

# **PRETERISM AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE?**

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We've been looking recently at **Preterism**. The view that most — or all — end-time prophecy was fulfilled in 70 AD.

**Full Preterists** believe everything was fulfilled at that time. **Partial Preterists** believe that most prophecies were fulfilled — though allow for a future **Second-Coming of Jesus**.

Preterism is growing in popularity.

**We've looked at Biblical reasons why this appears to be in error** — was the Gospel preached to the whole world ... the Greatest Tribulation in the world ever ... Demonic Locusts ... 1/3 of mankind killed by an “army” of 200 million ... two witnesses killed in Jerusalem — then resurrected after 3½ days?

I think that most of us still expect a Man of Sin to sit in the temple ... to see the Abomination of Desolation in the Holy Place? We expect to see a “Beast” Empire and perhaps witness the “Mark of The Beast” being enforced?

**Preterists claim that this all occurred in 70 AD!**

In 70 AD ... the world's dominant superpower was the Roman Empire. So Preterists look to Rome as the fulfillment of end-time prophecies. Rome becomes the “Beast” of Revelation ... Emperor Nero (who persecuted Christians) is the Antichrist (in Latin his name comes to 666!)

Also ... this fits with widely-held views that many prophecies — Old and New Testament — identify Rome as the major force in the end-times.

**But what if Rome is not prophesied anywhere in the Bible?** Then ... yet another reason why Preterism must fail. They've misidentified the Beast and Antichrist!

I have spoken on this before ... but let's review again why Rome is not a good fit for end-time prophecy.

## The main and most important passage:

### **Daniel 2:31-45**

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, **a great image!** This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and **its form was awesome.**

32 **This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,**

33 **its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.**

34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 **Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff** from the summer threshing floors; **the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

36 "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

37 You, O king, are a king of kings. **For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;**

38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, **and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.**

*(Nebuchadnezzar was one of the top Kings ever)*

39 But **after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours;** then another, **a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.**

40 And **the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.** *(Totally pulverising ... crushing ... smashing all of the other Kingdoms)*

41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided;** yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 And **as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.**

43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, **just as iron does not mix with clay.**

44 **And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people;** it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (*The Millennium and thereafter*)

45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. **The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.**”

**THE GREAT VISION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** We can rely on it.

Interpretations may differ — but we can all be familiar with the story and the text!!

**GOLD = BABYLON (Today it is called IRAQ — MUSLIM)**  
**SILVER = PERSIA (Today it is called IRAN — MUSLIM)**  
**BRONZE = GREECE — technically — JAVAN (Huge Empire — mostly MUSLIM)**  
**IRON = ?**  
**STONE = JESUS' RETURN AND KINGDOM OF GOD**

There's general agreement about the first 3 Empires.

(See the graphic at the end of the notes)

**But: Why choose Rome for the 4<sup>th</sup> — the Iron Empire?**

That's where the Preterists start from.

The **FIRST REFERENCE** to calling it Rome was circa 200 AD ... Hippolytus — Bishop of Rome. “The Legs of Iron ... expressed the Romans ... who hold sovereignty at the moment”.

Next was Jerome. He was hugely influential. He translated the Hebrew and Greek into the Latin Vulgate. His commentary (408 AD) states: “Now the 4<sup>th</sup> Empire ... which clearly refers to the Romans

... is the Iron Empire which breaks in pieces and overcomes all others”.

That view is still fairly common today.

Dr David Jeremiah (US Evangelist ... author ... preacher) says :  
“The Legs of Iron and Clay represent Rome. **This cannot be proven by citing references in The Bible** ... but there is no way for it to be anything else because history proves Rome is the Fourth Kingdom. In the text (of Daniel 2) ... “Iron” is used 14 times and the Iron Legions of Rome have been vaunted for centuries. Rome possessed superior iron-forging technology and she ruled the Mediterranean world with an iron fist. Rome was Iron”. (See a photo of one of his books at the end of the notes)

**NO BIBLICAL PROOF!!** All just “fluff and flannel”!! References to Rome and “Iron” plucked out of thin air? Embarrassing!!

The Amplified Bible even inserts “Rome” into the text of Daniel 2:40! Naughty!! (See the photo at the end of the notes)

Let’s look more closely at scripture to see if it supports Rome.

#### **Daniel 2:40**

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, **inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything**; and like iron that crushes, **that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others**.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom must:

- (i) Crush ... pulverise ... shatter ... fragment ... smash to smithereens = **DEQAQ** in Aramaic (Daniel Chapters 2-7 are written in Aramaic)
- (ii) Crush **all** previous kingdoms

**Rome fails! Rome never conquered Medo-Persia — though it tried for centuries.** (See the photo at the end of the notes)

**It never “shattered” Greece.** It defeated its military ... but admired its philosophy ... art ... architecture ... religion ... literature. The Greek language continued as the universal language of the Roman Empire.

