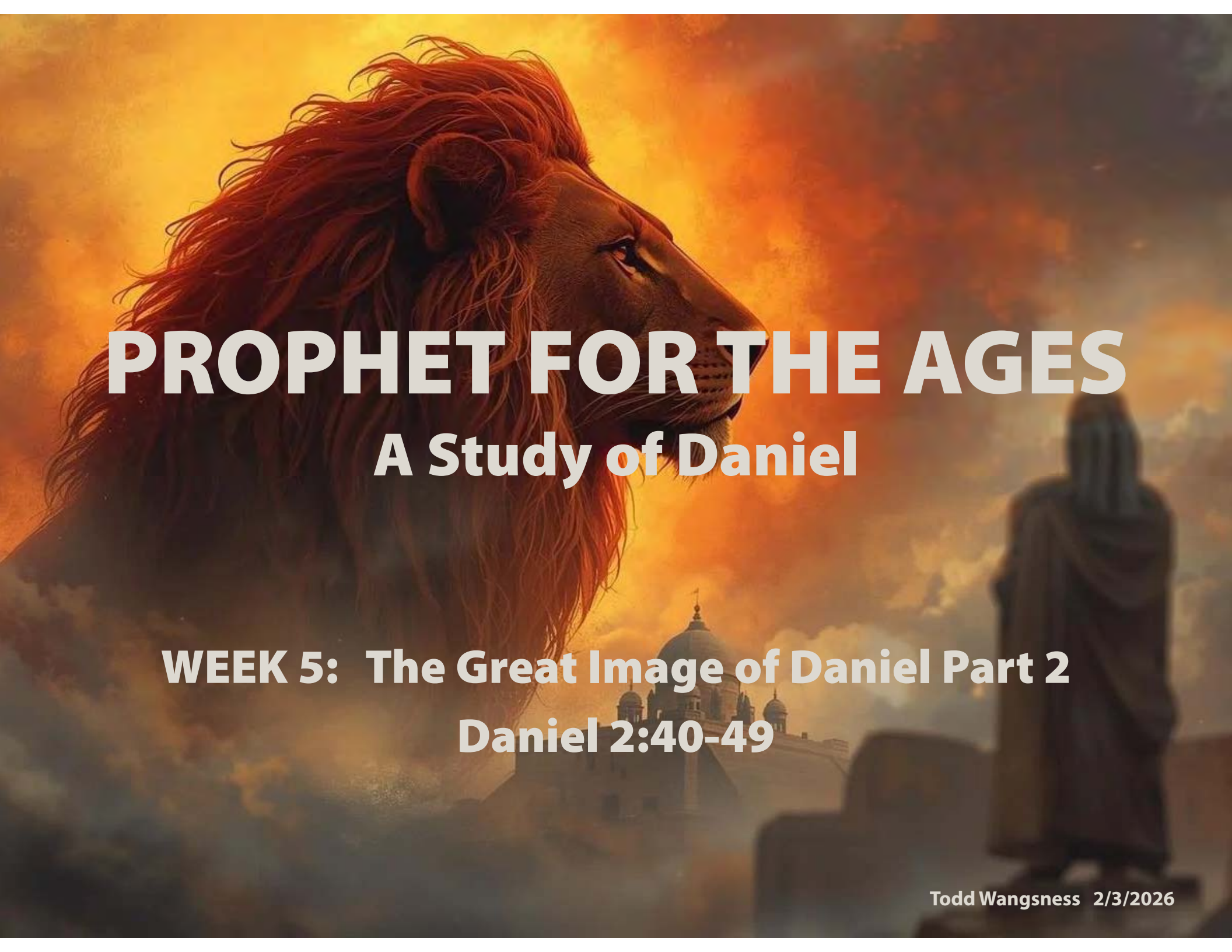




PROPHET FOR THE AGES

A Study of Daniel

WEEK 5: The Great Image of Daniel Part 2
Daniel 2:40-49

Prophet for the Ages: The Great Image of Daniel

Notable Quote About Daniel 2:40-49

"In this vision of the king, God gave a panorama of human history from the beginning of Gentile dominion until the consummation. The head of gold was Babylon; the breast and arms of silver, Medo-Persia; the belly and thighs of brass, Greece; the legs of iron, Rome; and the feet part of iron and part of clay represent the divided and weakened condition of the final form of Gentile power... But the supreme message of the vision is not in the rise and fall of these empires, but in the advent of the stone 'cut out without hands.' This is the Kingdom of God, introduced not by human effort or gradual evolution, but by direct, supernatural intervention. It smites the image upon its feet, destroys all earthly rule, and itself stands forever as the mountain filling the whole earth."

