

**The Book of Daniel
Chapter 2
Part 1 and 2
Update**

The Book of Daniel

Chapter 2: Part 1

- Purpose: to encourage Judah by emphasizing the ***sovereignty of God*** during the Babylonian captivity and to teach Judah how to live while outside their homeland

The Book of Daniel

Outline

- Personal History of Daniel (Chapter 1). Written in Hebrew
- Prophetic History of the Gentiles during the Times of the Gentiles (Chapters 2-7). Written in Aramaic
- Prophetic History of Israel during the Times of the Gentiles (Chapters 8-12). Written in Hebrew

Language

- Why was Daniel written in Aramaic and Hebrew?
- Aramaic was the language of the Babylonians and Medo-Persian empires. This allowed God's message to be communicated clearly to the gentile powers that dominated Israel during the times of the Gentiles
- Chapters 1, and 8-12 were written in Hebrew, which is directed specifically to the Jewish people.

Language

- Aramaic Chiasm (Chapters 2-7).
- 1. Gentile History (Chapter 2)
 - 2. Protection (Chapter 3)
 - 3. Revelation to a gentile king (Chapter 4)
 - 3. Revelation to a gentile king (Chapter 5)
 - 2. Protection (Chapter 6)
- 1. Gentile History (Chapter 7)

Language

- Aramaic Chiasm: a literary device in which a sequence of ideas is presented, and then repeated in reverse order to make a point. See Mark 2:27; Matt. 23:12
- Aramaic Chiasm has its roots in the Greek letter X, pronounced “Chi”, hence **Chiasm**.
- One of the main themes using the Aramaic Chiasm in the Book of Daniel is the ***Sovereignty of God (Daniel 2:21)***.

Daniel 2



**Babylonian Empire
606BC**

**Medo-Persian Empire
536BC**

**Greek Empire
330BC**

**Roman Empire
27BC**

END TIMES

Daniel 7



Diversity of Topics

- Literary Style
 - Narrative (most of Chapters 1-7)
 - Rehearsing the story that took place. Simply telling the story of who Daniel was, who his 3 friends were and how they wound up in Babylon.
 - Prophetic (8-12)
 - Looking back to the parts that have transpired are referred to as prophecies. The part of it that is yet to come we call eschatology

The Book of Daniel

Chapter 2 Outline

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2:1)
- Nebuchadnezzar demands the revelation and interpretation (2:2-13)
- Dream revealed to Daniel (2:14-23)
- Daniel's recitation and interpretation of the dream (2:24-30)
- The dream's contents and interpretation (2:31-45)
- Daniel's promotion (2:46-49)

The Book of Daniel

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Chapter 2: Words to define

- Nebuchadnezzar demands the revelation and interpretation (2:2-13)
 - magicians: engraver, a writer associated with the occult, these people seem to have had a knowledge of astrology or divination. Also is the translation of the Hebrew word for “stylus” or “pen”, refers to scholar
 - astrologers (conjurers): priestly class in the Babylonian religion who depended on revelation through the stars, which were objects of worship
 - sorcerers: practice of incantations (repetition of words) to produce a magical effect
 - chaldeans: a group of astrologers, the name designates a people who lived in southern Babylonia (Gen.11:28)

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Chapter 2: Words to define

- **Occult:** encompasses various activities that are condemned by God due to their association with falsehood and demonic influence. Often seeking knowledge or power through means that are not aligned with God. ***Deuteronomy 18: 9-12*** lists various forms of occultism, such as fortune-telling and witchcraft, as abominations to the Lord. Engaging in such practices is viewed as a departure from faith in God. Such practices open individuals to spiritual harm and deception.
- **Astrology:** the divination of the supposed influences of the stars and planets on human affairs and terrestrial events by their positions and aspects. Not a science.
- **Astronomy:** uses science to study objects and matter outside the earth's atmosphere. A legitimate science.

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Chapter 2: Words to define

- **Wise men:** apparently a general description that includes all of them in verse 2:2; magicians, conjurers, sorcerers. Is frequently used (2:12, 13, 14, 18, 24, 28, 4:6, 18; 5:7,8). Also used interchangeably.

