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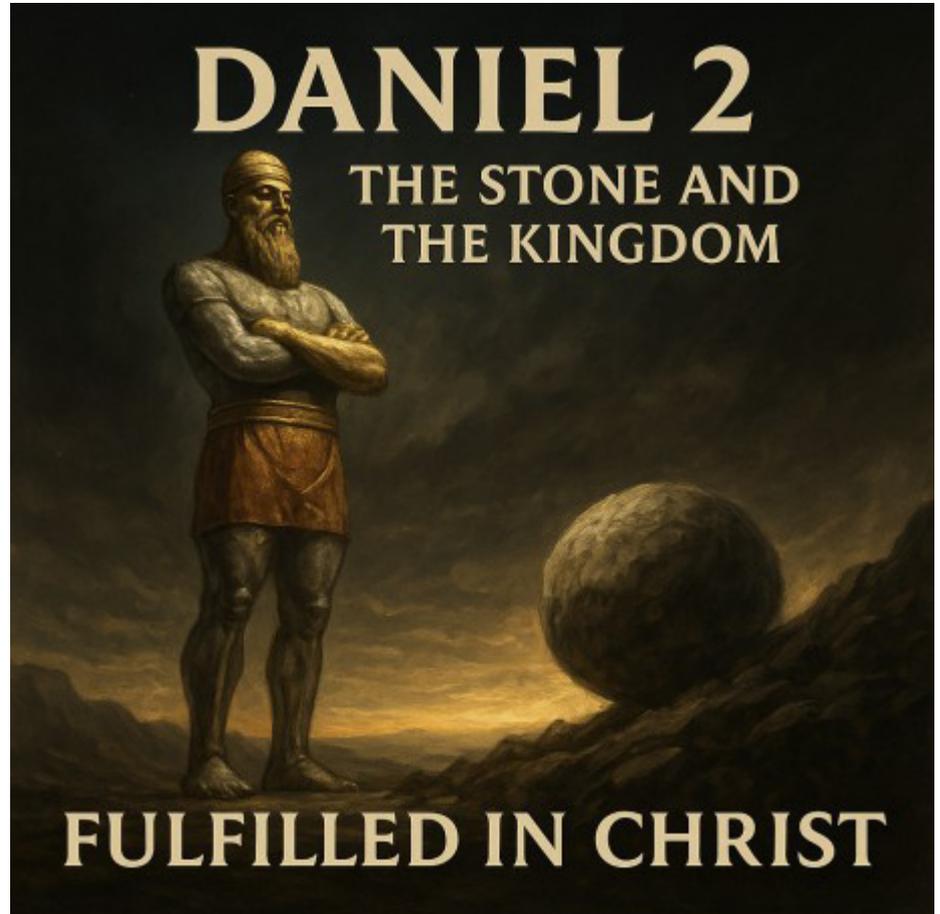
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Daniel 2 and the Kingdom of God



By Dan Maines

Daniel 2 and the Kingdom of God

Daniel 2:31-33

You, O king, were watching and behold, there was a single great statue, that statue which was large and of extraordinary splendor was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its chest and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

† Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream as a prophecy of world empires leading up to the coming of God's eternal kingdom.

† The gold is Babylon, the silver is Medo-Persia, the bronze is Greece, and the iron is Rome. The divided feet of iron and clay show the fractured nature of Rome in its later days.

† Josephus also testifies that the Jews of his time understood these prophecies to refer to world kingdoms, ending with Rome (Antiquities 10.10.4).

Daniel 2:34-35

You continued watching until a stone was broken off without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the entire earth.

† The stone cut without hands is Christ, not made by human power but sent from God.

† This stone struck in the days of Rome, bringing down the old world order and replacing it with the kingdom of God.

† Eusebius explains that the stone represents the church, growing from Christ into a mountain filling the earth, which was fulfilled as the gospel spread across the nations (Ecclesiastical History 2.3).

Daniel 2:44

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people, it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

† The kingdom was established in the days of Rome, not thousands of years later. Jesus announced, The time is fulfilled,

and the kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:15).

† The apostles confirmed they were already receiving this kingdom (Hebrews 12:28).

† Tacitus records that during Rome's zenith, a prophecy was circulated in Judea that a ruler from that region would rise and conquer the world, which he admits was fulfilled in Christ, though Rome misunderstood it (Histories 5.13).

Daniel 2:45

Just as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future, so the dream is certain and its interpretation is trustworthy.

† The dream was not about modern geopolitics but the rise of God's kingdom in the first century.

† This kingdom was not delayed. The prophecy was certain, and Christ fulfilled it exactly as promised.

† Eusebius again links the mountain to the church, showing that what began small in Christ's ministry became the everlasting kingdom that endures today (Ecclesiastical History 1.2).

How it applies to us today

† Daniel 2 gives us confidence that God's kingdom is already established and will never end.

† We are not waiting for a future empire to be crushed. Christ already struck the kingdoms of men and set up His eternal reign.

† Living in this kingdom means we serve a King who cannot be shaken, and we can rest knowing His promises are fulfilled.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus – Antiquities 10.10.4

† Tacitus – Histories 5.13

† Eusebius – Ecclesiastical History 1.2; 2.3

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