

1. Earlier I completed the exegesis and analysis of Dan 2:35-40. Last week I previewed the Doctrine of Dispensations.

2. Before returning to a study of Dan 2:41 I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 2:36-40:

Dan 2:36 Now my King with reference to what you dreamed, I shall interpret it for you.

Dan 2:37 You Nebuchadnezzar are unique, for the God of the Universe has given you a remarkable kingdom; a kingdom of glamour and military power.

Dan 2:38 God has given you authority over the entire earth, yes O King you are the head of gold.

Dan 2:39 But after you shall arise an inferior kingdom consisting of the Medes and Persians and after this kingdom shall arise, the Graeco-Macedonian kingdom.

Dan 2:40 And then a fourth kingdom--the Roman Empire. This fourth Kingdom will be strong like iron. It shall break and subdue all things; the iron empire shall bruise all peoples, especially my people Israel, who are under divine discipline.

3. Now let's see what we can glean from Daniel 2:41:

Dan 2:41 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.

1. Up to this point the Book of Daniel is historical; but from verse 41 through verse 44, we are dealing with future events.

2. During the entire Church Age, there have been and will continue to be power struggles among the nations of Western Europe. At the end of the present dispensation the old Roman Empire will be drawn together as a ten-nation power bloc.

3. When the Rapture of the Church takes place and the Tribulation begins, the "feet of iron and clay" (verse 33) consolidate into the Revived Roman Empire, which shall exist during the seven years of The Tribulation.

Dan 2:33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

4. The question always arises as to where the United States of America fits into this picture. The answer is not in prophecy; but I believe that if this country remains a national entity, it will be reduced to the status of "clay" and as such will be subordinate to the "iron" rule of the Revived Roman Empire.

5. You may think the United States could never become subservient to an outside power, but stop and think! Even today we are closely aligned with western Europe.

6. Not only do millions of our own countrymen consider a man in Rome as the highest person on earth, but we worship at the shrine of European culture even its decadence!

6.1 Yet our forefathers came from Europe to break with that decadence and to find freedom.

6.2 Our mental concepts, our styles, all are strongly influenced by Western Europe. In a sense, every taxpayer is already working for foreign nations: we feed them, arm them, fight for them, rebuild their countries and give them our military secrets!

7. Yet we have not gained the respect of our beneficiaries but rather have reaped hatred and disrespect. Our citizens, particularly our military are objects of terrorism. Europe's support for our policies are often tacit if not non-existent.

7.1 For example: Russia sales arms to Iran ; France refused to let us fly over their country when we bombed Libya; Jordan refused to condemn Saddam for invading Kuwait etc.

7.2 And yet the Bible teaches nationalism; so therefore far from condemning nations for refusing to support us we need to look critically at our own policies of reliance on treaties such as NATO, SEATO and or relations with UNESCO or the U.N. or even our attempts to put together coalitions to fight against our enemies.

8. Americans are hated perhaps more if not as much as the Jew. Our congress and executive office has not yet learned the age old principle that you cannot buy the respect of others, it has to be earned.

9. Now let's take a look at verses 42 and 43:

KJV

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.

NIV

Dan 2:42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be " partly strong and partly brittle.

KJV

Dan 2:43 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.

NIV

Dan 2:43 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.

1. Here again is a reference to the ten-nation confederation. The "iron" of the toes will dominate the weaker "clay" of the toes.

2. The "seed of men" directs our attention to the religious aspect of the final formation of the Revived Roman Empire. At present the spirit of the Antichrist exists in mystery form: the World Council of Churches, the United Nations, the Catholic Church and various coalitions of forces like that recently seen when operation Desert Storm was fought.

3. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" says Paul in 2Th 2:7.

2Th 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

4. The "mystery of iniquity" refers to apostate influences during the Church Age. Many of these are under the rule of Satan. He has sponsored organizations whose principles are pure internationalism.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

5. He fosters projects to improve the world's environment and thus make this a better world! Yet we know that faith in Christ and following the principles taught in the Bible are the only means of uplifting mankind. "He who now letteth" in 2Th 2:7 is actually the Holy Spirit, who hinders or restrains.

6. Keep in mind the Holy Spirit is removed at the rapture or translation of the church; for we are His dwelling place at the present time.

1Co 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

7. The Revived Roman Empire cannot come into power until the Church is removed and the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit is terminated.

