

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM IMAGE (Daniel 2) = AN OVERVIEW OF HISTORY

GOLDEN HEAD = BABYLON (605—539 BC)

- The Judeans still spoke Hebrew, the original language of the (Old Testament) Scriptures
- Jeremiah had been prophesying Judea's end since 627 BC, in conjunction with King Josiah's revival
- Daniel went into Babylonian captivity when Nebuchadnezzar came to power in Babylon in 605 BC
- Ezekiel went into Babylonian captivity in 597 BC
- Solomon's Temple was destroyed in 587 BC
- Jeremiah continued prophesying in Egypt; Daniel & Ezekiel prophesied in Babylon
- Hebrew was gradually replaced by Aramaic in common use by Israelis

SILVER CHEST & ARMS = MEDIA/PERSIA (539—333 BC)

- Jeremiah had prophesied Israel's return from captivity after a period of 70 years; Daniel had been prophesying Babylon's end & studying Jeremiah's prophecies; Daniel received additional information regarding Israel's future after the return from captivity
- Babylon fell under Media/Persia control in 539 BC
- Cyrus the Great authorized Israel's return from captivity in 537 BC
- Zerubbabel oversaw the rebuilding of the Temple (536—516 BC)
- Queen Esther saved the Jews of the Median/Persian Empire from extinction in 473 BC
- Ezra returned to Israel to lead a Judean revival in 457 BC
- Nehemiah returned to Israel to build the walls & also encouraged Judean revival in 444 BC
- Malachi was written around 420 BC, calling the Judeans to true commitment

BRONZE BELLY & HIPS = MACEDONIAN GREEKS (333—63 BC)

- Thanks to Alexander the Great, the Greek language became more common than Aramaic (or Hebrew); The entire Old Testament was translated into Greek around 280 BC
- The Jewish Faith & the Temple was desecrated by Greeks & secular Jews during the 170's
- The Maccabees saved the Jewish Faith from extinction during the 160's BC
- The Samaritans, the Pharisees & the Sadducees all came into existences during this period

IRON LEGS = ROMAN EMPIRE(S) (63 BC—AD 1453)

- Rome gained partial control in Judea because of infighting among the descendants of the Maccabees
- Herod was declared King of the Jews by the Roman Senate in 40 BC
- Herod gained popularity with the Jews by renovating the Temple in 20 BC
- Rome gained full control in Judea in AD 6 because of the cruelty of Herod's son, Archelaus
- All the events of the New Testament take place between c. 8 BC—c. AD 100
- The Temple & Jerusalem were destroyed in AD 70 while Rome was trying to quell Jewish infighting
- Jerusalem was rebuilt as Aelia Capitolina by Emperor Hadrian during the early 130's
- Jews were banished from Aelia Capitolina after the Bar Kokba revolt during the 130's
- Judea was thereafter called Palaestina, from which the modern term "Palestine" comes
- The Roman Empire was split into two parts—Western & Eastern—in 285
- Constantine I is considered the first "Christian" Roman Emperor
- In the Western Roman Empire, the Latin "Vulgate" replaced the Greek Bible & became the official language of Christian ceremonies
- The Western Roman Empire crumbled into bits & pieces around 476
- "Palestine" came under Islamic control in 636, four years after Muhammad's death
- "Palestine" was under Crusader control during the 12th Century
- "Palestine" returned to Muslim control in 1187
- The Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire crumbled into bits & pieces around 1453

FEET OF IRON & CLAY = WESTERN CIVILIZATION (AD 1453—Present)

- Western Civilization is basically all that's left of the original Roman Empire
- "Palestine" came under British control in 1917
- The British Mandate of 1922 established "Palestine" as a homeland for the Jews
- When the U.N. voted to end the Mandate in 1947 by partitioning the area into a Jewish State & an Arab State, the surrounding Muslim nations attacked the Israelis, intending to annihilate them; an independent Israeli state has existed in conflict with Islamic forces ever since

