Charles Feinberg:

We come to Daniel the second chapter and the 14th verse. We are going to find down through the 30th verse one of the most beautiful pictures of a humble man of God that we can find anywhere in the Bible. Because when they did finally seek out Daniel and his companions in order that they might be slain with all the rest of the wise men same predicament. We read that when Daniel was finally apprised of what was going on he answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard. The man who was in charge who was gone who had gone forth to slay these wise men of Babylon he said would you please tell me why this decree is so hasty for the King. What's the hurry? Well Arioch said you probably haven't been informed about all the facts in the case and he laid it all before Daniel. Daniel said thank you. Now I know how to proceed. He went in. And he asked an audience of the king. And said would you please give me a specified time when you would like to see me again. Because at that time I am going to show you the interpretation of your dream.

Daniel didn't take it on himself and say I can take all these honors to myself. I'll find this all out for myself. He knew that there is power in concerted intercession and prayer just as in Acts the twelfth chapter. Prayer was made continually of the church for Peter. And you remember Peter was released so Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah the Hebrew names his companions and they desired mercies of
the God of Heaven specifically that God would reveal to them the meaning of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel and his fellows and his friends his companions shouldn't perish with all the rest of the wise men of Babylon. This would not only spare Daniel and his companions but if you know it would be the means of deliverance for all the rest of the wise men. Well it was at that time that the secret was revealed unto Daniel in a night vision the secret of the Lord the scripture says is with them that fear him. And so Daniel didn't rush out immediately and go into the presence of the king. He stopped long enough to thank God blessed be the name of God forever and ever for wisdom and might are his. He changes times and seasons. He is the omnipotent one. In time he is the omnipotent one in the political realm in the world. He removes kings and sets up kings.

This begins to give you a little idea of what the content of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is going to be. He gives wisdom to the wise knowledge to those that know understanding reveals the deep and secret things he. God knows what's in the darkness and the light dwells with him. He thanks God the God of his fathers in the expression. Elohim Elohigh meaning God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his fathers who are godly men in Israel you have given wisdom might. You've made known what we asked of you. And now he says you've made all this known so that we might tell it to the king so he went in to the king and said please don't destroy the wise men of Babylon. Notice he had a concern humanitarian concern for other life as well as his own. Bring me to the king. I'll show the interpretation when he comes before the king. The king is quite inquisitive because no one has been able to help him up to this point he said. Are you really able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and the interpretation thereof are you sincere. May I take this at face value your desire. He says well the secret that you've demanded. Of all these men.
Why he says it's God in Heaven alone who reveals secrets he has made known to you what's going to be in the latter days and friends when you find that expression in the latter days it means in the Old Testament days of Messiah the days of the consummation the completion of Israel's history on earth says Daniel thy dream of the visions of thy head upon thy bed are these as for thee oh king thy thoughts came in thy mind upon thy bed and what was the content of what was going to come to pass hereafter. God revealed to you secrets about what in the future. And he said I want to start out at the very beginning and tell you that there's nothing that I'm going to tell you that stems from my superior wisdom. Not that I have any wisdom more than anybody alive. But. For the sake of the people of the earth. And for the glory of God. He has made known the interpretation to the king so you know the thoughts of your heart. And then Daniel begins the interpretation with verse 31 through verse 49.

The interpretation of the dream. Thou Oh King he made it very plain thou oh king sawest and behold a great image. Now I submit to you friends. That at that point at the end of that sentence if Daniel had been trying to lead the king astray. If he had been trying to mislead the king or to hoodwink the king the king could well have ordered his execution and said You are a faker. But he didn't stop him. No Nebuchadnezzar never stopped Daniel because he knew every word Daniel was saying was true. And you can just see this coming back. Yes, that is the dream I saw saw a great image great image whose brightness was excellent stood before thee. The form was terrible terrifying image of that head was Fine gold breast and arms of silver the body and thighs of brass legs of iron, feet part iron part clay and you said you were looking Nebuchadnezzar King Nebuchadnezzar till a certain stone of no human making cut out without hands smote that image not on the head not on the body on the feet. They were of iron, clay and
broke them in pieces and then that iron, clay, brass, silver, gold all broken became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors and the wind carried them away.

