

The Fifth Kingdom in Daniel: A Case for Islam as the Prophesied Eternal Kingdom

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The Book of Daniel contains one of the most profound and debated prophecies in Biblical scripture, the vision of a great statue in King **Nebuchadnezzar's** dream (Daniel 2) and the subsequent visions of beasts (**Daniel 7**). These prophecies outline the rise and fall of successive world empires, culminating in the establishment of the "Fifth Kingdom", the eternal Kingdom of God.

While traditional Christian interpretations claim this Fifth Kingdom refers to the spiritual reign of Christ, a closer examination of the text, historical context, and logical reasoning reveals that this prophecy aligns perfectly with the rise of Islam and the Islamic Caliphate predicting it to the tee.

The dream

A king named Belteshazzar had a weird dream that never occurred to him before, he dreamt of a statue and summoned all of the dream interpreters however none of them were able to answer him and satisfy his concern. Then the prophet Daniel came to him and offered an answer to that dream which he himself found to be rational and solid.

I shall describe the parts of the statue with letters ranging from A – D

(A) Head of Gold = Babylon (Daniel 2:38)

Daniel says the golden is Babylon, there's no dispute on it among any scholars.

(B) Chest & Arms of Silver = Medo-Persia (Daniel 8:20)

The Bible confirms Persia as Babylon's successor (Jeremiah 51:11, Daniel 5:28). More precisely it records Cyrus the Great to be the one referred to here, as a messiah as well (Isaiah 45:1-7).

(C) Belly & Thighs of Bronze = Greece (Daniel 8:21)

This is referring to the Greek empire led by Alexander the great, consensus on it is found as well. When Daniel 11:2-4 describes Greece's rapid conquest and division it concludes so.

(D) Legs of Iron & Feet of Iron/Clay = Rome

This refers to Rome no doubt, you have church fathers referring to it as Rome as well and historical evidence are present.

Talmud (Sanhedrin 98b) calls Rome the empire that "devours the earth."

אָמַר רַב: אֵין בֶּן דָּוִד בָּא עַד שֶׁתִּתְפֹּשֵׁט מַלְכוּת הָרְשָׁעָה עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְתִשָּׁעָה חֳדָשִׁים, שְׁנֵאמַר: "לִכֵּן יִתָּנָם עַד עֵת יוֹלְדָה יִלְדָה וַיֵּתֶר אָחִיו
יָשׁוּבוּן עַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל."

Rav says: The son of David will not come until the evil Roman kingdom will disperse throughout Eretz Yisrael for nine months, as it is stated: "Therefore will He give them up, until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of his brethren shall return with the children of Israel" (Micah 5:2).

Once a period equivalent to a term of pregnancy passes, the redemption will come.

Church Fathers (Hippolytus, Irenaeus, Jerome) unanimously affirm Rome (*Against Heresies* 5.26.1)

John and Daniel have predicted the dissolution and desolation of the Roman Empire, which shall precede the end of the world and the eternal kingdom of Christ. The Gnostics are refuted, those tools of Satan, who invent another Father different from the Creator.