7.1 Once the Church "goes up" and the restraint is off, the mystery becomes a reality.

8. After the rapture religion will become an integral part of a ten-nation alliance, and the Revived Roman Empire with its head—the Antichrist will be revealed. The "mingling" with the seed of men depicts the fusion of religious and political groups.

9. Revelation, Chapter 17 describes the events taking place after the rapture.

Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters"

10. "The great prostitute" represents Satanic sponsored religion, which is in mystery form today. With all restraints removed by the Rapture of the Church, "the great prostitute" goes to work and the church joins the world. "Many waters" is a reference to many Gentile nations.

11. World religion will become popular and economically powerful.

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

12. The Tribulation will be the time of the greatest concentration of religion the world has ever known. Ecumenical religion will accelerate its thrust under Satan's powerful influence. Rome will be the headquarters, and fornication (religious activity) will be worldwide!

12. Now let's see what we can learn from Daniel 2:44 and 45:

KJV

Dan 2:44 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.

NIV

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.

KJV

Dan 2:45 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.

NIV

Dan 2:45 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."

1. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return to the earth as the "stone cut out without hands." This is the same phrase used in Dan 2:34. A better translation of "stone" would be "a gigantic rock."

Dan 2:34 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.

1.1 The same event is found described in Dan 7:13-14:

Dan 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

Dan 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

2. As we earlier noted there are many passages of Scripture which refer to Jesus Christ as "the Rock."

2.1 It has been accurately said "man can make a brick but only God can make a rock". Jesus is here said to be "a Stone made not with human hands".

3. You may recall we looked at numerous Scriptures where Jesus was said to be a Rock.

4. For example: He [the LORD] is the Rock" in Deuteronomy 32:4 and "the Rock of salvation" in Deuteronomy 32:15. He is the foundation stone for Israel in Isa. 28:16; the "stone which the builders refused" in Psa. 118:22 and Mark 12:10; the "rock of offense to both the houses of Israel" in Isa. 8:14; the Rock of ages in Isaiah 26:4; a destroying rock at the Second Advent in Dan. 2:35 and 45.

5. In Matthew 16:18, Christ is the foundation of the Church: "And I say also unto thee, thou art Peter [Greek, PETROS a little rock or chip] and [literally, 'but upon this rock PETRA [a gigantic rock] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

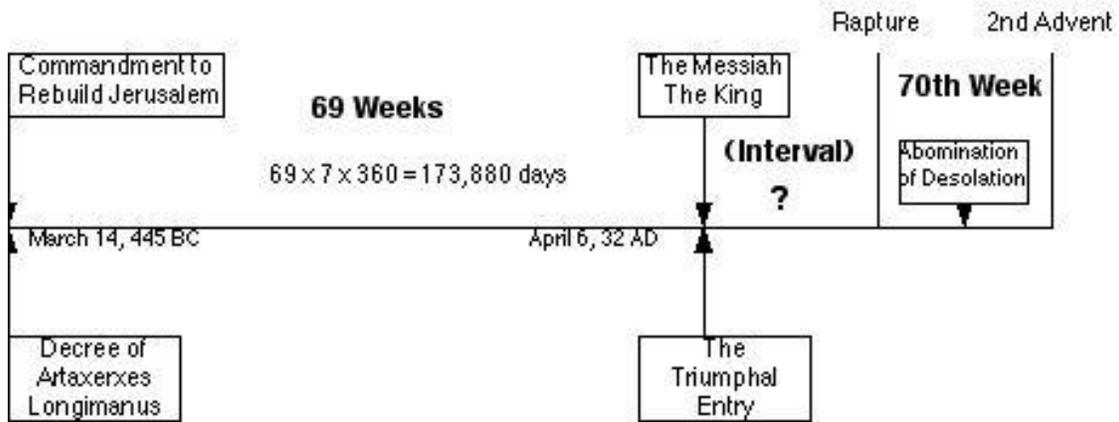
6. At the Second Advent, Jesus Christ will personally shatter and destroy the Revived Roman Empire just as He "brake in pieces previous empires pictured in the king's dream and interpreted by Daniel.

7. The removal of all unbelievers from the Earth sets the scene for the Millennium, which will begin with believers only.

