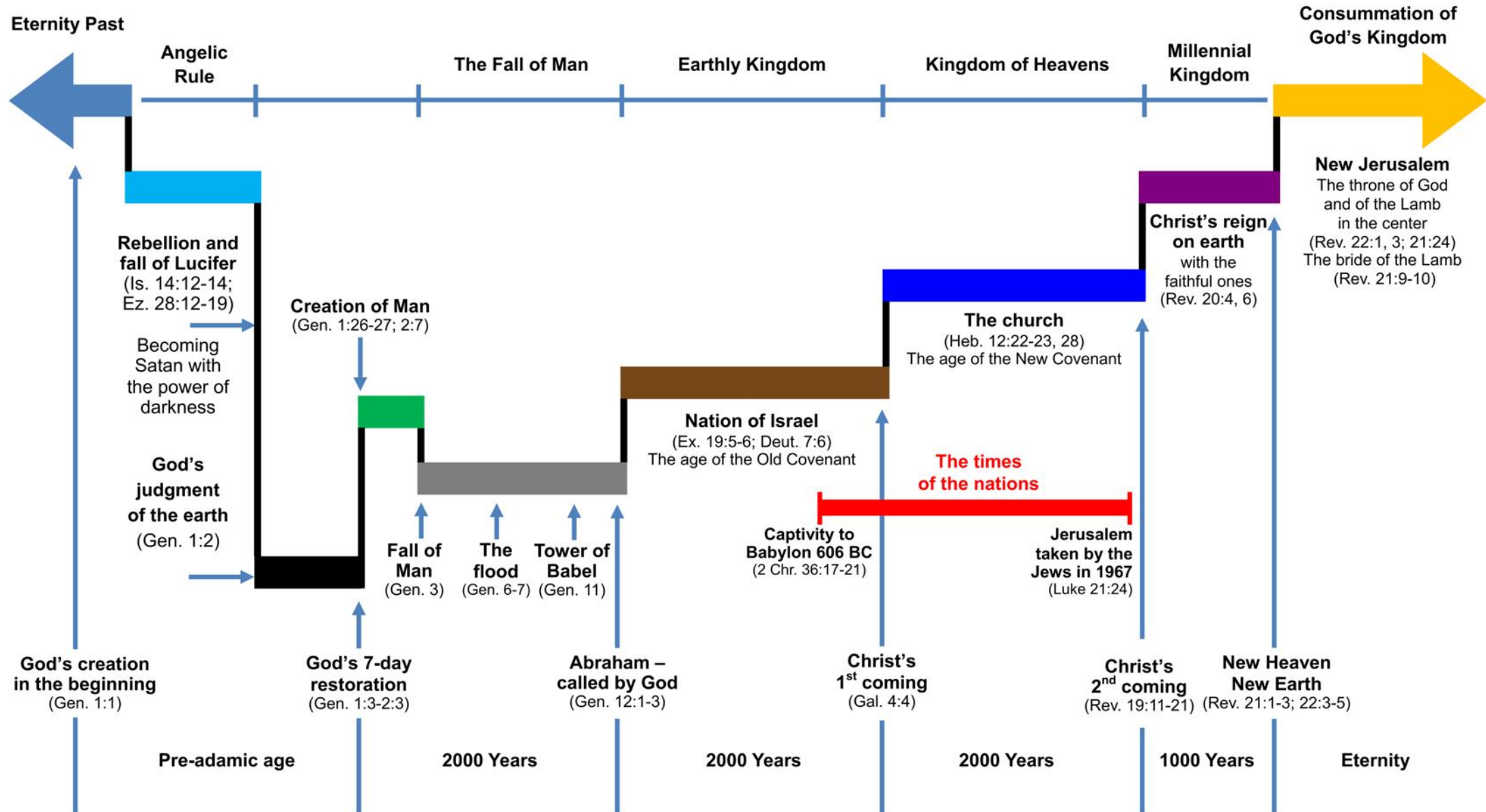


The Signs of the Times – The End of an Era

THE PROPHECY IN DANIEL CHAPTER 2

The Different Dispensations of the Kingdom of God on Earth



King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

(Daniel 2:31-33)

3



*“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.*

*This image's **head** was of fine gold, its **chest** and **arms** of silver, its **belly** and **loins** of bronze, its **legs** of iron, its **feet** partly of iron and partly of clay.”*

(Daniel 2:31-33)

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

(Daniel 2:34-35)

4



*“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.*

*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.*

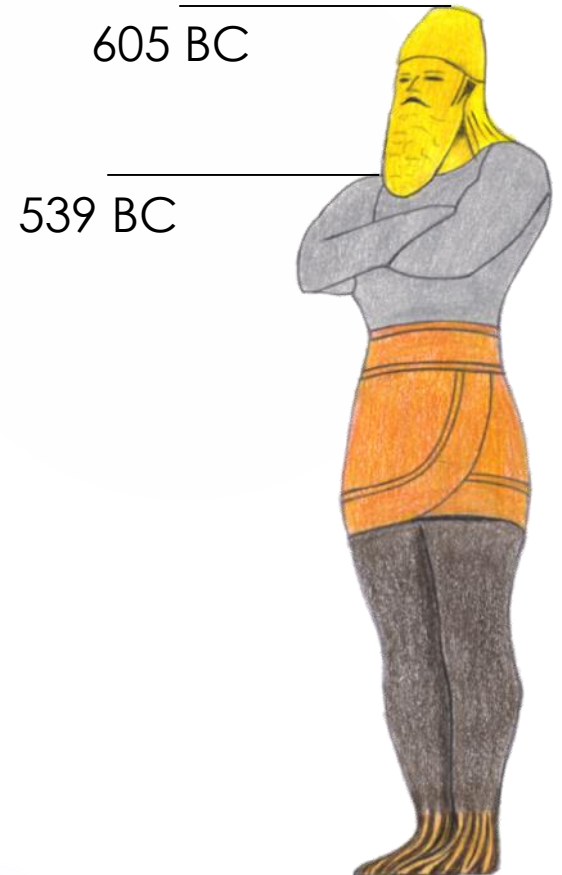
*And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and **filled the whole earth.**”*

