

Daniel Interprets The Statue Dream

Valley Center Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Based On Daniel 2

Last week we took a look at the first chapter of Daniel, which describes Nebuchadnezzar's attack against Jerusalem. There were three attacks by the king of Babylon, each about ten years apart. The first, when Daniel was taken, was in 605 B.C.; the second, when Ezekiel and 10,000 other captives were taken, was in 597, and the third, when Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple burned was in 586. By the way, these dates are accepted by most secular historians as well.

We saw that what happened to Judah is an illustration of Satan's plan for all God's people. He purposes to so lead us away from the Lord that we forfeit the ability to withstand his attacks, just as Jerusalem strayed from God and became vulnerable. Satan wants to do this so that he can captivate us in a life of sin, just as Daniel was taken captive. The devil wants to educate us in the lifestyle of spiritual Babylon. Chapter one represents, in many respects, the devil's game plan against all of God's people.

We saw that Daniel and his friends were enrolled in a three-year course to learn the laws and language of Babylon, the final test being an interview by the king himself, who found that the Hebrews had learned their lessons so well that they were given special places of recognition in their graduating class, which admitted them to the group of so called "wise-men" or "Chaldeans," who served as counselors to the king.

This brings us to the second chapter of Daniel, which contains the dream about the great metal and mud man, the Bible's building blocks of outline prophecy, which we'll review today and find these lessons (you may have heard them before): God knows, God cares, God is involved and in control, and God rewards.

As this chapter opens, there's a phrase which has brought a question to a few people. Some have latched onto it to try to prove the Bible is unreliable. It's this little phrase in the opening words of the first verse: "Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar..." What's puzzling about that phrase? It's that the story seems to follow the events of chapter one (Daniel and his friends seem to have graduated from their course, because they're included in the "wise-men"); and chapter one describes the attack on Jerusalem being by Nebuchadnezzar "the king;" and we were told that the school that the Hebrews went to was for three years. So how can it be from our way of thinking, that he was the king before they started the three year school, and chapter two is after the school is over, but it says it was in his "second year"? Some people have twisted their minds into a pretzel over problems like this, but usually there's a reasonable explanation if all points are considered, especially with chronology and dating in the Bible. There are two points to take into account about this. It turns out that archeologists have discovered that the Babylonian rulers had a custom of calling the first year they were on the throne their "ascension year," not their "first year." Remember that Nebuchadnezzar's dad passed away right after the attack against Jerusalem, and he had to hurry back.

Also, regarding the three years of school, keep in mind that they had the practice of counting any part of a whole as the entire whole. We do that sometimes, too. For tax purposes, if your baby was born on December 31, it counts as a whole year's deduction, right? We call that "inclusive reckoning." So we have two things operating here: the "ascension year" being the king's "first," and the three years perhaps being shorter than the way

we'd count them. And so it is possible to make sense of this verse accurately (according to the way *they* looked at it) describing events after the school was over, and in what they called his "second" year of being king.

And what did happen? "Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.' Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, 'O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.'" Daniel 2:1-4.

Have you ever had that happen? The dream you had the night before made a deep impression on you, but you couldn't remember what it was when you woke up? Babylonians were accustomed to the idea that dreams could have more than usual importance attached to them; dreams could have special wisdom within them and their study and interpretation was something within the job description of the wise men.

By the way, when they gave their reply in verse four, you may have a note in your Bible that says it is in Syriac (as a spoken language also called Aramaic), and that from this point to the end of chapter 7 the Bible is in that language and not Hebrew.

The magicians and astrologers would have been happy to have had the king repeat the dream, and they could have taken a shot at interpreting it, but that's not the way God intended it. Have you thought about why, in this instance, God gave the prophetic message to a heathen king, and not his prophet Daniel, and why after giving it to him, He clouded his brain so that he couldn't remember it when he awakened? I think God was very ingenious, and used the principles of curiosity and psychology to

try do what? Tease him? Dazzle him? No! **To win him!** To save him! God wanted to win this pagan king, and He did! Someday, by God's grace, you'll shake his hand and he'll tell you all about it.

