - a fractured empire?



In the time of **those kings**, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

The feet represent kings who are part of the last empire and at the time of their rule, the ultimate ruler (the God of heaven) will establish his eternal kingdom that removes and replaces all the others.



cf. Revelation 13:1, 17:12
The beast with 10 kings

This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of **a mountain**, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, **the clay**, the silver and the gold to pieces.

This is Daniel's explanation of what happens with the rock – it is the coming of God's eternal Kingdom. (cf Psalm 50:2)



"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future.
The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

God's sovereignty is
emphasised again – God is in
charge of the world's future.

This is the word of the LORD.



Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honour and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.

Nebuchadnezzar is impressed but worshipping Daniel, means that he hasn't quite got it yet.



The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

But he is coming to a better understanding of the true and living God.
God over all other gods (which don't exist)
Lord – he is active in his use of power
Revealer of mysteries – his knowledge and understanding is superior.

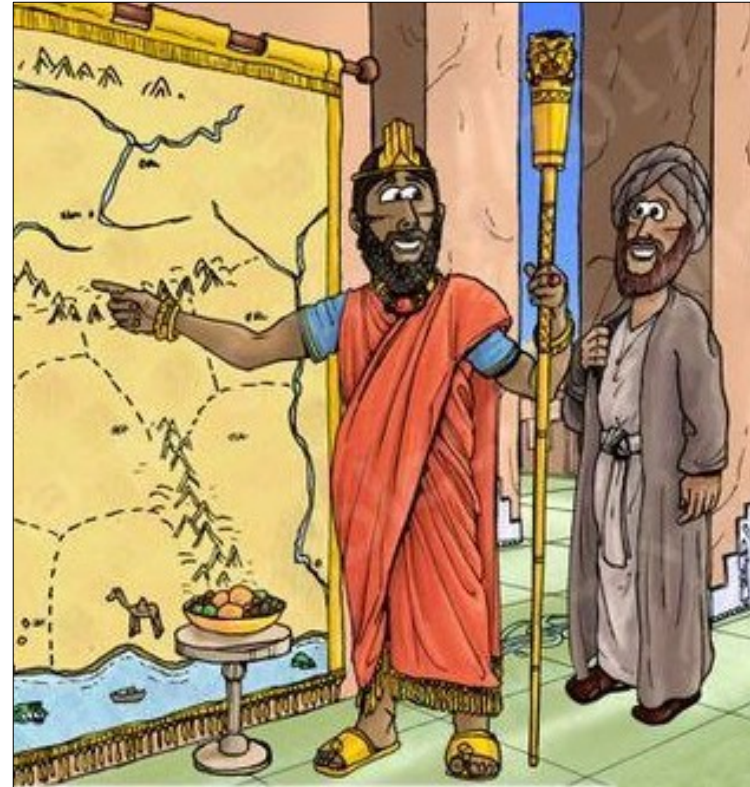
'Your God' – Daniel is God's ambassador to the king.



Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.

The king kept his promise
– the reward for revealing
and interpreting the dream.
He was promoted to a
place of influence for good
– a local ruler of the royal
province.

Top advisor – the wisest!



Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

His friends (who helped) are not forgotten

– Did he give them credit to the king?

They are promoted too under their official Babylonian names.

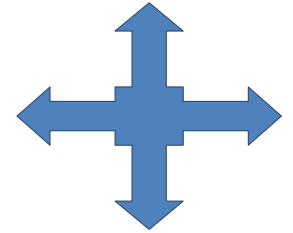
– Daniel was kept near the king.



This vision was about the future. There had been previous empires, eg Egypt, Assyria, but now Babylon was the ruler. The vision starts from Daniel's time.

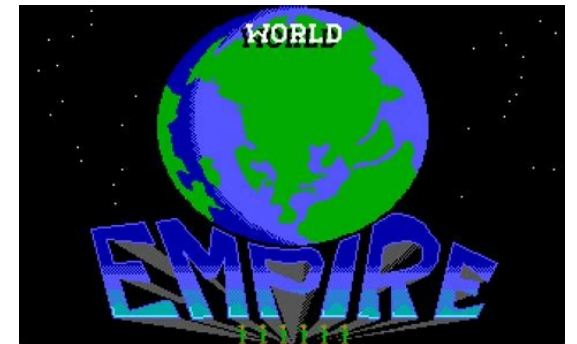


The kingdoms referred to are considered firstly with their reference to the Middle east
(with Israel at the centre in God's plan)



Other world empires would come and go
– with no reference to them

Eg .in the West - South American -Mayan, Inca
East – Mongol, China, India
Europe – Ottoman, British
etc.....