- David Guzik

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Daniel 2:40-49 Overview

- The fourth kingdom is "strong as iron" because it subdues and crushes previous empires decisively.
- In its later phase (the feet and toes), it becomes divided and unstable: "Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle."
- Iron and clay do not mix well, symbolizing internal weakness, disunity, or fragility despite residual strength—no kingdom can fully unite or endure in this form.
- The *stone cut without hands* represents a supernatural, divinely originated kingdom — interpreted as the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and His eternal reign. It crushes human powers and establishes God's rule forever. The "without hands" emphasizes its non-human, miraculous origin (in contrast with human-built empires).

Prophet for the Ages: The Great Image of Daniel

The Great Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The great image that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. Each section represents a world-ruling superpower. Each succeeding metal is less valuable, but each succeeding metal is stronger, as each empire was more powerful than the last.

Gold—Head

This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.

Silver—Chest and Arms

The silver chest with two arms signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

Bronze—Belly and Thighs

This section represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, which swallowed up Persia.

Iron—Legs

The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterized the Late Roman Empire.

Iron & Clay—Feet and Toes

Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay—a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bond well. These represent the final phase of the Roman Empire, which will be made up of ten kings, some strong and some weak.



Prophet for the Ages: The Great Image of Daniel

Review of Nebuchadnezzar's Great Image

Body Part	Metal	Kingdom	Years
Head	Gold	Babylonian	626 – 539 BC
Chest and Arms	Silver	Medo-Persian	539 – 331 BC
Belly and Thighs	Bronze	Grecian	331 – 31 BC
Legs	Iron	Roman	31 BC – 476 AD?
Feet and Toes	Iron and Clay	Revived Roman + ???	??? – 2 nd Coming
Stone Cut w/o Hands	Stone	Heavenly Kingdom	2 nd Coming – Infinity

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Roman Empire — Legs of Iron

Dan 2:40 *And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.*

TBD Empire (future) — Feet and Toes of Iron Mixed with Clay

Dan 2:41-43 *Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.*

Millennial Reign of Christ (future) — Stone Cut Without Hands

Dan 2:44 *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

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Prevailing Views of 4th Kingdom of Iron and Feet/Toes of Iron/Clay

- **Futurist:** Future revived Roman-like confederation (e.g., 10-nation end-times alliance under the Antichrist), existing just before Christ's return. We are currently in or approaching this phase, with the stone's strike as the future second coming.
- **Historicist:** Began with the division of Rome (e.g., AD 476 fall of Western Rome, or earlier splits), continuing through European nations and possibly church-state mixtures up to the present or near future.
- **Preterist:** Largely 1st-century Roman divisions or imperial weaknesses, fulfilled historically long ago. Preterists regard Nero as the fulfillment of the Antichrist. This view requires the book of Revelation to have been written ~65 AD (prior to the destruction of the temple), not 95 AD.
- Our study will focus on the 'Futurist View' and will contrast it with the 'Historicist View'
- We will not discuss the 'Preterist View' in this study. My personal opinion is that it is a heretical view.

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Key Elements of Futurist View

- **Legs of Iron**
 - Roman Empire (the strong, crushing fourth kingdom; historically fulfilled from roughly 146 BC through the fall of the Western Roman Empire in AD 476, with the Eastern/Byzantine continuation longer). The iron symbolizes Rome's military might and authoritarian rule that "breaks in pieces and crushes" prior powers (Dan. 2:40)
 - The legs represent the unified, dominant phase of Rome, which exercised iron-like control over vast territories.

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Key Elements of Futurist View (cont.)