When we discussed the reasons why God allowed the attack on Jerusalem, we didn't touch on this one. It was so the light of His love could reach out to people outside of Judah. The Hebrews felt that God loved only them, like Jonah when he was frustrated when the people of Nineveh were converted. But the Lord wanted others to know about His love too! So for that purpose, along with others, He allowed Nebuchadnezzar to attack Jerusalem, so that His people could be the "salt of the *earth*" and witness about Him to these Babylonians. They needed a chance to know about Him too.

Think of it this way. How open to receiving a message about God and His plans for this planet would the king be if God sent a message to Daniel directly? Imagine that Daniel had received the dream of the great statue, and then requested an audience with the king to tell him what he saw? Would the king have listened? Probably not! Or, another scenario: what if the king had remembered the dream, and the wise men had made up an answer, so that Daniel's interpretation would have been one of a couple of choices, what then?

There's an interesting progression in this book, in the context of God's wisdom being superior to man's wisdom. Remember that one of the main themes we're considering is that "God knows." Here's the progression:

- In this chapter, a heathen king has a dream he *can't* remember, the wisdom of man fails, but God knows
- In the fourth chapter the king has a dream which he *can* remember, the wisdom of man fails, but God knows
- In the fifth chapter it's not a dream, but blazing letters on the wall that *everyone can see*, and still man's wisdom fails, but God knows

In this story, though the content of the dream is temporarily withheld from the king. I believe God in His wisdom and love purposed it so, so that the king would be ready to receive His wisdom when the time came, when his "learning readiness" was ripe.

"But the king answered and said to the Chaldeans, 'My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.' They answered again and said, 'Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation.' The king answered and said, 'I know for certain that you would *gain time*, because you see that my decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the *time has changed*. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation.'" Daniel 2:5-9.

Here we find the king losing his temper with his counselors, who are unable to help him remember the dream. It's either "reward" or "the sword." He was beginning to lose confidence in their ability to come through, and realized that if indeed they could relate the forgotten dream, then maybe their interpretation would be reliable.

Let's think for a moment about these wise men and the methods they used to obtain wisdom. Back then the magicians had all kinds of ways they used to get answers. They did it by studying the pattern of the flight of birds or by trying to discern a sign among the entrails of sacrificed animals. There was the practice of "hepatoscopy," the detailed inspection of the livers of sacrificed animals. There was "lecanomancy," the examination of the pattern of oil as it was poured on water, like an ancient Rorschach test. There was "belomancy," the shaking of arrows in

a quiver and then letting them fall out like giant pick-up-sticks and studying their arrangement. And there was "necromancy," the supposed consultation with the spirits of the dead.

There was also the mixture of astronomy and astrology, which seems to be referenced in this story. There are two references to "gaining time" (verses 8 and 9) which indicate that the wise men were waiting for a favorable conjunction of the stars or planets to assist them in their assignments. In the book of Esther it talks about "wise men who understood the times..." Esther 1:13. To be sure, these magi were skilled in the wisdom of predicting eclipses and in the movements of stars and constellations (don't forget that the descendants of this same class were the wise men, the magi who saw His star in the east and came to Bethlehem when Jesus was born), but they mistakenly thought that the configuration of the stars and planets had something to do with influencing events (other than moon tides) on this earth.

Today's horoscopes, the zodiac, all find their roots in the culture of the Chaldeans. If we find their study of animal livers strange, today many try to find wisdom through the reading of palms and tea leaves or looking into a crystal ball. It's the same principle at work; trying to reach out beyond that curtain of reality, outside of what God has revealed. It just wears different clothes today than back then. God has told us all we need to know, if we will study the Bible. Beyond that, we should with patience and faith allow Him to work out the details without trying on our own to pry open the door of tomorrow with the crowbar of curiosity, especially when it involves methods that leave us vulnerable to the devil's influence. We should get our wisdom, not from the "stars" but from the Star, the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ.

