

Daniel - Sequence of Kingdoms (Daniel 2 and 7)

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[COURSE](#) [COMMENTARY](#)

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Two Perspectives

- [Two Views of Same Sequence of Kingdoms](#)

Daniel 2: gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone (man's perspective).

Daniel 7: lion, bear, leopard, terrible beast, everlasting kingdom (God's perspective).

Daniel 4: The pride of man (Nebuchadnezzar's golden image) will be exposed as beastly in character (Nebuchadnezzar given the heart of a beast).

Times of the Gentiles

- [Gentile Kingdoms](#)

Rule is temporarily taken from the throne of David and invested in Gentile hands.

None of the metal kingdoms or terrible beasts represent Jewish rule.

During this entire period, there will be no king on the throne of David (Hos. 3:4-5).

Israel, when it does exist as a nation, will be subject to Gentile interference.

Which Kingdoms?

- [Identifying Kingdoms](#)

Use evidence from all of Scripture (progressive revelation): Daniel 2; 7; 8; 11; Revelation 13; 17.

Four metals (Daniel 2) = four beasts (Daniel 7).

Additional information concerning the 2nd and 3rd beast kingdoms from Daniel 8.

Additional information concerning the seven-headed beast John sees in Revelation 13 and 17.

Dominant view of metal kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

Secondary view which attempts to work-around supernatural prediction: Babylon, Medes, Persians, Greece.

Medo-Persian Kingdom

- [Unity of Medo-Persia](#)

Motivation: take Daniel as written late, in 2nd century. Explain accurate prediction as "prophecy after-the-fact."

Scripture indicates Medo-Persia should be considered as a single kingdom (e.g., Dan. 5:28; 6:8).

Seven-Headed Beast

- [Revelation given to John augments Daniel](#)

Seven headed beast seen by John (Rev. [12:3](#); [13:1](#); [17:3,7-9](#)).

Related to the beasts of Daniel [7](#): with lion, bear, and leopard (Rev. [13:1](#)).

Ultimately represents the Antichrist—who emerges from the fourth terrible beast (Rev. [13:1](#)).

Four of the heads (heads 3, 4, 5, and 6) correspond to the lion, bear, leopard, and terrible beast which are also the gold, silver, bronze, and iron kingdoms. See [Revelation Commentary](#) for additional background.

There are actually **eight** heads if Antichrist's sole rule is counted as a head. He is “also the eighth, and is of [from] the seven” (Rev. [17:11](#)).

We are told that the heads are kingdoms (Rev. [17:10](#)).

There are indications that the seven-headed beast has a long historical span (Rev. [12:3](#); [13:1](#); [17:3](#) cf. Luke [4:5-6](#)).

See the [Revelation Commentary](#) for more information.

Head #1

- [Babel \(or Egypt?\)](#)

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3 ▶; 13:1 ▶; 17:3 ▶, 7-9 ▶)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35 ▶)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28 ▶; Rev. 13:2 ▶)	Scriptural Identification
1	Babel (or Egypt?) ⁸⁹			<p>“Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD . . . The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.” (Gen. 10:8-10).</p> <p>“And on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, ‘BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.’ ” (Rev. 17:5▶, NASU).</p>


Head #2

- [Egypt \(or Assyria?\)](#)

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3▶; 13:1▶; 17:3▶, 7-9▶)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35▶)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28▶; Rev. 13:2▶)	Scriptural Identification
2	Egypt (or Assyria?)			

Head #3 = 1st Kingdom of Daniel



- Head of Gold / Lion = Babylon

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7-9)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28; Rev. 13:2)	Scriptural Identification
3	Babylon	<p style="text-align: center;">Head of Gold</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">(Dan. 2:32, 37-38)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lion with Eagle's Wings</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">90</p> <p>Like a lion with eagle's wings (Dan. 7:4). His Mouth <i>like</i> the mouth of a lion (Rev. 13:2)</p>	Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, "you are this head of gold" (Dan. 2:38).

