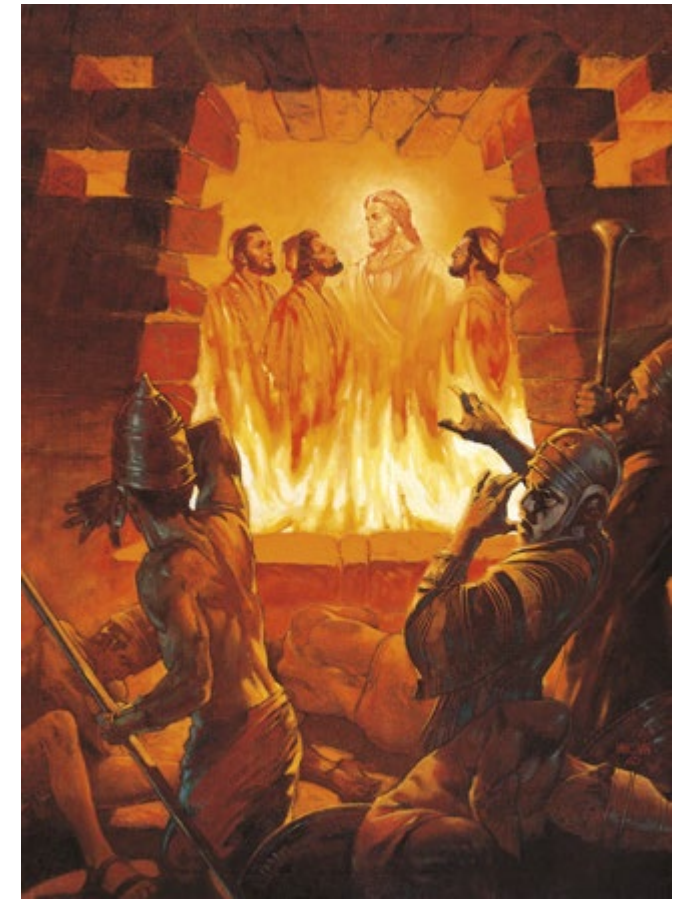


Lesson 46 - “A Kingdom, Which Shall Never Be Destroyed”

Daniel

Purpose: To strengthen our testimonies of the restored Church of Jesus Christ and encourage them to help build the kingdom of God on earth.



My lessons take a different path than the Gospel Doctrine lesson manual. The lesson outline looks closer at the doctrinal topics included in the lesson purpose and scripture block. The lessons are designed to challenge mature, active Latter-Day Saints who have a solid Gospel foundation and are looking for insights into the scriptures that will broaden their faith and understanding.

If you are interested in downloading the PowerPoint file, links to source material or reading posts about improving Gospel Doctrine class preparation, delivery and engagement, you can join my Facebook Group and have full access to the content posted there. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188904648521022/>