We find an interesting concept in the answer given by the magicians. "The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, 'There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. It is a difficult thing that the king

requires, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” Daniel 2:10, 11.

This is a part of the story that isn't often highlighted, but actually is a very important part of the picture. What they're saying is basically what a lot of people today feel; that if there is a god, he's not really interested in what happens down here, and certainly would not degrade himself to make contact with, let alone, make his habitation down here with mortals. How far from truth this idea is! This story as it's played out shows how deeply God cares for and is involved with the events of this planet. And Bethlehem shows that God, yes, the Creator God, the King of the universe God, not only is interested in this planet, but made the unbelievable sacrifice of stepping down from His throne and coming to this earth, not as a King, but in a cradle. **This God** did make "His dwelling with flesh."

The irony of this statement by the wise men, and their ignorance about the truth of God is glaring! However, their ignorance might be excused because of a lack of exposure to divine wisdom. And yet in today's enlightened age, many people feel the very same way! They feel that God doesn't really care about the details of their lives. Jesus said that Heaven knows the very hairs of our heads. God knows, cares about and is involved in every part of our lives. He knows all about lost cell phones, lost cats and lost keys! Above all, He cares for lost "sheep." I can't help but think that Jesus winced when these "men of wisdom," these magi, said what they said. But the Lord was going to reveal Himself in this story and show what kind of God He really is!

Having passed their tests with flying colors, Daniel and his friends were included in the group now slated for execution. A careful look at verse 13 indicates that some of the wise men might have already lost their lives before they knocked on Daniel's door. Arioch, the one sent on this mission of death, is given the title "captain of the king's guard," but you'll notice in other translations, it reads, "chief of the slaughter men." His job description was to slay the king's enemies. He was the king's

butcher! How would you feel if you were Daniel, and opened the door to see him! His name means "lion-like," which seems appropriate not only because his job was killing but also because lions were a national symbol. This, by the way, was the same job held by Potiphar, the one who purchased Joseph as a slave in Egypt.

Notice the "courage with courtesy" response given by Daniel in this life-threatening situation. "Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise man of Babylon; he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, 'Why is the decree from the king so urgent?' Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.'" Daniel 2:14-16.

Daniel's Christian maturity is a model worth copying. It's interesting that in verse 16 the new-comer Daniel's request of the king for more time was granted, though Nebuchadnezzar had become angry when the other wise men wanted additional time! Maybe there was something in Daniel's sincerity or the respect he had won by his achievement in the school that made this possible. Most certainly, it was the fact that God worked on the heart of the king, just as He had worked on the heart of the steward in the diet issue of chapter one.

Then Daniel and his friends held a prayer meeting and asked God for the wisdom they lacked. I'm tempted to say that they "prayed like they never had before," but I don't think that would be an accurate statement. Is there Scripture to back that up? Yes, there is. When we get to chapter six and Daniel's life is threatened again, we'll see that he prayed to his God "as he did before." In fact, that's the whole point: they didn't wait for a crisis to develop to turn to Him. That was the secret of their spiritual life; they had made a habit of frequent and fervent prayer. In calm or crisis, they prayed. Then God revealed to Daniel what He had shown the king in his dream.

So Daniel immediately ran to the king, right? No, first, like the lone leper among the ten healed by Jesus, Daniel paused to give thanks. He composed a beautiful hymn of praise to thank God for His life-saving mercies. I wonder if the other wise men, the ones saved because of Daniel's answered prayer, realized and acknowledged that they owed their lives to him! Daniel wrote, "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." Daniel 2:20, 21.

The next morning, Daniel contacted Arioch with the good news that an answer had been given. I hope I'm not reading too much in the way that Arioch responded to this, but it seems to me that there's a contrast in the way that Daniel was so hesitant to take credit for the answer, while it looks like Arioch rushed in with the announcement, "**I** have found a man among the Hebrews..." One thing we can be sure of: there was absolutely no ego pumping or chest thumping in the character of Daniel. Notice that when he's ushered into the throne room, how quickly he tells the king that this answer did not come because he was any smarter than anyone else. He said, "But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but...that you may know the thoughts of your heart."

