

God had warned the children of Israel all the way back in the days of Moses; if they would not keep his covenant, he would "bring a nation" to discipline them (Deuteronomy 28:49-50), and that's exactly what he did with the Babylonian empire (2 Chronicles 36:15-17).

In **Daniel 2**, after mighty King Nebuchadnezzar had conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and carried off many of the children of Israel to Babylon, he had dreams that no one could interpret... no one **except** Daniel. In Daniel 2:31-45, Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed of "a great image."

"The head of this image was of fine ______, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of _______, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces... But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." (2:32-35)

In Daniel 2:38, Daniel made clear to the Babylonian king, "you are the head of gold." But "another kingdom" would arise after Babylon, "and yet a third kingdom" (2:39). Eventually, "a fourth kingdom, strong as iron" would rule the world (2:40). And here was the heart of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's prophecy:

"And in the days of ______kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall ______be destroyed, nor shall the

kingdom be left to another people... it shall stand forever..." (2:44)

More than 500 years later, a baby was born in an easily overlooked part of the Roman Empire. In the days of "Caesar Augustus," a Roman king (Luke 2:1)—just like God had promised!—Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. Jesus is the King of a kingdom that will stand FOREVER!



TIMELINE Building Blocks:



Captivity



Can you fill in the blanks of the great statue Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about?

- Head of gold: _____ Empire (625-539 B.C.)
- Chest and arms of silver: Medo Empire (539-331 B.C.)
- Middle and thighs of bronze:
 _____ Empire (331-63 B.C.)
- Legs of iron: _____ Empire (63 B.C. - A.D. 476)