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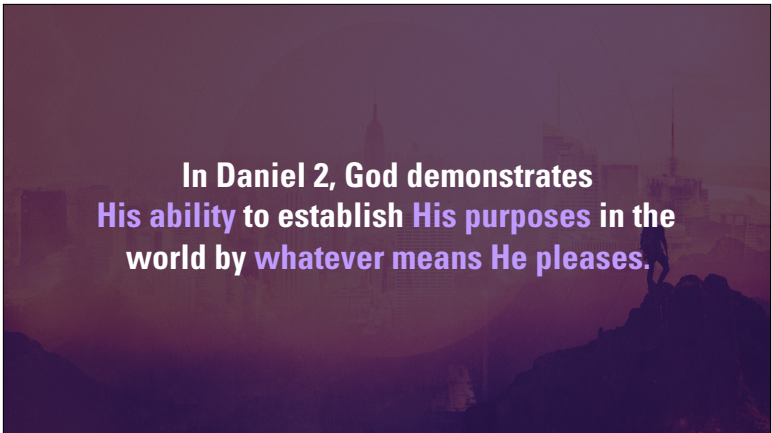
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"You, O king, were watching..."

**DANIEL 2:31**



The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

**DANIEL 2:32-33**



While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

**DANIEL 2:34-35**



The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all.

**DANIEL 2:37-38**





You (Nebuchadnezzar) are that head of gold.  
After you, another kingdom (silver) will arise,  
inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of  
bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

DANIEL 2:39

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**Whenever we turn the bulk of our  
attention to deciphering the obscure, we  
tend to miss the obvious.**

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ONE COMMON THEME

**All these kingdoms  
are gone!**

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**The key to understanding the rise and  
fall of empires is NOT military or  
financial, but moral and spiritual.**

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"Of the twenty-two civilizations that have appeared in history, nineteen of them collapsed when they reached the moral state the United States is in now."

ARNOLD JOSEPH TOYNBEE

1

## Timeline of God's Kingdom



"in the days of *those* kings..."

DANIEL 2:44

2

## Characteristics of God's Kingdom

- A) It's God's creation (vs. 44)
- B) It's indestructible and infallible (vs. 44)
- C) It will be completely victorious and eternally durable (vs. 45)

2

## Characteristics of God's Kingdom

- D) All of this will occur despite the obscurity and apparent weakness of its origin (vs. 34)

DANIEL 2:45B

"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."



ACTION STEP

Move from being  
a Spectator to being  
a Participator.

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Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

HEBREWS 11:1-2

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All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.

HEBREWS 11:13

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Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them.... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

HEBREWS 11:36-40

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Therefore...since we are surrounded by  
such a great cloud of witnesses...

**HEBREWS 12:1**

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us **HIDE, WHINE, COMPLAIN, HOARD OUR RESOURCES** just in case, put our Bibles in a drawer, build bomb shelters, purchase ammunition, blame the cops, blame the president, blame the teachers, blame our mommies, demand our rights, build a wall, tax the rich, play it safe, find somebody to sue, take back our country, pray that Jesus returns, so that we won't have to suffer.

**HEBREWS 12:1 (REVISED)**

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...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**HEBREWS 12:1-3**

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"Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

**C.S. LEWIS**

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