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Chapter 2 Outline

- **Nebuchadnezzar demands the revelation and interpretation (2:2-13)**
 - Nebuchadnezzar relies on man to interpret the dream
 - Daniel relies on God to interpret the dream
 - Evolution vs. Creation, see Romans 1:18-32, Genesis 4:22
 - ***There are two view points in life; Human and Divine, Psalm 119:33-40***

Human viewpoint vs. Divine viewpoint

Human

Divine

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Priority | World, cosmos diablos | Word of God |
| • Motivation | Flesh (Pride) | Spirit (Humility) |
| • Decision | Foolish | Wise |
| • Action | Wrong | Right |
| • Result | Cursed | Blessings |

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Chapter 2
Part 1
Conclusion: The Gospel

**The Book of Daniel
Chapter 2
Part 2
Update**

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Chapter 2 Outline

- **Daniel's recitation and interpretation of the dream (2:28)**
- Note the phrase *latter days*. What does this mean?

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Chapter 2 Outline

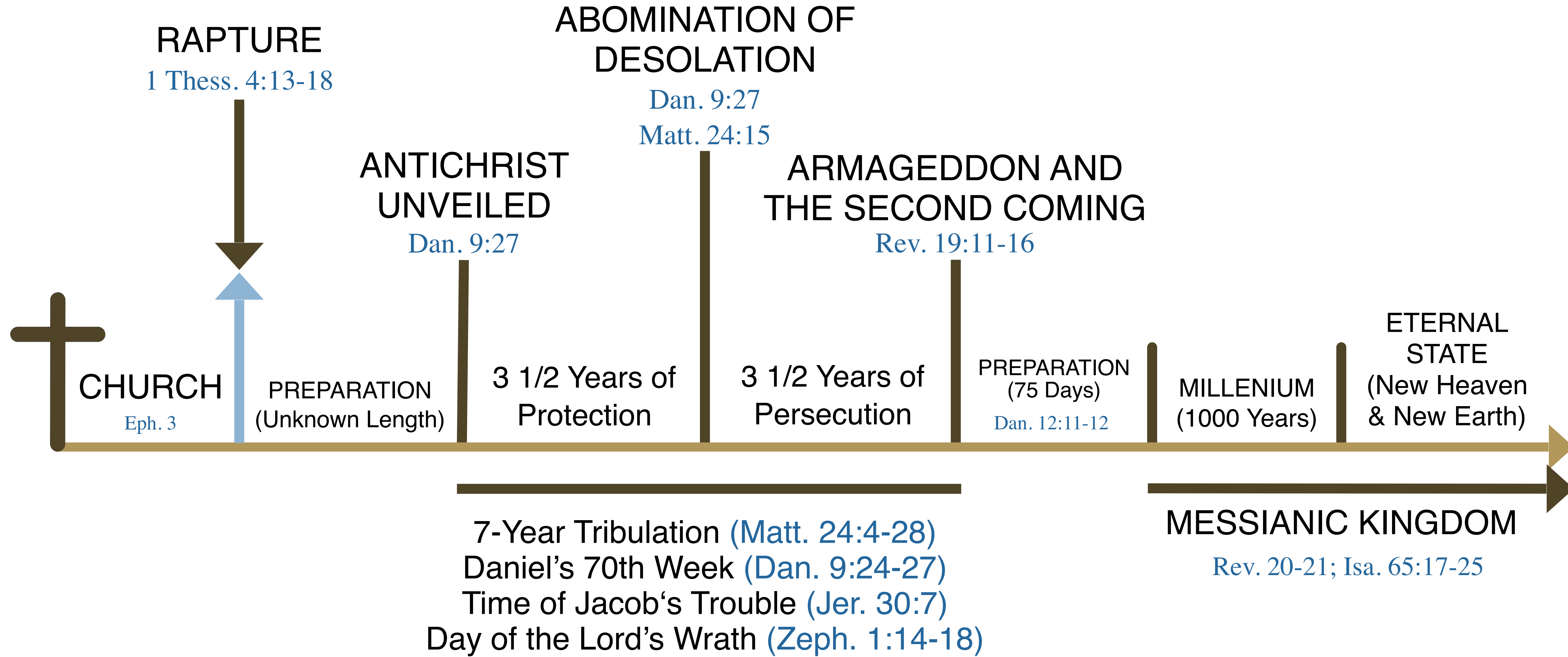
- **“Latter days” 2:28; 10:14**
- A future period of time specifically concerning the end times and the prophetic plan God has for the nation of Israel.
- A time of great distress for Israel
- Often associated with the tribulation period
- Includes ultimate salvation and restoration of Israel through God’s intervention
- This period will culminate in the establishment of God’s Kingdom on earth where Christ will reign from David’s throne in a literal, earthly millennial kingdom