No place was found for them and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. That's the dream. We'll tell the interpretation before the king and then with verse 37. Daniel begins to tell the meaning of the dream. Did you notice that he indicates to the king that he saw a great image friends the more you study the Bible? The more you will realize that wherever the Bible uses a figure. Wherever it uses a symbol no other symbol would suffice. That is the right one and the only one. For instance, in the fourth chapter of Daniel we have a picture of Nebuchadnezzar under the figure of a tree. Just as in Matthew Tree that fills the earth and birds Lodge in it and so on. It's a sign of greatness in the earth same as in the books of the old testament prophets. Here it's not the figure of a tree nor the figure of a body. The figure of a body is used for the church in the New Testament because it wants to bring out the dual idea of organism and of co-operation the same life and one part contributes and another part contributes its strength and its portion.

What do you have here. Not a picture of a vine or of a building or a temple with the living stones those are figures that are used of people but here it's a figure of a man. Why did God in revealing the future to Nebuchadnezzar give him a picture of a man. Because my dear friends God was revealing to this great monarch what we know from Scripture is man's day God is Going to show Nebuchadnezzar what will obtain in rule during Man's day while man has his sway we even say today every man has his day in court. Well this is man having his day with reference to rule and you find it in first Corinthians 4:3 but with me it's a very small thing that I should be judged of you or of man's judgment ye I judge not mine own self. But the original Greek there is. Or of man's day man holding sway and man holding sway will go from one
terminus one starting point to another concluding point terminus from the left to the terminus on
the right and the beginning point is the time of Nebuchadnezzar called king of kings small k's
verse 37 thou oh King art a king of kings and this time my dear friends the times of the Gentiles
will go on until there is a certain one whom we'll speak a bit later. Who. Is the king of kings and
lord of lords whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom? And we know that blessed one to be our
Lord Jesus Christ who is capital King King of Kings and Lord of Lords so my friends here
Daniel from verse 31 through forty-nine. Daniel is outlining in his interpretation of the dream the
whole course.

That's why we call chapters one and two we entitle it The course of world monarchies a
chronological sequence if you will the blueprint for rule in world monarchies. The whole course
of Gentile domination in the earth while Abraham's seed are put aside sidetrack for the time
and as you read through this passage you'll see that again and again and also through the book of
Daniel and the book of Ezra and Nehemiah. God is spoken of as the God of heaven. Why? He is
not owned as the God of Earth. When Gentile powers are ruling he will in a coming day call
Lord of all the earth the most high of Earth. And so Daniel outlines this image. It isn't the
ordinary image of a man. No man has a head of gold in them the upper part of his body is silver
and that his body proper. The lower part of the thighs brass legs iron feet part iron part Clay and
so on. But there's a purpose in telling all his friends noticed there is a deterioration in the metals.
There is not going to be progress but decline in the times of the gentiles some people tell us
according to the evolutionary process and uniformity Arianism in science they say well we're
going onward and upward forever.

With them it's not a deterioration but there is a more grand there's a grander metal all the
time well that's a dream too. But it's not in the Bible it's not given of God. Some think the
opposite of what we have here is the case. But there’s is a dream not of God. Now you say of whom is God speaking. When he says. There's an image and the image's head was of fine gold. Well we're not left in doubt because Verse 37 says Thou oh King art a king of kings the God of heaven has given thee kingdom power and strength and glory. So the first portion of the image is speaking of a kingdom king of kings thou of king. It's Babylon. It's Babylon. Verse 37 and 38 of Chapter 2. It's the one mentioned in Jeremiah 27 Israel would be taken away into Babylonian captivity Nebuchadnezzar had authority to rule over the whole earth although he didn't exercise all his authority. He was an autocrat of the first order when he said a man was to be thrown into the fiery furnace that was the end of it.