(Daniel 2:34-35)

The Image – Golden Head



- ▶ The first era – the Babylonian Empire
 - “You, O king, ... **you are this head of gold**” (Daniel 2:37-38)
 - **Nebuchadnezzar II**, King of Babylon, reigned for 43 years (605 - 562 B.C.)
 - The blossoming of the Babylonian Empire
 - The span of the empire: Mediterranean and Persian Gulf
- ▶ **The end** of the Babylonian Empire
 - Last king: Nabonidus (from 556 BC) and Belshazzar, his son and coregent
 - **539 BC** – Belshazzar killed and Babylon conquered by the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:30 - 6:1)



The Image – Silver Chest and Arms

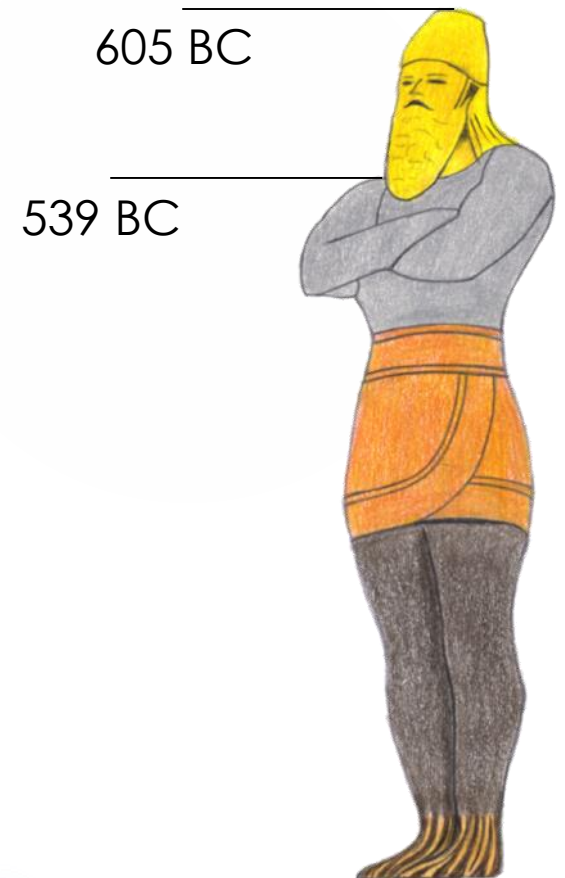


► The second era – the Medo-Persian Empire

- “But after you shall arise **another kingdom inferior** to yours;” (Daniel 2:39)
- “Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had **two horns**, and the two horns were high; but **one was higher than the other**, and the higher one came up last.” (Daniel 8:3)
- “The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the **kings of Media and Persia.**” (Daniel 8:20)

► The two arms and two horns – the Medo and Persian Empires

- The Medo Empire - the **weaker** empire (left arm, lower horn)
- The Persian Empire - the **stronger** empire (right arm, higher horn)

