



Go for God!

The Book of DANIEL

Chapter 2

“WORLD EMPIRES (Life or Death)!”

> Point #1 – The Dream & The Nightmare (v1-13)

(v1-13) King Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream (a matter of life or death)

(v1-2) *Magicians* - A class of priests skilled in sacred writings, literature & the occult.

- *Astrologers* - Have access to supernatural knowledge through the study of the heavens.

- *Sorcerers* - Supposed manipulators of supernatural powers through incantation.

Chaldeans - In charge of State Religion.

> God’s warning against spiritism (i.e. - psychics, palm readers, tarot card handlers, Ouiji boards, witches, etc.) is found in Deuteronomy 18:9-14- *“When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.”*

- Revelation 21:8- *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

- Salvation in the Book of Acts 19:18-20- *And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.*

(v3-13) The dream and the need for truth!

- Warren Wiersbe gives insight on spiritual warfare in regard to the events that are taking place, “The king’s edict had to be obeyed, so Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard and the chief executioner, set out

to round up all the king's "wise men" and slay them. Satan had lost one battle (Ch. 1) but now he would try to pull victory out of defeat by having Daniel and his three friends killed. The Evil One is willing to sacrifice all his false prophets in the city of Babylon if he can destroy four of God's faithful servants. Satan's servants are expendable, but the Lord cares for His, people. See how the Lord intervened and accomplished His purposes and blessed His people."

> Point #2 – Daniel's Determination! (v14-24)

- SEVEN LIFE LESSONS FROM DANIEL (v14-49):

(v14-16) Life lesson #1 – FAITH OVERCOMES FEAR!

(v17) Life lesson #2 – FELLOWSHIP BRINGS VICTORY!

We are told in Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

(v18) Life lesson #3 – FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH THROUGH PRAYER!

- Notice they were seeking the mercies of God! Jesus gave the illustration regarding God's mercies in Luke 18:9-14 - *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

(v19-23) Life lesson #4 – FOREVER AND EVER GOD REIGNS, GIVE THANKS!

(New Testament insight: James 1:5-8- *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*)

(v24) Life lesson #5 – FRIEND TO THE HELPLESS AND HOPELESS!

> Point #3 – Destiny & Deliverance (v24-45)

(v25-30) Life lesson #6 – FEARLESS MESSENGER OF TRUTH!

(v25-30) The dream is for the “LATTER DAYS!”

(v31-35) The visions and dream through man’s eyes is power and prestige, but if we compare Daniel’s vision in Ch. 7 through God’s eyes they are “beasts” attacking and devouring!

(v31-49) Live lesson #7 – FAITHFUL AMBASSADOR OF GOD!

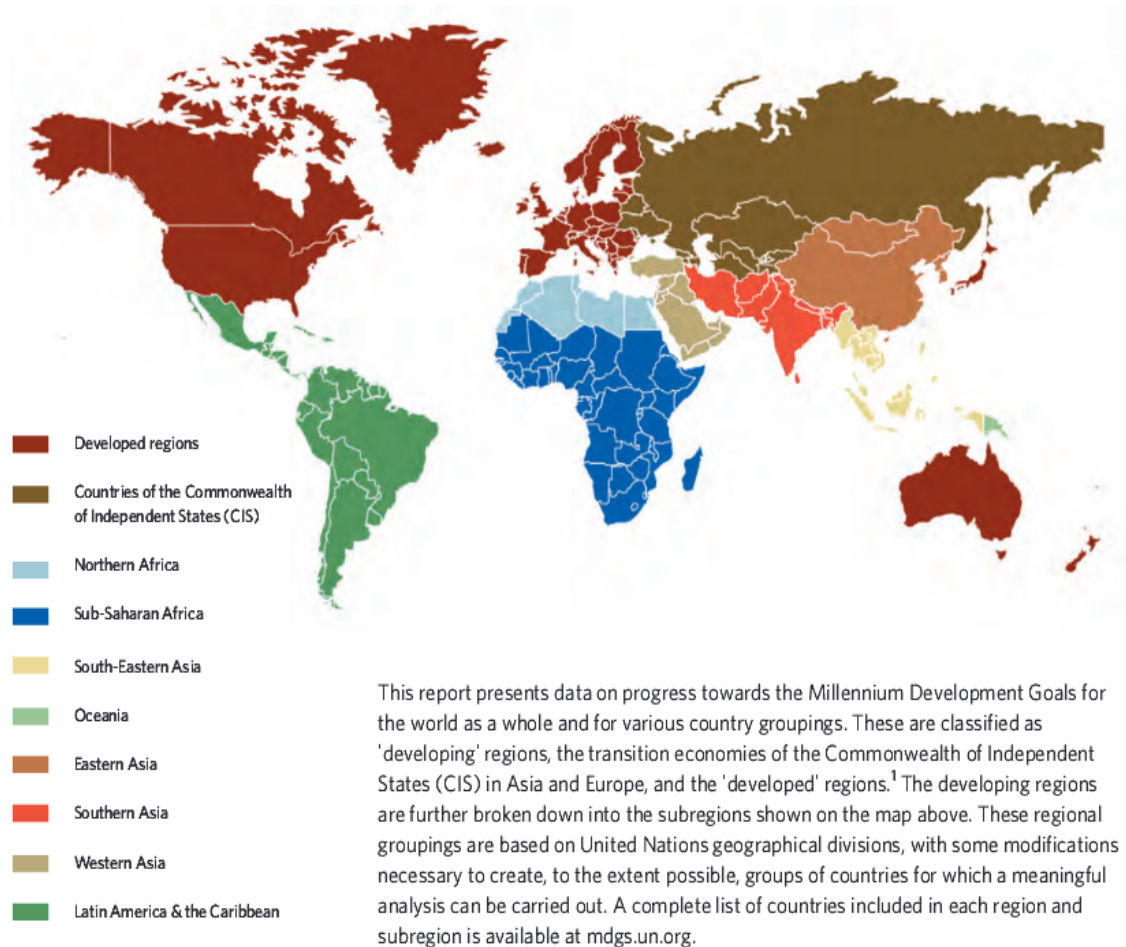
(v36-45) The GREAT IMAGE: (Revelation of Gentile World Empires to the 2nd return of Christ, He is the “Stone!”)