Head #4 = 2nd Kingdom of Daniel

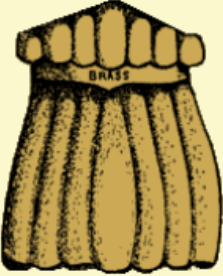
- Chest and Arms of Silver / Bear = Medo Persia

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7-9)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28; Rev. 13:2)	Scriptural Identification
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<p>John, Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7-9)</p>	<p>Kingdoms)</p>	<p>Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35)</p>	<p>Dan. 7:1-28; Rev. 13:2)</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Medo-Persia⁹¹</p>	<p>Chest and Arms of Silver</p>  <p>(Dan. 2:32, 39)</p>	<p>Bear with Three Ribs</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">92</p> <p>Like a bear with three ribs (Dan. 7:5).⁹³</p> <p>Like the feet of a bear (Rev. 13:2)</p>	<p>Daniel told Belshazzar, “PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. . . . That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old” (Dan. 5:28-31).</p> <p>Daniel was told, “The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia” (Dan. 8:20).</p> <p>“And those who escaped from the sword he [the king of Chaldea] carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia” (2Chr. 36:20).</p> <p>“Behold I will stir up the Medes against them [Babylon]” (Isa. 13:17a).</p> <p>“A distressing vision is declared to me; The treacherous dealer deals treacherously, And the plunderer plunders. Go up, O Elam! Besiege, O Media! All its sighing I have made to cease.” (Isa. 21:2).</p> <p>“Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.” (Dan. 6:8).</p> <p>“Make the arrows bright! Gather the shields! The LORD has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes. For His plan is against Babylon to destroy it, Because it is the vengeance of the LORD, The vengeance for His temple.” (Jer. 51:11).</p> <p>“Prepare against her [Babylon] the nations, With the kings of the Medes, Its governors and all its rulers, All the land of his dominion.” (Jer. 51:28).</p> <p>“Now it took place in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces . . . in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his princes and attendants, the army officers of Persia and Media, the nobles and the princes of his provinces being in his presence.” (Est. 1:1-3).</p> <p>“If it pleases the king, let a royal edict be issued by him and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media so that it cannot be repealed, that Vashti may no longer come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king give her royal position to another who is more worthy than she.” (Est. 1:19).</p>



Head #5 = 3rd Kingdom of Daniel

- Belly and Thighs of Brass / Leopard = Greece

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3▶; 13:1▶; 17:3▶, 7-9▶)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35▶)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28▶; Rev. 13:2▶)	Scriptural Identification
5	Greece (Macedonian) ⁹⁴	<p style="text-align: center;">Belly and Thighs of Bronze</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">(Dan. 2:32▶, 39▶)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Leopard with Four Wings and Four Heads</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">95</p> <p>Like a leopard with four wings and four heads (Dan. 7:6▶).⁹⁶</p> <p>Like a leopard (Rev. 13:2▶)</p>	<p>Daniel was told, "The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king" (Dan. 8:20-21▶).</p> <p>Daniel was told, "three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all . . . he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece" (Dan. 11:2▶).</p> <p>"Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem You have sold to the Greeks" (Joel 3:6a).</p> <p>"I have . . . raised up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece" (Zec. 9:13).</p> <p>John lived under Roman rule and was told, concerning the seven kingdoms, "five have fallen" (Rev. 17:10▶).</p>



Head #6 = 4th Kingdom of Daniel, 1st Phase

- Legs of Iron / Terrible Beast = Rome (Unified)

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7-9)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28; Rev. 13:2)	Scriptural Identification
6	Rome ⁹⁷	<p style="text-align: center;">Legs of Iron</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">(Dan. 2:33, 40)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dreadful and Terrible Beast</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">98</p> <p>A <i>unique</i> beast dreadful and terrible (Dan. 7:7, 19-20, 23-25).</p> <p>(Composite beast of Rev. 13:1-2.)</p>	<p>“The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary” (Dan. 9:26)—Titus of Rome destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.</p> <p>John lived under unified Roman rule and was told concerning the seven kingdoms, “one is” (Rev. 17:10).</p>


Head #7 = 4th Kingdom of Daniel, 2nd Phase

- Feet of Iron and Clay / Terrible Beast = Rome (Divided)

