

Hi John and Doves,  
Another study series...  
Blessings,  
EAR

## **The Kingdom of God and the end time Kingdoms –**

### **Daniel 2 and 7 – PART ONE**

In chapter two of his book, Daniel (the captured young prophet from Judaea) recorded that four great Gentile empires would rise up successively, to subjugate his people and the Kingdom of Judah; but all four will be destroyed when the Kingdom of God is established on earth! This information was derived from a secret dream experienced by the King of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) who saw a great statue composed of different (but identifiable) metal and clay components. The dream was repeated for Daniel who told the King what he had seen. (Dan. 2:1, 19, 28, 31–35)

*You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine **gold**, its chest and arms of **silver**, its belly and thighs of **bronze**, its legs of **iron**, **its feet partly of iron and clay**. You watched while **a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces**. Then the **iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together**, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that **no trace of them was found**. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Dan. 2:31–35)*

Daniel then told the King that the gold, silver, bronze and iron represented four successive Gentile powers. They became known as the Babylonian, Media-Persian, Macedon-Grecian and Roman Empires plus Rome's descendant 'toe' kingdoms. (Their exploits were recorded in history c. 605 BC–AD 1948.)

Daniel interpreted the latter part of the dream (concerning the end time kingdoms) as follows:

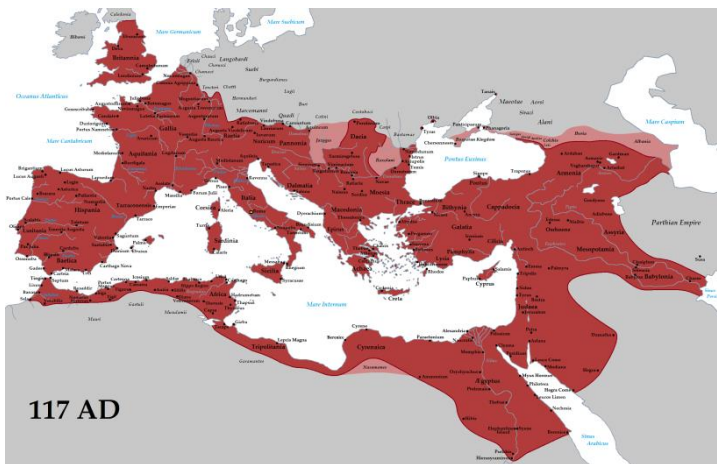
*Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided**; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the **toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay**, so the kingdom shall be **partly strong and partly fragile**. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but **they will not adhere to one another**, just as iron does not mix with clay. (Dan. 2:40–43)*

***And in the days of these kings [i.e., the kings who rule the iron and clay nations], the God of heaven will set up a kingdom** which shall never be destroyed; and **the kingdom** shall not be left to other people; **it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever**. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that **it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold**—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure. (Dan. 2:44–45)*

### **The fourth (iron) Kingdom will be 'divided' and it will break up into many kingdoms:**

Thus, the beginning-of-the-end (for the four sequential Gentile powers), would be marked by the 'dividing' of the fourth kingdom—initially depicted as two 'iron' legs on the great statue—thus indicating that the Roman Empire would be 'divided' into at least two parts. This would be followed by Rome's further fragmentation into 'feet and toes' (i.e., many kingdoms or nation-states), composed of iron and clay non-adhering elements, as stated in the narrative about the great statue. (Dan. 2:40–43 above)

## The Roman Empire in AD 117 AD



## The Tetrarchy = Rule of Four in AD 283



Accordingly, the Imperial Roman Empire c. 63 BC → is shown on the first map at its greatest extent in AD 117. The two iron legs on the ‘metallic man’ statue would later correspond with the historic ‘division’ of the fourth Empire into two ‘administrative’ districts by Emperor Diocletian in AD 283 (shown on the second map), when he instituted the Tetrarchy = rule of four. This meant that the now ‘divided’ **twin kingdoms** would **each** be ruled over by **an Emperor, and a Caesar** who had right-of-succession. The ‘divided’ kingdoms became the Western Roman Empire (based in Europe), and New Rome or the Eastern Roman Empire, (based in the Middle East). Although these divided empires afterward had brief periods of amalgamation, to-all-intents-and-purposes, they became totally separate empires with quite different futures after the 5<sup>th</sup> Century AD. <sup>1</sup>

In AD 330, Constantine the Great (306–337) established the ‘old city’ of Byzantium as Rome’s eastern capital, and called it New Rome, although the city’s name was later changed to Constantinople in his honour. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire to Barbarian invaders in AD 476, the Senate transferred the Roman seat of power, and Imperial regalia, (e.g., the Roman Standard—an embroidered banner on a cross-tree, surmounted by a golden eagle), to the Eastern Roman Empire to Emperor Zeno who ruled (AD 474–475 and 476–491). Thus, it was the Eastern Roman Empire that carried the sovereign legacy of Rome for the next thousand years. It was later called the Byzantine Empire by historians.