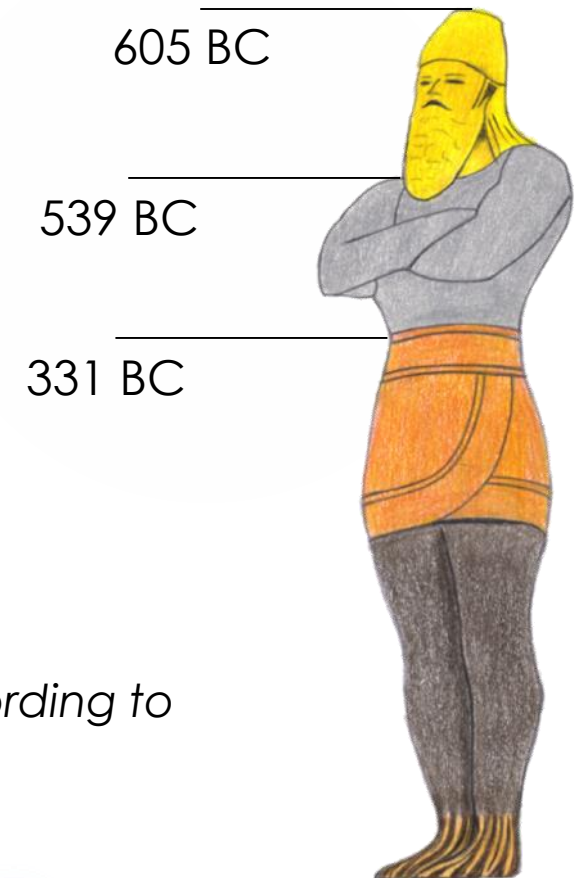


The Image – Bronze Belly and Loins



7

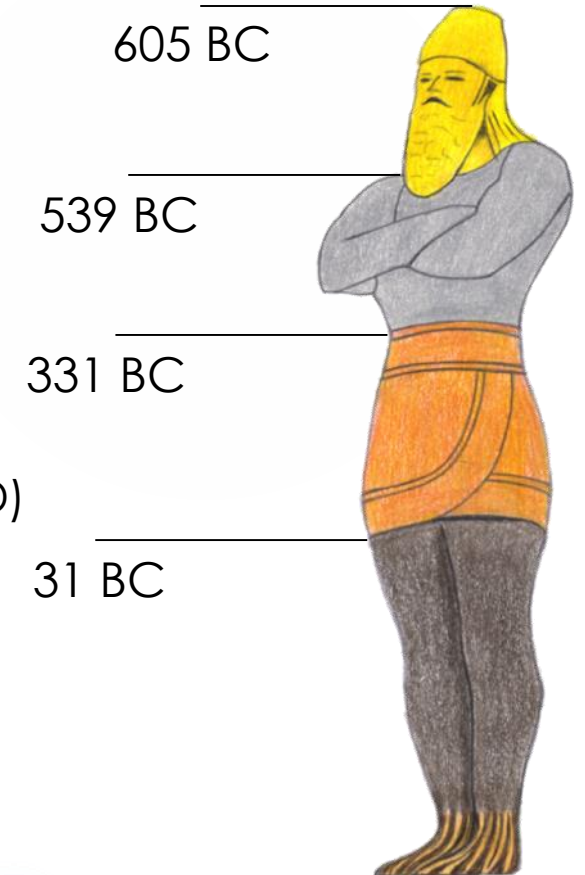
- ▶ The third era – the Grecian (Hellenistic) Empire
 - “...then another, **a third kingdom of bronze**, which shall rule over all the earth.” (Daniel 2:39)
 - “And the male goat is the kingdom of **Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is **the first king**.**” (Daniel 8:21)
- ▶ The large horn, the first king – **Alexander the Great**
 - Victory over the Persian dominance (333/**331 BC**)
 - At the height of his power, he suddenly died at 32 years old (323 B.C.)
 - “...when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it **four notable ones** came up ..., but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled.” (Daniel 8:8, 22; see also Daniel 11:2-35)
- ▶ The four smaller horns – **four generals** divide the empire



The Image – Iron Legs



- ▶ The fourth era – The Roman Empire
 - “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.**” (Daniel 2:40)
- ▶ The beginning: Augustus becomes first Roman Emperor (31 BC)
- ▶ The two legs - **division** of the Roman Empire (began 395 BC)
 - The Western Empire (ended 476 AD), the Eastern Empire (ended 1453 AD)
 - Religion: Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church
- ▶ **Further development** of the Roman Empire
 - The Roman Catholic Church (Approx. 1200 years)
 - The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation (1254 – 1806 AD)

