

Mini Series: Daniel's Visions
"The Great Statue"



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

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Why Daniel's Visions?



Rules of Engagement (OT foundation)

- (Revelation) **BLACKBELT**
- (Daniel) **BROWNBELT**
- REDBELT**
- PURPLEBELT**
- BLUEBELT**
- GREENBELT**
- ORANGEBELT**
- YELLOWBELT**
- WHITEBELT**



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Why Daniel's Visions?



- ∞ We laid some groundwork about Revelation itself including filling us in some basic background, rules of engagement, things to know, how to approach this study, interpret, what to know, etc.
- ∞ So why a mini series on Daniel's visions?
- ∞ For one the Scripture says:
Daniel 1:17
17 As for these four youths (Daniel/Shadrach/Meshach/Abed-Nego), God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; **Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.**
- ∞ Angels preserved Daniel (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego)
 - ∞ Lion's Den (Daniel), Fiery furnace (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego)
- ∞ The angel Gabriel provided Daniel understanding of the prophetic visions

Why Daniel's Visions?



- ∞ Furthermore, our Lord Jesus cited many OT prophets:
 - ∞ David (Psalms)
 - ∞ Moses (even talked to Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration)
 - ∞ Jeremiah
 - ∞ Isaiah
 - ∞ Zechariah
 - ∞ Hosea
 - ∞ Jonah
 - ∞ Micah
 - ∞ Malachi
- ∞ However....

Why Daniel's Visions?



- Concerning the end times, Jesus singled out just one OT prophet, and that of course, is Daniel:

Matthew 24:15-16

15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of **through Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

As we know, the context of Mt 24 is about the events leading up to Christ's return

- Given Revelation is a study of the end times, Daniel was given visions and understanding, and Jesus specifically called out Daniel's prophecy, it would be prudent for us to allow Daniel's interpretations of visions and dreams lay the foundation for us

Why Daniel's Visions?



- ∞ Scope of our mini series is to focus on end times prophecies
 - ∞ I'll try and not get too subjective in terms *how* the world got to the end times (whether some world events are part of prophecy, how various wars may fit into prophecy, etc.)
 - ∞ But I will focus on *what* to expect in the end times (clear end time events (or "signs") that cannot be mistaken to know what season we're in)

- ∞ What we'll find is that in all of the OT:
 - ∞ Daniel gives us **the cornerstone** of all end times prophecy
 - ∞ Daniel gives the **most comprehensive** end times prophecy
 - ∞ Daniel gives us **description and timeline** of end times prophecy

Overview of what we'll cover



- ❧ Historical background leading up to the time of Daniel
- ❧ We'll cover to a certain extent the following prophecies with end times implications:
 - ❧ Nebuchadnezzar's:
 - ❧ Dream of a Great Statue [which we will begin to cover today]
 - ❧ Daniel's visions and revelations concerning:
 - ❧ Four Beasts
 - ❧ Ram and Goat
 - ❧ Little Horn
 - ❧ Seventy Weeks and Messiah
 - ❧ Sealing of this book

The goal of this mini series



- ∞ Is to demonstrate:
 - ∞ How the OT is the foundation of the NT
 - ∞ God's progressive revelation concerning the end times and how it's centered around the disciplining of God's chosen people, Israel
 - ∞ The connection of the visions Daniel received with the visions John received in the book of Revelation
 - ∞ How Revelation is really a continuation of the book of Daniel
 - ∞ Can be called '2Daniel'
 - ∞ Help us know what's in store for believers and Jews and the world so that we are armed with enough truth to persevere to the end (to death if necessary)
- ∞ Once we complete our mini series, my hope is that the book of Revelation will become even more clearer as it was for me
- ∞ And just for kicks, at the end of our mini series:
 - ∞ We'll take a guess of what YEAR the world **MIGHT** END using Daniel's 70-week prophecy

Brief Overview



- ∞ Here is a brief overview leading to the book of Daniel
 - ∞ Understanding the Davidic kingdom is imperative
- ∞ David was given the united kingdom of Israel
 - ∞ God made a covenant with David to always have a son to sit on David's throne
- ∞ When David died, his son Solomon succeeded him
 - ∞ Like David, Solomon ruled a united kingdom of Israel
 - ∞ God promised David before he died that He will be a Father to Solomon and discipline him when he sins

Brief Overview



- ∞ Well Solomon sinned and did evil in the eyes of God, part of God's discipline (to him and his sons who follows in his footsteps) was to divide the kingdom into 2 kingdoms (~975 BC):
 - ∞ Israel (Northern Kingdom; 10 tribes)
 - ∞ Judah (Southern Kingdom; 1 tribe)
 - ∞ To keep a light burning for David