So, according to the vision, it is when the fourth kingdom has reached its terminal stage with multiple descendant ‘toe’ nation-states—that the **stone that was cut out without hands** [will strike] **the image on its feet of iron and clay** and consume all those kingdoms!

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## The iron and clay mixture in the feet and toes on the statue:

**The first introduction of ‘foreign clay’** into the ‘iron feet and toes’ imagery on the ‘metallic man’ statue occurred territorially and historically via an invasion from **north of the Danube River** into the **Western Roman Empire’s territories** by Goths, non-Roman and barbarian Germanic people groups. Their ‘foreign’ influence weakened Rome’s ‘iron’ rule, causing the Western Roman Empire to suffer cultural collapse, and eventually ‘fall’ when the child emperor—Romulus Augustulus—was deposed in AD 486, by Odoacer (a Germanic ruler), who established himself as the first King of Italy (AD 476–493). Thereafter, during the Early Middle Ages, the iron and clay ‘mixed’ people groups who did not adhere to one another also suffered religious and spiritual tensions among the former **Western Roman Empire’s** provinces that endured secular Germanic rule, with Papal oversight over temporal and spiritual matters.

These territories subsequently devolved into multiple polities: i.e., duchies, counties, kingdoms and principalities, throughout Europe.

During the same period, Charlemagne was crowned King of the Franks in AD 771, and in 800, Pope Leo crowned him Emperor of **The Holy Roman Empire** (viz., a Latin Germanic kingdom, **1<sup>st</sup> Reich** 800–1806) as an extension of the Western Roman Empire. Later, the Great Schism (1054) caused the religious divide between the Roman Catholic Church in the west, and the Orthodox Church in the east, which emphasised the already existing cultural differences between Latin and Greek communities. The last Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (Francis II) abdicated in 1806, instigating the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars. By then the great European sub-empires (Portugal, Spain, Britain, Netherlands etc., had emerged), and evolved into the seafaring nations that explored and conquered the New World via colonialism and slavery (Dan. 2:40; 7:23). However, the legacy of the **Holy Roman Empire** (**1<sup>st</sup> Reich** 800–1806) continued on—into the 19–20<sup>th</sup> Centuries—via the German Empire (**2<sup>nd</sup> Reich**, 1871–1918), Weimar Republic (1919–1933), and finally Nazi Germany's (**3<sup>rd</sup> Reich**, 1933–1945), which initiated WWII.

**A second introduction of 'foreign clay'** into **Eastern Rome's** 'iron feet and toes' (as portrayed on the 'metallic man' statue), originated, and intruded **from the south**. After the establishment of New Rome, in Constantinople in AD 330—and during a similarly long period—history informs us that the expansion of Islam into **Byzantine territories** during the 7-8<sup>th</sup> Century (Medieval period) weakened Roman control.

Although the Eastern Roman Empire/Byzantine Empire had maintained a strong physical presence for almost thousand years, its strength was initially diminished by the duplicitous invasion of Byzantine territory by the Fourth Catholic Crusade in 1204. Afterward, Constantinople's weakened status could not deter the numerous attacks by Turkic Muslim armies from Anatolia (viz., the Ottoman Empire, founded by Osman I, in 1299). After the Ottomans had conquered its outlying territories, the great city of Constantinople eventually succumbed to the Islamic onslaught in AD 1453. The ex. New Rome capital was renamed Istanbul, and Mehmed I (The Conqueror) claimed he was heir apparent to Rome by calling himself **Kayser-i Rum** (literally 'Caesar of Rome'). Thereafter, the Ottoman Empire's expansion into Eastern Southern Europe, North Africa, Asia and the Middle East had an overwhelming influence over the culture, science, trade, legal and religious practices in those regions—where it ruled for 600 years.

However, in these eastern regions—even after the intrusion of Islam's 'foreign clay' into the 'iron' of Rome—the prophesied period of disunion, division and dissolution into smaller nation-states did not occur until after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire during WWI. In the war's aftermath (1918–24), the Ottoman Empire was written out of existence, and the Ottoman territories were divided into multiple Arab and Muslim states. Initially mandates were granted by The League of Nations over **Syria** and **Lebanon** to France, while the British took control over **Mesopotamia** (Iraq) and **Palestine**. Borders were established later for **Transjordan**, while the Ottoman territories in the Arabian Peninsula became the Kingdom of **Hejaz**, the Sultanate of **Nejd** (Saudi Arabia), the Kingdom of **Yemen**, and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf: **Kuwait**, **Bahrain**, and **Qatar**. [Partition of the Ottoman Empire - Wikipedia](#)

