

## 75 JESUS IDENTIFIED THE BEAST OF REVELATION

*“Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were shattered and became like chaff on the threshing floor in summer. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that had struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” Daniel 2:35*

**INTRODUCTION:** Daniel 2 prophesied the Kingdom of God would be set up on the ruin of the 4th kingdom (vs 44-45). In preterist circles, the 4th kingdom is commonly assumed to be Rome. But Rome was not destroyed upon the establishment of the Kingdom of God. It was upon the demise of the Old Covenant, as represented by the temple, that the New Covenant was established in AD 70. We will seek to show that Jesus signaled Israel was the 4th kingdom and therefore the 4th beast of Daniel 7 and therefore the beast of Revelation. (Please read Dan 2:31-45.)

**BACKGROUND:** To maintain the notion that Rome was the beast of Revelation requires the assertion of a story that simply is not true—that Revelation 13 is about Jewish religious leaders (the false prophet) in Jerusalem demanding Christians engage in emperor worship, on pain of death, sometime before AD 70. There is no evidence for any such thing. Brutal persecution of Christians took place in Rome, but it wasn't because they refused to worship Emperor Nero. It was because they were (falsely) charged with setting fire to Rome in AD 64. There is no record of emperor worship in Jerusalem. It would have been inconceivable for Jews. Even though Jewish leadership stated they had no king but Caesar, this was manipulative to blackmail Pilate into executing Jesus. Emperor worship in Jerusalem would have been unthinkable to such proportions, there most certainly would be extensive records of it, but no records exist. (NOTE: Some expositors are rigid in insisting the sea beast of Revelation 13 “must” represent a gentile nation. However all 4 sea beasts (Dan 7:3) are also referred to as arising out of the earth in Daniel 7:17.)

### 1. “BREAKING” AND “CRUSHING” PRECEDES THE REALIZATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

- A. “It [supernatural stone] struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.” Vs 34
- B. “Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were shattered and became like chaff...” Vs 35
- C. “The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found.” Vs 35
- D. “Iron shatters and crushes all things... it will shatter and crush all the others.” Vs 40
- E. “It [God’s Kingdom] will shatter all these kingdoms and bring them to an end.” Vs 44
- F. “It [the supernatural stone] shattered the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold...” Vs 45

### 2. JESUS REFERENCED TWO STONES: THE REJECTED HEAD CORNER STONE OF PSALM 118 AND THE GOD-HEWN STONE OF DANIEL 2 THAT WOULD BREAK AND CRUSH THOSE TO WHOM JESUS WAS SPEAKING.

- A. **Foundation stone:** “The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” Ps 118:22-23
- B. **God-hewn stone:** “As you watched, a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were shattered and became like chaff on the threshing floor in summer. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that had struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth... 45 And just as you saw a stone being cut out of the mountain without human hands, and it shattered the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold, so the great God has told the king what will happen in the future.” Dan 2:34-35,45
- C. **Jesus linked the foundation stone and smashing stone as one and the same:** Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘The stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord. It is marvelous in our eyes? 43 Therefore I tell you, God’s Kingdom will be taken away from you and will be given to a nation producing its fruit. 44 He who falls on this [foundation] stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomever it will fall, it will scatter him as dust.’ 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he spoke about them.” Mt 21:42-45.
- D. **Again, Jesus linked the foundation stone and smashing stone as one and the same:** “But he looked at them and said, ‘Then what is this that is written, The stone which the builders rejected was made the chief cornerstone? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but it will crush whomever it falls on to dust.’ The chief priests and the scribes sought to lay hands on him that very hour, but they feared the people—for they knew he had spoken this parable against them.” Lk 20:17-19

### 3. THE FOUR BEASTS OF DANIEL 7 CORRESPOND TO THE FOUR KINGDOMS OF DANIEL 2 AND REV 13

- A. (1) Lion (Babylon) (2) Bear (Persia) (3) Leopard (Greece) (4) Ten-horned Beast with an (Israel). **Daniel 7:2-7**  
(Note: Israel appointed 10 generals during the war to over-see seven territories. We maintain the little horn was the zealot usurpers who killed 3 of Israel’s ten duly appointed “kings”. Josephus Wars 2.20.3,4. See P.P. #53)
- B. “Now the beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like a bear’s, and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority to rule.” Rev 13:2

**4. "THE ROCK" IS A FAVORITE SYMBOL FOR JESUS.**

Ps 118:22, Is 28:16, Mt 21:42-44, Mk 12:10, Lk 20:17-18, I Pt 2:4-8, I Cor 10:4, Acts 4:11

**5. ISRAEL REPEATEDLY DESCRIBED AS CLAY IN SCRIPTURE.**

Lam 4:2, Is 29:16, Jer 18:1-6, Jer 19:11, Is 30:14, Is. 45:9

**6. IRON OFTEN REPRESENTS STRENGTH, JUDGEMENT, JUSTICE, LAW.**

Dt 28:23, Dt 28:48, Ps 2:9, Ps 74:6, Is 41:15, Jer 15:12-14, Jer 28:14, Dan 2:40, Ps 2:7-9, Rev 2:27, Rev 12:5-6, Rev 19:15

**7. SECONDARY THEME: "IRON BREAKS IN PIECES AND SUBDUES."**

"The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, because iron breaks in pieces and subdues all things; and as iron that crushes all these, shall it break in pieces and crush." Dan 2:40

**8. THE KING BROKE THE CLAY VESSEL WITH IRON.**

**A.** "Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh, and against his Anointed, saying, 3 "Let's break their bonds apart, and cast their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens will laugh. The Lord will have them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his anger, and terrify them in his wrath: 6 'Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion.' 7 I will tell of the decree: Yahweh said to me, 'You are my son. Today I have become your father. 8 Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Ps 2:1-9

**B.** "[The King and the redeemed] will rule them with a rod of iron, shattering them like clay pots, as I also have received of my Father." Rev 2:27

**9. JESUS WIELDS THE IRON ROD AS KING.**

**A.** "She [woman in wilderness representing believing Israel] gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron." Rev 12:5-6

**B.** "Out of his mouth proceeds a sharp, double-edged sword that with it he should strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty." Rev 19:15

**10. ANOTHER "BREAKING" AND "CRUSHING" PROPHECY IN DANIEL.**

"It is for a time, times, and half a time. Then, when the power of the one who shatters the holy people [Israel] has been exhausted, all these things will be finished." Dan 12:7

**11. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE: THE 7 LEVITICAL CURSES (LEV 26) OF REV 16, PERTAINED ONLY TO ISRAEL. THE 5TH CURSE WAS POURED OUT ON THE BEAST, THEREFORE FIRST CENTURY ISRAEL WAS THE BEAST.**

"The fifth [angel] poured out his bowl [curse] on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was darkened. They [those in the kingdom of the beast] gnawed their tongues because of the pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores. They still didn't repent of their works." Rev 16:10-11

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus knew Himself to be the foundation stone that would cause the enemies of God to stumble. He also knew Himself to be the active smashing stone of Daniel 2 bringing about the Day of the Lord and the establishment of the New Covenant—the eternal kingdom. His audience, Jewish leadership, knew His parables were about them. We maintain that Matthew 21:42-45 and Luke 20:17-19 establishes Israel as the 4th kingdom and apostate Israel as the 4th beast of Daniel 7 and the Beast of Revelation 13. This is further enforced by the Revelation iron-shattering-clay symbolism with regard to the national judgment in the first century.

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