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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