

described in the verse. "Whose brightness was excellent stood before thee and the form of it was terrible." The image's head was of fine gold. His breast and arms of silver; its belly and thighs of brass. The Hebrew word is "copper". Brass was just something shiny and flashy. It's any form of copper, brass, or bronze. We think of brass as something shiny and weak. We think of bronze as something strong. Both of them are forms of copper and the Hebrew word is copper -- or rather the Aramaic word it is here. His legs are of iron and his feet part of iron and part of clay. So this is the image that we see there.

Then we find something that happens to the image described in the next two verses. But then we find the interpretation. He says in vs. 37; "Thou, O king, art ~~the~~ a king of kings; for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power and strength, and glory. And wherever the children of men dwell . . . Thou art this head of gold." Now Daniel here was flattering Nebuchadnezzar when he said "wherever the children of men dwell the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heavens hath he given into thine hand" because actually Nebuchadnezzar held only the areas that are yellow on that map. He did not hold Media and Elam. He did not hold Armenia to the north. He did not hold Greece. He did not hold any of this area. He had great power within a sizeable area, but compared to the whole world, wherever the children of men dwell, it was a small area. Nebuchadnezzar had practically no contact with Greece, very little, and none at all with Italy and the regions further to the west. But this being given to (???) Nebuchadnezzar. It was very natural to call him the head of gold. If you think of the head as power, it was certainly in this area that Nebuchadnezzar's power was very great.

Then he says, vs. 39; "And after thee shall arise another kingdom . . . and the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron . . ." And of course the things we noticed in the last hour how Rome was able to tell Antiochus to withdraw from Egypt when he was just about to conquer it, how he smiled and withdrew from Egypt when he was just about to conquer it; how he smiled and withdrew even though he was all upset about it, shows the iron power of Rome at this particular period and the powerful (kingdom) of iron was so strong that it just the very word of Rome's desire would be a terror to many all over the world (????) After a time that power became very weak; eventually it just disappeared. It's weakness he described as its being mixed with clay. Rome's power discontinued.