

Daniel 2:31–45

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 18-19, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Last week, we mentioned how Daniel learned about the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation (Daniel 2:1-30). Let's continue with the story.

First, Daniel told the king about the dream (Daniel 2:31-35).

Daniel told the king that he (the king) had seen a huge and terrifying image (verse 31).

The head was gold, the chest and arms were silver and the waist down to the knees was bronze (verse 32).

The legs were iron and the feet were part iron and part clay (verse 33).

An amazing stone struck the feet and broke them into pieces (verse 34). This caused the rest of the image to break into pieces (verse 35).

And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth (also, verse 35).

Next, Daniel told the king about the interpretation (verses 36-45).

Daniel told the king that he (the king) was the head of gold (verses 37-38).

Daniel went on to say that three more world-ruling kingdoms would ultimately succeed his kingdom (verses 39-43).

A common theory in society and in churches is that these four kingdoms were the following:

- The Babylonian empire.
- The Medo-Persian empire.
- The Macedonian or Greek empire.
- The Roman empire.

No matter which four identities that historians or theologians place upon the four aspects of the image, verses 44 and 45 reveal the important contrast of the dream.

Daniel 2:44-45—“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. 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.”

When Jesus the Christ came to this world years later, disciples were anxious for Him to establish the Kingdom of God (John 6:14-15).

They didn't understand the timing of God's plan. At first, they didn't realize that He came the first time to fulfill the purpose of providing a sacrifice for all of mankind.

Christ told the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was among them as He walked with them.

Luke 17:20-21—“Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed, the kingdom of God is within [or among] you.’ ”

And then Christ told them that He would leave and come again.

Luke 17:22-24—“Then He said to the disciples, ‘The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, “Look here!” or “Look there!” Do not go after them or follow them. For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.’ ”

Christians believe that Jesus the Christ will return to this earth to finish God's purpose for mankind. God's Kingdom will stand forever.