

The Nations in Prophecy

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I. Gentile World Power

A. Nebuchadnezzar's Vision—Dan 2:31-45

1. The vision itself—Dan 2:31-35

Dan. 2:31 "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue --an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. 32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

2. Interpretation

a. Introduction

- i. The issue is not control of the 'world' but control of Jerusalem or Israel
- ii. Rock not by human hands—comp. Ps 118:22
- iii. Five empires NOT four—note the differing orders

vv. 32, 33	v. 35	v. 45
gold	iron	iron
silver	clay	brass
brass	brass	clay
iron	silver	silver
iron and clay	gold	gold

b. First Empire—Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar—comp. Dan 7:4; Isa 13:1

Dan 2:36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

c. Second Empires—Medo-Persia (comp. 5:25-31; 7:5; 8:20; 11:1-2; Isa 13:17; 21:2; 45:1; Jer 51:11) Dan2:39a "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours.

d. Third Empire—Greece (comp. 7:6; 8:21; 11:1-4; Joel 3:6; Zech 9:13; Rev 13:1-2; 17:3, 16-17)

Dan 2:39b "Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

- e. Fourth Empire—Rome (comp. 7:7, 17-24; 9:26; Lk 2:1; Jn 11:48)
Dan 2:40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron --for iron breaks and smashes everything --and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.
- f. Fifth Empire—
Dan 2:41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.
- i. Who is this?
 - 1. Common View—Rome
 - a. Scofield (New Scofield Reference Bible) simply includes these verses under the section dealing with Rome
 - b. Ryrie (Ryrie Study Bible) includes with Rome
 - c. Dake (Dake's Bible) (comp. 7:8, 20-24; Rev 13:1-18; 17:12-17) but calls it a fifth kingdom
 - d. Pentecost (Things to Come) says that this is an outgrowth of Rome. This final power is marked by division
 - i. Weak and Strong
 - ii. autocracy and democracy
 - 2. Companion Bible (Bullinger)
 - a. Identifies with the Mohammedan occupation of Jerusalem from 636 A.D. to 1948!
 - b. This is not so clearly identified because the postponement of the kingdom was not in prophecy—comp. At 1:6
- g. The Messiah Comes—Smiting of the Gentile kingdoms (comp. Isa 9:6-7, etal.)
Dan 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands --a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

B. The vision in Daniel 7 of the four beasts

Dan. 7:2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. 4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it. 5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' 6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule. 7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast --terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. 8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

- 1. View of Scofield, Pentecost, Dake, and Ryrie
 - a. Represent in different form the 'four' parts of image in Dan 2
 - b. In order—
 - i. Lion—7:4—Babylon
 - ii. Bear—7:5—Medo-Persian
 - iii. Leopard—7:6—Greece
 - iv. Ten horned beast—7:7—Rome
 - v. Power of the little horn—7:8—three horns plucked up. Dake calls this a separate empire.
- 2. Bullinger

- a. Concerns the End of Gentile dominion. The interpretation is given in 7:17-18. The vision of chapter 8 is two years later.
- b. These concern four kings which shall arise and Nebuchadnezzar had been dead 23 years.
- c. The ten horns are a part of the fourth beast from the beginning. Yet, in all other scriptures, the ten horns do not come until the end. Therefore, not Rome.
- d. The end time beast of Rev 13:1-10 combines all of the properties.

II. The Northern Confederacy Ezek 38:1-6 (comp. Zech 12:1-4; 14:1-9; Mt 24:14-30; Rev 14:14-20; 19:17-21; Gen 10)

Nation	New Scofield Reference Bible	Ryrie Study Bible	Things to Come (Pentecost)
Magog Gog	Russia = Scythians (Josephus) (see under Gen 10) Gog is the Prince	Magog = land of the Scythians, the region N. and NE. of the Black Sea and E. of the Aral Sea (Josephus) = Russia Gog is the ruler	Magog region of Caucasus = Scythians = Russia Gog is the ruler
Rosh (NIV) Meshech, Tubal	Chief (KJV) Gen 10:2—part of reference to Russia	Chief (makes the reading 'chief prince') The area of modern Turkey	Rosh = tribes north of Taurus mountains in Russia Meshech = Moscow = Russia in Europe Tubal = Tobolsk, a Russian province (also a name of a city) = Russia in Asia
Persia	Iran	Iran	Iran
Ethiopia (Cush)	Ethiopia (Gen 10)	Ethiopia (northern Sudan)	Likely represents either the inhabitants of a region east of central Babylonia or a land and people in northern Arabia. Thus a country contiguous to Persia
Lybia (Put)	Lybia (Gen 10)	Lybia	Put = south or southeast of Cush and Cush is adjacent to Persia
Gomer	Gen 10:2—progenitor of Cimmerians and Cimbri, from whom are descended the Celtic family. The dictionary asserts that these are distributed from the British Isles to Asia Minor.	Probably the eastern part of Turkey and the Ukraine	Modern Germany
Togarmah or Beth-togarmah	Gen 10—somewhere in Asia Minor	The part of Turkey near the Syrian border	Armenia = Turkoman tribes of Central Asia, together with Siberia, the Turks and the Armenias