He didn't have to consult with the nobles who might reverse its decision as was true in the sixth chapter of Daniel with Darius he was only a constitutional monarch. He could well be hamstrung by what some of his nobles felt but not with Nebuchadnezzar. It was like gold and gold speaks of that which is glorious. We talk about the golden age of English literature or the golden age of this or that. It means the peak the apex the height. The grandest of all. And here you have human rule at its height. Babylon. The Babylonian Empire. But and he goes on to say wheresoever the children of men dwell the beasts of the field the fowls of the heaven having given into thine hand have made to rule them all. And again he repeats. Thou art this head of gold my dear friends you can't mistake that as I often say it's amazing how much in the Bible you can understand by just reading it you don't have to be a doubt even in a book like Daniel as to who is meant. It says you Nebuchadnezzar are this head of gold. That's the first world empire Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar and his successors then Verse 39 and after thee shall arise another kingdom not the same dynasty another kingdom not the Babylonian another kingdom inferior to thee there it is inferior metal, silver as over against Gold inferior to thee,
another third kingdom of brass which shall rule over all the earth. Now the second kingdom has been confirmed in history. As Medo-Persia and not only so it's right here in the Book of Daniel the fifth chapter of Daniel Verse 31. We find that when Babylon came to an end in the days of Belshazzar what happened it was a Medo Persian coalition. That put it out of the reckoning Darius the Mede under Cyrus the Persian the two were united just exactly as we are told. In the 8th chapter of the book of Daniel the twentieth verse and then he says and another third kingdom of brass well anyone knows the brass is not very inferior to gold its inferior to silver. There is deterioration there is not a gradual going up but there is a declension a devolution a descent a decline and so the third kingdom of brass which shall bear rule over all the earth.

The third kingdom is that which was put put to an end the Medo-Persian well which was it in historic times. It was the Greco-Macedonian empire under Alexander the Great. Now why do we call a Greek Macedonian because Macedonia was a division of Greece. It was a division of Greece and Alexander came from Macedonia his father's name was still at the second of Macedonia and because Persia had gone east and attacked Greece he had vowed the young Alexander had that if he did nothing else the rest of his life he was going to wreak vengeance on those Persian invaders. And we know that those who came after the kings of Medo Persia were the kings of Greece with Alexander at the first. So this third kingdom is the kingdom of Alexander and his successors the Greco-Macedonian. Now follow it. The first kingdoms started actually with the death of the Assyrian empire in 612 more particularly a bit before 606. It goes on till about 538 to 536 when the Medo Persian comes in. Medo Persian goes in till about 333 B.C. The fourth century when Alexander comes in and Alexander's empire went on until a fourth power came to the fore.
A fourth kingdom which we know as Roman in the first century B.C. and verse 40 says the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron. For as much as iron breaks into pieces and subdues all things iron will break with all these shall break in pieces and bruise. It used to be said that if a man offended Caesar the hand of Caesar would overtake him though he fled to the ends of the then known earth. The power of Rome the cohorts the armies of Rome were a power to be feared all over the world. Oh true the fourth Kingdom strong as iron iron breaks in pieces and bruises and utterly crushes. Roman beginning with the Caesars down to the end of the times of the Gentiles. How do you know. Because that fourth kingdom. Iron. Feet part of iron part of clay that's all related he says. Iron you saw those feet and toes part of Potter's Clay part of iron that kingdom is going to be divided. You should expect a divided kingdom. It is going to begin with the strength of the iron.