- **Feet and Toes of Iron Mixed with Clay**
 - The feet and toes represent a revived or reconstituted form of the fourth (Roman) kingdom in the end times.
 - The mixture of iron and clay indicates a divided, unstable confederation — "partly strong and partly brittle" (Dan. 2:42), where alliances form but "they will not adhere to one another" (Dan. 2:43), like iron failing to bond with clay.
 - The toes (implicitly ten, as the statue has feet with toes, paralleling Daniel 7's ten horns and Revelation 17's ten kings/horns) symbolize ten kings or rulers/nations/kings who share power briefly ("one hour" in Rev. 17:12) in this final phase.
 - This revived empire is often described as a revived Roman Empire — a political, economic, and possibly military confederation rooted in the historical Roman sphere (e.g., Europe, Mediterranean regions, or broader Western-influenced areas).
 - It emerges during the tribulation period (the final seven years before Christ's return), often linked to the Antichrist (the "beast" in Revelation 13 and 17, or the "little horn" in Daniel 7 who subdues three of the ten horns/kings).
 - The Antichrist rises from or leads this confederation, consolidating power (e.g., subduing three kings, per Dan. 7:24), enforcing a false peace (possibly the covenant with Israel in Dan. 9:27), and persecuting believers and Israel.

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Key Elements of Futurist View (cont.)

- **Stone Cut Without Hands**
 - The stone strikes the feet (Dan. 2:34–35, 44–45), shattering the entire statue (all Gentile empires crushed simultaneously in their final form), symbolizing Christ's second coming in judgment
 - This establishes God's eternal kingdom on earth — a literal, physical reign of Christ from Jerusalem during the millennium, not a gradual spiritual growth (as in some other views)

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Timeline of Futurist View

- **Legs of iron**
 - Historical Rome (past; fulfilled)
- **Feet and toes**
 - Future revived Roman-like empire/confederation of ten kings/nations, existing in the end times (specifically during the tribulation, just before Christ's return).
- **Stone Cut Without Hands**
 - The 'Stone Cut Without Hands' strikes the image on the toes
 - Antichrist's empire is destroyed
 - Jesus' literal 1000 year millennial kingdom begins
 - Following the millennial reign, the eternal state commences
- Assumes we are currently in a preparatory or transitional phase (the "times of the Gentiles," [Luke 21:24](#)), with movements toward globalism, European and/or Mediterranean unification (e.g., the EU or similar alliances sometimes cited as precursors), or broader coalitions setting the stage
- The full manifestation of the feet/toes phase occurs after the rapture leading into the tribulation

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Differences between Futurist and Historicist Views

Aspect	Futurist View	Historicist View
Overall Timeline	• Sequential empires in history up to Rome (legs), but the feet/toes phase and stone's fulfillment are future (end-times events). • Much of the prophecy remains unfulfilled.	• Continuous, unbroken fulfillment throughout history from Daniel's time to the end (past → present → near future). • The prophecy unfolds progressively across centuries.
Legs of Iron	• Historical Roman Empire (unified and strong phase, roughly BC 31–AD 476 Western; longer Eastern).	• Same: Historical Roman Empire (strong, imperial phase).

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Differences between Futurist and Historicist Views (cont.)

Aspect	Futurist View	Historicist View
Feet & Toes (Iron and Clay)	• A future revived Roman Empire or end-times confederation (often 10 nations/kings, paralleling Dan. 7's 10 horns and Rev. 17's 10 kings). • "Partly strong and partly brittle" (Dan. 2:42) = unstable alliances in the tribulation period, possibly linked to the Antichrist's empire. • The mixture shows failed unity ("they will not adhere," Dan. 2:43). • This phase is imminent or future, with modern developments (e.g., EU, globalism) as potential precursors.	• The divided post-Roman Europe beginning after Rome's fall (e.g., AD 476 Western collapse). • The iron/clay mix symbolizes strong civil/governmental remnants mixed with weak, fragile elements (e.g., barbarian kingdoms, church-state unions like Papal Rome, or European divisions). • The toes (assumed 10) represent historical European nations/kingdoms emerging from Rome (e.g., Anglo-Saxons, Franks, etc.), with ongoing division and failed attempts at unity through history. • We are currently in (or nearing the end of) this phase.

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Differences between Futurist and Historicist Views (cont.)

