Study #6: The Stone Kingdom

Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Review Questions

What is the fourth commandment that begins with "remember"?
What did God do on the seventh-day Sabbath?
Who was seventh-day Sabbath made for?
The keeping the Sabbath holy is a _____ of your loyalty. (see Ezekiel 20:12, 20)
When does the weekly Sabbath officially begin?
What are we to do on the Sabbath?
Did Jesus change the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week, Sunday?

In the end-time prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation Jesus reveals His everlasting kingdom, true worship and the nearness of His second coming. In these books He also warns us about false worship and a false church system that is leading billions to destruction!

Matthew 24:4-5,11, 24 (Jesus warns...)

- 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that **no man deceive you**.
- 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
- 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.
- 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

We must study study study, pray and apply all God's truths in the Word of God so we will NOT be deceived by the Enemy, Satan. Understand the end-time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation helps us navigate through the deception and make it to the everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ!

Satan has set up a counterfeit worship and church that attacks the true worship of God. Satan as also set a false sabbath to counteract against the true seventh-day Sabbath.

Get ready, get ready!

The book of Daniel predicts the rise and fall of seven earthly empires and rise of the everlasting kingdom of God. In Daniel chapter 2, did you know that God predicted the rise and fall kingdoms that directly affected the people of God even before they came into power?

Remember, Bible prophecy is history in advance. But get this, God predicts the rise and fall of these kingdoms until the establishment of His everlasting kingdom in order! This proves the truth and inspiration of the Bible! This brief study on Daniel chapter 2 should build your faith in God and His Word.

Daniel 2 also builds the foundation and introduction of this false church system that thinks to change times and laws. A system of rebellion that wears a robe of Christian, but is a wolf in sheep's clothing. This system is a puppet of the Devil. It is this false church system that thinks in has the power to change God's seventh day Sabbath to Sunday.

Understanding Daniel chapter 2 lays the foundation end time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

Daniel 2 - The Dream (Read Daniel chapter 2 in its entirety for details.)

According to Daniel 1:1, 2, the kingdom of Babylon, led by King Nebuchadnezzar, was an extremely powerful kingdom that took the people of God captive from Judah.

<u>Daniel the prophet:</u> Because of Daniel's faithfulness that was displayed in Daniel chapter 1, God gave Daniel the gift of "understanding in all visions and dreams," according to **Daniel 1:17**.

Through the favor of God, Daniel went before the king to request that he would be given time and that he would tell the king the dream and its interpretation. The king honored his request. After a prayer meeting with his three companions of faith, that night God gave Daniel the exact same dream He gave King Nebuchadnezzar and its interpretation. The next day Daniel went before the king and revealed that the God in Heaven told him the dream and its interpretation.

What did Daniel tell the king that clearly reveals that Nebuchadnezzar's dream is prophecy that points to the very end of time?

Daniel 2:28, 29

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the **latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; 29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, **what should come to pass hereafter**: and he that **revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass**.

King Nebuchadnezzar's dream tells us what is going to happen to the very end of time. Also God reveals that the prophetic events of the dream "should come to pass hereafter," meaning that prophecy of the dream starts at the time of King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom and continues forward. The dream does NOT go back in time before King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian kingdom. It starts from Babylon and goes forward until the end of time.

What did Daniel see in the dream?

Daniel 2:31-35

- 31 "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.
- 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,
- 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.
- 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.
- 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Metallic Statue revealed in Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

- 1. Head of Gold
- 2. Chest & Arms of Silver
- 3. Belly & Thighs of Brass
- 4. Leas of Iron
- 5. Feet & 10 Toes of part iron & clay
- 6. Stone (Everlasting Kingdom)

What is the interpretation of the metallic statue; what do the different metals and body parts of the statue represent?

Daniel 2:36-45

- 36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.
- 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.
- 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.
- 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.
- 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.
- 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.
- 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.
- 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.
- 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.
- 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

In this interpretation of the dream God is revealing to all the world the rise and fall of kingdoms starting from Babylon until the last everlasting kingdom of God. So each metal or elements on the statue represents the rise and fall of specific kingdoms or nations that have a direct impact on the people of God. Verse 45 repeats verse 29 "what shall come to pass hereafter" reemphasizing the fact that the prophecy of the dream starts from the kingdom of Babylon.

Prophetic Symbol: Metals on Daniel chapter 2 statue = KINGDOMS / NATIONS (Rise & Fall)

In Daniel chapter 2 God gives us the rise and fall of specific kingdoms in advance. The rise and fall of these kingdoms was prophesied in perfect order. Now, history reveals the accuracy of this prophecy. The metallic statue of Daniel chapter 2 also tells us how close we are to the end of time and the

What kingdoms are represented on the metallic statue? Let's study

establishment of God's everlasting kingdom.