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3▶; 13:1▶; 17:3▶, 7-9▶)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35▶)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28▶; Rev. 13:2▶)	Scriptural Identification
7	Rome (divided and dispersed)	<p>Feet of Iron and Clay</p>  <p>(Dan. 2:33▶, 41-43▶). See <i>Legs of Iron</i>.</p>	<p>Ten Horns</p>  <p>99</p> <p>Ten horns (Dan. 7:7▶, 20▶, 24▶; Rev. 12:3▶; 13:1▶; 17:3▶, 7▶, 12▶, 16▶)</p>	<p>John lived under unified Roman rule and was told concerning the seven kingdoms, "the other has not yet come" (Rev. 17:10▶).</p>


Head #8 = 4th Kingdom of Daniel, 3rd Phrase

- Little Horn (Antichrist)

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7-9)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28; Rev. 13:2)	Scriptural Identification
8	Little Horn (Antichrist) Alone	(Dan. 7:8, 20, 24; Rev. 13:4-5, 8, 15)	<p style="text-align: center;">Little Horn</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">100</p> <p>Little horn mortally wounded (Rev. 13:3, 14; 17:8, 11).</p> <p>Little horn revived (Rev. 11:7; 13:4; 17:8, 11).</p>	The beast emerges out of the seven, as the eighth head, at his revival, "And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven . . . " (Rev. 17:11).

Kingdom of God = 5th Kingdom of Daniel

- Millennial Kingdom

Heads (Seen by John, Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7-9)	Kingdom (See <i>Which Kingdoms?</i>)	Beautiful Image (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar: Man's Perspective, Dan. 2:31-35)	Vicious Beast (Seen by Daniel and John: God's Perspective, Dan. 7:1-28; Rev. 13:2)	Scriptural Identification
	Millennial Kingdom	<p style="text-align: center;">Stone Cut Without Hands</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">101</p> <p>(Dan. 2:32, 44-45; Rev. 20:4-6)¹⁰²</p> <p>See <i>When Does the Stone Strike?</i></p>	<p>Little horn, finally slain (Dan. 7:11; 8:25; 11:45; 2Th. 2:8; Rev. 19:20).</p> <p>Son of Man receives kingdom (Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 26-27).</p>	<p>"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14).</p>

Stone Strikes

- **Two Main Views**

Stone strikes at the **First Coming** of Christ, a purely spiritual kingdom which coexists with geopolitical kingdoms of man.

Stone strikes at the **Second Coming** of Christ, a geopolitical kingdom like the kingdoms it replaces.

Manner Of Destruction - Does the stone suddenly and completely overthrow the previous kingdoms? Or does the stone gradually destroy them in such a way that there is a long historical overlap between the falling away of the kingdoms and the growth of the stone to fill the earth?

Nature Of Stone Kingdom - Does the stone, which grows to fill the earth, result in a literal, geopolitical kingdom like the kingdoms which precede it? Or is the kingdom represented by the stone of a different, exclusively spiritual, nature?

Timing Of Strike - Did the stone, representing Messiah and His kingdom, already strike the image at the first coming of Jesus? Or will the stone only strike at the second coming of Christ?

First Coming

- **Stone is Striking Even Now**

The Stone overthrows the other kingdoms gradually over a long period.

The Stone smites primarily through the Church--the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Stone works in the spiritual realm and doesn't so much supplant the geopolitical kingdoms as convert or redeem them to conform to godly principles.

Second Coming

- **#1 - Sudden and Violent**

A straightforward reading of Daniel 2:34-35,40-44 indicates that the means by which the kingdom of God smashes the previous kingdoms is by sudden and dramatic—even violent—overthrow. This is not a picture of gradual socio-redemptive spiritual conversion.

Amillennial and postmillennial interpreters confuse the present age of grace which follows upon the first coming with the prophesied cataclysmic judgment which precedes the second coming.