Aspect	Futurist View	Historicist View
Stone Cut w/o Hands	• Christ's second coming in judgment, suddenly destroying the final revived Gentile empire (Antichrist's system) at the end of the tribulation. • Establishes a literal millennial kingdom on earth (Rev. 20), followed by eternity. • The strike is catastrophic and future.	• Christ's kingdom advancing gradually through history (via the gospel, Reformation, etc.) or culminating at the second coming. • Some see the stone's impact as ongoing (crushing pagan powers over time), with full destruction at Christ's return. • Emphasizes God's sovereignty unfolding progressively rather than a sudden future cataclysm alone.
Fulfillment Status	• Largely future-oriented for the latter parts; emphasizes literal, end-times events (tribulation, Antichrist, rapture in some variants).	• Ongoing/historical fulfillment; prophecy maps to real events from antiquity to now (e.g., Papacy or church-state mixtures as weakening factors in the iron/clay phase).

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Differences between Futurist and Historicist Views (cont.)

Aspect	Futurist View	Historicist View
Hermeneutical Emphasis	• Strict literalism where possible; focuses on future literal fulfillments, harmony with Revelation's end-times imagery (e.g., beast with 10 horns).	• Continuous historical application; often uses day-year principle for time prophecies elsewhere (though less central in Dan. 2); sees prophecy as a timeline of church and world history.
Core Theological Emphasis	• Stresses God's sudden, supernatural intervention at Christ's return to end human empires abruptly. • Human history's "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24) continue until a future climax.	• Emphasizes God's ongoing control over history, with prophecy revealing the rise/fall of powers and the gradual triumph of His kingdom amid human failure and division.

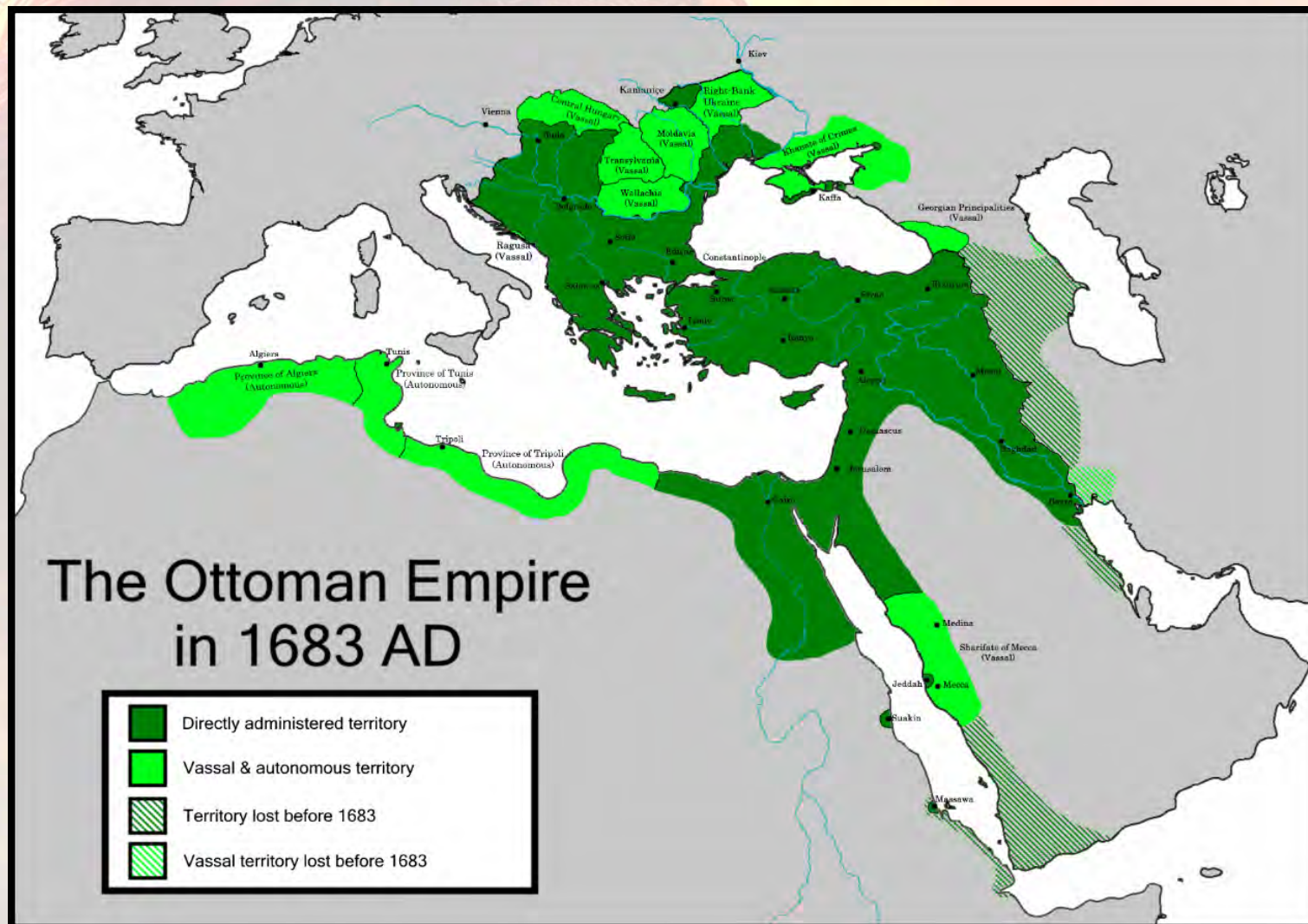
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Kingdoms that ruled Jerusalem from Babylon until now