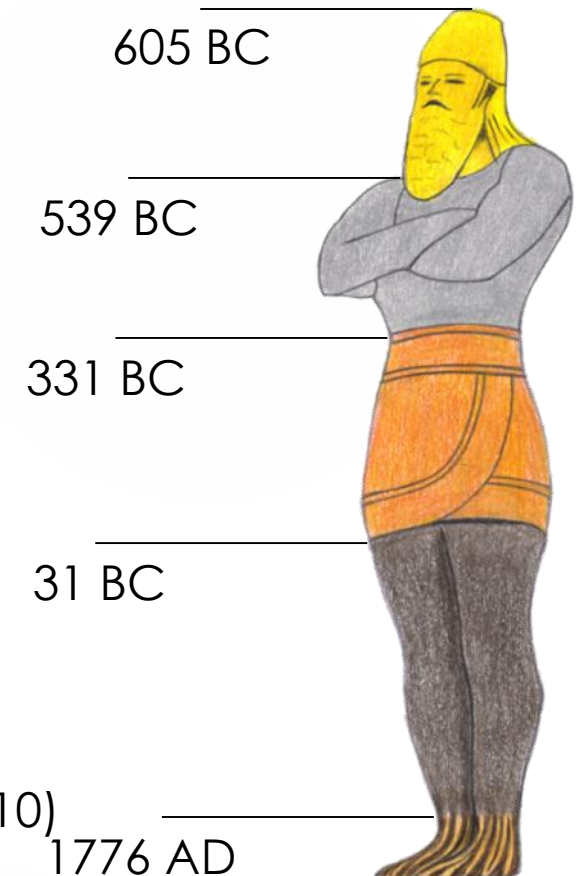


The Image – Feet of Iron and Clay

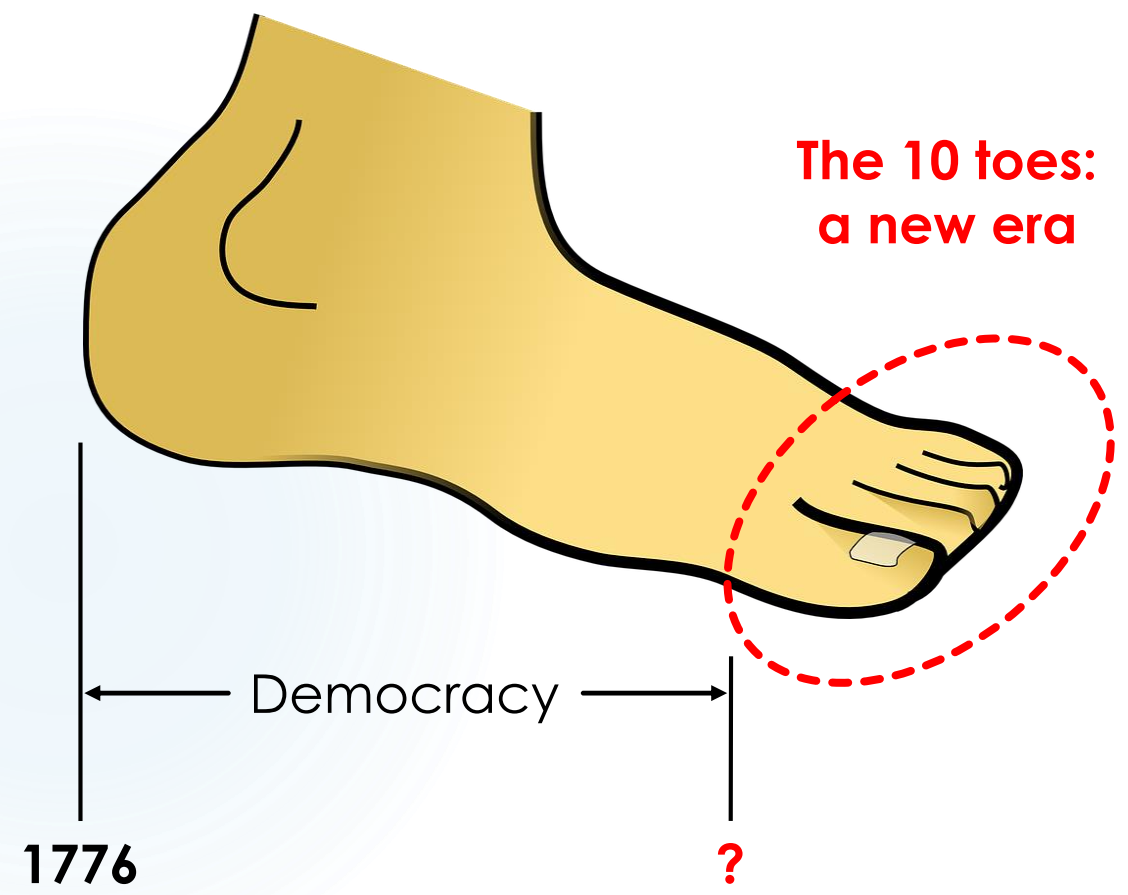
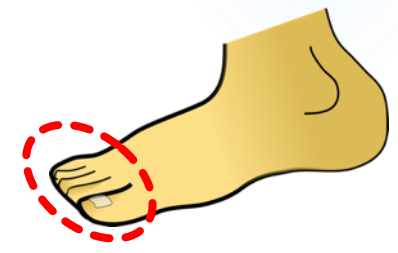


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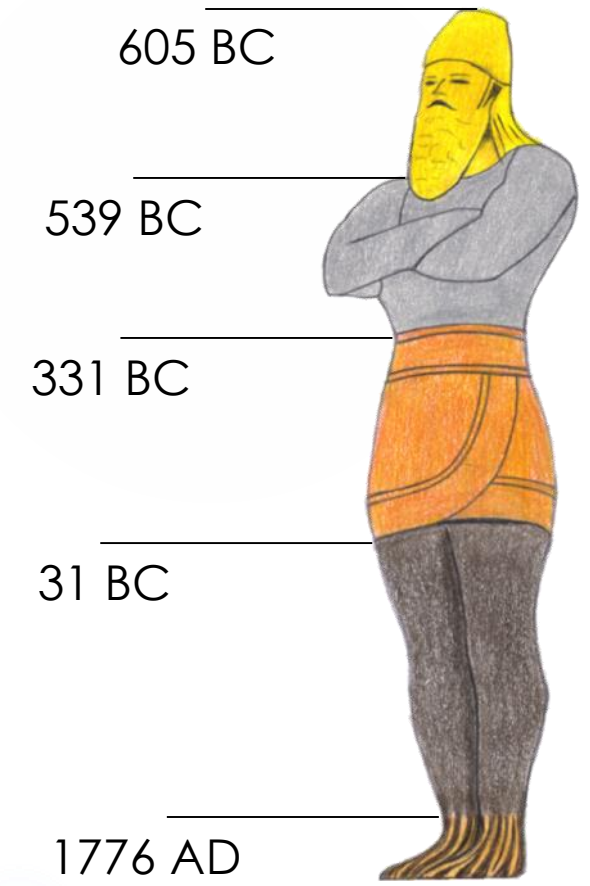
- ▶ The fifth era – The age of democracy
 - “As you saw **iron mixed with ceramic clay**...but they will **not adhere to one another**, just as iron does not mix with clay.” (Daniel 2:43)
- ▶ **Democracy** – δῆμος [dēmos] = **people**, κρατία [kratía] = **rule**
 - Iron - a symbol for ruling (see Revelation 2:27)
 - Clay - a symbol for the people (see Isaiah 64:8)
- ▶ **Development** of democracy
 - Declaration of Independence in the USA (1776)
 - The French (1789) and European Revolutions (1848/1849)
 - The end of the empires after World War I (1918/1919)
 - The decay of the Eastern Bloc (1989-1991), the Arab Spring (since 2010)