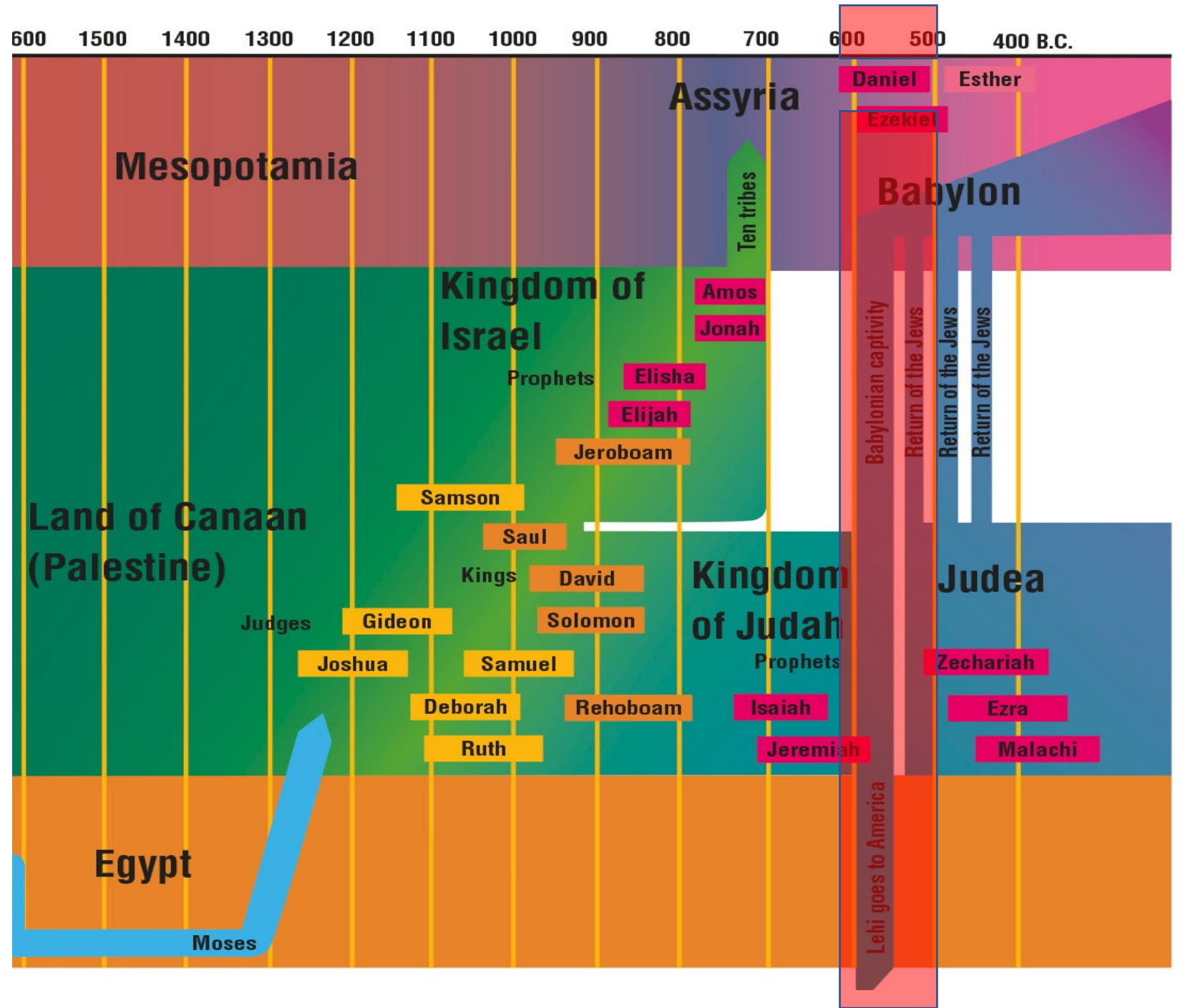
Last Week's Lesson Challenge

It's likely that our faith and belief in Jesus Christ will not have to withstand the same degree of challenge that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Esther had to face. However, small subtle things happen every day in our lives that test of faith and belief.

Last week's challenge asked us to think about the little challenges that we face and we you react to them. A lifetime of little challenges has the same eternal consequences as a single challenge as we find in Daniel and Esther.

Would anyone wish to share their thoughts at this time?

Daniel



Like many other Old Testament prophets, Daniel was a prophet, seer and revelator. What we look at in today's lesson is Daniel's work for Jehovah as a revelator. We first meet Daniel as he is a "wise man" in the Babylon Court of King Nebuchadnezzar. The King, like all monarchs of his time, had absolute rule, meaning what ever he wanted done, it was done, no questions asked. Does this story sound familiar? It is similar to the story of Joseph of Egypt interpreting Pharoah's dreams.

We begin Daniel 2 with the story of one of the King's dreams.

Daniel 2:1-9

1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

- The King dreams a disturbing dream.
- He wants the very smart men in his Court to interpret the dream for him.
- He is asked to tell them the dream.
- Unfortunately, the King can't remember the dream, but is still adamant that he be told the interpretation of his dream that he can't remember.
- Remember, his rule is absolute.
- He threatens the very smart men that he will have them killed if they can't interpret the dream that he can't remember.
- In Verses 10 – 14, the very smart men try to convince the King how impossible his request is.
- The King gets very angry and says that all Babylon's very smart men are to be killed.
- Daniel is one of the very smart men that is going to be killed.

Daniel 2:14-23

14 ¶ Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

19 ¶ Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Daniel goes before the King and tells him that he can interpret the King's dream, but needs a little time.