- **Babylonian Empire (586 – 539 BC)**
- **Medo-Persian Empire (539 – 332 BC)**
- **Greek Empire (332 – 167/141 BC)**
 - Macedonian Empire (Alexander the Great) (332 – 323 BC)
 - Ptolemaic Kingdom (Hellenistic Egypt) (301 – 198 BC)
 - Seleucid Empire (Hellenistic Syria) (198 – 167/141 BC with interruptions)
- **Maccabean/Hasmonean Revolt (167/141 – 63 BC)**
- **Roman Empire (63 BC – 638 AD)**
 - Roman Republic / Roman Empire (63 BC – 324 AD)
 - Byzantine Empire (324 – 638 AD)
- **Islamic Caliphates (638 – 1099 AD)**
- **Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem (1099 – 1187 AD)**
- **Islamic Sultanates and Ottoman Empire (1187 – 1917 AD)**
 - Saladin and Mamluk Sultanates (1187–1517 AD)
 - Ottoman Empire (1517 – 1917 AD)
- **British Mandate (1917 – 1948 AD)**
- **State of Israel (1948 AD – Present)**
 - Divided control (1948 – 1967 AD)
 - State of Israel unified control (1967 AD – Present)

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Ottoman Empire Territory (Islamic): 1299 – 1917 AD (619 years)



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- It is sometimes illuminating to clarify the unknowns by asking probing questions
 1. Does the constitution of the “world empires” in Daniel 2 revolve around:
 - a) Control of the known world at the time of the empire?
 - b) Control of Jerusalem?
 - c) Control of the Levant (Judea, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan)?
 - d) Contribution to the pervading philosophy of thought affecting the world?

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2. Is it a requirement that the “empires” in Daniel 2 be contiguous (one-after-the other)?
 - a) This seems to be the typical view of most prophecy teachers
 - b) I wonder if this is truly a requirement ... for example:
 - c) Using the 70 weeks prophecy in Dan 9 as an example, there is no mention in the 70 weeks prophecy of the “Church Age” gap (2000+ yrs) between the 69th and 70th week
 - d) Jesus in his introductory sermon in Nazareth quoted Isaiah 61 as a present fulfillment, but stopped his quote in the middle of a sentence, whereas the OT passage goes on to describe events that would take place in the “Last Day”, implying a gap between His 1st and 2nd comings. (*ref Isa 61:1-2*)
 - *Luke 4:17 And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:*
 - *Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*
 - *Luke 4:20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

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3. Is it a requirement that the transition from empire to empire be 'sudden'?
 - a) The transitions from Babylon to Medo-Persian, Medo-Persian to Greek, and Greek to Roman were relatively sudden
 - b) The timeline of the next transition(s) become a little hazy thereafter
4. It can be challenging to fit the timeframe of Dan 2 to world events after the fall of the Byzantine empire in 638 AD, considering the Islamic rule of the Levant from 638 – 1917 AD (with an interruption or two)
 - a) The Ottoman Empire – in particular – controlled the Levant (and a large part of the known world) for an extended period of time (600+ years) and was very influential in shaping philosophy at least in the Islamic world
 - b) Is it possible the Ottoman Empire (and earlier caliphates) can be considered part (or a continuation) of the Roman 'Legs of Iron'?
 - Rulers from the same area, same lineage, but a different religion?
 - The Eastern Roman/Byzantine Empire (one "leg") transitioned into Ottoman rule. Historians like Edward Gibbon and Dimitri Kitzikis describe the Ottomans as inheriting Roman administrative machinery, titles (e.g., sultans claiming "Caesar of Rome"), and territories under an Islamic guise — making it a continuation rather than a clean break.

