

Handout 1: Daniel Lesson 2

2:1 *In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had a series of dreams; he was perturbed by this and sleep deserted him.*

According to Daniel 1:4-5a, Daniel and his friends received instruction in the language and traditions of the Chaldeans for three years before being admitted to the king's service.

The Three Years of Instruction	Nebuchadnezzar's Reign
605 BC: the year the young Jews were captured and began their instruction.	605 BC: Nebuchadnezzar's accession year.
604 BC: the second year of instruction.	604 BC: year #1 of Nebuchadnezzar's reign.
603 BC: the third year of instruction.	603 BC: year #2 of Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

The first vision is of the statue signifying what was *to take place in the final days*. The Prophet Daniel received seven prophetic revelations from the late seventh century to the mid-sixth century BC. Four historical empires that succeeded each other and had an impact on the history of God's holy people fulfilled several of Daniel's visions. The Babylonian's king's statue dream was the first of the prophetic revelations that pertained to the future of the covenant people.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Composite Statue Dream (Daniel 2:1-13)	Daniel's Interpretation of the Dream and the Historical Fulfillment (Daniel 2:14-44)
1. Head of fine gold	Babylonian Empire: Daniel told the Babylonian king <i>you are the golden head</i> (Dan 2:38).
2. Chest and arms of silver	Persian Empire: This regional empire was composed of the Medes and the Persians (one empire/chest with two arms). The Persians conquered Babylon in 539 BC.
3. Belly and thighs of bronze	Greek Empire of Alexander the Great: Alexander the Great, began the conquest of the Medo-Persian Empire in 335BC. Persians were defeated by Greeks at the battle of Arbela in 331 BC, making the Greeks the regional world power.
4. Legs of iron, feet part iron, part clay	Roman Empire: The 4 th great empire that conquered the four smaller Greek kingdoms that emerged after Alexander's death. In campaigns from 197-30 BC, Rome conquered Greece, Asia Minor, the Levant (Judah) and Egypt. By the first century AD, Rome dominated the ancient known world. The feet of part iron and clay may represent the pro-Roman Herodian dynasty of Judea. In the fourth century AD Rome split into the Western Empire, centered in Rome, and the Eastern Empire, centered in Constantinople (two legs). The feet which are only part iron may

	represent the ten Roman provinces. The Roman Empire collapsed in the fifth century AD.
5. The stone that struck the statue to become a greater kingdom	The 5 th Kingdom: The final kingdom was prophesied to be “everlasting” (Dan 2:44; 7:14, 18, 27) ... <i>the God of heaven will set up a kingdom it will shatter and absorb all the previous kingdoms and itself last forever</i> (Dan 2:44-45). The “stone” that broke “away from the mountain” (Dan 2:45) of the Old Sinai Covenant centered on Mt. Moriah became the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, the New Covenant Church and the Universal Kingdom of Jesus Christ.
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CORRELATION OF DREAMS AND VISIONS IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

	Images from Chapter 2	Beasts from Chapter 7	Beasts from Chapter 8	World Kingdoms
T I M E of the G E N T I L E S	Head of gold	Like a lion with eagle’s wings		Babylon 606/5-539 BC
	Chest and arms of silver	Like a bear	Ram with two horns	Medo-Persia 539-331 BC
	Belly and thighs of bronze	Like a leopard with four wings and four heads	Male goat with one great horn, four horns, and a little horn	Alexander the Great - Greece kingdoms 332-146 BC
	Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay	Incomparable beast with ten horns and a little horn		Rome and the domination of the Province Judea beginning in 63 BC
	The stone that becomes a great mountain	Messiah and Saints receive the Kingdom of God		5 th Kingdom = Kingdom of Jesus Christ*

* THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH
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VISIONS OF THE HISTORICAL EMPIRES OF THE PROPHET DANIEL

The Prophet Daniel received these prophecies from the late 7th century to the mid 6th century BC. The three visions concern four historical empires that conquer and surpass in size the previous kingdom. The vision of Daniel Chapter 2, the Composite Statue indicating what is *“to take place in the final days”* (Dan 2:28).

1. Head of fine gold	The Babylon Empire. Daniel to the Babylonian king, <i>“you are the golden head”</i> (Dan 2:28).
2. Chest and arms of silver	Persian Empire. King Cyrus and his two arms of the Medo-Persians conquered Babylon in 539 BC.
3. Belly and thighs of bronze	The Greek Empire of Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great began the conquest of the Medo-Persian Empire in 335 BC. The Greeks defeated the Persians in 333 BC at the Battle of Issus. After Alexander’s death in 323 BC, the Greeks split into four kingdoms. Two of those kingdoms, Greek Egypt and Greek Syria, fought for control of Judah. The Romans conquered the four Greek kingdoms in campaigns from 197-63 BC.
4. Legs of iron, feet part iron, part clay	Rome and her province of Judea. In the 4th century AD, Rome split into the “two legs” of the Western Empire centered in Rome and the Eastern Empire centered in Constantinople.
5. The stone that struck the statue = Jesus "the cornerstone."	<i>“the God of heaven will set up a kingdom it will shatter and absorb all the previous kingdoms and itself last forever”</i> (Dan 2:44-45). The 5 th kingdom is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth = the New Covenant, Universal Church.

The vision in Daniel Chapter 7: The Four Beasts

1. Lion with wings	Babylon: a lion with wings was the royal symbol of Babylon.
2. Bear with three ribs in its mouth	Persians conquer the three provinces of Babylon: Lydia in 546 BC; Babylon in 539 BC; and Egypt in 525 BC.
3. Leopard with four wings and four heads	Alexander the Great and his four generals who won his victories and divided his empire after his death.
4. 4th beast with ten horns	Rome with her ten client kings who rule her ten provinces; or the ten Caesars from Augustus Caesar (and the birth of Christ) to Vespasian and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the end of the Old Covenant.

The vision in Daniel Chapter 8: The Ram and the He-Goat

Ram with two horns	The Medes and the Persians united to form the Persian Empire.
He-goat with one horn	Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire.
He-goat's one horn becomes four horns	Alexander the Great’s empire divided into four kingdoms after his death.
The little horn that grows toward the "Land of Splendor."	The Seleucid Greeks expanded the empire from Syria to Asia Minor to the Indus River and became the largest of the four Greek empires dominating even the Promised Land of the Jews.