Finally, by mid. 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the '**iron**' and '**clay**' feet and toes (representing the previously '**divided**' fourth empire) had devolved into the **numerous partly strong and partly fragile** nation-states that existed in both parts of the old Roman Empire, in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Although the ex. Roman citizens and 'foreign' people groups that inhabited those 'divided' territories had **mingled** with one another for hundreds of years, the polities that subsequently emerged with established borders still **did not adhere to one another!** Thus, the 'division and disunity' among Rome's devolved nation-states in the Middle East and Europe led to two world wars (1914–18, and 1941–45), which were described as **the graveyard of empires!**

Accordingly, the countries that sought and gained independence—from their colonial overlords after WWI and WWII—rapidly increased in number; today there are 193 nation-states throughout the World, who are members of the United Nations General Assembly. Therefore, it seems—from scripture and recent history—that **the fourth empire’s ‘divided’ polities** (representative of the iron and clay toes on the ‘metallic man’ statue), that still exist today in **Europe and the Middle East, are those that will be ruled by multiple kings in the end time**. It is purportedly, during this period—when these kings are actively reigning over earthly nations—that Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream informs us... the **God of heaven will set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed**.

**And in the days of these kings [i.e., the multiple kings etc., who rule the iron-clay nations], the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms... (Dan. 2:44)**

However, before we continue, there are three questions that immediately arise from these passages of scripture, which need to be answered... and I will answer 2 and 3 in succeeding PARTS of this study.

1. Who are the kings, where are they ruling, and what is meant by ‘in the days’ of these kings?

2. How can the four empires... i.e., all these kingdoms [made of gold, silver, bronze and iron, which have already passed into history], AND the 193 modern nation-states [made of iron and clay, **which exist today**] ...possibly be **broken in pieces and crushed together (at the same time)**, and be **swept away like chaff, so no trace of them was found?**

3. What exactly is the **stone kingdom ‘cut out without hands’** that **will consume all these kingdoms; ...fill the whole earth, and... stand forever?**

### **Answer 1**

The first question can be partially answered by switching one’s attention—from the general information given in Nebuchadnezzar’s ‘metallic-man’ statue vision (Daniel 2, above)—to the more specific details provided in Daniel’s **vision of four great beasts** (Daniel 7, below). Thus, the verse below links the **four beasts in Dan. 7:2–8** with the **four earthly kingdoms** portrayed in Dan. 2:31–32.

***Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. (Dan. 7:17)***

Irrefutably, **three** of the four beasts have been identified by their physiognomies, their animal names, the metals involved, and by their successive historical occupation of ‘principal territories’ on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea—(as the same Gentile empires embodied in the head, chest and arms, belly and thighs on the ‘metallic man’ statue). The **first** to appear was the **lion beast** (aka the gold Babylonian empire), followed by the **second bear beast** (aka the silver Media-Persian Empire), and the **third leopard beast** (aka the bronze Macedon-Grecian Empire), all of which occupied **common ground on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea**, centred on ancient Babylon in **Mesopotamia**.

The **fourth dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong beast** (aka the iron Roman Empire) appeared in **Europe**. It was ‘different’ to the other beasts because it had **no identifiable shape or likeness to a known animal**, and because it dominated the **European (western shore) of the Mediterranean Sea**, and afterward spread around the Great Sea and north into Britain! (Refer Map on page 2)

So, once again, it is the fourth empire (at the end of this succession) that claims our attention:

*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and **it had ten horns**. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, **a little one, coming up among them**, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were **eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words**. (Dan. 7–8)*

Daniel is so incredibly grieved and troubled in *spirit* by what he saw, that he repeated the gist of his dream to an angel **who stood nearby** (perhaps for his own reassurance, Dan. 7:19–22); then he asked for more information about the **fourth beast** and **the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up**... The angel obliged with a full summary that concentrated—not only on the **fourth beast kingdom** and the **ten horns**, but on the **actions perpetrated by the ‘other horn’** that arose after the others (cf. Dan. 7:23–26). Thus, thanks to Daniel’s insistence on understanding what he had seen, we have this additional information about **‘an alliance’ involving ten horns**; with further details about the **little horn having the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words**, that **came up among them**.

So, Daniel 7 provides a comprehensive demonstration of the ‘divisiveness’ of the **dreadful and terrible fourth beast** via its multiple horn-nations, thus reinforcing the Roman Empire’s eventual disintegration into multiple nation-states by mirroring the multiple ‘iron-clay toes’ [nation-states] that did not adhere to one another in the ‘metallic-man’ statue vision. However—in Daniel’s second vision—the ensuing aggression and antagonism shown by the **little horn** toward the **10-strong horn alliance** provides a distinct clue that focuses on the historical incidents that occurred as a result of these interactions, which subsequently identifies the perpetrator.