The Book of Daniel

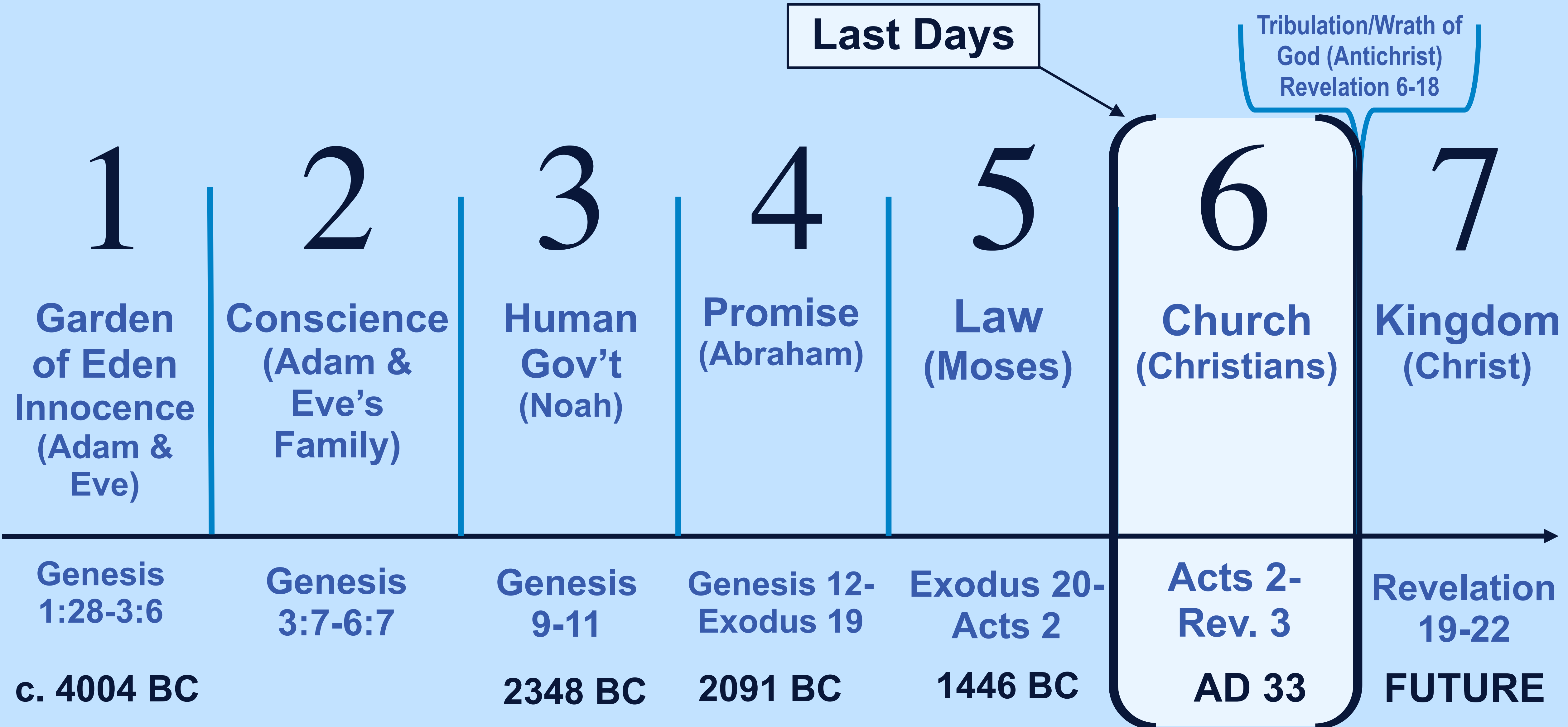
Chapter 2 Outline: Latter days, end times, last days

- ***Latter days and end times*** are related concepts but are not exactly the same, and their meaning depends on the context of the Scripture
- ***Latter days*** generally refers to a future period that includes God's prophetic plan, often focusing on Israel's end-time experiences such as discipline, restoration, and the establishment of God's Kingdom. (Dan. 2:28; 10:14)
- ***End times*** is a broader term used to describe the entire period leading up to and including the second coming of Christ, the tribulation, the millennial Kingdom, and the eternal state. (Dan. 11:34; 12:4)
- ***Last days*** is used in Scripture as a period of time that began with pentecost and ends with the rapture of the church. (2 Tim.3:1; Heb.1:2; 2Pet.3:3)