**Therefore Rome cannot be the 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom because it never achieved what was written in Daniel 2:40.**

We can see the meaning of **DEQAQ** in:

**Daniel 2:44-45**

44 And in the days of these kings **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; **it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.**

45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it **broke in pieces** the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

**“DEQAQ” used twice.**

**The Kingdom of God obliterates everything!** It doesn't absorb the cultures of other countries — their art ... literature ... movies ... architecture ... religions!! **That's what the Fourth Kingdom is said to do!**

**No way around it! Rome fails the Biblical test** (at least of Daniel Chapter 2).

**But what about the “4<sup>th</sup> Empire”?** Surely that is Rome. That is jumping to conclusions?!

**Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interest was in his kingdom and its future. He wanted to know about his territory ... his subjects ... his domain.**

Medo-Persia (Silver) took over his people and territory. It took over Nebuchadnezzar's people ... territory etc. Then Greece swallowed it up (Bronze).

**But not Rome! Babylon ... Persia and Greece/Javan were all Eastern Empires.** All overlapped.

**Rome was a Western Empire.** Little to no overlap with the Empires of Nebuchadnezzar and his successors.

Maps make it clear! (See the notes).

**Rome wasn't a 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom from a Daniel 2 perspective.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> major Bible passage that **allegedly** identifies Rome:

**Revelation 17:1-3**

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “**Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,**

2 **with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**” (*International influence*)

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness (*Greek: EREMOS — desert or uninhabited location*). **And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**

**Revelation 17:7, 9-10**

7 But the angel said to me, “**Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.**

9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**

10 **There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come.**

Rome is a city of 7 hills ... so the Harlot is based in Rome — clearly the Vatican ! A very popular view.

**Dave Hunt: Book “A Woman Rides The Beast” — says of Revelation 17:9** (see photo at the end of the notes)

**“This merits our careful and prayerful attention. The Woman is that Great City ... furthermore she is built on 7**

hills. Only one city has for more than 2,000 years been known as the City on 7 Hills. The city is Rome.”

Is that true? I don't think so!!

Or Garner Ted Armstrong in “Who is The Antichrist?” referring to Revelation 17:9: “Notice the incontrovertible evidence of her location ... in Revelation 17:9. Rome is famous for its 7 hills. Rome calls itself the Eternal City”.

If you look back at Revelation 17:3 the location is a desert or uninhabited place. Rome is not in the desert.

**Very weak!! Clutching at straws! Sleight of hand.**

If that were a measure — there are lots of cities that are on 7 hills — Mecca ... Istanbul ... Jerusalem ... etc.

Plus — the biggest problem (sleight of hand)... it's 7 mountains (GREEK: “OROS”) — not hills!! (GREEK: BOUNOS). A hill is not a mountain —and they are different Greek words!!!  
Explained in verse 10.

**Revelation 17:10 NASB:**

10 “The 7 Heads are 7 Mountains ... and they are Seven Kings: Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come”.

Nothing to do with any city “on 7 hills”. Nothing to do with Rome.