Thus, **the ‘different’ fourth beast** that rose up onto the western shore of the Great Sea in Europe eventually produced **‘ten horns’** and a **‘little horn’** that were the assorted nation-states that evolved after the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire on August 6, 1806, which co-existed in Europe. This cluster of 10 nations—initially seen by Daniel as horns on the fourth beast—have been very hard to identify, and find in the historical records, **because they had established themselves after WWI within a larger alliance, as the ‘European bloc’ of nations that were ‘founding members’ in the League of Nations, created on January 10, 1920.**

**The 10 European ‘horn’ nations that joined the League of Nations in 1920 were: Britain, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia.** Many of these nations were the same seafaring, exploring descendants from the **fourth beast** in Europe, who had **devoured the whole earth and broken it into pieces** via colonialism. (Dan. 7:23)

However, the German Weimar Republic (1919 →) **‘little horn’** did not become a member of the League of Nations until 1926; and seven years later in 1933, when the Nazi Regime **‘little horn’ having the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words** led by dictator Adolf Hitler, assumed power, Germany withdrew from the League to prepare for WWII.<sup>2</sup> The discordant and non-adherent nature of these European nations resulted in WWII (1941–45), which was instigated by the **‘little horn’** against the other European ‘horn’ nations, and against the **Saints of the Most High** (Dan. 7:8, 20–22, 24–26). At the end of WWII the League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations on October 24, 1945, which presently has 193 members.

For more details see my free book <https://www.fivedoves.com/letters/mar2023/ear312-2.htm>  
**The Little Horn of Daniel’s Fourth Empire and the Kingdom of the Jews**

### **Answer 1: Summary:**

So, it is only by combining ancient history, by reading Daniel's explanations carefully, and by understanding recent history and current events—with the help of modern cartography—that we can come to accurate conclusions about the fate of these **four empires** described in both of Daniel's visions. Today, the '**toe-nations**' (descendant from both 'legs' of the '**metallic man**' vision), and the **horn-nations** (descendant from the **fourth beast**), make up the bulk of the modern nations domiciled in Europe, Asia and the Middle East, who will still be in existence when the kingdom of God is established on earth. Daniel has recorded that this great earth-changing, world shattering event will occur... ***in the days of these kings***. As to when this might happen, I can only conclude that this phrase probably refers to the culmination of the process described in Daniel 2:43—just prior to those words:

***As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. (Dan. 2:43)***

Unfortunately, the nations of the world—after surviving decades of 'dubious peace' since WWII—are once again being stirred up, alienating themselves into opposing factions that do not adhere to one another. Anything is possible in ***the days of these kings***...

Maranatha,  
EAR

PART TWO will answer Question 2:

2. How can the four empires... i.e., ***all these kingdoms*** [made of **gold, silver, bronze** and **iron, which have already passed into history**], AND the **193 modern nation-states** [made of **iron and clay, which exist today**] ...possibly be ***broken in pieces and crushed together (at the same time)***, and be ***swept away like chaff, so no trace of them was found?***

### End Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Modern scholarship has dated the book of Daniel to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC, stating that its narrative precedes the violation of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem on December 15, 167 BC, which was committed by Antiochus Epiphanes IV, (aka 'King of the North') when he placed an 'abomination of desolation' in the Temple—thought to have been a Greek altar, cf. Dan. 11:31. His exploits are recorded in Chapter 11. Thus, modern scholarship does not give any prophetic weight to Daniel's visions, largely because they say the narrative is too specifically accurate concerning the Seleucid and Ptolemy rivalry and warfare during that period, therefore the book of Daniel must have been written after the events it describes, and compiled later. [Book of Daniel - Wikipedia](#) However, since copies of Daniel were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls (c. 125 BC) they can hardly claim it was written and compiled after that dating! As a consequence, they make no reference to the accuracy of Roman history (4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom) as predicted in the book of Daniel. I simply cannot accept their argument that Daniel is not prophetic in genre, because the Roman Empire—the iron kingdom in Dan.2— and the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast in Dan 7—did not exist in 200 BC, and what had been prophetically predicted in Daniel's symbolism (via the two major dreams that Daniel experienced), about Rome's subsequent history has proven to be accurate, with the Roman Empire becoming a 'divided' polity that has since broken up in both eastern and western 'divisions' into numerous modern nation-states (symbolised by the 'feet and toes' made of iron and clay) that did not adhere to one another.

<sup>2</sup> The reason for the Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany being labelled as a '**little horn**' that rose up among the other ten horns belonging to the fourth beast, is because only a very **small part of modern Germany ever existed within the territory belonging to the Roman Empire in Europe**, i.e., the area of Germany that is south of the River Rhine, which borders Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.