

new practice. Yet, despite all these attempts, a lack of unity extends to our time.

It seems that a new world *dis*order is to be in place for the future. One should not overlook the concerning alliance that is developing between church and state, both powers taking turns in claiming the symbols of “iron” and “clay”.

The goals of world powers, whether political or religious (even atheistic) are never entirely reached! The prophecy is crystal clear on this matter: “but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.”

That is why the dictatorial Third Reich of Hitler never materialized, nor a true democratic European Union (note Brexit).

The God of heaven assured king Nebuchadnezzar that he was the head of gold. Where are we? Some twenty-six centuries later we can confidently say that we are living in the final era of the unmixed iron and clay toes.

THE GLOBAL IMPACT

The final and most significant part of the king’s dream deals with one item only – a terrible impact. The stone coming down to destroy the entire structure is identified as another “kingdom.” It is the final one, destroying them all, replacing them all.

What does Daniel reveal about it? (v. 44)

- **When?** “In the days of these kings” (modern ruling nations, it is imminent).
- **Who?** “The God of heaven” (a divine power).
- **What?** “A kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (no more challengers).
- **How long?** “It shall stand forever” (everlasting).

Which Kingdom fits? The Bible answers: God’s kingdom. This is not Christianity conquering the world as some would have us believe. It’s the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ. He will return on the clouds of heaven. And His second coming will signal the end of this world.



THE ALARM IS SOUNDING AGAIN

One could write this all off as an ancient palace story... But note how the prophet ends his explanation of this mysterious dream: “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.” (Daniel 2:45)

It is a timeline of the world empires from his time until the end of time!

As history has proven the accuracy of this prophecy, section by section, century after century, there is no reason to doubt its final part in our times. When will it be fulfilled? According to the Bible the coming of the kingdom of Christ is in the very near future.

Discover how the final battle of the world empires plays out in this prophecy. Join our *Focus on Prophecy* Bible study or order the free book entitled *The Great Controversy*.

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The FINAL COUNTDOWN

An Explanation of the World Empires Prophecy
in the Biblical book of Daniel, the Prophet



A MYSTERIOUS DREAM

The alarm startled all the king’s noblemen that night. The mighty counsellors of the empire were being rounded up for execution. All because of a mysterious dream...

Come back in time with us to the 6th century BC. The king of the great Babylonian empire, Nebuchadnezzar, has had a dream (see the Biblical book of Daniel, chapter 2). Perceived as a token from the gods, the message was surely one of life and death. The king woke up very distressed from his troubled sleep only to find that he couldn’t recall the dream... (You know the feeling. Dreaming of something so real, so relevant and yet, upon waking, you remember... nothing!)

The mighty king felt frustrated, even fearful.

Instantly the king summons his wisemen, as per Babylonian protocol, to interpret the dream. Magicians and astrologers appear before him inquiring as to the content of the dream. Nebuchadnezzar quickly becomes skeptical of their abilities and pushes them to the next level. Allow us to use today's language: "If you are really in touch with the realm above, tell me the dream. *Interpretations* can be made up by anyone..."

"Humanly impossible!" is their resounding answer! Frustrated, disappointed, and angry, Nebuchadnezzar promptly orders their immediate execution...

The story could have ended here. But enter the young Hebrew, Daniel, junior Wiseman and Prophet of God. Watch now as history takes an extraordinary twist.

Not initially summoned, yet rounded up for execution too, Daniel boldly asks the king's executioner for a chance to request a reprieve from the king. Permission granted, he turns in prayer to the God of heaven and is given a vision of the exact dream Nebuchadnezzar had.

Daniel understands: the dream is about changing times and seasons, removing and setting up kings (Daniel 2:21).

A DREAM OF FUTURE EMPIRES

Going before the king, Daniel introduces the dream. Emphasizing that it is all about the future – God revealing to the king "what will be in the latter days" (Daniel 2:28):

"You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image [statue], whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its bel-



ly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

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. 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." (Daniel 2:31-35)

Wide-eyed, Nebuchadnezzar sits astonished. Indeed, that was the dream! Described in the finest detail – from the glorious golden head down to those plain iron and clay toes – gold, silver, bronze, iron, clay. And that disturbing stone...

"MIGHTY PROPHET, WHAT'S THE INTERPRETATION?"

Excited as he now recalls the dream, Nebuchadnezzar is eager to hear it.

HEAD OF GOLD • Daniel begins with "You are this head of gold" (v. 38). This is music to Nebuchadnezzar's ears! And an indication to us of the starting point of this prophecy: BABYLON (605-539 BC).

CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER • Sadly for Nebuchadnezzar, what follows is bad news for him: "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours." Indeed, Babylon was conquered later by the second empire, MEDO-PERSIA (539-331 BC).

BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE • Daniel boldly continues: "Then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth." This third empire was GREECE (331-168 BC), led by the well-known command-in-chief Alexander the Great.

LEGS OF IRON • "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." (Daniel 2:38-40) The fourth kingdom in the series was an iron-like empire, which can only be ROME (168 BC – AD 476) with its increasingly absolute dominance over the then known world. Jesus Christ was even crucified under the Roman rule.

THE STATUE'S FINAL STAGE

All these empires lie mostly in ruins now with their artefacts displayed in museums. But note – the final part of the statue is currently very much alive. The legs extend to feet and toes with a strange composition: iron and clay. The prophet explains the symbolism of this mixture: "the kingdom shall be divided" (v. 41); and its meaning: "the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile" (v. 42).

When Rome fell in AD 476, its territories were divided between different tribes. These tribes later not only became the ruling nations of Europe (England, Germany, France, Spain etc.), but conquerors and/or colonial powers of the entire globe.

History informs us that following the Roman Empire no other single empire ruled the whole world. (For details check the online article at: www.discovertruth.ie/the-final-countdown)

THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Let's return to 2021! We see the world striving for unity through military alliances, economic unions, and global organizations and groups such as the United Nations, European Union, NATO, G7, IMF, WB, etc. A century or more ago the practice of intermarriage of the world's monarchies attempted to achieve this. It failed. Treaties and partnerships became the