

Daniel 2:31-49
Questions and Answers

Q) If the head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar – what are the remaining parts of the statue?

A) Because God does not reveal them specifically, we must be careful in our interpretation.

One common position for conservative scholars is:

- Head = Nebuchadnezzar
- Arms and chest of silver = Medo-Persian Empire
- Belly and thighs of bronze = Greek Empire
- Legs of iron / feet of clay = Roman Empire

Another theory (called the “Maccabean thesis) identifies the Greek Empire as the last empire. A mix of conservative and liberal scholars hold this view:

- Head = Nebuchadnezzar
- Arms and chest of silver = Median Empire
- Belly and thighs or bronze – Persian Empire
- Legs of iron /feet of clay = Greek Empire

Words of wisdom:

“We must entertain seriously the idea that the vision of Daniel 2 does not intend to be precise as it writes its history before it occurs. The vision intends to communicate something more general, but also more grand. God is sovereign, he is in control.”

-Tremper Longman III, Daniel NIV Application Commentary, p.82