



If we are living in the 'time of the toes' what will happen next? Find the answer in Daniel 2:34, 35.

What does this mean? Read the answer the Bible gives in Daniel 2:44, 45. How does this fit with Jesus' description of His return to set up His kingdom? (Read Matthew 24:3-14 which we studied in the first set of lessons.)

A stone smashing and destroying everything sounds frightening, but ask yourself a question: Who needs to be afraid of a new king, his friends or his enemies? When Jesus comes, all His friends will be part of His wonderful new kingdom.



We do not have to be afraid at all. The most powerful king in the universe is our friend!



When He comes, we will be glad to see Him!

For 70 years after he was taken prisoner, Daniel was an advisor to several Babylonian kings. Then he was Prime Minister under the first Persian King. Through all those years he was also a prophet for God.

To find out what is happening in this picture, read another exciting story about Daniel and the first Persian king in Daniel chapter 6.

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GOD'S YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

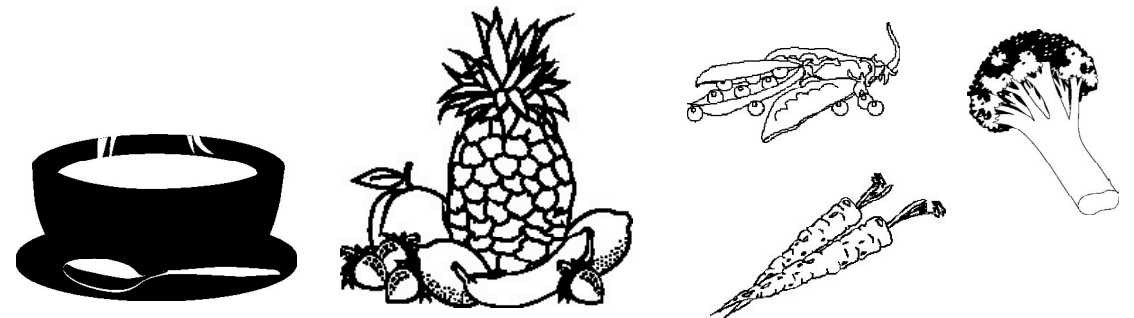
LESSON 9 Daniel: Friend of God

Daniel was a young prince of Israel and a friend of God. He was a teenager when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jerusalem. He took Daniel and three of his friends, along with many other Hebrews, as prisoners back to Babylon, a country several hundred miles to the east of Israel.

King Nebuchadnezzar decided that the smartest of the prisoners would be given the best food, clothes and education that Babylon had to offer. Then they would become wise men to help with the government of the Babylonian empire. Daniel and his three friends were chosen to be a part of this elite group.

The Israelites were very careful about what they ate. When Moses was their leader, God had given them instructions about what to eat to stay healthy. They continued to follow these rules and enjoy good health. Now there was trouble.

Read the beginning of their story in Daniel 1.





Melzar?

Could we have some different food?

No, no! It is just that we are not used to eating these kinds of meats and all this food has been offered to idols, and . . .

We would like to eat only fruit and vegetables with water to drink.

Could we try it as an experiment for 10 days?

I am sure God really wants us to follow His rules for healthy eating. He will help us with this experiment, then we can eat healthy all the time we are here.



Yes?

What do you mean? This is the very same food that the king is eating today. Isn't his food good enough for you? Do you think you are more important than the king?

What do you want me to do about it?

What! No roast pork and gravy? No wine? If the king found out I was not feeding you well, he would

All right, it is a deal!

After 10 days of that diet they will look and feel awful. Then they will never bother me about this again!

What did the dream mean?

God was showing King Nebuchadnezzar the future, all the way to the end of the world.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he was the head of gold (Babylon).

After him would come a kingdom that was not as rich and powerful as his, so it was silver on the image. History tells us that after The Babylonians came the Persian Empire.

Brass is even less special than silver. The next Empire was the Greek Empire, which was not as powerful and rich as the Persians had been.

After the brass, there were legs of iron on the image. The next empire was Rome. The Roman Empire ruled the world when Jesus came to earth as a baby.



The feet and toes were of clay and iron. Clay and iron do not bond together. They stay separate. Do we have a world empire today? Are the countries today able to stay bonded together like solid metal, or are they more like the iron and clay in the feet and toes?



solid metal



iron and clay



Read Daniel 2:32, 33 and match the body parts of the image to the metals mentioned in the Bible.