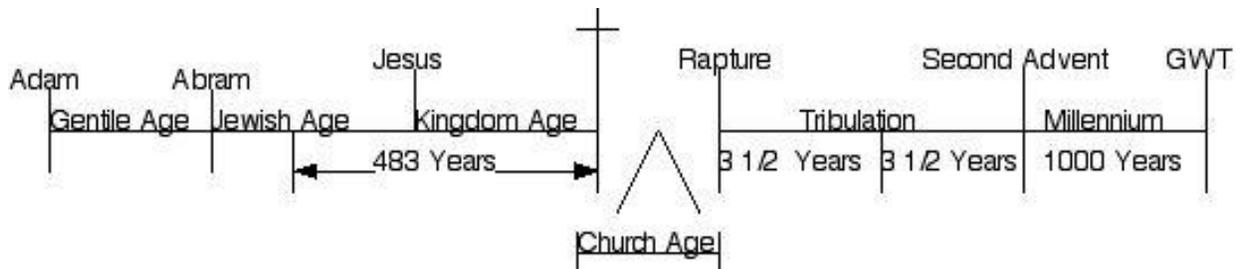
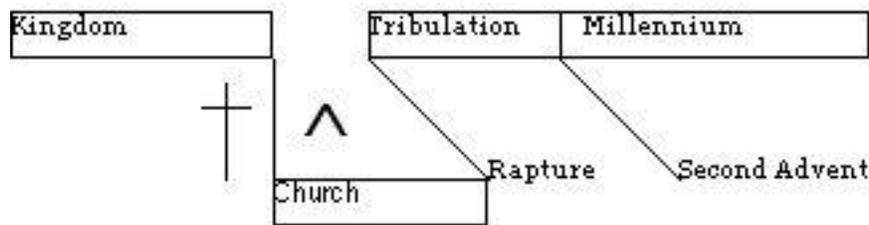
8. This new kingdom will stand for one thousand years under the reign of Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

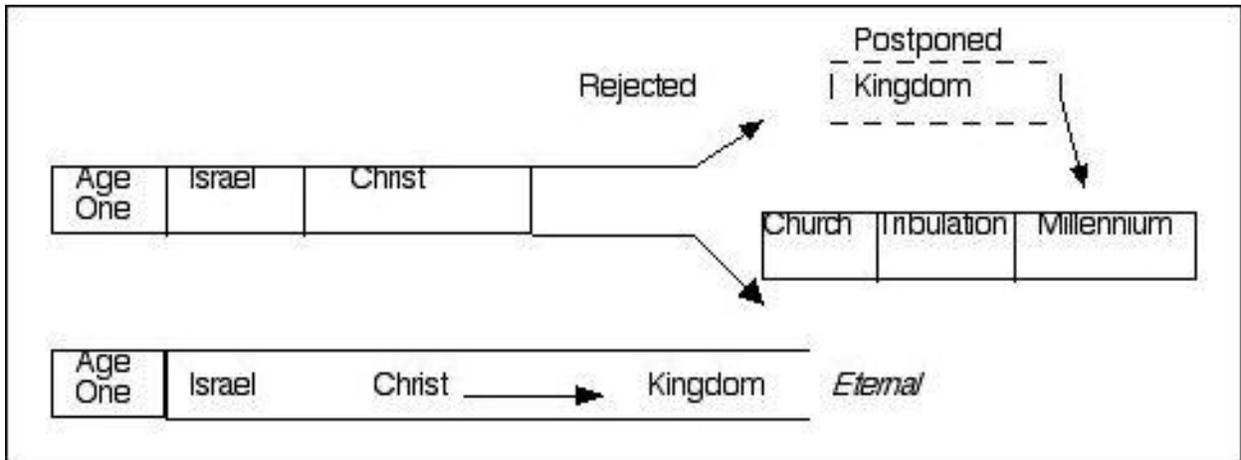
9. As a part of the fulfillment of the four unconditional covenants, Israel will be restored as a nation. Let's look at a series of charts that depict much of what has been taught about the events of the last days—eschatology.