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5. What is the correct interpretation of the transition from the Legs of Iron to the Feet and Toes of iron mixed with clay?
- a) **Futurist View:** A sudden climactic change at the *end of the age of Gentiles* to a (likely) European-based 10-nation loosely-knit confederacy?
 - b) **Historicist View:** A gradual transition of various European revivals after the collapse of the original Roman Empire in 473 AD, culminating in the 2nd return of Jesus Christ?
 - c) **Preterist View:** The large portion of prophecies in Daniel and Revelation have already been fulfilled prior to 70 AD with the destruction of the temple and Nero as the Antichrist. The Church has *replaced* Israel in the fulfillment of the OT prophecies pertaining to Israel (*'supercessionism' aka Replacement Theology*).
 - o **Personal Opinion:** I consider the Preterist View as heresy since it denies the grace of God in restoring Israel as a nation in their homeland as prophesied. In my opinion, Romans chapters 9-11 settle the issue that God will fulfill His promise of grace to Israel after the Church is raptured. Present and past world events (since 70 AD) don't appear all that *millennial* to me!
 - **Rom 11:25-26 ... blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;**

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- We will likely only determine the correct view when looking in the rear-view mirror after the fulfillment of these prophecies
 - *1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*
- It is fine to have favored opinions on how end times will play out, but we should absolutely avoid becoming dogmatic and opinionated!
- Every interpretation of future events at the present is nothing more than conjecture! Has God made you a modern-day Prophet?
 - *Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*
- Pet views of prophecy held too tightly become a source of division and contention within the Body of Christ
- God will reveal what we need to know in His own timing!
 - *Amo 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*
 - *Dan 12:4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."*

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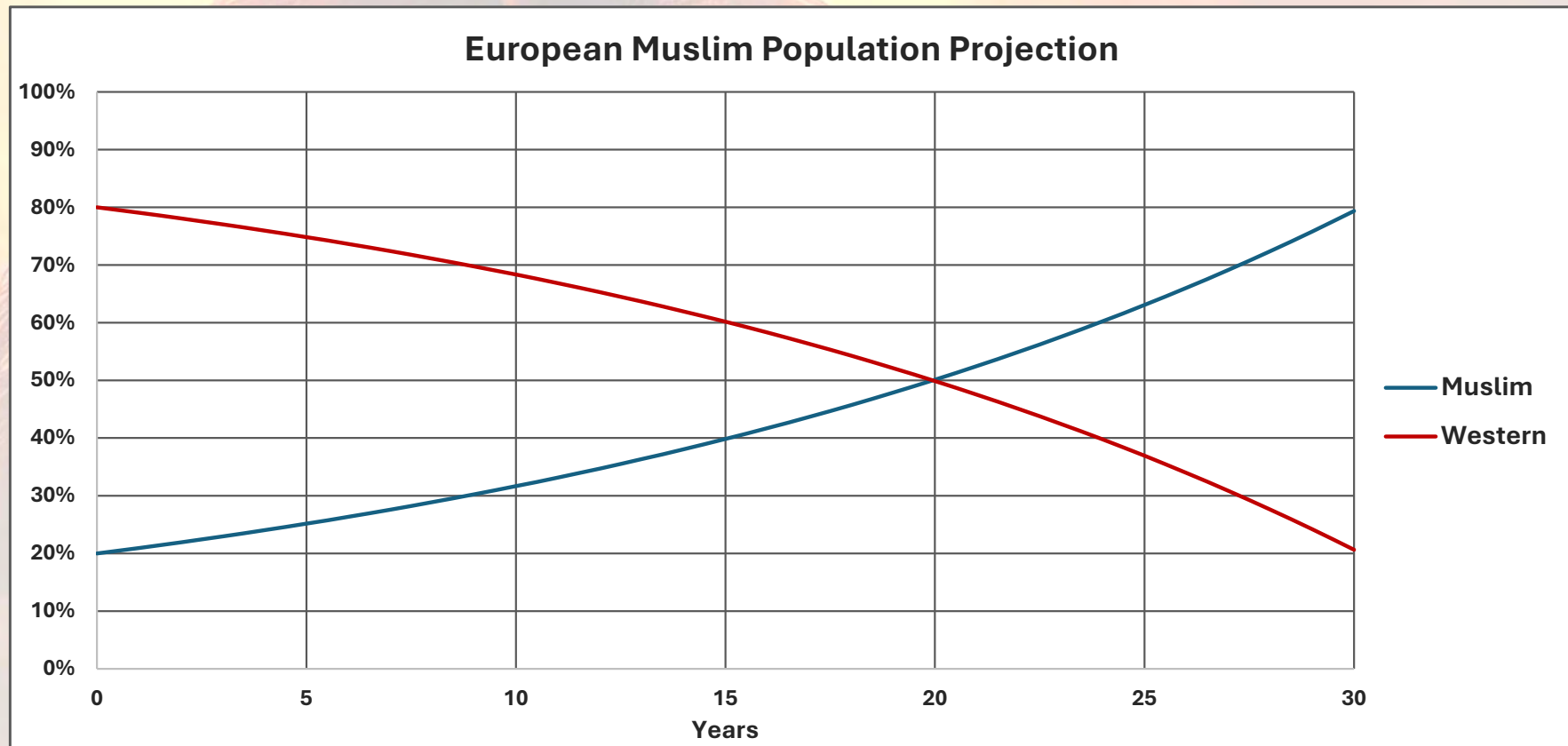
One Possible Scenario ...

