

This study will persuade you to believe that the Lord controls human history until the end based on the 4-part image that Daniel interprets.

1. Vs 1-2

- a. Magicians – drawing magical lines, a horoscopist.
- b. Astrologers – to practice enchantments, a conjurer.
- c. Sorcerers – to whisper a spell, a sorcerer.
- d. Chaldeans – a descendant of Kesed, ancient inhabitants.
- e. **Manna - This is the same place man's efforts take us today.**
 - i. **Magicians = Horoscopes, John Edwards Oprah shows.**
 - ii. **Astrologers = Conjuring up the power of Satan.**
 - iii. **Sorcerers = Drug use, legal or illegal; does it put you in an altered state of mind like "mood enhancers"?**
 - iv. **Chaldeans = Old wise people, maybe good...maybe not.**

2. Vs 3-4

- a. 2:4 – 7:28 is in Aramaic the Syrian language.
- b. One of the very few sections of the OT that isn't in Hebrew.

3. Vs 5-6

- a. The king knew their tricks and didn't want to tell them the dream as to get an actual interpretation.

4. Vs 7-11

- a. Now they know that they're in trouble.
- b. Vs 10 – 'not a man' – Joseph, "It's not in me; God will give you the answer". **Manna – Who's in control? God**

c. Vs 11 – ‘dwelling isn’t w/ flesh’ – That’s what makes Jesus different. He became flesh and dwelt among us.

5. Vs 12-13

a. Daniel wasn’t called to the palace w/ the other wise men.

b. **Manna - Daniel didn’t hang out with that circle of friends.**

6. Vs 14-18

a. The king had enough respect for Daniel as to grant him time.

b. Daniel immediately gets a prayer meeting going.

i. **Manna – Is our first thought to pray with a person when a situation arises?**

c. Purpose of the meeting: To ask for God’s mercy.

i. We never want to ask for God’s justice.

ii. Our great God often even grants us grace.

7. Vs 19-23

a. Vs 19 – First thing Daniel did was to thank God.

b. Notice how this whole prayer is God-centered. Is my prayer God-centered?

c. This prayer gives insight into what the dream was.

d. ‘we’ – This prayer was corporate prayer, not just asking someone to pray for you.

e. **Manna – Daniel praised God for being in control.**

8. Vs 24

a. Notice the concern that Daniel had for others.

9. Vs 25-30

a. Daniel gave all the credit to God, it’s not in himself.

b. **“Nebuchadnezzar, I want you to know who’s in control!”**

10. Vs 31-36

- a. Vs 35 – ‘chaff’ – Read Matt 13:24-30 & 36-43
- b. The harvest is the end of the world

11. Vs 37-38

- a. **1st part of the image is Babylon** – Not just a kingdom, but a world-ruling kingdom.
 - i. There were some great nations (Egypt, Assyria) but none ever ruled the whole earth.
 - ii. 626BC – 539BC
 - iii. The first world ruling kingdom.
 - iv. Gold Head– The most precious of the metal for Babylon; the closest to a pure dictatorship the world ever saw.
 - v. Saddam Hussein was rebuilding Babylon & thought that he was the reincarnation of Nebuchadnezzar.
- b. Four World ruling kingdoms all together
 - i. These together represent the Times of the Gentiles
 - 1. Read Luke 21:20-24
 - a. From Nebuchadnezzar until now Israel never again had control over Jerusalem (1967)

12. Vs 39

- a. So these are kingdoms that will rule the whole earth....no problem all we have to do is go to the history books now.
 - i. **2nd part of the image is the Medo-Persian Empire** – Breast & Arms of Silver
 - 1. 539BC – 336BC
 - 2. Silver is one step lower, more inferior

- 3. Arms – Two nations ruling together as one
- ii. **3rd part of the image is the Greek Empire** – Belly & Thighs of Brass
 - 1. 336BC – 146BC
 - 2. Brass is one step lower, more inferior
 - 3. Belly & Thighs – Together but then branches out.
- b. The more inferior the metal, the less and less of a pure dictatorship it was.
 - i. Can't say it was less and less of a world-rule (territory)
 - ii. Can't say it was less and less of a length of time to rule.
- c. Now we know how to understand the rest of the statue.

13. Vs 40

- a. **4th part of the image is the Roman Empire** – Legs of Iron
 - i. Iron is an inferior metal but strong
 - ii. Legs
 - 1. Power split between the leader and the Senate during the Roman Republic (509BC – 27BC)
 - 2. Roman Empire from 27BC – 285AD
 - 3. Power split between East and West 285AD – 476AD – 1453AD
 - iii. 'Break in pieces' – others and then themselves
 - 1. Known for setting up regional and local rule of the Roman Empire.
 - 2. They themselves then broke into pieces – they were never conquered
- b. Prophecy or writing?

- i. Jews classify Daniel as a Writing, not prophecy.
- ii. Written around 563 BC but skeptics want to say 200BC
 - 1. Even if 200BC it's still a prophecy like this one here about the Roman Empire.
- iii. Jesus Himself called Daniel a prophet in Matt 24:15

14. Vs 41 -43

a. **...but wait there's more the other 4th part of the image... it's a Revived Roman Empire**

- i. Feet & Toes of Iron & Clay
 - 1. Divided
 - 2. It will have strong in it and partly brittle
 - 3. "They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they shall not cleave one to another."
 - a. It's a stretch to say this is just men mingling with other men into a democracy.
 - b. Could be demonic activity.
 - c. Genetic clones?
 - 4. Toes – kingdoms
 - a. 10 democratic kingdoms
 - b. Notice verse 44 calls them kings.
 - c. Everyone knows of the European Union, but do you know about the United States of Africa?

15. Vs 44-45

- a. 'In the days of these kings', God will 'consume' them –
 - i. God 'brings to an end' (consume) the last kingdom & sets up a kingdom that shall never end

- ii. So these 5 kingdoms are the only ones until Christ's return.
- b. 'Cut out of the mountain w/o hands'
 - i. Not created
 - ii. Not man-made
- c. This isn't at the 1st Coming of Jesus
 - i. Read Acts 1:6-7
 - ii. Matt 10:34 – Think not that I've come to bring peace on earth, but a sword.

16. Vs 46-49

- a. Even in Daniel's new realm of power and leadership; he made sure that set established this new environment with believers.

This study persuades us to believe that the Lord controls human history until the end based on this 4-part image that Daniel interprets from Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

1)The Neo-Babylonian Empire

2)The Medo-Persian Empire

3)The Greek Empire

4)The Roman Empire