Daniel and his friends pray for Jehovah's guidance in both knowing and interpreting the King's dream.

Daniel receives a revelation of the dream and its interpretation.

He praises Jehovah for his blessings.

Daniel 2:24-30

24 ¶ Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

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.

30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

[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.



[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.

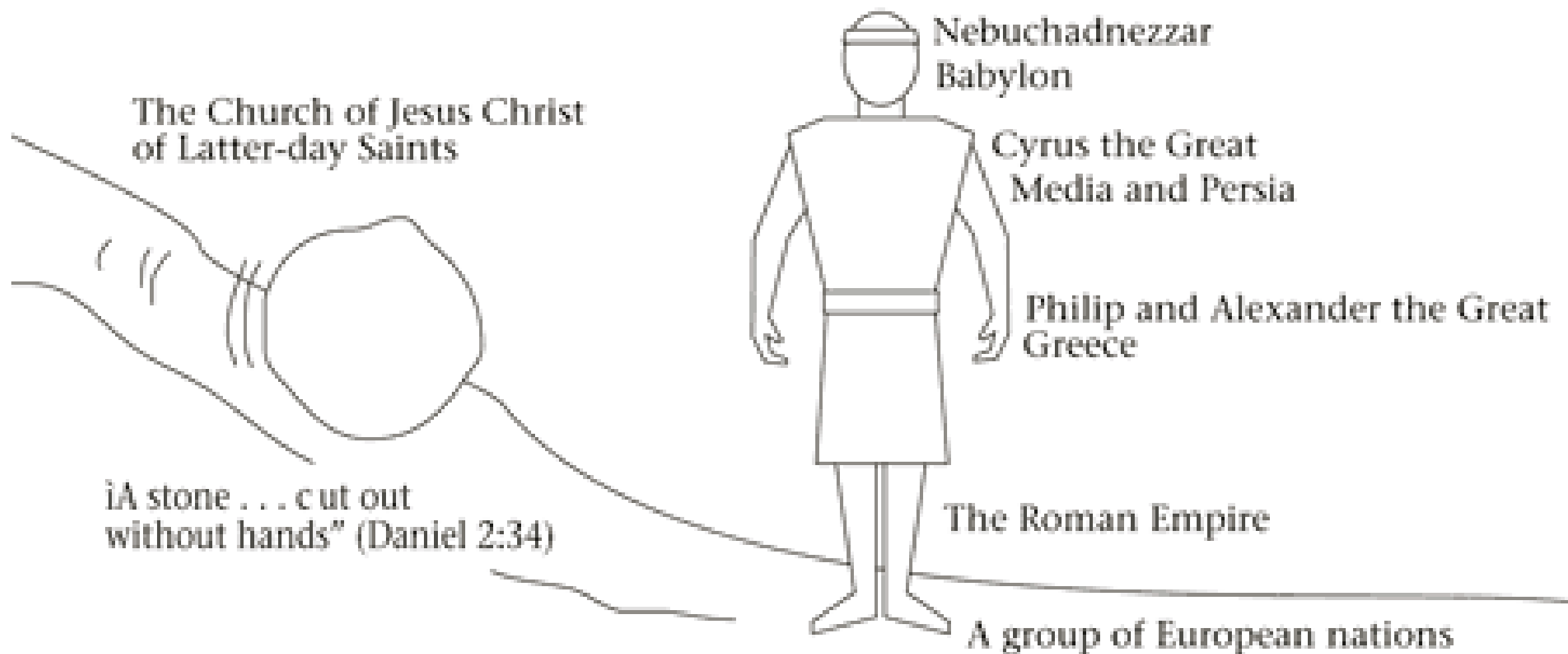
41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

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.