1. In a still clearer light has John, in the Apocalypse, indicated to the Lord's disciples what shall happen in the last times, and concerning the ten kings who shall then arise, among whom the empire which now rules [the earth] shall be partitioned. He teaches us what the ten horns shall be which were seen by Daniel, telling us that thus it had been said to him: "And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet, but shall receive power as if kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and give their strength and power to the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, because He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings." Revelation 17:12, etc. It is manifest, therefore, that of these [potentates], he who is to come shall slay three, and subject the remainder to his power, and that he shall be himself the eighth among them. And they shall lay Babylon waste, and burn her with fire, and shall give their kingdom to the beast, and put the Church to flight. After that they shall be destroyed by the coming of our Lord. For that the kingdom must be divided, and thus come to ruin, the Lord [declares when He] says: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." Matthew 12:25 It must be, therefore, that the kingdom, the city, and the house be divided into ten; and for this reason He has already foreshadowed the partition and division [which shall take place]. Daniel also says particularly, that the end of the fourth kingdom consists in the toes of the image seen by Nebuchadnezzar, upon which came the stone cut out without hands; and as he does himself say: "The feet were indeed the one part iron, the other part clay, until the stone was cut out without hands, and struck the image upon the iron and clay feet, and dashed them into pieces, even to the end." Daniel 2:33-34 Then afterwards, when interpreting this, he says: "And as you saw the feet and the toes, partly indeed of clay, and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided, and there shall be in it a root of iron, as you saw iron mixed with baked clay. And the toes were indeed the one part iron, but the other part clay." Daniel 2:41-42 The ten toes, therefore, are these ten kings, among whom the kingdom shall be partitioned, of whom some indeed shall be strong and active, or energetic; others, again, shall be sluggish and useless, and shall not agree; as also Daniel says: "Some part of the kingdom shall be strong, and part shall be broken from it. As you saw the iron mixed with the baked clay, there shall be minglings among the human race, but no cohesion one with the other, just as iron cannot be welded on to pottery ware." Daniel 2:42-43 And since an end shall take place, he says: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven raise up a kingdom which shall never decay, and His kingdom shall not be left to another people. It shall break in pieces and shatter all kingdoms, and shall itself be exalted forever. As you saw that the stone was cut without hands from the mountain, and broke in pieces the baked clay, the iron, the brass, the silver, and the gold, God has pointed out to the king what shall come to pass after these things; and the dream is true, and the interpretation trustworthy." Daniel 2:44-45

Josephus as well identifies Rome (*Antiquities* 10.10.4). (Couldn't find a proper image.

The "divided" feet (iron + clay) match Rome's split into East & West

I shall now prove historically also why Rome fits that criterion specifically:



3 major points must be addressed,

1. **When and how Rome divided.**
2. **When and how Rome fell.**
3. **How Islam emerged during this period and fulfilled the prophecy.**

In 285 CE Emperor Diocletian divides Rome into Eastern & Western administrations for easier governance. Meanwhile later on in **395 CE** Emperor Theodosius I **permanently splits** the empire between his two sons western with Rome and eastern with Constantinople previously known as Byzantium or byzantana.

If 1 of the parts of Rome collapses does not equate to Rome itself falling. Western Rome did fall by the hands of the Visigoths, Vandals in 476 CE. The eastern continued off for literally 1000 more years. Daniel's prophecy requires total destruction of the fourth kingdom, so Rome's fall wasn't complete yet.

Muslim armies gradually conquer Byzantine territories:

1. **636-642 CE:** Lose Syria, Egypt, North Africa.
2. **1071 CE:** Battle of Manzikert—Turks take Anatolia.
3. **1453 CE:** Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II conquers Constantinople—the final deathblow to Rome.

So, to repeat it once again:

- **Babylon — Head of Gold:** Confirmed in Daniel 2:38 as the first kingdom.
- **Medo-Persia — Chest of Silver:** Identified in Daniel 8 and supported by Jewish and Christian traditions.
- **Greece — Belly and Thighs of Bronze:** Also confirmed in Daniel 8, representing Alexander's empire.
- **Rome — Legs of Iron, Feet of Iron and Clay:** Universally affirmed by early church fathers, Jewish commentators, and modern biblical scholars.

Does the dream end there? Nope it doesn't, it becomes juicy.

Daniel 2:44 states:

⁴⁴“**In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.**”

So firstly, the criterion for the 5th kingdom is the following:

- **Arise during the Roman Empire's existence.**
- **Come after Rome's division (395 CE)**
- **Destroy Rome and all prior empires**
- **It is established by God and lasts “forever” (‘olam in Aramaic, meaning an undefined or extensive period, not necessarily infinite).**

Who could this be? There's only 2 choices, Christianity or Islam. Let's look at it.