"As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be."

Many people today have a very fatalistic view of life. With a shrug of her shoulders society says, "Oh well, whatever." The theme song of many is "Whatever will be, will be." Things "just happen," without any particular rhyme or reason. This way of thinking completely ignores the Bible message that God is in control and that He has a plan. God was about to reveal to Nebuchadnezzar "what will be," which was in accordance with His wisdom and design.

“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor 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 partly of 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.” Daniel 2:29-35.

Oh to be a mosquito on the wall of Nebuchadnezzar’s throne room, just to observe the different expressions on the king’s face during those moments! If you could construct a series of box illustrations, each depicting the king’s face from time to time, it would be amazing. What would his body-language have said? When Daniel is ushered in, I imagine the king is skeptical but tolerant, sitting back in his throne. What could this young Hebrew possibly know that his other weathered counselors did not?

But as Daniel begins to speak, after just a few words, the expression across the monarch’s face changes from skepticism to curiosity and amazement. He begins to straighten up in his chair as this youth describes in vivid detail what he had seen in his dream. It’s all coming back to him, in every particular. A flash-flood of conviction sweeps over his soul; he knows this couldn’t just have happened—the message and the messenger are heaven-sent.

A great and awesome statue made out of different kinds of metal. Now he’s leaning on the edge of his chair, chin in hand, in total absorption of what he’s hearing. A head of gold, chest of silver, waist of bronze, legs of iron, feet of iron and clay. Then—a stone, cut without human hands, strikes the image at its feet and destroys the image so completely it’s blown away and disappears

like the chaff on threshing day, and that stone becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth. It's exactly what he had seen in his dream!

And now, with this miraculous recounting of the dream, and because the other counselors had failed, Nebuchadnezzar is willing to listen to the interpretation given by Daniel. The statue represents God's perspective on the "march of the empires," from that day to ours. Babylon is the head of gold, and Daniel points out that God has made him such and given him his kingdom and majesty. What did Jesus say to Pilate? You would have no power or authority except it was given to you by God. There's no room for human pride in all this.

Daniel said that Nebuchadnezzar was "a king of kings." Wait a minute: "king of kings"? Wouldn't that be blasphemous to call him "king of kings"? No, actually that was true. He was a king who ruled over other rulers. Babylon had conquered other nations. So Nebuchadnezzar was literally "a king of kings." This is completely different than Jesus, Who is "the King of kings." What's the difference between those two phrases? It's the difference between the word "a" and the word "the." One is an "indefinite article" and the other is a "definite article." Oh, what a great difference those two little words, those two little articles make. What a huge difference between "a" king of kings, as was Nebuchadnezzar, and "the" King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. It's the difference between something human and something divine.

Why do I bring this up? Allow me to make this point. There is also a world of difference between "the" Sabbath and "a" Sabbath. The Bible talks about both. "The" Sabbath, the seventh-day Sabbath, was instituted by God at creation, inscribed in His Ten Commandment law, and applicable to all who have ever lived on this planet. "A" Sabbath refers to those festival days attached to ceremonies like the Passover which illustrated the death of the coming Messiah.. They pointed forward to the cross and came to their end when Jesus died. "The" Sabbath pointed back as a

reminder of Creation. "The" Sabbath is eternal; the ones that were tied to ceremonies, as Paul mentions in Colossians 2, were temporary. Look in the Bible; you'll see there's a difference between "the" Sabbath and "a" Sabbath.

The image had a head of gold, which was an appropriate symbol for Babylon because of the stupendous wealth of the empire. Archeologists figure that there was about 18.5 tons of gold in the penthouse temple dedicated to Marduk on the top of the main ziggurat. The historian Herodotus visited Babylon and was overwhelmed with the gold he saw everywhere.