What kingdom represents the head of gold? What does Daniel tell king Nebuchadnezzar king of the **Babylonian kingdom?**

Daniel 2:37, 38

37 "Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold."

The kingdom of Babylon is the head of gold which rose into power 605 BC and fell in 539 BC.

What kingdom represents the breast and arms of silver that would arise after Babylon?

In Daniel chapter 8, during the Babylonian reign of King Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, God prophesied that Babylon would be conquered by a kingdom depicted as a ram with two horns and God gives the name of the kingdom that would conquer Babylon!

Daniel 8:1, 10

1 In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.

20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia."

The Medes and Persian kingdom conquered Babylon as prophesied in the Bible and confirmed by history.

Daniel chapter 5 gives the details of how the Medes and Persian kingdom conquered Babylon.

Daniel 5:28, 31

28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."
31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old."

The Medes and Persian kingdom represent the chest and arms of silver on the metallic statue. They rose into power in 539 BC and fell in 331 BC.

What kingdom represents the belly and thighs of brass that conquered the Medes and Persian kingdom?

In the same vision that the Medes and Persian kingdom was prophetically depicted as a ram with two horns in Daniel chapter 8, it names the kingdom that would conquer the Medes and Persian kingdom. That kingdom is prophetically depicted as a rough goat with a great horn between his eyes that killed the ram with two horns.

Daniel 8:5-7, 21

5 "And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand."

21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king."

Prophecy predicted by name that Greece would conquer the Medes and Persians and history confirms it. The "notable" and "great" horn on the goat is the first king of Greece, Alexander the Great. He was the notable king of Greece that conquered over the Media-Persian kingdom as foretold in Bible prophecy!

The Grecian kingdom corresponds with the belly and thighs of brass on the metallic statue. Greece conquered the Medes and Persians in 331 BC and fell in 168 BC.

What kingdom represents the legs of iron on the metallic statue that conquered Greece?

Notice from what you studied thus far that the Bible predicted three kingdoms by name, Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece. These kingdoms arose in the order as prophesied by Daniel and confirmed by history.

What is the name of the fourth kingdom that conquered Greece? In the Bible, this fourth kingdom was described in detail and we will study those details as we go along in this study. Following the order of the kingdoms on the metallic statue of Daniel chapter 2, the legs of iron is the fourth kingdom that is after Greece. History confirms that the kingdom that arose into power after Greece was the kingdom of Rome, better known as the Roman Empire. The Romans were in power during the ministry of Jesus Christ, the apostles, and throughout the New Testament church. The Roman Empire is also known as Pagan Rome because of the many "pagan" false gods that they worshiped.

Pagan Rome represents the legs of iron of the metallic statue. They conquered Greece in 168 BC and eventually collapsed as a kingdom in 476 AD.

Who do the feet of part clay and part iron represent on the metallic statue?

Pagan Rome was not conquered by a nation or kingdom. Overtime, history reveals that the Roman kingdom grew so large, in the area which is now known as modern Europe, that Rome was not able to successfully manage any rebellion or insurrection within its empire. Tribal faction groups within the empire fought the tyranny of Pagan Rome and was able to establish their own sovereign nations. History also shows that overtime the Roman Empire divided into ten tribal nations. This division into 10 parts perfectly represent the feet with ten toes made of part iron and clay.

Below is a list of the ten tribes and modern European nations today. The last three do not exist today. You will learn why later.

10 Tribal Nations	Modern European Nations	
Alamanni – Germans	Germany	
Burgundians – Swiss	Sweden	
Franks – French	France	
Lombards – Italians	Italy	
Saxons – English	England	
Suevi – Portuguese	Portugal	
Visigoths – Spanish	Spain	
Heruli – Uprooted	N/A	
Vandals – Uprooted	N/A	
Ostrogoths – Uprooted	N/A	

Prophetic Symbol: Feet with ten toes, part iron and part clay = DIVIDED EUROPE (476 AD to present)

Who does the stone cut out of mountain without hands that destroyed the image?

Daniel 2:44-45

- 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.
- 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Who is that stone?

Jesus the chief cornerstone to set up His everlasting kingdom - Second coming of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 28:16

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Psalms 118:22

22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

Acts 4:10-12

- 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
- 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.
- 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Revelation 11:15

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Daniel 2 reveals the rise and fall of kingdoms starting from Babylon to the everlasting kingdom!

Toes of Time!

It has been over 2,600 years since King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the metallic statue.

Where are we in history in relation to the prophecy of Daniel chapter 2? Do any of the first four kingdoms on the statue exist today?

Each rose and fell as predicted. Babylon, gone. Media-Persia, gone. Greece, gone. Pagan Rome, gone. The only thing left on the statue is the feet mixed with part iron and clay!

So where are we until the coming of Jesus and the establishment of His stone kingdom as described in Daniel 2? All the kingdoms are gone! The seventh is almost completely formed. We are in the TOES of time!