You saw the Iron mixed with clay toes of the feet part of iron part of clay at King's going to be partly strong partly broken and if you will take your history books friends and read the beginning the continuation. And the interruption or the dissolution of the Roman Empire. In modern times the Western in the fifth century. A.D. And the eastern one in the 15th century A.D. you'll find in that history of that fourth kingdom a tremendous interplay alternation of strength and weakness partly strong partly broken and it's true of those countries if you will that are over there in the area where the old Roman Empire held sway partly strong partly broken. And then he said you saw the iron mixed with clay they're going to mingle themselves with the seed of men there's going to be strength and weakness both as sort of a leaning toward democracy and leaning toward autocracy at the same time. Then he says and in the days of these kings. What kings well just as a man's feet have ten toes. There are going to be ten rulers. Isn't it marvelous how God took the picture of a body where your body is a unit the head.
There was a unified rule where there was a coalition of the Middle Persian. Your body has two portions a right hand a right section of your body and the left section of your body. And then with Alexander single again. And then when you get down to the feet. There are two there's a parting of the body and there was an East Roman and a West Roman Constantine became disenchanted with his subjects and went east and founded what we know today as Constantinople meaning in Greek the city of Constantine or for short Istanbul. Yes, there's going to be a division. It was divided into two kingdoms East Roman, center at Rome Italy West Roman. Excuse me East Roman is Constantinople West Roman in Italy and there are yet to be ten kingdoms in that Roman Empire verse 44 of this chapter in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom never be destroyed kingdom not to be left to other people to be broken in pieces consume all these kingdoms it shall stand forever.

What happens. In the time of that fourth kingdom. There's going to be a kingdom that the God of heaven is going to inaugurate. It's going to be the final one. Yes, it's going to be the final one not another one. And people were afraid that Hitler was going to start a fifth kingdom or that Stalin was going to start another one or that rulers of the enslaved world will start. Not a bit of it. The only room for four from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to the time of our Lord Jesus Christ and you can't put any one in between because that fourth kingdom has not yet fully run out its course if it had run out his course and Christ are not yet come you might think there would be room for a fifth kingdom. No. And some have even tried to help the Lord in the times past they some men thought they would start the Munster kingdom they'd bring the Kingdom of Christ on earth in the days of Cromwell Oliver Cromwell of England. Some men do better. They call themselves the men of the Fifth Monarchy and the fifth monarchy is the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. He says that stone that was cut out out of the mountain without hands.
Yes, like the tabernacle which God pitched not man or the Epistle to the Hebrews. What does it do it breaks in pieces the iron brass Clay silver gold the great God has told you? What's going to come to pass and the dream is not open to other interpretations. The interpretation is sure. There it is. Old folk have said we're going to have a one world you remember near the end of World War II. A man by the name of Wendell Willkie thought he would go around and preach the gospel of one world. My dear friends that idea was killed even before it got off the ground because the world was immediately divided into the United States of America the western world the free world and its satellites and the eastern world. Enslaved world with its satellites. Oh it was divided. And then you remember we saw after World War II Churchill came along and spoke of the United States of Europe they've even exhibited a flag in Switzerland the flag of the coming United States of Europe.

He dropped that magic phrase that great statesmen Winston Spencer Churchill spoke of the United States of Europe. Well is there any chance for that. Well my dear friends the Roman Empire covered most of Europe at its height Egypt Asia Minor. Syria. North Africa. And the empire is seen as divided can have iron monarchies imperialism autocracy dictatorship clay which is of the earth, democracy. And those ten kingdoms are going to come into existence at the end. There is going to be a resurgence of the Roman Empire. Not so many years ago. Time magazine came out. With a caption the revival of the Roman Empire. And said when the European Economic Community the European Common Market was instituted he said men were taking in hand to bring to fruition that which many had tried to bring into the world long before Charlemagne. Napoleon and others and had failed. Men were reshaping the face of Europe. There is a reviving of the old Roman Empire.
It has just gone into a [inaudible] that the full influence of Rome has never been dissipated in the world to this day students in colleges and universities high schools use roman figures as well as Arabic figures. They uh you go into a court and you find that these lawyers. Are pleading law. What's the basis of our law? British common law. And what's at the basis of British common law the old Roman law oh yes the influence of Rome has never never come to an end. Well who is this stone. Oh my dear friends as you read the prophetic scriptures you're not left in doubt. Psalm 118 verse 22 says the stone that was rejected of the builders has become the head of the corner. You know the one who was rejected of his people who became the head of the corner in Resurrection glory. This is marvelous in our eyes it's of the Lord's doing this. This is the day the Lord has made we will rejoice and be glad in an Isaiah 8:14, 28:16. We know who the stone is.

