***Daniel 2:26-45 26The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?” 27Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. 28But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: 29As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. 30But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart. 31“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34You 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. 35Then 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. 37You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38and 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. 39But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40And 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. 41Whereas 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. 42And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43As 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. 44And 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. 45Inasmuch 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.”***

Week before last, we left the king, as Arioch announces Daniel. Verses 26-30 *The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?” 27Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. 28But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: 29As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. 30But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart*. Nebuchadnezzar asks if Daniel can interpret the dream. Notice two things: First Daniel highlights the false religion and impotent power of wise men, soothsayers, astrologers, and magicians. Then, Daniel witnesses in Verse 28 about the one True God, able to reveal dreams and the future! In v29, Daniel begins the interpretation by saying that the dream reveals the future. V30, Daniel reiterates that he is only a humble servant of God, not wiser, not smarter, but that God provided this to him so he and his friends will be spared and also as a witness to the king, as well as to future generations. Daniel stays humble and knows God is his salvation.

 In verses 31-33, we find the dream: ***“****You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor 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.* Daniel tells the dream. I have every suspicion that, as Daniel speaks, Nebuchadnezzar remembers clearly. The dream was of a great image, made of different types of metals that the king would have understood very well. He idolized gold, silver, bronze. He understood the ranking value of each metal and the inversely ranking strength. It was a splendid and terrible, striking fear and awe! The head was fine gold, the chest and arms silver, belly and thighs of brass or bronze, and legs of iron. The feet were a mix of clay and iron, substances that will not adhere to one another well.

 Verses 34-35 *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.* Daniel shifts to a stone, cut without hands. The stone smote the image, starting at the feet, but all of the metals were crushed and ground into dust by the stone. This dust became as chaff, the wind carrying it away until nothing was left, as the kingdoms would disappear on the winds of time. The stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Imagine the relief Nebuchadnezzar felt as Daniel helped him to recall.

 Verses 36-39 *“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38and 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. 39But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.*Daniel interprets the dream. Nebuchadnezzar is described as king of kings, but Daniel reminds him that God gave him this kingdom. We must never boast in our own power. Babylon is being led astray by idolatry and is not seeing God, no matter how many miracles present. V38 is a reminder of Nebuchadnezzar’s dominion. Daniel now reveals that Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the head of gold. Isaiah 13:19 - *And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans’ pride,
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.* V39 changes gears: After the Babylon, an inferior kingdom, chest of silver, in terms of splendor, but superior in strength, will arise in 538 BC. This is the Medo-Persian, ruled by Darius and Cyrus. In 331 B.C., a third kingdom arises, belly and thighs of brass, the Grecian empire, led by Alexander the Great. Greece had less splendor still, but ruled an even greater kingdom, ruling from Greece, to India, and down to Egypt.

 Verse 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.* Now we see the 4th kingdom come into view. Rome! Known for it’s use of iron, strong as iron. Rome conquered Greece in 168 BC. Luke 2:1 *And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered*. You cannot register what you do not rule. Rome ruled much of Europe, England, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, and Greece, parts Asia and Africa. Rome was known for not just conquering kingdoms, but crushing them.

 Verses 41-43 *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. 42And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43As 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.* As the Roman Empire collapsed, it was divided. Some of the strength of iron remained, but, like clay, these smaller kingdoms were weak. Partly strong, partly weak. The different kings tried to make alliances by marriage, but this resulted in was family feuds. One interesting point to consider is that Iron was the Roman Kingdom, while Clay is representative often of God’s children – as in Isaiah 64:8 *But now, O Lord, You are our Father;
We are the clay, and You our potter;And all we are the work of Your hand.* Daniel 2:43 foreshadows the mixing of the church and state in the Roman Catholic church. They don’t mix!

 Verses 44-45 *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. 45Inasmuch 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.”* It is during this time that God will establish His kingdom which will never be destroyed and will stand forever. This is Christ’s Kingdom – the Stone cut out without hands. Matthew 21:44 says *And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.* This is the everlasting Kingdom, ultimately shared with the saints through eternity. In the end, the wicked will be as chaff, just as the remains of the great image. Matthew 3:12 says - *His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”* V45 - God is revealing to Nebuchadnezzar the future. The dream is certain, the interpretation is sure. Daniel finishes by saying – What God establishes, no one can change.

 Indeed, Babylon fell to the Medes, the Medes fell to the Greeks, the Greeks fell to the Romans, and the Romans were overcome by the Christians. Daniel is focused, fearless, and faithful as he interprets this dream. God foretold in perfection the great succession of kingdoms. May we find comfort and encouragement – the God that knew it all then, knows it all now. He was and is in control. We can rest in that assurance.