The Image – The 10 Toes



**The 10 toes:
a new era**

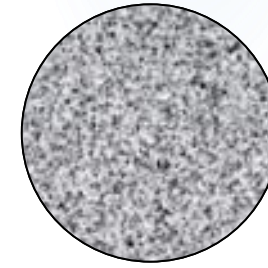


The 10 Toes in Daniel = The 10 Horns in Revelation

“a brutal, bestial man, savage, ferocious” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon)

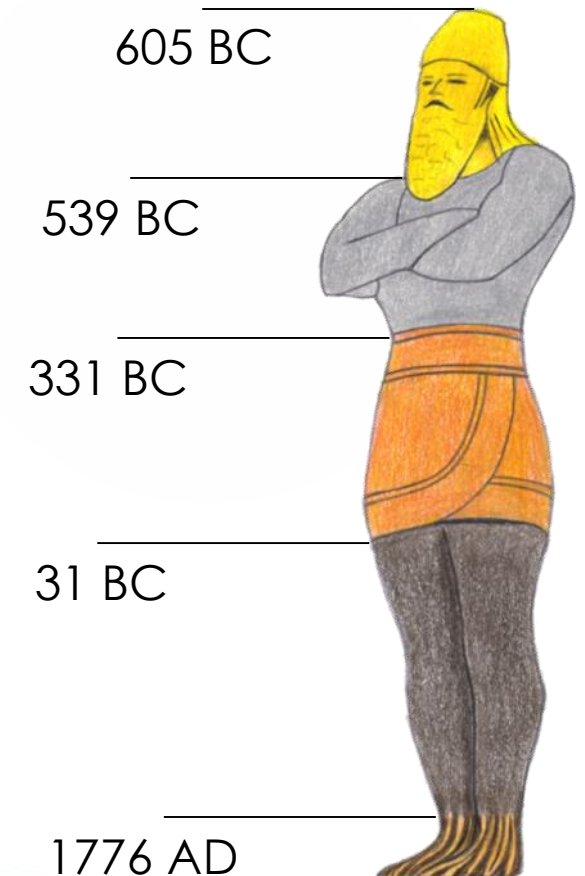
- ▶ “And I saw a **beast** [Antichrist] rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and **ten horns**, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.” (Revelation 13:1)
- ▶ The last 3 ½ years – “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months**.” (Revelation 13:5)
- ▶ “The **ten horns** which you saw are **ten kings** who have received no kingdom as yet, but they **receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast**. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.” (Revelation 17:12-13)

The Image – The Stone



12

- ▶ The **second coming of Jesus Christ** at the end of the age of the 10 toes
 - For the **judgment** of the whole world
“...they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24:30)
 - “The **ten horns** which you saw are **ten kings** who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the **beast**. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will **make war** with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” (Revelation 17:12-14)
 - Details in Revelation 19:11-21



The Image – The Mountain



- ▶ The beginning of a new age - God's Kingdom on Earth
 - “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.**”
(Daniel 2:44)
 - As **King** over God's eternal kingdom

“And behold, One like the **Son of Man**, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to **Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an **everlasting** dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which **shall not be destroyed.**” (Daniel 7:13-14)



Summary of the Dream

"This image's head was of fine gold..."

- The Babylonian Empire (Daniel 2:32a)

"...its chest and arms of silver..."

- The Medo-Persian Empire (Daniel 2:32b; 8:20)

"...its belly and lions of bronze..."

- The Grecian Empire (Daniel 2:32c; 8:21)

"...its legs of iron..."

- The Roman Empire and its offshoots (Daniel 2:33a)

"...its feet partly of iron and partly of clay."

- Democracy (Daniel 2:33b)

"...the stone ... filled the whole earth."

- God's eternal kingdom on earth (Daniel 2:35c, 44)