- **Futurist View:** A sudden climactic change at the end of the age of Gentiles to a European-based 10-nation loosely-knit confederacy
- **10-Nation Confederacy:** Five nations or regions in western and five in eastern Europe and the Middle East (to match the “Toes”)
- **Religion:** An ‘ecumenical’ blend of Roman Catholicism and Islam (as *ecumenicalism* embraces ‘interfaith’ beliefs and a view that there are *many paths to God*)

Questions:

1. What religion embraces the idea of beheading those it deems to be *infidels*?
2. What happens to the *tribulation saints* as described in Rev 20:4?
 - *Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.*
3. What is the current trend of Islamic population growth within Europe?

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Islam in Europe

Number of Children Per Woman:	5.1	children
Average Woman's Age to have 1st Child:	16	years
Years between Children	1.3	years
Initial Percent of Population	20%	

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Dan 2:45 *Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold — the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."*

- The context of this verse *strongly* implies a Premillennial View of eschatology (end time events)
- God's use of the phrase "*broke in pieces*" indicates the destruction of the entire image will be SUDDEN and CATASTROPHIC!
- The terminology does not at all imply a gradual shift away from Man's rule to the rule of Jesus Christ as the church slowly exerts its influence over the world's affairs and governments (*aka The Seven Mountain Mandate, Dominion, and Kingdom Now theology*)!
- Daniel expresses complete and total confidence and reliance on the interpretation God gave him!
 - "*The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."*

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Nebuchadnezzar's Reaction

Dan 2:46-47 *Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. 47 The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."*

- Kings do not normally bow in subservience to mere slaves!
- *"That Nebuchadnezzar did bow before Daniel indicates his complete acceptance of all that Daniel had said; his great appreciation for an interpretation he could trust, showing further how much he had wanted it; and his willingness to humble himself before the God of Daniel."* -- Leon Wood
- Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged three eternal truths about Daniel's God:
 - YHWH is the God of gods
 - YHWH is the Lord of kings
 - YHWH is the Revealer of secrets
- His declaration fell short of saving faith at this point in time, however

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Dan 2:48-49 *Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.*

- Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel a combination of positional and material gifts
 - Positionally, Daniel's titles became:
 - Ruler over the whole province of Babylon
 - Chief Governor over all the wise men of Babylon
 - There was no disloyalty in Daniel accepting this position as the Torah only forbade the *practice* of superstitious arts
 - Where did the *wise men* who came to Bethlehem obtain their knowledge of the timing of Jesus' birth?
- Daniel asked the king to include his companions in new appointments also
- But Daniel *sat in the gate of the king* – implying he belonged to the king's innermost circle of Advisors