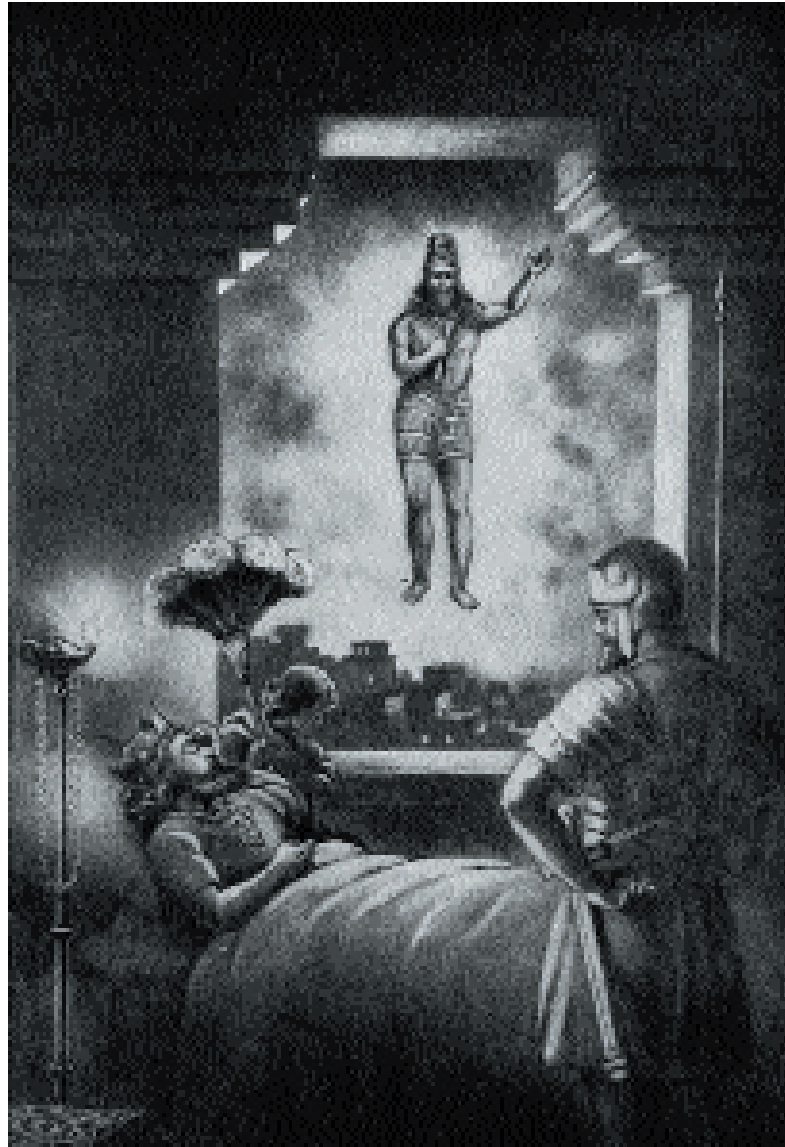
BRONZE

SILVER

IRON AND CLAY

GOLD

IRON



Ten days later . . .

I am amazed how good you and your friends look! I cannot imagine living on only vegetarian food and water. But you certainly look healthier than the other students. And you are doing better than anyone else on your school work!



I knew God would help us!



If God helped Daniel with his experiment so he did not have to eat food that was not good for him, then it must really matter to God what I eat too!



In Daniel 2 you will find out what happened soon after Daniel and his friends finished school and got good jobs in the government.



I had a dream last night. I want you wise men to tell me what it meant.

OK, you tell us your dream and we will tell you the meaning.

No, you tell me! I can't remember it.

That is impossible. We don't know what you dreamed!

You wise men sit around eating my food and spending my money and can't even do this! You are a waste of money! You are frauds! You all will be executed tomorrow.



The king has ordered our execution along with the other wise men. We need to pray because our God can do ANYTHING, even tell us what the king dreamed. We need to pray together and then I will go to the king.



Your majesty.

I hear you can tell me what I dreamed.

No, your majesty, not me, but . . .

Get him out of here!

. . . my God can, and He has revealed to me exactly what you dreamed and what it means.

Guards, wait a minute, I want to hear this.

You dreamed of a huge man whose head was made of gold.

Yes! Yes! That is right!

The arms and chest were made of silver.

Cancel the executions! This man knows what he is talking about.