THE END TIMES



God's Plan of the Ages



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Chapter 2 Outline

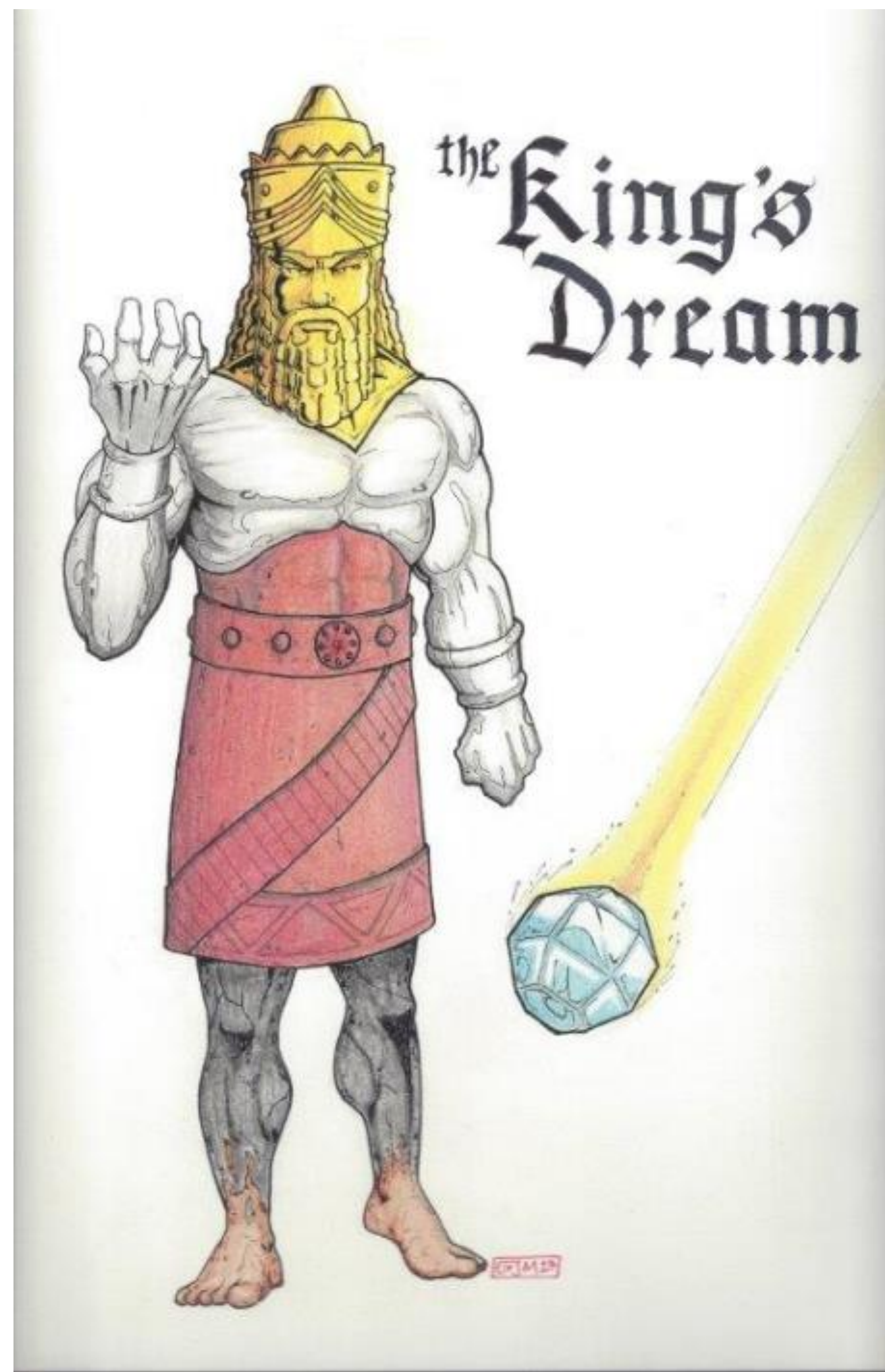
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Chapter 2

