

# THE PROPHETIC WORD TODAY

## Daniel: Revealer of Secrets

Text: Daniel 2:31-49

Introduction: A long, long, long time ago, when I was just a young lad with thick black hair, my family suffered many hardships. Among the worst of these was that we had to watch TV, now just listen, because you will not believe this. We had to watch TV in black and white.

Among my family's favorite shows was one called "I've Got a Secret". People with unusual, embarrassing, or humorous experiences would answer the question of panelists who tried to guess their secret.

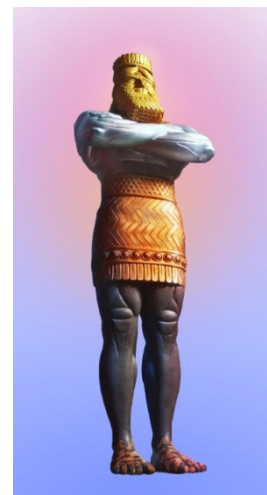
King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon would have made a great guest star, because, boy did he have a secret. God had sent him a dream, a dream so disturbing that it robbed the king of sleep. He was confident the dream had meaning, but he would not tell the dream to anyone. He demanded that his royal cabinet of wise men tell him what he dreamed. Then he would trust them to tell him what the dream meant.

The king gave his astrologers and soothsayers a little while to tell him the dream, and if not, they and their families would die; and the king was not playing a game. Royal murder had already been committed when Daniel went to the chief executioner and said, "Take me to the king. I know the answer." So Daniel was brought before King Nebuchadnezzar and...

Dan. 2:26-28 <sup>26</sup> The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?" <sup>27</sup> Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. <sup>28</sup> **But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets**, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

### I. GOD REVEALED THE SECRET DREAM.

Dan. 2:31-35 <sup>31</sup> "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. <sup>32</sup> This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.



<sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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.



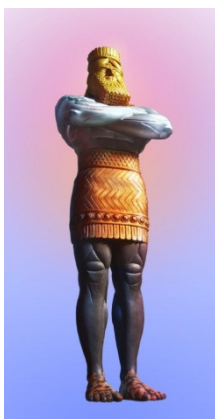
- A. God knew Nebuchadnezzar’s secret.
- B. God knows our secrets as well.
- C. God will one day reveal the secrets.

Mark 4:21–22 Also He said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? <sup>22</sup> For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.

## II. GOD REVEALED THE MEANING OF THE DREAM.

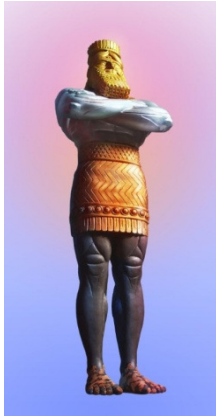
<sup>36</sup> “This *is* the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. <sup>37</sup> You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; <sup>38</sup> and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field 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.



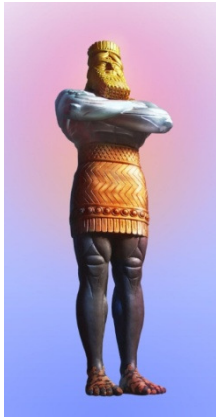
STATUE	INTERPRETATION
Head of gold	Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar

<sup>39</sup> But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours;



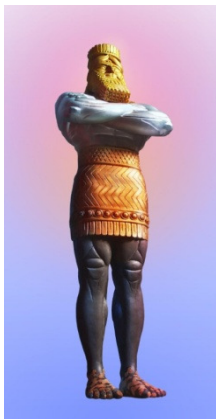
STATUE	INTERPRETATION
Chest and arms of silver	An inferior kingdom to follow

then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.



STATUE	INTERPRETATION
Belly and thighs of bronze	A third kingdom that will rule the earth

<sup>40</sup> 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.



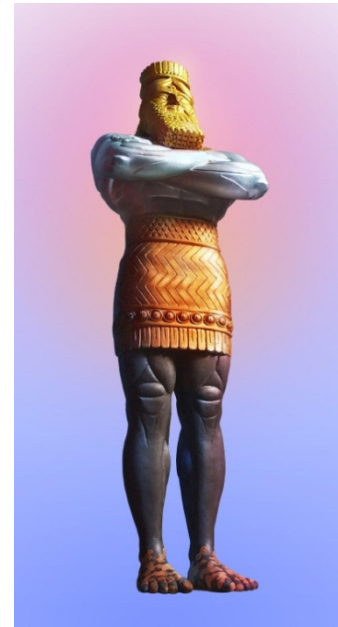
STATUE	INTERPRETATION
Legs of iron	A fourth kingdom strong as iron that crushes; eventually divided

Remember Daniel said,...

**28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets**, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

**And what God showed Nebuchadnezzar in 604 B.C. and declared and explained through His prophet Daniel, came to pass exactly as was described.**

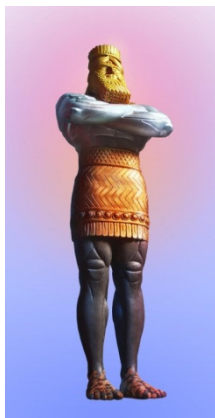
STATUE	INTERPRETATION	HISTORICAL MEANING
Head of gold	Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar	<b>Babylon</b> (625 – 539 B.C.)
Chest and arms of silver	An inferior kingdom to follow	<b>Medo-Persia</b> (539-335 B.C.)
Belly and thighs of bronze	A third kingdom that will rule the earth	<b>Greece</b> (335-37 B.C.)
Legs of iron	A fourth kingdom strong as iron that crushes; eventually divided	<b>Rome</b> (37 B.C.-476 A.D.)



**In the dream and its interpretation, God revealed the next 1,080 years of the history of the world.**

### III. GOD REVEALED THE FUTURE.

***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.***



STATUE	INTERPRETATION
Feet of iron mixed with clay	The fourth kingdom weakened, partly strong, partly fragile. Ten toes.

**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



STATUE	INTERPRETATION
Stone that grows into a mountain	An eternal kingdom established by God which shall replace all human kingdoms

—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.”

STATUE	INTERPRETATION	HISTORICAL MEANING
Feet of iron mixed with clay	The fourth kingdom weakened, partly strong, partly fragile	The future Revived Roman Empire, the dynasty of Antichrist in the tribulation
Stone that grows into a mountain	An eternal kingdom established by God which shall replace all human kingdoms	The Millennial Kingdom of Christ



**CONCLUSION:** My friend, Jesus is that stone.

After healing a cripple and being harassed for it by religious, unbelieving Jews, Peter declared

**Acts 4:10–12** <sup>10</sup> let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. <sup>11</sup> This is the *‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.* <sup>12</sup> Nor is there

salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

And God, the Revealer of Secrets, the One who knows the hidden secrets of our hearts, has sent His Son to be the “stone of our help,” “the solid rock upon which we can stand,” and “the cornerstone of our lives.”

But the question is always what we will do with Him, Jesus. Will we believe and be a part of that eternal kingdom He has established? Or will we reject Him and be a part of the kingdoms of this world that shall be utterly destroyed?