605 B.C.

539 BC

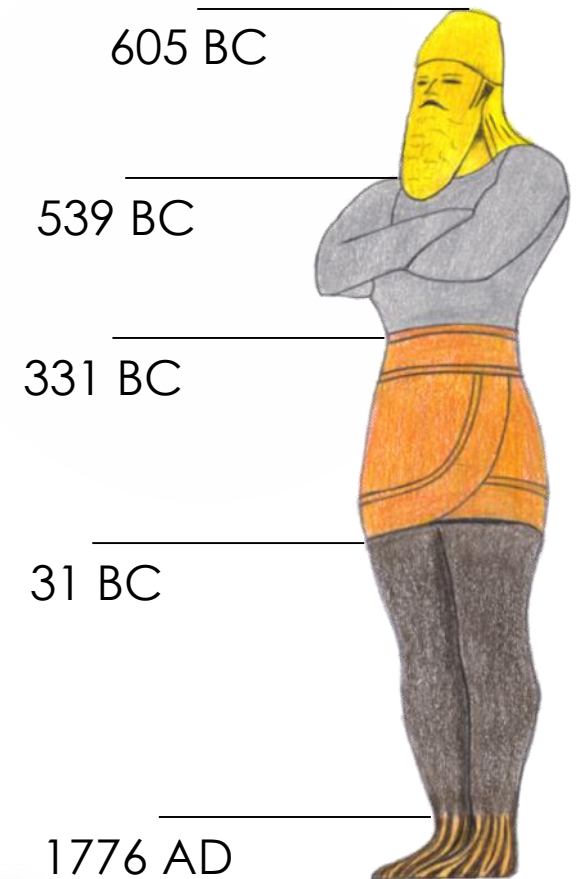
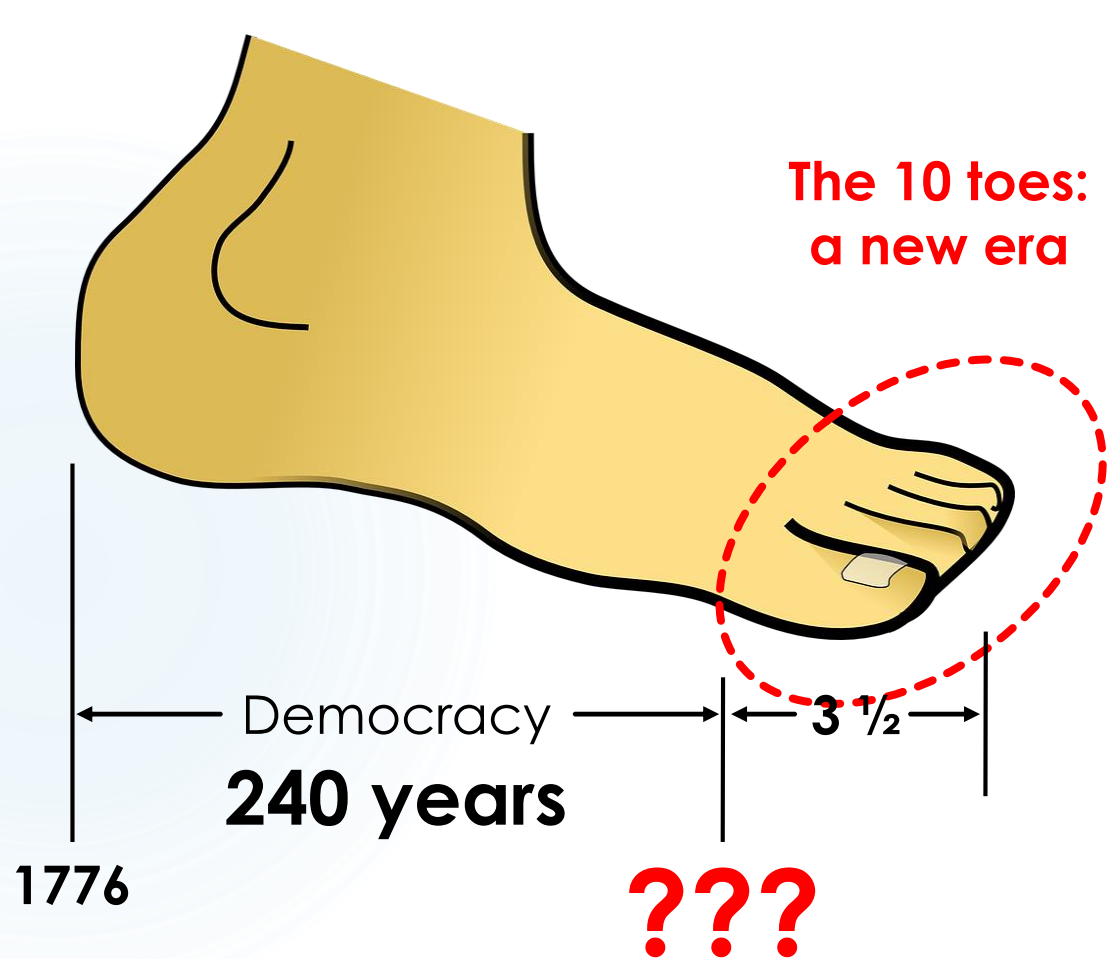
331 BC

31 BC

1776 AD



What Point in Time Are We In?



The End of an Era

- ▶ The decadence in democracy
- ▶ The act or process of falling into an inferior condition or state; deterioration; decay
- ▶ Moral degeneration or decay; turpitude
- ▶ Unrestrained or excessive self-indulgence

Corruption in the Government

17

- ▶ Corruption at every level of government
 - ▶ Executive
 - ▶ Legislative
 - ▶ Judicial
 - ▶ DOJ & FBI



Lynch says tarmac meeting with Bill Clinton was 'regrettable'

Published December 18, 2016

Attorney General Loretta Lynch on Sunday said she “regretted” her controversial tarmac meeting with former President Bill Clinton this summer while the FBI was still investigating Hillary Clinton’s use of a secret server for her emails during her tenure as secretary of state.



