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The First Empire: A Head of Gold
2: 37-38

The first empire, a head of gold DIG: How does Dani'el start describing the statue? What does the king of kings mean? What significance was there in the fact that the Babylonian Empire was granted to Nebuchadnezzar by the same God who, in His omniscience, had revealed the dream and interpretation to Dani'el. What did the head of gold symbolize?

REFLECT: There is only room for one person to sit on the throne of your heart. Who sits there for you? Nebuchadnezzar was "ruler over all." Do you allow Messiah to be "ruler over all" in every part of your life? Or are there parts of your life that you refuse to turn over to Him? What has ADONAI given to you? For better or for worse, what have you done with it?

ADONAI begins to reveal to Dani'el the initial revelation regarding the Times of the Gentiles (see **Ao – The Times of the Gentiles**)**. He provides an initial overview of the four empires that will govern this period. As the book progresses, God's revelation becomes increasingly specific, reaching their climax in Chapter 12.**

Your Majesty, you are the king of kings (2:37a). As such, **the Babylonian ruler** was the supreme **monarch** over all **the kings** of **his** generation. With a word **he** could take the life of virtually anyone **he** chose, such was **his** power. On the stage of history **he** was the great figure of **his** day, not only in **his** own eyes but in the view of the whole world. Left to **himself**, **he** might have taken pride in his position in history.[77] Yet, **Dani'el** was quick to remind **Nebuchadnezzar** that **his** position was bestowed to **him** from **ADONAI** who had granted **him dominion** and honor. **The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory (2:37b).** In other words, **the Babylonian Empire** was granted to **the king** by the same **God** who, in **His** omniscience, had revealed **the dream** and interpretation to **Dani'el (2:28)**.



Not only that, **ADONAI** had placed **in his hand all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they lived, God made the king ruler over them all (2:37c).** Some have viewed this statement as hyperbole because **Nebuchadnezzar** did not actually control the entire world, including **humans**, **animals**, and **birds**. The clear implication, however, is that **Ha'Shem** gave **him** the greatest authority over the whole inhabited earth that had ever been given to a ruler. The fact that **he** did not choose to take control of the entire planet is beside the point. If **he** wanted to, **Nebuchadnezzar** could have kept on conquering until **he** ruled over every part of the known world. **God** guaranteed **his** success. Later, **Daniel** affirmed **the king's** absolute authority when **he** said: **O King, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. Because of the high position he gave him, all the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted humbled, he humbled (Dani'el 5:18-19).**

Babylon was the First Gentile Empire. Then **Dani'el** said to **Nebuchadnezzar, your majesty, you are the head of gold (2:32** and **38).** Obviously, this made **the king** very happy. When viewed from **head** to **foot**, the various metals decreased in value, but increased in strength. For the decrease in value, three points can be made. First, the value of the materials decreased from the head downward. **Silver** is less valuable than **gold**, **bronze** is less valuable than **silver**; **iron** is less valuable than **bronze**; and **clay** is less valuable than **iron**. Second there is a decrease in position moving from **the head** to **the feet**, with **the head** being

the most important element of **the statue**. Third, there is a decrease in the specific gravity of the elements. Pure **gold** has a specific gravity of 19.32; **silver** has a specific gravity 10.5; **bronze** has a specific gravity of between 8.7 and 8.4; and **iron** has a specific gravity 7.7. This shows that **the statue** was top-heavy and weak at **its feet**.

Two contemporary **prophets** made the same point regarding **Nebuchanezzar's** unique rulership. **Jeremiah** stated in **27:5-8: With My great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. Now I will give all your countries into the hands of My servant Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him. All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him. If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares ADONAI, until I destroy it by his hand.**

Ezeki'el wrote in **26:7: For this is what the Sovereign LORD** says: **From the north I am going to bring against Tyre, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots, with horsemen and a great army.**[78] Therefore, **Dani'el** interpreted the meaning of **the head of gold** as being **King Nebuchadnezzar himself, the head of the Babylonian Empire**. When **Ha'Shem** destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple in 586 BC, **the Times of the Gentiles** began. As a result, **Babylon** was the first of **Four Gentile Empires** to dominate **Jerusalem**. The next **empire** is represented by **the statue's chest and arms of silver** (**to see link click Az – The Second Empire: Chest and Arms of Silver**).

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for how absolutely wonderful and powerful **You** are and will always be throughout all eternity! **You** are **the Almighty, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says ADONAI Elohim, "Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 4:8** also **4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7,14, 19:6,15, 21:22**)**! You** are **the King of kings. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16). You**, mighty **Father**, will reign through all eternity. **Then the seventh angel trumpeted, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of ADONAI and of His Anointed One. And He shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 11:15)!***

*Wow! A life of eternal joy and peace will replace earth's trials, for me**. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4). Lord**, help me not look for earthly power nor rewards, but to keep my heart focused on pleasing **You**. Rulers and leaders come and go, but **You** reign eternally! In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and the power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

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