

**AUGUST 21, 2022**  
**DANIEL 2:36-49**  
**Certain, Reliable, True, Trustworthy**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

In **verse 39a** Daniel discloses the second kingdom that would arise after the Babylonian Empire. This was the Medo-Persian Empire led by Cyrus the Great. *Stephen R. Miller* wrote, “The Medo-Persian Empire is mentioned here briefly but is described in greater detail in **chaps. 7-8**. A bear symbolizes the kingdom in **7:5**; in **8:20** a two-horned ram is specifically designated as Media and Persia.”

*Stephen R. Miller* continues in his discussion of **verse 39b**, “A third kingdom of bronze (i.e., represented by the bronze belly and thighs of the statue) was then prophesied to appear on the world scene; and of course, the empire that followed Medo-Persia was Greece (cf. **7:6**; **8:5**; **11:3-4**). In 332 B.C. the armies of the great conqueror Alexander the Great marched against the Medo-Persian Empire and defeated it in a series of decisive battles.”

“**Verse 41** deals with a later phase or outgrowth of this fourth empire, symbolized by the feet of ten toes—made up of iron and earthenware, a fragile base for the huge monument. The text clearly implies that this final phase will be marked by some sort of federation rather than by a powerful single realm. The iron may possibly represent the influence of the old Roman culture and tradition, and the pottery may represent the inherent weakness in a socialist society based on relativism in morality and philosophy. Out of this mixture of iron and clay come weakness and confusion, pointing to the approaching day of doom.” *Gleason L. Archer, Jr.*

It would be 40 years later when the kingdom’s and their kings would be made clearly known by Daniel as he has visions/dreams of his own that bring clarity to who and what kingdoms are set forth in this pericope. The clarification will come in **chapters 7-12** and especially in **chapters 7-8**. Bear in mind that this prophecy is so accurate that critics have been and still are declaring that this work by Daniel was written after the events had come to pass. It is awe inspiring to see just how accurate the prophecies have been up to this point. It is assuring that the more archeological finds are encountered and investigated the more it becomes clear that this was written around 530 B.C. It is amazing to see how the world is moving toward further disclosure of the book of Daniel coming to pass every day. It is affirming to see just how accurate the Word of God is by constantly demonstrating that God is in control of the nations and He is bringing about His perfect will for mankind.

**Application:**

“3 While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what is the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”4 Jesus replied to them, “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many. 6 You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these events are the beginning of labor pains.9 “Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. 10 Then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. 11 Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”**Matthew 24:3-14 CSB**

Nebuchadnezzar’s dream clearly teaches that Christ will return to establish His rule on earth, thereby subduing all nations. Notice that this will take place suddenly, not over a long period of time as is the thought of some. People get ready Jesus is coming!

We do not know the day and hour of our Lord’s return. But, it is closer than it has every been. An old Christian group called, D C Talk, had a song titled, “I Wish We’d All Been Ready” check it out sometime. Are you ready?