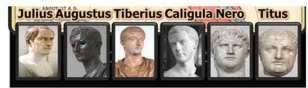
GOLD	<p>BABYLONIAN EMPIRE 605-539 BC THE LION</p> <p>Dan. 2:1 And in the second reign of Nebuchadnezzar, he dreamed dreams, where with his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. 31. Thou, O King, sawest, and beholdest a great image: This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood 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, part of clay. 34. And whosoever the children of men dwell, the beast 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.</p>
SILVER	<p>MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE 539-331 BC THE BEAR</p> <p>39. And after these shall arise another kingdom inferior to these,</p> 
BRASS	<p>GRECIAN EMPIRE 331-168 BC THE LEOPARD</p> <p>39. And another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.</p> <p>Alexander the Great</p> 
IRON	<p>ROMAN EMPIRE 168 BC-AD 476 THE DRAGON</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Julius Augustus Tiberius Caligula Nero Titus</p> 
IRON & CLAY	<p>DIVIDED KINGDOMS HEADED BY REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE; AMERICA. AD 476-2ND AVANT</p> <p>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.</p> <p>DANIEL 2:32-32</p>

What Were the Kingdoms Represented in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream?

President Rudder Clawson elaborated on Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream: "The ... world of today is witness of the fact that the very things which the great image stood for have occurred so far as time has gone. History certifies to the fact that King Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. The Medes and Persians, an inferior kingdom to Babylon, were the arms and breast of silver. The Macedonian kingdom, under Alexander the Great, was the belly and thighs of brass; and the Roman kingdom under the Caesars was the legs of iron. For mark you, later on the kingdom, or empire of Rome, was divided. The head of the government in one division was at Rome and the head of the government in the other division was at Constantinople. So these two great divisions represented the legs of iron. Finally, the Roman empire was broken up into smaller kingdoms, represented by the feet and toes of iron and clay." (In Conference Report, Apr. 1930, p. 32).

<https://www.lds.org/manual/old-testament-student-manual-kings-malachi/chapter-28?lang=eng>



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What Were the Kingdoms Represented in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream?

Elder Orson Pratt, in explaining why the toes were shown as being partly iron and partly clay, said that “the feet and toes were governments more modern to grow out of the iron kingdom [Roman Empire], after it should lose its strength. These are represented by the ten toes or ten kingdoms which should be partly strong and partly broken. They should not have the strength of the legs of iron, but they should be mixed with miry clay, indicating both strength and weakness.” (In Journal of Discourses, 18:337.)

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What is the “Stone Cut Out of the Mountain Without Hands.”

In an April 1976 General Conference address, President Spencer W. Kimball said the following:

“With the history of the world delineated in brief, now came the real revelation. Daniel said: “And in the days of these kings [that is, the group of European nations] 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.

“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.” (Dan. 2:44–45.)

This is a revelation concerning the history of the world, when one world power would supersede another until there would be numerous smaller kingdoms to share the control of the earth. And it was in the days of these kings that power would not be given to men, but the God of heaven would set up a kingdom—the kingdom of God upon the earth, which should never be destroyed nor left to other people.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was restored in 1830 after numerous revelations from the divine source; and this is the kingdom, set up by the God of heaven, that would never be destroyed nor superseded, and the stone cut out of the mountain without hands that would become a great mountain and would fill the whole earth. History unfolded and the world powers came and went after ruling the world for a little season, but in the early nineteenth century the day had come. The new world of America had been discovered and colonized and was being settled. Independence had been gained and a constitution approved and freedom given to men, and people were now enlightened to permit truth to be established and to reign. No king or set of rulers could divine this history; but a young, pure, and worthy prophet could receive a revelation from God. There was purpose for this unveiling of the history of the world so that the honest in heart might be looking forward to its establishment, and numerous good men and women, knowing of the revelations of God and the prospects for the future, have looked forward to this day.

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Daniel's unwavering faith in Jehovah and that Jehovah would answer Daniel's prayer for guidance allowed him to go before the King and ask for some time and he would come back and tell the King his dream and its interpretation.

We learned in last week's lesson that Daniel would not bend on his devotion to Jehovah. As a young man, he refused to eat food that he had been told is unclean. We purposely prayed in front of a window in defiance of a law that was to keep him from thanking Jehovah and asking for his help even though the penalty was to be placed in the lion's den.

Daniel had a firm testimony that Jehovah loved him and that he would serve Jehovah as long as he lived.

This Week's Lesson Challenge

Consider what it takes to have faith in Jesus Christ the way Daniel did. Is it impossible? Is Daniel just more faithful than we are? Was he closer to Jehovah than we are?

Daniel's faith is possible because he did it. He sacrificed and made the right choices all of the time.

Consider what you can do to begin walking on the path of faith that Daniel walked upon.