Christianity:

Jesus lived during the **height** of Roman power, preceding its division by over **360** years. Rome formally split into **Eastern** and **Western** empires in **395 CE**, while Jesus' ministry occurred circa 30 CE. As a result, Jesus' earthly mission does not align with Daniel's chronological prophecy. Furthermore, Jesus neither destroyed **Rome** nor supplanted it with a new kingdom. Instead, Christianity was later adopted by the Roman Empire, contradicting Daniel's depiction of a kingdom that would **crush Rome**.

Rome persecuted Christians for centuries. Even after Constantine (312 CE), Rome remained politically intact. The Western Empire fell to Germanic tribes (476 CE), not Christianity. Therefore, this prophecy demands a political, conquering kingdom (Daniel 2:44: **"it will crush all these kingdoms"**) If **"spiritual,"** why did Rome persecute Christians for 300 years?

A Christian could argue with using Daniel 7,

The Son of Man in Daniel 7 is Jesus!"

Daniel 7:18 clarifies: "**the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom.**" Daniel 7 introduces "**one like a son of man**" coming with the clouds of heaven and being given dominion (7:13–14). While Christians interpret this as Jesus, this application falters linguistically and contextually. The term "**son of man**" (**bar enash** in Aramaic) means "**a human being**" and signifies a servant of God, not God Himself.

Daniel 7:18 further clarifies that the dominion belongs to the "**holy people of the Most High**", a description befitting the Muslim ummah, who were prophesied in the Quran as inheritors of God's perfected religion.

While Rashi interprets the "son of man" as Israel, this interpretation does not preclude the Islamic claim. Islam identifies itself as the spiritual continuation and fulfilment of Israel's mission: monotheism, justice, and submission to God. Furthermore, Rashi agrees that Daniel 7 is **Messianic**. The Prophet Muhammad, as the seal of the prophets, fulfils the role of an anointed figure establishing God's final kingdom on Earth. Which shows a Rabbinic Consensus.

Addressing the "**Eternal Kingdom**" Objection would be easy when taking it in context, critics argue that Islam cannot be the fifth kingdom since its **Caliphate** was historically dismantled. However, the term '**olam**, often translated as "**forever**," frequently denotes a long duration or **era** rather than literal **eternity** (**Jeremiah 25:9; 29:12**). Moreover, Islam endures through its global ummah, making it a living and transformative force in the modern world. Unlike extinct empires, Islam remains the fastest-growing religion, with over 1.9 billion adherents globally. No empire lasts forever but Islam's **spiritual and legal system endures. Christianity's "eternal kingdom" never politically ruled the world**

Islam:

The Islamic Caliphate arose **after the division of Rome**, beginning in the 7th century CE. Within decades of the Prophet Muhammad's death in 632 CE, the Rashidun and Umayyad Caliphates:

- Controlled **Babylonian** lands (Iraq),
- Dominated former **Persian** territories (Iran),
- Occupied **Greece's** old territories (Syria and Egypt),
- Conquered and ultimately **overthrew Rome's capital, Constantinople, in 1453** under the Ottomans.

Islam fulfils every condition of Daniel's prophecy:

- It arose **after Rome's division**.
- It **crushed and succeeded** prior empires.
- It was **founded on divine revelation** through the Prophet Muhammad

The “**stone cut without hands**” mentioned in **Daniel 2:34** symbolizes a divine origin, perfectly aligning with Islam as a God-revealed faith.

The prophecy of the fifth kingdom in Daniel is not a generic Messianic hope nor an affirmation of Christian imperial history. When analyzed through historical, textual, and theological lenses, it points directly and powerfully to **Islam** as the final divine kingdom prophesied in scripture. It is a kingdom not built by human hands but established by God. A kingdom that arose after Rome's division, conquered prior empires, and continues to shape the world today. In every rational and scriptural sense, Islam is the Fifth Kingdom of God in the Book of Daniel with no hesitation.

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