Daniel explained that the head of gold represented Babylon, but that it would be succeeded by another kingdom "inferior" to it. Babylon held the scepter from 605 – 539 B.C., when she was in turn conquered by the Medes and Persians, represented in the statue by the chest of silver. Then in 331 B.C., the Persians were overrun by the Greek armies of Alexander the Great, the waist of bronze, whose kingdom in turn fell to the Romans in 168 B.C., the legs of iron. All history books tell the same story. Even Josephus, who lived just after the time of Christ, understood clearly the message of the statue prophecy.

The fourth kingdom was not replaced by another world empire, but was broken into the fragments of what we call modern Europe, the feet and toes of the statue. Though man would try in many different ways to weld together a replacement world empire, it would not happen. History has shown that there been Hitlers, Charlemagnes, Napoleons and Kaisers and others who tried by military might to bring about a united Europe, but failed.

I am now going to give you a very profound lesson in prophetic interpretation. Are you ready? Pencil in hand? Here it is:

"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall

All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again."

Did you know that this nursery rhyme is a commentary on Daniel 2? Humpty Dumpty was an egg, wasn't he? What was it that was fragile as an egg and had a great fall? It was the Roman Empire! You've heard of Gibbon's book, The Rise And Fall Of The Roman Empire, haven't you? Throughout the Middle Ages, "all the king's horses and all the king's men" tried their best to put together the shattered egg of the once glorious Roman Empire, to no avail. Have you tried to put an egg back together after it was broken? Perhaps it can be done with a real egg, but God said that the remnants of the fourth empire would not adhere, just as iron is not mixed with clay.

It says they would attempt to "mingle with the seed of men" (verse 43). What's that talking about? During the Middle Ages, it was popular to have intermarriages between the royal houses of Europe, to try to create alliances and bring about unity. There was so much intermarriage that genetic weaknesses were the result among the reigning families, and there was a much higher incidence of ailments like hemophilia, for example, among the royalty than the commoners. But these efforts, likewise, would be fruitless as an attempt to unify Europe.

Before we get to the stone that stuck the image on its feet, observe how this statue reflects the story of mankind from heaven's point of view, in contrast to the way that human wisdom thinks. The Bible says that mankind was created perfect in Eden, but when sin entered man has been going downhill ever since. The statue began with gold and ended in mud. The metals in the statue decrease in value but increase in strength as time goes on, just as sin progresses. Man's heart, without the softening influence of the Holy Spirit, becomes harder and harder, or "steeled" in opposition to God's ways.

Man's account is different. Evolution, not creation, is given the credit for how we came to be. The way the popular version

reads, human life began in mud and is evolving toward a golden age. Look at all the wonderful inventions, the medical cures that have been discovered. Man is making brisk strides in longevity, health and quality of life, some would say. The truth is, man is sliding deeper and deeper into the mire of moral decline. All one has to do is watch an evening's worth of news to be convinced of that!

Notice also that the statue is "top heavy." Gold, which is at the top, is the weightiest of the elements in the statue. What happens when something is top-heavy? It's easy for it to fall, isn't it? While humans like to think their kingdoms are stable and sure, heaven's viewpoint is that man's kingdoms are weak and easily toppled.

The statue had a head of gold, but feet of clay. Having "feet of clay" is a phrase we use to describe weakness and instability. It's one of those quotations from the Bible that people use, without realizing they're quoting the Scriptures.

We see again the fulfillment of God's promise, "Those who honor Me I will honor." God knows, cares, controls and rewards. These are the themes we see constantly in this book. Daniel and his friends were richly rewarded at the conclusion of this story.

What, or Who is represented by the stone? The stone is Jesus. The stone striking the feet of the image is a picture of Christ's return.

- "He is the Rock" testifies Moses in Deuteronomy 32:4
- "They remembered that God was their Rock" Psalm 78:35
- "That Rock was Christ" I Corinthians 10:4
- He is the "Cornerstone" Matthew 21:42-44

The **stone is not the Apostle Peter**, because Peter himself confessed in I Peter 2:5-9 and Acts 4:11 that Christ is the Rock. Other kingdoms may have involved the will and efforts of man,

but this kingdom of the Stone is without human intervention. "Cut out without hands" means it's not something of man's devising.