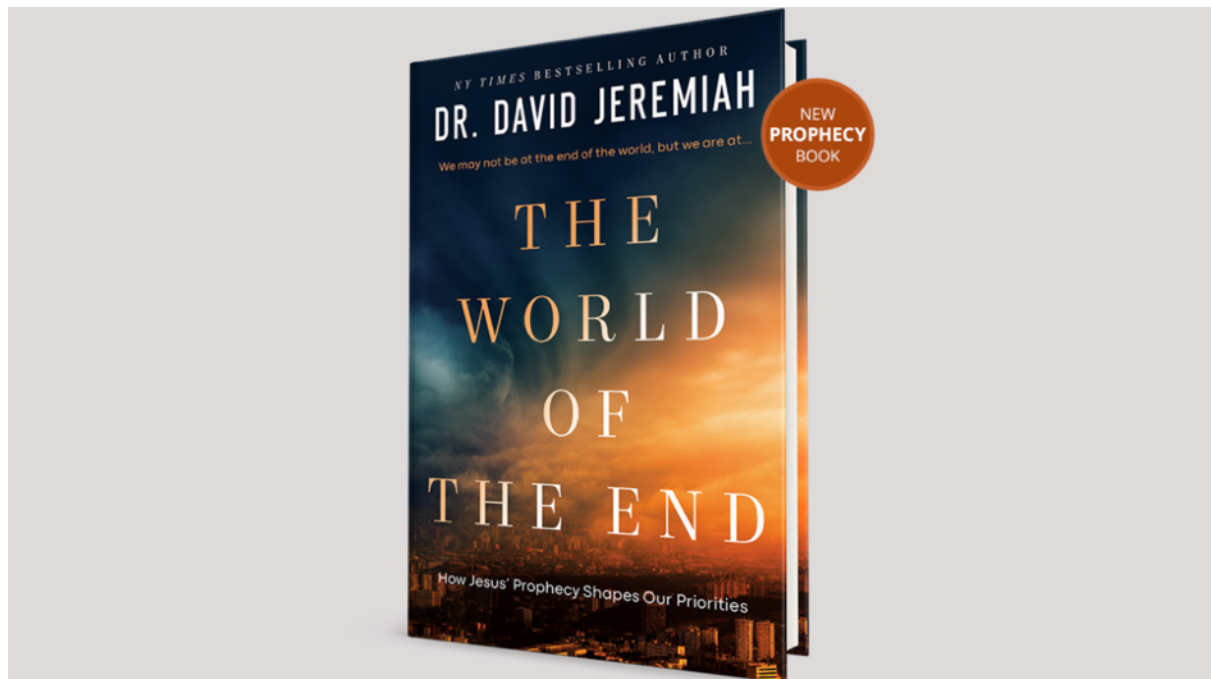
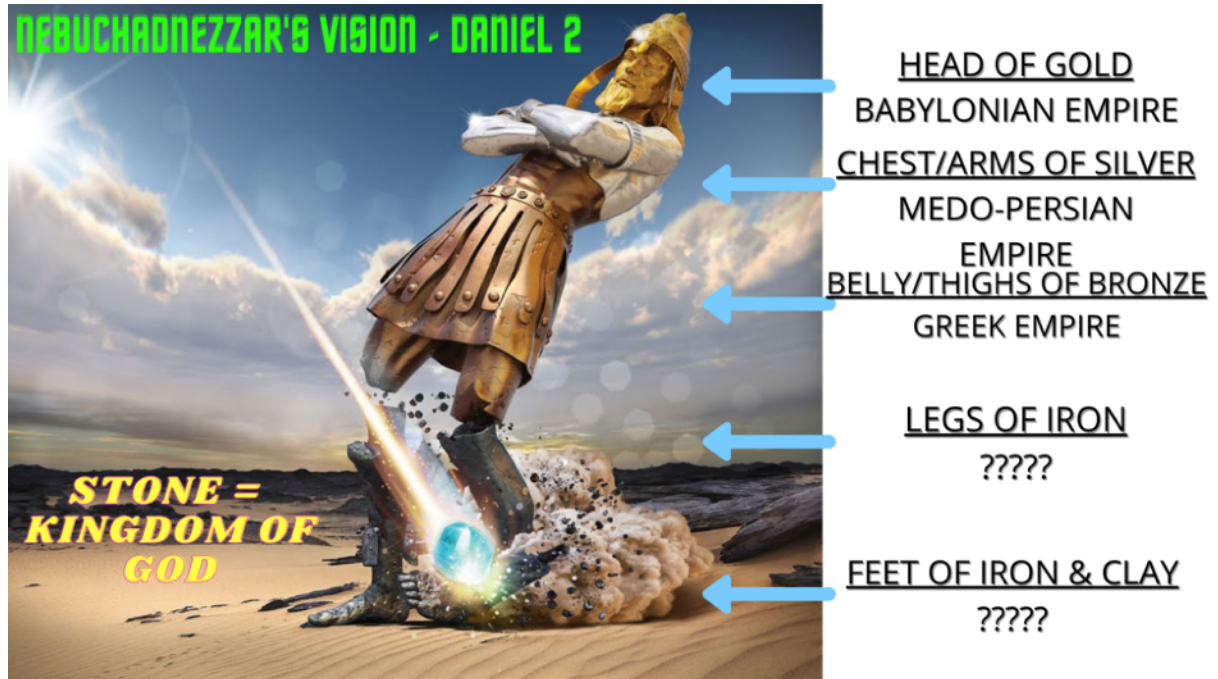
**The only reason to stick with Rome** (and/or Europe and/or the Vatican) ... is habit or familiarity ... or the “comfort “ of being with the majority view.

That's 2 of the 3 popular passages.

Next time we will look at the third. And also answer: Who was the 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar's part of the world? Who did pulverise and smash the Kingdoms that followed after Nebuchadnezzar?

**Note: Preterism relies on Rome being the fulfillment of prophecy in 70 AD.**

If Rome fails the Biblical test — then Preterism abjectly fails too?



# Daniel 2:40

Daniel 2:40 AMP

Then a fourth kingdom (Rome) will be strong as iron, for iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things; and like iron which crushes things in pieces, it will break and crush all these [others].

AMP: Amplified Bible

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Not for lack of trying. They just couldn't pull it off - Persia was too far, and the Persians were too strong.

While the Roman Republic and Empire were arguably stronger than either Parthian or Sassanid Persia, the Romans weren't able to effectively project that power for a sustained campaign of conquest into Persia.



DAVE HUNT

The Roman Catholic Church and  
the Last Days

# A Woman Rides the Beast

The angel said...  
"I will tell thee  
the mystery of  
the woman, and  
of the beast..."  
Revelation 17:7