Brief Overview



- ∞ The Kingdom of Israel predominately had only evil kings
 - ∞ Only Jehu did some good (in obedience to God killed Jehoram (Israel's king), Jehoram's son Ahaziah (Judah's king), house of Ahab (including Jezebel), as well as, purged Baal worship)
- ∞ The Kingdom of Judah had a mix evil/good kings
 - ∞ Some a little bit of both
- ∞ Nonetheless, eventually both kingdoms sinned to a point where God disciplined both kingdoms and taken them both into captivity

Brief Overview



- ☞ Northern Kingdom (Israel; 10 Tribes)
 - ☞ Assyrian Exile (Tilgath-Pileser III, Shalmaneser, Sargon)
 - ☞ Multiple deportations (734-722BC)
 - ☞ 722BC kingdom of Israel ceased to exist

A little over a 100 years later (609 BC)... Jeremiah prophesies concerning the destruction of the temple and pronounced a 70 year judgment against Judah:

Jeremiah 25:11

11 This whole land (Judah) will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**.

Why 70 years?...

Brief Overview



2 Chronicles 36:20-21 [speaking of Babylonian captivity]
20 Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him [Nebuchadnezzar] and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths**. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath **until seventy years were complete**.

Brief Overview



- ☞ 70 years of captivity correlates to 70 Sabbath years of rest missed, including the Jubilee year
 - ☞ 6 years may toil the land and harvest
 - ☞ 7th year is a Sabbath Year of rest
 - ☞ Ever 50th year is a Jubilee Year of rest
 - ☞ At the completion of 7 Sabbatical cycles ($7 \times 7 = 49$ years)
- ☞ The 70 years of captivity makes up for the total number of Sabbaths the people of Israel failed to observe as commanded in the OT
- ☞ As we will see this 70 years will come into play into Daniel's 70 Week prophecy

A few years after Jeremiah prophesied impending 70 year judgment...

Brief Overview



- ☞ Southern Kingdom (Judah)
 - ☞ Babylonian Exile (Nebuchadnezzar)
 - ☞ Several deportations
 - ☞ 606-582 BC
 - ☞ Daniel and his 3 companions taken in 1st wave (606 BC)
- ☞ This sets the stage for the book of Daniel
- ☞ Daniel was in Babylonian captivity serving in the King's court
- ☞ When taken into Babylonian captivity, Daniel initially served under King Nebuchadnezzar
- ☞ Which leads us to the first prophecy we'll be covering...

The Great Statue



Daniel 2:1-11: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Great Statue

1 Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream."

4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation." 5 The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap. 6 But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation." 8 The king replied, "I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me is firm, 9 that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean. 11 Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh."

The Great Statue



Daniel 2:12-18: Nebuchadnezzar Gives Order to Execute

12 Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them.

14 Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon; 15 he said to Arioch, the king's commander, "For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. 16 So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.

17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

The Great Statue



Daniel 2:19-23: Dream and Mystery was Revealed to Daniel

19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; 20 Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,

For wisdom and power belong to Him.

21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs;

He removes kings and establishes kings;

He gives wisdom to wise men

And knowledge to men of understanding.

22 "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;

He knows what is in the darkness,

And the light dwells with Him.

23 "To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,

For You have given me wisdom and power;

Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,

For You have revealed to me the mystery of the dream."

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The Great Statue



Daniel 2:24-30: Daniel Brought Before Nebuchadnezzar

24 Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and spoke to him as follows: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king."

25 Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!" 26 The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?" 27 Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. 28 However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. 29 As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place. 30 But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

The Great Statue



Daniel 2:31-35: Daniel Reveals The King's Dream

31 "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The Great Statue



Daniel 2:36-45: Daniel Interprets The King's Dream

36 "This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. 37 You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; 38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

39 After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

40 Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. 41 In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. 43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

The Great Statue



Daniel 2:36-45 (cont'd): Daniel Prophecies of Messiah's Kingdom

44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

The Great Statue



- ☞ Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the Great Statue summarizes the great world powers to follow Babylonian Rule until the end of history
- ☞ Beginning from head to toe, the vision designates precious metals to great world powers
 - ☞ Head: Gold
 - ☞ Chest/ Arms: Silver
 - ☞ Belly/ Thighs: Bronze
 - ☞ Legs: Iron
 - ☞ Feet/Toes: Partly Iron, Partly Clay
- ☞ Just as Revelation is to be understood chronologically, sequentially
- ☞ So must the vision of the Great Statue be interpreted chronologically, sequentially, **BUT not bound by time!**



The Great Statue: Head of Gold

- ☞ Thankfully Daniel was given the interpretation and the corresponding kingdoms
- ☞ The head of gold (1st kingdom) corresponds to Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom):

Daniel 2:37-38

37 You, O king [Nebuchadnezzar], are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; 38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. **You [Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon] are the head of gold.**

The Great Statue: Head of Gold

The head of gold =
(this is Scriptural and
historically verifiable)
Babylonian Empire
ruled from: *606BC-
538BC