Let's go back to the feet of part iron and potter's clay.

What is a main prophetic character about divided Europe since its beginning?

Dan 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the <u>feet and toes</u>, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the <u>kingdom</u> shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Feet and toes = Part iron and clay.

What is a will happen to Europe in the end of time "toes" right before the coming of Jesus?

Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Focus in verse 42 is mainly the "toes of the feet" VERY end of time! Some of nations are strong but others are weak.

What is going to happen?

Dan 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle (join) themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave (stick) one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

In the past centuries up to World War II dictators such as Napoleon and Hitler tried to unify Europe by force, but it failed.

Satan thought that he would defy Bible prophecy with the creation of the European Union (EU) that unifies many European countries. They thought joining other EU states would make Europe united and strong economically. No more border between border countries. One currency.

Started after WWII to avoid a WWIII. Powerhouse Europe nations such as France, England (UK), and Germany, After USSR dissolved many former USSR countries joined. In total 28!

EU – Building designed like the unfinished tower of Babel.. A symbol of defiance! Like the original Babel. In the front a woman riding a beast! EU is mix with strong nations and weak nations economically and militarily.

What will shortly come to past according to Bible Prophecy? Daniel 2:44

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

The EU crumbling is a fulfillment of prophecy... in the days of these king(doms) while EU is crumbling... God will set up His everlasting kingdom!

Repeat and Enlarge

The prophecies of Daniel chapters 7 through 12 repeat some of these same kingdoms revealed in Daniel chapter 2, but give more details of those kingdoms.

Compare prophetic outline with prophetic outline.

Let's go to Daniel chapter 7 and compare it to the prophetic outline of Daniel 2. Daniel 7 repeats first four kingdoms repeated using a different symbolic representation, but gives us more details of their characters and details of the fifth empire that comes out from Europe.

What does Daniel see in the first part of his vision in Daniel chapter 7?

Daniel 7:2-7

- 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.
- 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.
- 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.
- 5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.
- 6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.
- 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

What were the four beast that came out the stormy sea?

- 1) Lion with eagles' wings wings plunked given a man's heart
- 2) Bear raised up on one side with three ribs in his mouth
- 3) Leopard with four heads and four wings of a bird
- 4) Dreadful beast with iron teeth with TEN horns

Have you seen animals like these in the zoo? Do they exist in reality? No. All these beasts are symbolic that point to prophetic reality for God's people.

Who do these four GREAT beast represent?

Daniel 7:16-17, 23

- 16 I came near, unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.
- 17 These great beasts, which are four, are **four kings**, which shall arise out of the earth.

- Beast represent kingdoms. Remember in Daniel 2 the metals on the statue in Nebuchadnezzar also represented kingdoms.
- Four winds represent war and strife from every side north, south, east, and west by four kingdoms representing the four beast. (Jeremiah 49:34-38)
- <u>Seas or waters</u> in Bible prophecy commonly symbolize people, multitudes, nations, and languages in highly populated area of the world. "Sea of people."

Revelation 17:15

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

What do the four beasts in Daniel 7 have in common?

- 1. All come up out of water (symbolically multitudes of people highly populated area of the world Middle East and European part of the world where it was largely populated many cities and villages)
- 2. In the midst of a windy storm "winds" Came to power from strife & war
- 3. "Diverse" or different characteristics from one another (Daniel 7:3)

Comparing prophetic outline with prophetic outline (Daniel 2 and 7)

Same Kingdoms in Daniel 2 & 7 (Repeat and Enlarge)

The same four world kingdoms that were represented in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 are the exact same four world kingdoms represented in Daniel 7.

Summary of prophetic symbols of Daniel 2, and 7 with its corresponding kingdom.

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Kingdom
Head of Gold	Lion with eagle's wings	Babylon [605-539 BC]
Arms & Chest of Silver	Bear with three ribs in mouth	Medes and Persian [539-331 BC]
Belly & Thighs of Brass	Leopard with four heads and four wings	Greece [331-168 BC]
Legs of Iron	Dreadful Beast	Pagan Rome [168 BC - 476 AD]
Ten Toes part iron & clay	Ten Horns on Dreadful Beast & Little Horn	Divided Europe [476 AD to present]
Stone (Everlasting Kingdom)	Everlasting Kingdom	God's Everlasting Kingdom

While Daniel was looking at the ten horns on the dreadful beast what does Daniel see?

Daniel 7:8

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

While Daniel was looking at this hideous beast in his vision with ten horns he noticed a little horn that grew up in the midst of the ten horns. He noticed that this little horn plucked up three of the ten horns off the beast's head. History records that this little horn is responsible for terminating 3 of the 10 tribes that divided the Roman Empire. Who is this little mighty horn with eyes of a man speaking great things? To be continued...