Kevin Johnson, USA TODAY 4:52 p.m. EDT July 1, 2016

AG Lynch will accept decision of FBI, prosecutors on Clinton email probe

The New York Times

F.B.I. Director James Comey Recommends No Charges for Hillary Clinton on Email

By MARK LANDLER and ERIC LICHTBLAU JULY 5, 2016

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Home World U.S. Politics Economy Business Tech Markets Opinion Arts Life Real Estate

POLITICS | ELECTION 2016

White House Coordinated on Clinton Email Issues, New Documents Show

Emails obtained by the Republican National Committee find close contact with Hillary Clinton’s nascent presidential campaign in early 2015

By BYRON TAU

Updated Oct. 7, 2016 3:56 p.m. ET

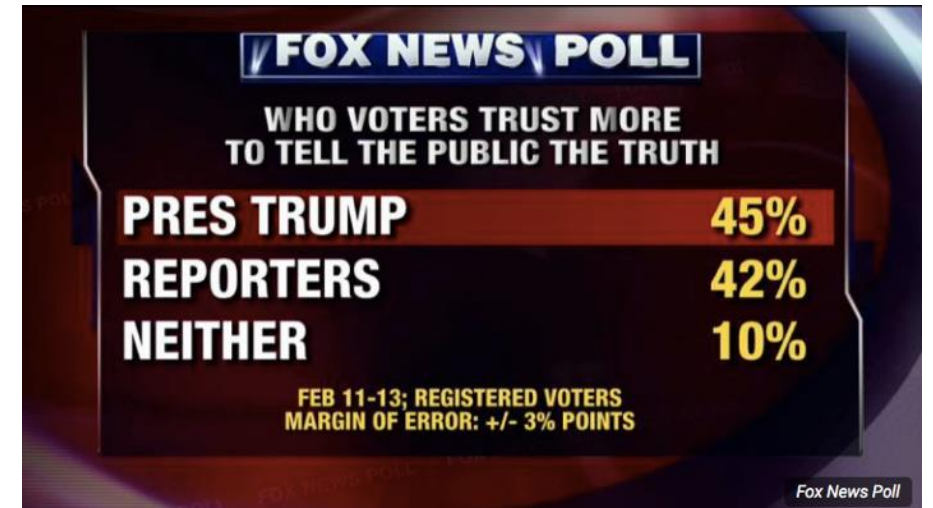
WASHINGTON—Newly disclosed emails show top Obama administration officials were in close contact with Hillary Clinton’s nascent presidential campaign in early 2015 about the potential fallout from revelations that the former secretary of state used a private email server.

Corrupted Media

- ▶ Fake news and false narrative in mainstream media and social media
- ▶ For the **mystery of lawlessness is already at work**;...The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders**, and **with all unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should **believe the lie**, that they all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth** but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**. (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12)



Kurtz: New Poll Shows Voters Have 'So Much Distrust' of the Media



The Washington Post
The New York Times



Lawless in Government



POLITICS | Sat Mar 11, 2017 | 1:32pm EST

Maryland to join other states in court challenge to Trump's travel ban

RadixNews.com

USA TODAY Search

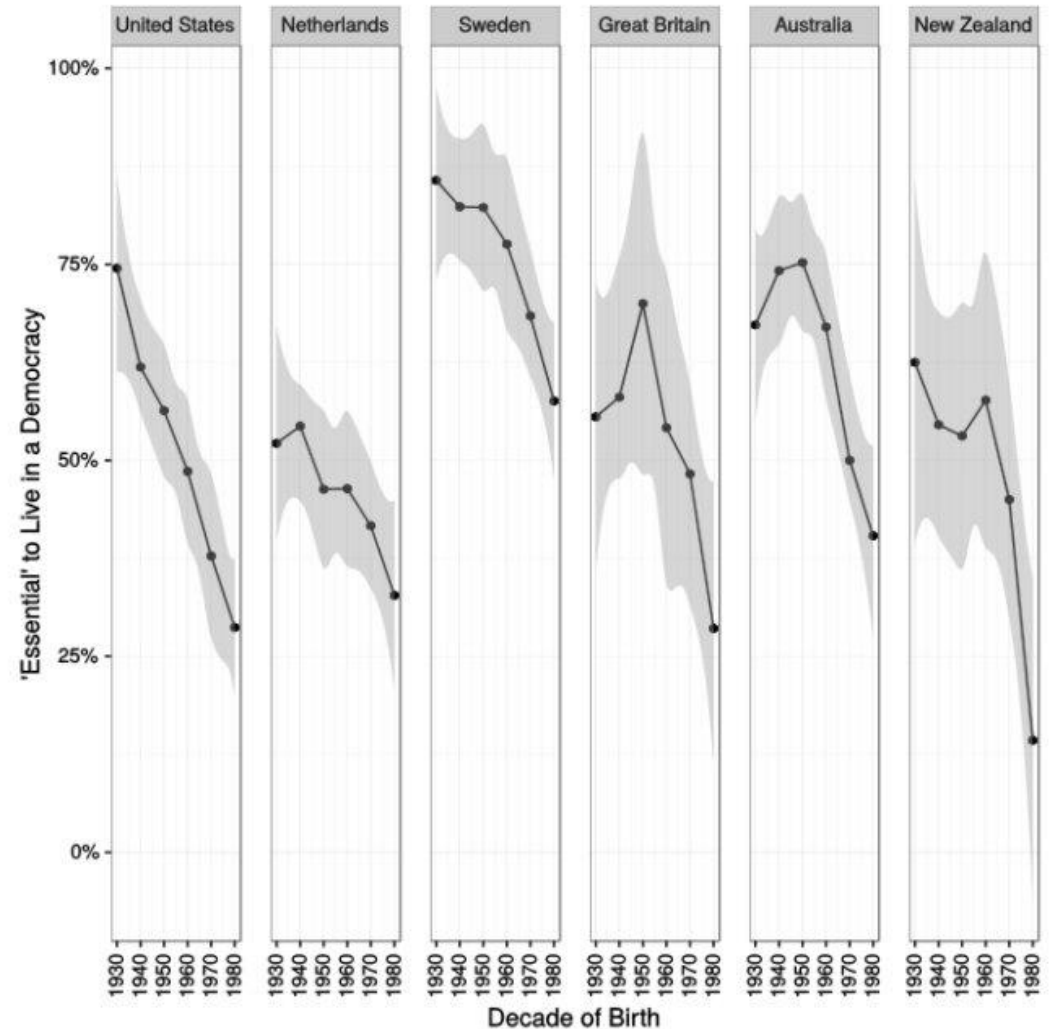
NEWS SPORTS LIFE MONEY TECH TRAVEL OPINION 70° CROSSWORDS WASHINGTON VIDEO STOCKS