*The Chronology of the OT -
Dr Floyd Nolan Jones



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The Great Statue: Breast/ Arms of Silver



- ❧ The breast/ arms of silver (2nd kingdom) corresponds to Medo-Persians:
Dan 2:39a
After you [Babylonian Empire] there will arise another kingdom inferior to you...
- ❧ The Medes-Persians conquered Babylon 538BC
- ❧ Thus, the breast/ arms of silver = Medes-Persians (538-331BC)
 - ❧ This is Scriptural and historically verifiable

The Great Statue: Breast/ Arms of Silver

The breast/arms of silver =
(this is Scriptural and
historically verifiable)

Medo-Persian Empire ruled
from: 538BC-331BC



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The Great Statue: Belly/Thighs of Bronze



Dan 2:39a

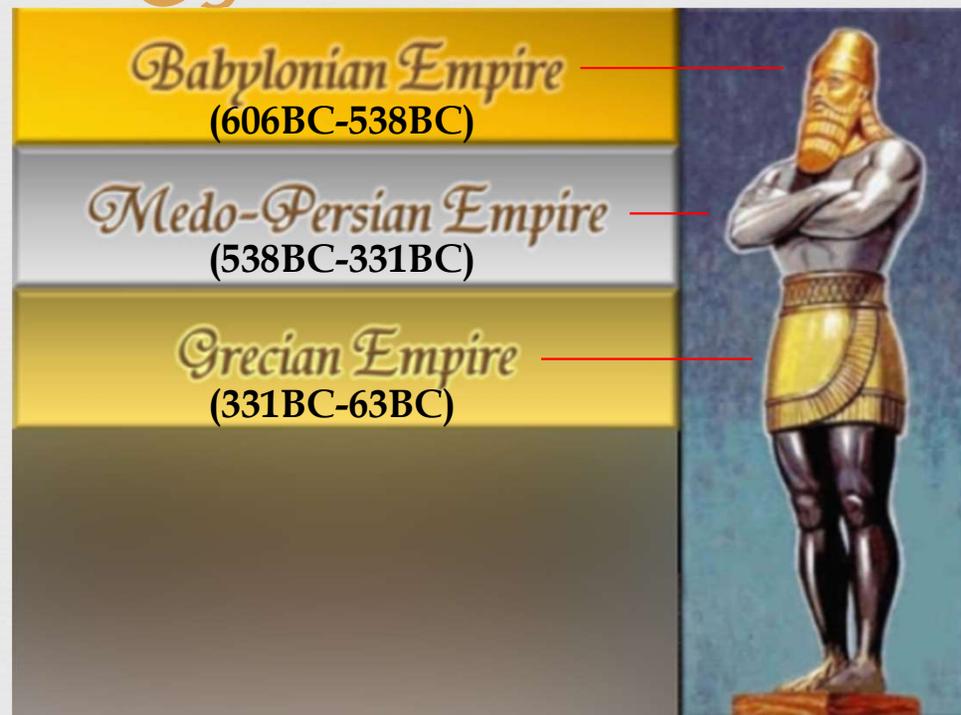
After you [Babylonian Empire] there will arise another kingdom [Medes-Persians] inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

- ☞ Greece rose to power in 331BC
- ☞ Thus the belly/thighs of bronze (3rd kingdom) corresponds to Greco-Macedonian Empire: 331BC-63BC
- ☞ This is Scriptural and historically verifiable

The Great Statue: Belly/Thighs of Bronze

The belly/thighs of bronze =
(this is Scriptural and historically verifiable)

Grecian Empire ruled from:
538BC-331BC



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The Great Statue: Legs of Iron



Daniel 2:40

40 Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

- ❧ Rome rose to power in 31BC
 - ❧ Augustus Caesar proclaimed himself the 1st Emperor of Rome
- ❧ Romulus Augustus was last Roman Emperor in 476 AD
 - ❧ Fall of Western Roman Empire
 - ❧ Roman provinces were divided, long history ensues
- ❧ Thus, the legs of iron (4th kingdom) corresponds to Rome:
 - ❧ 31BC-476AD

The Great Statue: Legs of Iron



The legs of iron =
(this is Scriptural and historically verifiable)

Roman Empire ruled from:
31BC-476BC

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The Great Statue



- ⌘ Back to the vision of the Great Statue:
 - ⌘ Head of **gold** = Babylon Empire (606BC-538BC)
 - ⌘ Breast/ Arms of **silver** = Medes-Persians Empire (538BC-331BC)
 - ⌘ Belly/ Thighs of **bronze** = Greco-Macedonian Empire (331BC-63BC)
 - ⌘ Legs of **iron** = Roman Empire (31BC-476AD)
- ⌘ No ambiguity here... these are Scriptural and the empires that rose to power in succession of the Great Statue vision
 - ⌘ This is widely accepted by scholars
- ⌘ Where there is ambiguity are the feet/toes...