“The ‘Stone’ does not ‘fill the earth’ by degrees and thus ‘crowd out’ the Image, it at one blow DEMOLISHES IT, and its remains are blown away. The action of the ‘Stone’ is JUDGMENT, not Grace. Not the spread of a ‘Spiritual Kingdom’ by the preaching of the Gospel, but the immediate setting up of an outward and visible earthly Kingdom. The ‘Stone’ therefore cannot mean Christianity, for it is a PROCESS, whereas the action of the ‘Stone’ is SUDDEN AND CALAMITOUS.” [Larkin, *The Book of Daniel*, Dan. 2:45.]

The expectation of a sudden and violent destruction when the stone strikes is confirmed by the New Testament (1Th. 5:2-4) and especially the Book of Revelation which predicts a series of severe judgments (the seals, trumpets, and bowls) preceding the second advent.

- **#2 - Image Destroyed before Stone Grows**

The sequence of actions in Nebuchadnezzar's dream is as follows: (1) the stone strikes the image (Dan. 2:34); (2) the metals are crushed (Dan. 2:35a); (3) a wind carries their remains away like chaff (Dan. 2:35b); (4) then the stone becomes a mountain filling the earth (Dan. 2:35c).

Notice that the image is completely destroyed and all trace of it removed BEFORE the stone grows.

- **#3 - Kingdom of Iron Not Destroyed at First Coming**

Rome not destroyed at the first coming.

The view that the fall of Rome can be attributed to the influence of Christianity is not supportable.

“In fact it was not the Christian church that undermined the Roman Empire, a fact that Augustine takes great pains to prove in *The City of God*. As Augustine argued, it was the corruption of the empire from within that caused it to collapse, and most historians concur with his estimation.” [Howe, *Daniel in the Preterist's Den*, 109-110.]

“Such a destruction of the Gentile monarchy-system did not occur at the first advent of Christ. On the contrary, He was put to death by the sentence of an officer of the fourth empire, which was then at the zenith of its power.” [Scofield, *The Scofield Study Bible*, Dan. 2:31.]

- **#4 - Clay Not Present at First Coming**

Nebuchadnezzar's dream indicates that the stone struck at a specific place on the image, the stone struck the image **on its feet of iron and clay** (Dan. 2:34).

Therefore, the stone cannot strike the image: (1) until the stage in history represented by the feet; (2) until the iron has already become mixed with the clay. The problem for those who believe the stone struck at the time of the cross is that Rome had not yet reached its peak and there was no intermingled clay.

- **#5 - Ten Toes not Present**

The mixture of iron and clay in the final phase of the fourth kingdom includes the toes (Dan. 2:41-42).



Since the stone strikes the final form of the kingdom, comprised of both iron and clay, the toes must be present at the time the stone strikes.

The (implicit ten) toes correlate to the ten horns seen by Daniel (Dan. [7:7,20,24](#)).

The ten horns are contemporaneous kings--which never existed in Rome at the first advent.

The ten horns were still **future to John's day** (A.D. 95), "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast" (Rev. [17:12](#)).

- **#6 - Nature of the Kingdoms**

How can literal geopolitical kingdoms be said to be completely replaced by a non-literal spiritual kingdom?

The idea that the fourth kingdom continues in the geopolitical sphere of influence while the fifth kingdom of God merely comes alongside it in spiritual sphere of influence reads an unnatural division into the dream.

The kingdom of God must manifest in the same sphere of influence as a literal geopolitical kingdom in order to expunge and replace the previous kingdoms in that same sphere.

The kingdom of God must be geopolitical to fulfill literal OT prophecies concerning Jerusalem, the throne of David, the promised land, and much more.

How could Jesus have been legitimately tempted by the offer by Satan of the literal geopolitical kingdoms of the world (Luke [4:5-6](#)) if ultimately He only sought a spiritual kingdom?

- **#7 - Antichrist First**

Since the sequence of kingdoms in Daniel [2](#) and Daniel [7](#) match one another, the conditions which obtain during the overthrow of the fourth kingdom in each passage must also match.

When we examine the overthrow of the fourth kingdom in Daniel's vision in chapter 7, we find that the kingdom of God does not come until AFTER Antichrist is destroyed (Dan. [7:20-22,25-27](#)).

