

Rise and Fall of the World, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 2:31-49.

B. Decay is working in our society everywhere because our society is built on men. (1 Timothy 4)

C. There would be a period of time when Jerusalem was under the control of Gentiles between the Babylonian captivity to the fall of Jerusalem: the time of the Gentiles. (Luke 21:24)

D. Israel failed to be a light to the world for God. (Deuteronomy 32:8)

E. Nevertheless, God had not forsaken his promises to Israel according to Daniel.

II. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that panicked him but he forgot it in his distress, so he sought the answer to his dream among his wise men. Only Daniel could answer.

III. Nebuchadnezzar's dream predicts four great empires until Jesus came.

A. Nebuchadnezzar was a unique king—his kingdom, Babylon, is pictured first. (Acts 17; Ezekiel 26)

B. The second kingdom is the Medo-Persian empire. They were richer than all. (Daniel 11:2)

C. The third kingdom is Greece under Alexander the Great.

D. The fourth kingdom is Rome.

1. This is the last empire.

2. It still exists in some form through the United Nations.

3. The history of the world is reaching its climax.

Application Questions:

1. What is remarkable about Nebuchadnezzar's dream in light of its fulfillment throughout history?

2. How can a believer sustain hope in light of the evil that is at work in the world and the evil that is to come?

3. How might the last empire be taking shape today?