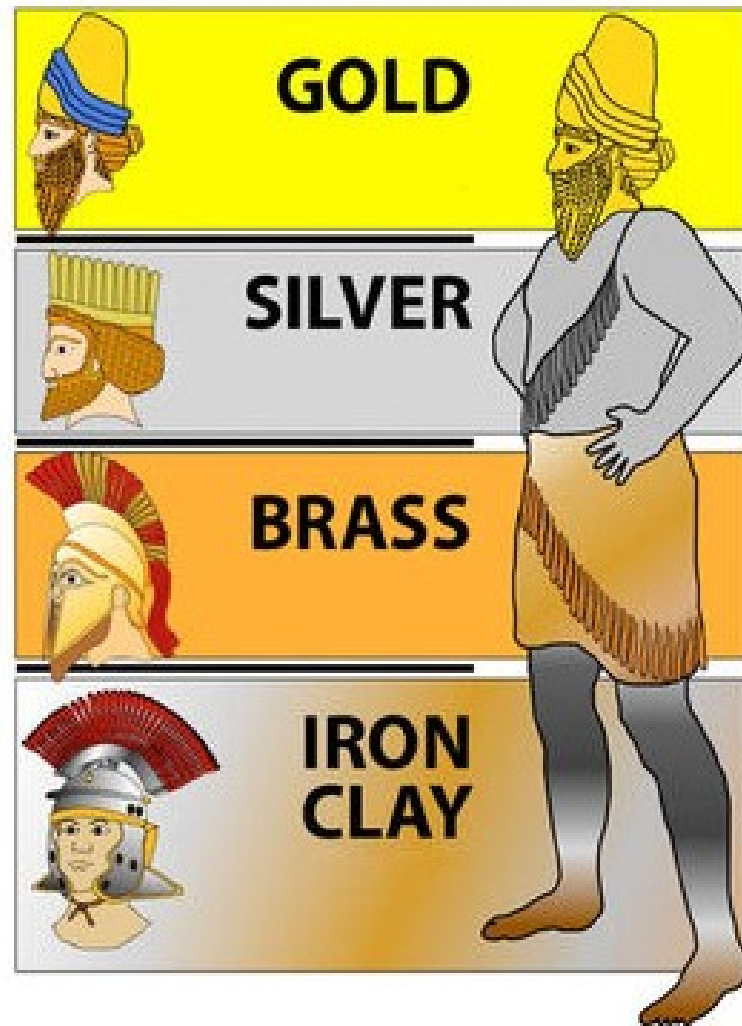


Babylon = 1st (605-540 .BC) ‘you are the head of gold’ as representing the empire.

Medo-Persian empire would follow (539-331 BC) defeating the Babylonians (cf chapter 5)

The Greek empire (started under Alexander the Great) (331-63 BC) Cf chapter 8

Nebuchadnezzar sees the future as a metallic statue (outward view). Later Daniel sees it as beasts – their real nature



Fourth –The Romans followed the Greek empire
– iron is a fitting description for their rule
(from 63 BC
- 476 AD (The fall of Rome)
– 1453AD (the fall of Constantinople)



It was fragmented - with so many peoples, It divided into east and west and ended at the fall of Constantinople 1453 AD. under the Islamic attack from the Ottoman empire.

Rome fell apart over a long period of time, but the effects of the empire still continue today on Europe and 'Western' civilisation. With language, law, technology and engineering, etc.

The small rock – the kingdom of God (with its divine origin) began with a baby born in Bethlehem, 12 disciples in a small ‘obscure’ country in the world’s opinion but is growing to this

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

The small rock – the kingdom of God ultimately comes to this:-

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

so that you, O king, may know the interpretation
and that you may understand what went through your mind.



So why did God reveal this to Nebuchadnezzar and at that time?
The 'top' man needs to know God is in charge.

1 Peter 1:24-25 for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."

To get Daniel promoted and to write it down.
For us – prepared beforehand and that our God reigns.