The stone striking the image certainly applies in a primary sense to Christ's return. But, let me ask you a question. Is there anywhere else in the Bible that it mentions a stone cut out without human hands? There is! Do you know what that is? It was the first set of the Ten Commandments. Is this a contradiction? No! Jesus and His law are the same. The Law reflects perfectly the character and principles of God. It's who He is. His law is the foundation of His throne. It was against this Law that Satan from the beginning has waged war, and he leads people today to disregard or attempt to nullify it. But, though they may attempt to, neither the devil nor humans can destroy His law. Doing away with the Ten Commandments would be like doing away with God Himself. They are inseparable. They are one and the same. Jesus said the law was "in his heart." Psalm 40:8. The devil has made it his mission to attempt to get rid of God and His Law, but he cannot succeed.

Jesus and His law are indivisible. Throughout Scripture, the attributes and characteristics apply equally to God as to His Law. Listen carefully to this list of adjectives: each one of them is used in Scripture to describe **both** God and His Law. "Eternal, holy, just, good, true, perfect, righteous, faithful, love, pure and unchangeable."

After God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger, Moses descended from Sinai and saw the people of Israel engaged in the flagrant violation of the first principles of that Law. They were worshiping an image of gold, and so in righteous indignation he threw the Law to the ground and it was broken in pieces, demonstrating that the people had "broken" the Law of God. The "stone cut out without hands" was shattered. But this symbolized only *their breaking of it*. Really, they broke themselves by disobeying it. In the truest sense, the Law remained intact. It always has. At Sinai, the image was ground to powder. In the vision of Daniel two, the image representing the

kingdoms of man will be smashed by the stone when Jesus comes.

Part of God's last message of mercy to this world is a call to return to the simple obedience of His Law. No, we're not saved by our obedience. Salvation is a gift from God. But we are called to obey Him as a sign of our loyalty and love. The "stone cut out without hands" striking the image *at its feet* is a fit symbol of God's challenge and invitation to return to loyalty to His government and His law in these last days. It's Revelation 14:6, 7 in the Old Testament. Remember, obedience is the highest form of worship. Partial obedience is total rebellion. The world has forgotten that she has a Maker, and He has a Law. God would confront the world with the just claims of His holy law. The great Ruler of the universe would like to know why His Law of love is being trampled with impunity by those He created.

The Stone is a picture of the return of Jesus Christ to this earth, and notice the finality that His coming brings. All other kingdoms are completely destroyed, to the point that they are ground up like chaff and are blown away. The phrase "No trace of them was found," is deeply significant. When Jesus comes back, all earthly kingdoms and systems will end. What does the word "chaff" bring to mind? What time of the year would you have encountered chaff? Harvest time! That's when the crop would be brought in and the valuable kernel separated from the worthless outer husk, or chaff. When does the Bible say is the harvest? The "harvest is the end of the world." Matthew 13:39. The Bible describes Christ coming with a sickle in His hand. Revelation 14:14.

He will then set up a kingdom which will be, in contrast to the components of the statue, everlasting. Are you getting tired of things that don't last? Everything we touch or experience in this life has an end. Nothing lasts. Car tires don't last. Roofs don't last. Salad doesn't last. A hair treatment called a "permanent"-- isn't. Memory fades. Health and strength wane. Relationships

often don't last. Are you getting tired of things that don't last? There's good news! Jesus is coming!

We can trace the kingdoms of the past. We see the passing of ancient Babylon, Medo-Persia, the splendor of Greece, the glory of Rome. We're now living in the feet of the statue. We're at the very toenails of the image. Everything Jesus said through His Word has come to pass. This last week, what did you see? Deadly tornadoes, destructive floods; more indications that His coming is near. The next thing in this prophecy is His great coming. Are you ready for Him to come? Have you fallen on the Rock and surrendered your life to Him? Have you accepted His great gift of salvation? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins and give you a new heart? Are you living in the expectancy of His return? Are you living in obedience to His commandments, in loyalty and allegiance to His government? Soon, we'll see Jesus!