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The Fourth Empire: Imperialism 2: 40-43

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.**



Finally, the rest of **Nebuchadnezzar's statue** – namely, **its legs** and **feet** – represents **the Fourth Gentile Empire**, **strong as iron – for iron breaks and smashes everything – and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the other empires (2:40). The Fourth Empire** is different from all the others. **It** goes through **five different stages** as seen below, with **Rome** being merely the first of these stages. What made this **Empire** different from all the others? The key difference was in the type of government initiated by **Rome**, which was a government of **imperialism**. When **Rome** conquered a land, **Romans** were sent to rule (for example, **Pontius Pilate**, **Felix**, and **Festus**). When **the Babylonians** conquered a land, they did not set up **Babylonian** rulers, but set up nationals to rule. In its conquest of Judah, **Babylon** first set up **Zedekiah**, and later **Gedaliah** was appointed to rule. Under **Medo-Persia** the same thing was done,

and Jewish governors such as **Zerubbabel** and **Nehemiah** ruled. **The Hellenists** worked in the same way. Instead of sending **Greeks** to rule, they allowed **the Jewish high priests** to rule throughout the period of **Greek** domination.

The Times of the Gentiles describe **four** temporary **Gentile Empires**, with an emphasis on **the fourth**, which goes through **five stages**. Finally, **the Fourth Empire** will be destroyed by **the Fifth Empire**, **the Messianic Kingdom**, which will last for **a thousand years** (see **Revelation Fh – The Dispensation of the Messianic Kingdom**), before the onset of **the Eternal State** (see **Revelation Fq – The Eternal State**). **Dani'el 2** gives us the perspective of **the times of the Gentiles** from a human viewpoint as something majestic, but when we get to **Dani'el 7, it** will give us the perspective from **God's** viewpoint as something dreadful. **Dani'el** devoted more verses to **the Fourth Empire** than to the three preceding ones combined. **The Five Empires** are as follows:

The First Empire: The Babylonian Empire (Ay)

The Second Empire: The Medo-Persian Empire (Az)

The Third Empire: The Greek Empire (Ba)

The Fourth Empire: Imperialism

a. The United State: Rome (Bc)

b. The Divided Kingdom Stage: East and West Balance of Power (Bd)

c. The One World Government Stage: Absolute Imperialism (Be)

d. Summary Statement about the Fourth Kingdom (Bf)

The Fifth Empire: The Kingdom of God (Bg)[84]