- The dream's contents and interpretation (2:31-45)
 - **Contents (2:31-35)**
 - Interpretation (2:36-45)

Statue & Stone



Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



Statue is destroyed by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ



HEAD
GOLD

WORLD POWER
BABYLON
606-539

CHEST AND ARMS
SILVER

WORLD POWER
PERSIA
539-331

STOMACH AND THIGHS
BRASS

WORLD POWER
GREECE
331-323

LEGS AND FEET
IRON & CLAY

WORLD POWER
ROME
322 B.C.—A.D. 476
FUTURE

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Chapter 2: Contents (2:31-35)

- Great Statue (2:31) consists of four metals
- Head of Gold (2:32a)
- Breast and arms of silver (2:32b)
- Belly and thighs of bronze (2:32c)
- Legs of iron (2:33a)
- Feet partly of iron and partly of clay (2:33b)

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Chapter 2: Contents (2:31-35)

- Great Statue (2:31-34)
 - The descending value of the metals suggests the degeneration of the human race through the ages (Gen.4)
 - Mankind in the *times of the Gentiles* begins as gold and ends in dust
 - This concept contradicts evolution which says things are getting better
 - The increasing strength of the metals suggests increased military might
 - The empires that followed Babylon lacked central authority and fine organization

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Chapter 2

- The dream's contents and interpretation (2:31-45)
 - Contents (2:31-35)
 - **Interpretation (2:36-45)**

Interpretation (2:36-45)

6 Empires

- Babylon (2:36-38) 605-539 BC
- Media-Persia (2:39a) 539-331 BC
- Greece (2:39b) 331-63 BC
- Rome I (2:40) 322 BC-476 AD
- Rome II (2:41-43) Tribulation
- Kingdom (2:44-45) After 2nd Coming

Interpretation (2:36-45)

6 Empires

- How do we know the interpretation of these verses is 6 Empires?

Interpretation (2:36-45)

6 Empires

- How do we know the interpretation of these verses is 6 Empires?
- Let the Bible interpret itself!
- God said it, its the truth, whether we believe it or not!

Interpretation (2:36-45)

6 Empires

- Babylon (2:36-38) 605-539 BC, see Dan. 2:37-38
- Media-Persia (2:39a) 539-331 BC see Dan. 5:28; 8:20 (vision of the ram); 10:13
- Greece (2:39b) 331-63 BC see Chapter 8:21, vision of the goat
- Rome I (2:40) 322 BC-476 AD, historical fact that Rome existed and replaced Greece. Gradually fell apart.
- Rome II (2:41-43) Tribulation, see Rev. 17:12, 18
- Kingdom (2:44-45) After 2nd Coming, see Rev. 20:4

Interpretation (2:36-45)

6 Empires

- Did these 6 empires literally and physically exist?
- Who brought them into existence?
- Who took them out of existence?

Interpretation (2:36-45)

6 Empires

- Since 4 of these 6 empires did literally and physically exist what should we expect of the remaining 2 empires?

Interpretation (2:36-45)

6 Empires

- Since 4 of these 6 empires did literally and physically exist what should we expect of the remaining 2 empires?
- That is called premillennialism. Premillennialism teaches that the second coming of Christ to the earth will take place before the 1000 year kingdom of Christ's rule on earth. Revelation 20:1-7.
- Latin elements: pre means before, mille means thousand, annus means years.
- Isaiah 9:6-7; 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19; Zechariah 14:1-3; 9.

Interpretation (2:44-45)