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

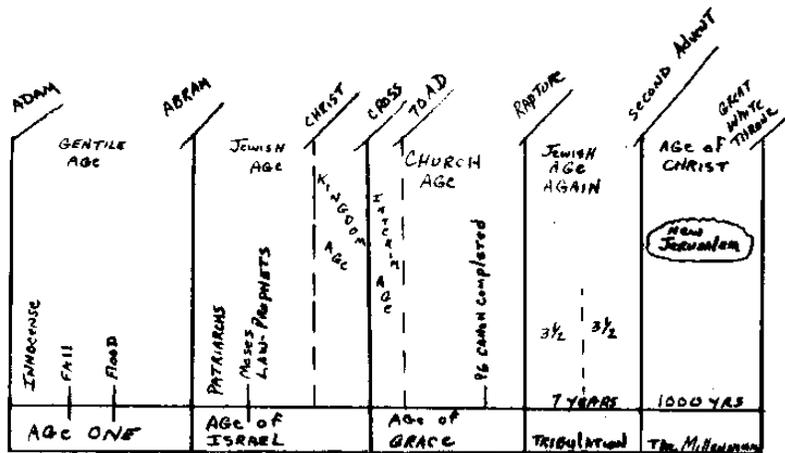
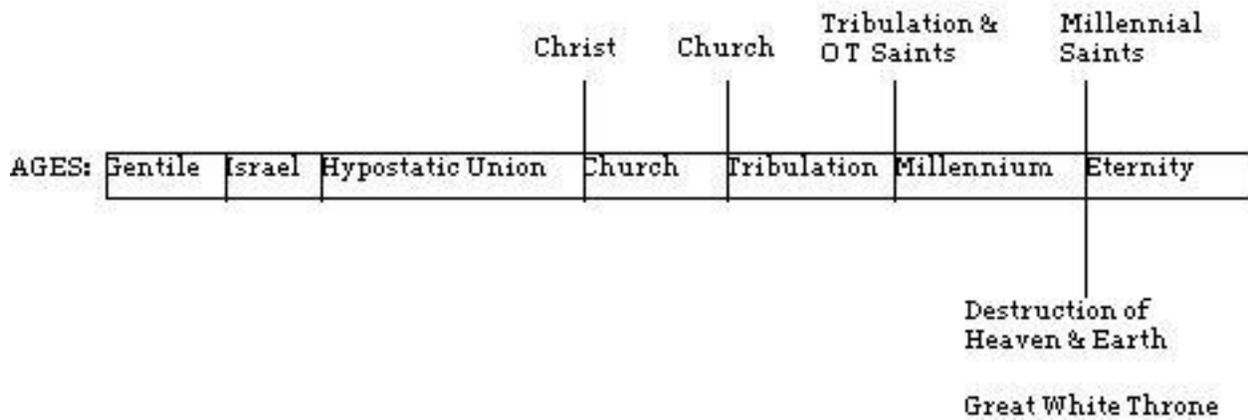


INTERCALATION





ORDER OF THE RESURRECTIONS



10. This, then, was the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

11. Now I want us to look at the reaction of the great King and the rewards to Daniel and his friends. These are provided in part in Dan 2:46-48:

KJV

Dan 2:46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odors unto him.

NIV

Dan 2:46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.

KJV

Dan 2:47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.

NIV

Dan 2:47 The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

KJV

Dan 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

NIV

Dan 2:48 Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.

1. The Scripture is silent on Daniel's response to the king's effusive reactions and rewards.

1.1 However, from our study of verse 30 we know that Daniel took no credit for himself. Daniel made clear that wisdom he had was purely God's grace provision.

Dan 2:30 As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

2. It is safe to assume that he exploited this opportunity to further proclaim the power and might of Jesus Christ.

3. While Nebuchadnezzar recognized the existence and superiority of Daniel's God, he did not go so far as to accept Christ as Savior.

4. Instead, the realization that he was the fabulous head of gold gave him a bad case of fat headedness, or arrogance. Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed with his own position that he bypassed the importance of Christ, and for a time made pride his god!

5. Meanwhile, Daniel was appointed to an influential post. By contrast, he didn't allow success to go to his head. What was the difference between Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel?

5.1 As an unbeliever, the king's old sin nature was filled with approbation lust, power lust and ego lust. Daniel, on the other hand, had Bible doctrine in his soul; and because he did, his OSN was neutralized, and he could enjoy his success.

6. As Daniel had previously passed the tests of adversity, he now passed the test of prosperity.

6.1 It's easy to trust the Lord in pressure situations when there's no place else to go, but true occupation with Christ is really evident when the proper perspective is maintained in the midst of prosperity.

7. Since Daniel was grace oriented, he immediately thought of his faithful friends, and spoke to the king on their behalf.

End Lesson Taught 1-21-2001