- *Head of Gold* - Babylonian Empire (609 – 539 B.C.)
- *Chest & Arms of Silver* - Medo-Persian Empire (539 – 331 B.C.)
- *Belly & Thighs of Bronze or Brass* - Grecian Empire (331 – 168 B.C.)
- *Legs of Iron* - Roman Empire (168 – 476 A.D.)
- *Feet of Iron & Clay* - Revived Roman Empire of the last days!



(v42) Ten toes of iron and clay, partly strong, partly fragile – Observe:

Regional Groupings



¹ Since there is no established convention for the designation of 'developed' and 'developing' countries or areas in the United Nations system, this distinction is made for the purposes of statistical analysis only.

The UN Divides the World into 10 'Regional Groupings' By The United Nations January 11, 2010

(v44-45) The Stone that struck the “Great Image”- C.I. Scolfield writes, “The Striking Stone destroys the Gentile world system (in its final form) by a sudden and irremediable blow, not by the gradual processes of conversion and assimilation; and then and not before, does the Stone become a mountain which fills “the whole earth” (cp. Dan. 7:26-27).

Such a destruction of the Gentile monarchy system did not occur at the first advent of Christ. On the contrary, He was put to death by the sentence of an officer of the fourth empire, which was then at the zenith of its power. After Christ’s death the western part of the Roman Empire fell in A.D. 476 and the eastern part in 1453, but no other world

empire has superseded Rome because only four empires will precede Christ's return and rule.

The interposition of the Church Age between the first and second advents of Christ, as revealed in the NT, is not a part of this vision. The deadly wound suffered by the fourth empire will not be healed by the restoration of the empire until the Church Age has been completed by the rapture of the Church. Thus the Gentile world power still continues, and the crushing blow is still suspended.

The detail of the end-time is given in Dan. 7 & Rev. 13—19. It is important to observe that (1) Gentile world power is to end in a sudden catastrophic judgment (see Armageddon, Rev. 16:13-16; 19:17); and (2) it is immediately to be followed by the kingdom of heaven. The God of the heavens will not set up His kingdom until after the destruction of the Gentile world system.

It is noteworthy that Gentile world dominion begins and ends with a great statue, or image (Dan. 2:31; Rev 13:14-18- *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.*)

This Stone must not be identified with the Church, as some hold, for the task of the Church is never said to be the destruction of the nations of the earth.

- Matthew 21:42-44 - *Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation (Gk. is "ethnos" the gospel going to Jew and gentile) bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."*

- God spoke through Moses in Ex 19:3-6 - *And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen*

what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." This was forfeited by the rejection of God their Messiah Jesus!

- By the Holy Spirit Peter wrote this fulfillment in - 1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

*- Daniel's Proclamation Produces a Promotion (v46-49)
Philippians 2:9-11 - *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

- Paul inspires us in these last days in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 - Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.