Various Views of the Millennium

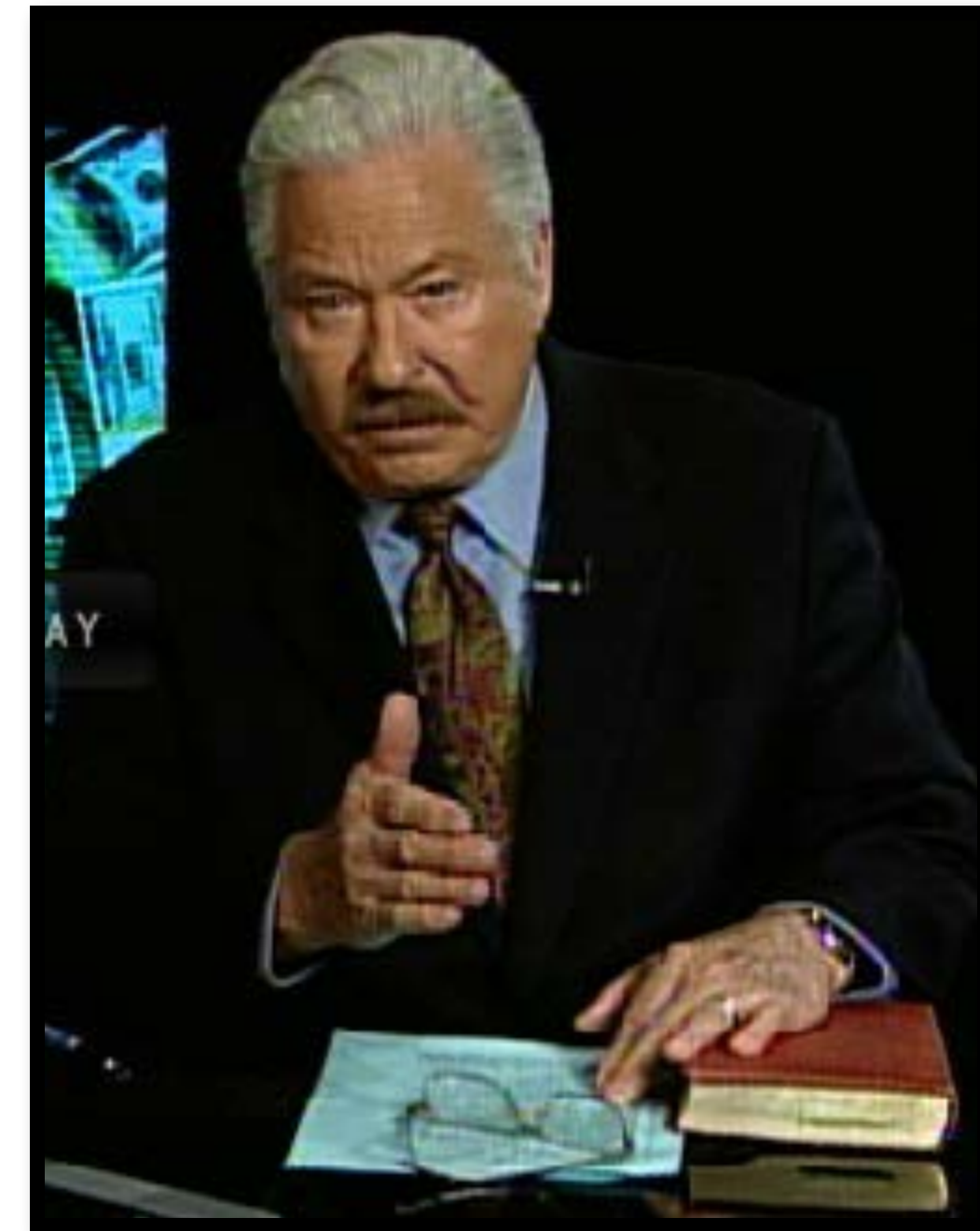
- **Premillennialism:** teaches that the second coming of Christ to the earth will take place before the 1000 year kingdom of the literal rule of Christ on earth. Revelation 20:1-7. Believe things will continue to decline until Christ returns. View of the early church
- **Amillennialism:** teaches that there will be no literal, future 1000 year reign of Christ on earth. Believe that there will be no rapture, good and evil will increase, and when Christ returns, there will be a general resurrection and judgment. Is a spiritualization of the kingdom. This belief dominated the church under Augustine (354-430) and Jerome (345-419) and is the most widely held view of the church, and that the church replaced Israel.
- **Postmillennialism:** teaches that Christ's kingdom is now being extended throughout the world through the preaching of the gospel, there is no literal 1000 years, and after Christianity has dominated the world for a long time, Christ will return. This view came after the Reformation

Interpretation (2:44-45)

- Can we bring the kingdom to the earth?
- How then should we live?
- What is God's purpose for the local church?

Hal Lindsey
The Road to Holocaust, 269

Bestselling author Hal Lindsey warned what could happen to the church in the last days if she began to see herself as the establisher of God's kingdom: “The last days of the church on the earth may be largely wasted seeking to accomplish a task that only the LORD Himself can and will do directly.”



Interpretation (2:44-45)

God's Purpose for the Local Church

- Glorify God (Ephesians 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

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