He's the stone that's a stumbling block to both houses of Judah but anyone who trusts in him shall not be dismayed or disappointed. He is the stone that Zechariah mentions is so fitted out. With beauty and glory upon that are engravings and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day Zechariah 3 8 9 and 10. Yes. It's also the stone which our Lord Jesus said. If a man falls on it he shall stumble. That's Israel's picture. But if it falls on a man it will crush him. That's the picture of the stone in relation to the nations. Now someone says this is the first coming of Christ. That's a picture that stone is a picture of the marvelous progress of the gospel. May I stop long enough my dear friends to say to you that in that first coming our Lord Jesus Christ did not crush the image he didn't crush the political world system. It crushed him on the cross he died on a Roman Gibbet. No he didn't crush the image. Oh he will deal with them in another day. As we have it in the revelation so this can't be the first coming. And not only that. When our Lord Jesus was on Earth in the first century A.D. The Roman Empire was a unit then.
It was only divided. In the years of Constantine the Great. In the fourth century A.D. and then only into two parts and then another thing my friends the striking of this stone. Is a catastrophe not the peaceful propagation of the Gospel? And conditions are going to be just as they are indicated in Psalm 2 with the nations lifting defiant, blasphemous hands against the living God. And will you please notice that which is so contrary to what we hear today on so many many sides we hear that we have to remake the social order so that it can be something tremendously pleasing to God. Well I don't find that in the Bible Daniel 2:35 says that all this wreckage becomes like the chaff of the summer threshing floors God doesn't build on that. Not a bit of it. The stone doesn't build on the ruins. They're blown away. But what did happen. Ah, that stone itself. Becomes a mountain. There it is just as plainly as Daniel could say the stone that smote the image became a great mountain a great kingdom.

Mountain is one of the Biblical symbols of a kingdom. Yes, the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth Christ's universal rule over the world. I repeat the stone doesn't build on the ruins they are blown away the stone becomes a mountain kingdom as in Isaiah 2:2. And did you notice at the end of this is indeed beautiful. The king is so tremendously smitten he falls on his face and worships Daniel that doesn't mean that he knows God in truth because we'll see dealings of God with him later. Certainly with the way he acted in the next chapter you couldn't possibly think that he had come to know God. In truth he says this about Daniel's God he is a god of god lord of Kings reveals secrets. Then he made Daniel a great man gave him many great gifts made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. And then Daniel didn't turn around to his friends and say goodbye. It was good to know you when we were all poor. No.
Daniel requested of the king and he set Shadrach Meshach and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon but Daniel had the preeminent place. Daniel sat in the gate of the king. Daniel takes his friends with him in his in the time of his honor. What a picture. What an illustration of the manner. In which Christ will take us with him in the time of his exaltation when Christ Colossians when Christ who is our life shall appear then shall we also appear with him in glory. God, friends, is working out his plans. Not only with Israel, his ancient beloved people but also with the nations also with the Gentiles as such and he has a plan now for every individual life. What is it salvation in Christ first last and always. That's the first step in all the universe to make life meaningful else all the rest is useless and no one needs. To have that stone fall on him. And grind him to Powder.

They tell us in one of the squares. Of France. An old woman lived under the shadow of an aged tower known as the belfry tower. It showed for a long time definite signs of decay. She'd been warned again and again. To get out to get out. That place was condemned. And so at last she was dragged out of her house with part of her furniture. But she broke loose and rushed back and said I will have another chair. And down came the tower and crushed her almost to powder. How like many souls today who for some useless valueless trivial trifling thing in the world are willing to undergo? The coming wrath and judgment of Almighty God. May that not be true of you. I earnestly pray in Christ's name. [End]