Antichrist is not destroyed until the second coming of Christ (Dan. [7:11](#); 2Th. [2:8](#); Rev. [19:20](#)).

- **#8 - Times of Gentiles**

We have seen that the four Gentile kingdoms correspond to the [Times of the Gentiles](#).

One of the characteristics: lack of a king actively ruling upon the throne of David.

Since Jesus is presently seated at the right hand of the Father's throne in heaven (Rev. [3:21](#)) and will not take up His throne, the throne of David on earth, until the second coming (Mat. [25:31](#)), we know that the Times of the Gentiles are still underway.

Jesus Himself indicated that the Times of the Gentiles would continue beyond the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. (Luke [21:24](#)).

This time is also characterized by the global dispersion of the Jews—which has been true ever since.

Because the Times of the Gentiles are still underway, we know that the image has not yet been struck by the stone.

- **#9 - Destruction of Babylon**

As we discuss in the commentary section on [Babylon of the future](#), numerous prophecies concerning the destruction of Babylon—the head of gold of the image—have never been fulfilled.

As seen in Daniel [5](#), the "fall" of Babylon to Medo-Persia took place without a major battle.

Daniel evidently understood that aspects of Babylon's destruction did not find fulfillment in his day because he did not flee from Babylon as instructed by the Scriptures (Isa. 48:20; Jer. 50:8,28; 51:6,45; Zec. 2:7).

Since the head of gold has never been destroyed as predicted by the Scriptures (see also Isa. 13; 14; Rev. 17; 18) we know that the stone has not yet struck the image.

- **#10 - The Present Reality**

If the stone struck at the cross, then why, nearly two millennia later, is the world still filled with ungodly chaff (Ps. 1:4)?

"Has the Church ended all of Roman culture? Has the Church ended all of Greek thought? Has the Church ended all of the superstitious religion and the cultic rites of Babylon?... not at all, not at all! The smashing is yet future because when the smashing occurs it will end all these kingdoms. And we still see the kingdoms influencing us today." [Clough, *Lessons on Daniel*, 10.130.]

Where is Rome Today?

- **A Prophetic Gap?**

If the image has not yet been destroyed, where are we on the image in our day?

Scriptural evidence for the existence of unforeseen gaps within prophetic passages: (1) between the betrayal and triumph of Christ in relation to Satan (Gen. 3:15), (2) between the birth and reign of Jesus (Isa. 9:6-7), (3) between the preaching of good tidings and the day of judgment (Isa. 61:1-2 cf. Luke 4:17-19), (4) between the presentation of the king and the time of global peace (Zec. 9:9-10), (5) between the first coming of Christ and the destruction of Antichrist at His second coming (Dan. 9:26-27), (6) between the striking of the Shepherd and the restoration of Israel (Zec. 13:7-9 cf. Mat. 26:21; Mark 14:27), (7) between the baptism of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and the baptism by Fire at the future judgment (Mat. 3:11-12), (8) between the first and second resurrections—separated by a period of 1,000 years (John 5:28-29 cf. Rev. 20:4-5).

Scripture also indicates that the body of Christ, the Church (which began on the day of Pentecost), was not revealed to the Old Testament prophets (Eph. 3:1-6; Col. 1:24-27). Hence, the Church age—nearly 2,000 years long as we write this—was not revealed in the OT.

- **Rome Continues?**

When the stone finally strikes the image, "the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together" (Dan. 2:35).

When the final fourth kingdom is destroyed, elements of the earlier kingdoms—which no longer have dominion and are no longer visibly present—are found continuing in the fourth kingdom.

This is also evident in the vision granted John concerning the fourth kingdom, "The beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion" (Rev. 13:2).

Three phases of the fourth, Roman, kingdom: (1) iron alone; (2) feet of iron mixed with clay; (3) toes of iron mixed with clay. If iron alone represents unified Rome at the time of the first coming of Christ and the toes of iron mixed with clay correspond to the ten horns (Dan. 7:7,20,24), the final confederation of ten contemporaneous kings (Rev. 17:12-13), then it would seem that we may currently be living in the time of the feet of iron mixed with clay.

