

The Last Act

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 2:32-45.

B. Many critics reject the historicity of Daniel, but Jesus recommended him.

II. The meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue divided into sections.

A. The statue constitutes an outline of history.

B. The head of gold is the kingdom of Babylon.

C. The Macedonians followed represented by the belly and thighs of brass.

D. The fourth kingdom is the kingdom that we still live in.

1. This began with the Roman Empire.

2. They were symbolized aptly by iron because they had a desire to rule over the world.

3. The chief characteristic of Rome was a desire to conquer.

4. This kingdom was also characterized by colonization.

5. The entire Western world is Roman to the core.

E. The feet were made of iron and clay.

1. The clay was the opposite of iron, which depicted imperialism.

2. The clay was weak and moldable; so many Bible scholars believe that this pictures democracy.

a. Democracy is not a good form of government because it bends to the will of the people.

b. Righteousness has made the US great, not democracy.

3. This age would be characterized by conflict between democracies and monarchies.

D. This conflict makes everything right for God's arrival for the establishment of His kingdom.

1. Christ is the stone intervening dramatically in the affairs of man.

2. The entirety of civilization is impacted by this stone.

3. It is our decision to determine our relationship to the stone—He will be either our foundation or our destroyer.

Application questions:

1. How does Daniel portray the events of history in this passage? What is remarkable about it?

2. What is the speaker's view of democracy from a biblical standpoint? Do you agree? Explain.

3. How would you respond to someone who said that Christ should not be depicted as a destroyer? Explain.