Hawaii judge extends halt on Trump travel ban

Alan Gomez, USA TODAY Published 10:52 p.m. ET March 29, 2017 | Updated 10:34 a.m. ET March 30, 2017

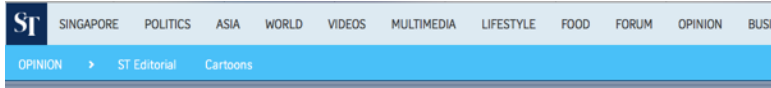
Rise of the Millennial Generation

- ▶ 2 Timothy 3:1-4
 - ▶ *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*
 - ▶ *For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*
 - ▶ *unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,*
 - ▶ *traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*
- ▶ Do not want democracy



The End of Democracy

21



Trump, Brexit and the end of an era

"We do not know exactly what the future holds for us in world politics. But we can be sure of one thing. We are at the end of an era."
(The Straits Times, 11/21/2016)



Does Trump win mark the end for liberal democracy?

"With one referendum and a presidential election, liberal democracy as we've known it seems finally, dramatically, to have collapsed in itself." (11/11/2016)



Democracy After Trump

"When U.S. President-elect Donald Trump takes office on January 20, he will face a world with more authoritarian momentum and greater democratic instability than at any time in the last several decades." (11/16)

"Between 2000 and 2015, democracy broke down in 27 countries." (08/16)



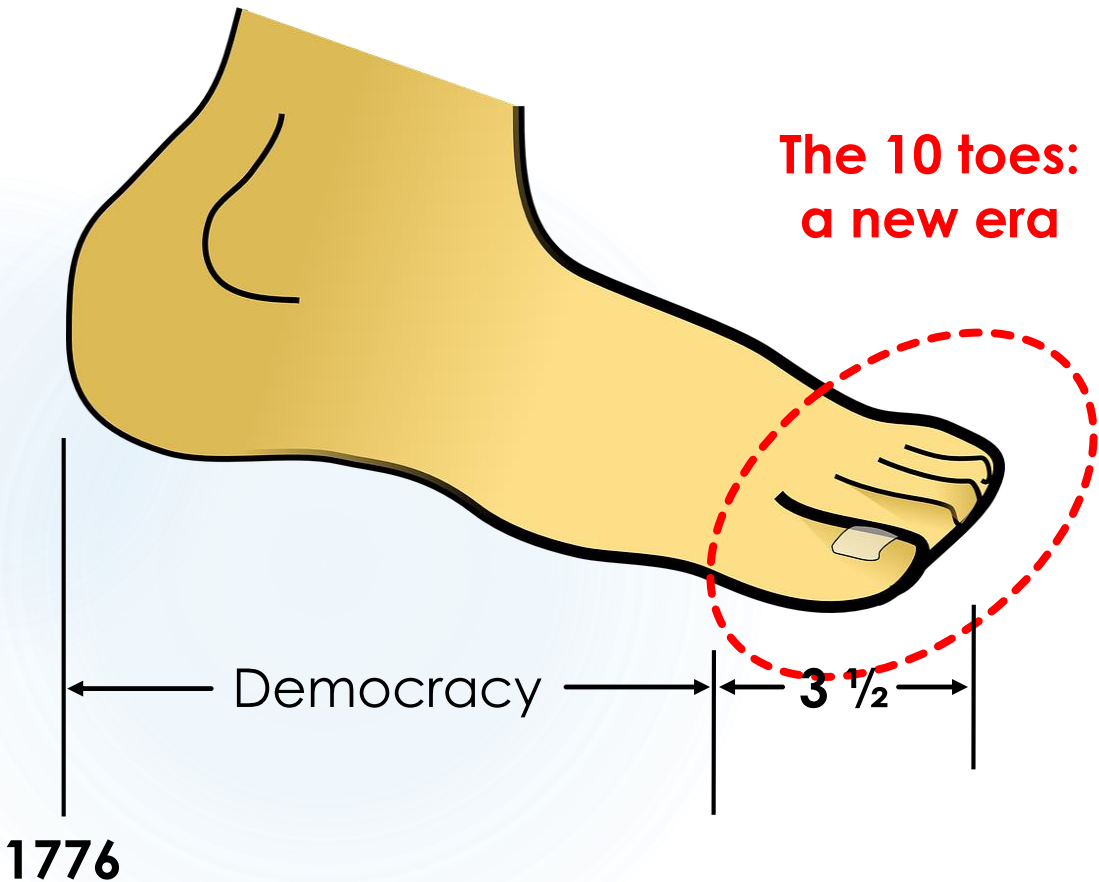
English Site > World > 2016 US Presidential Election > Trump Is the Product of the Erosion of Liberal Democracy

Brutal Historical Logic

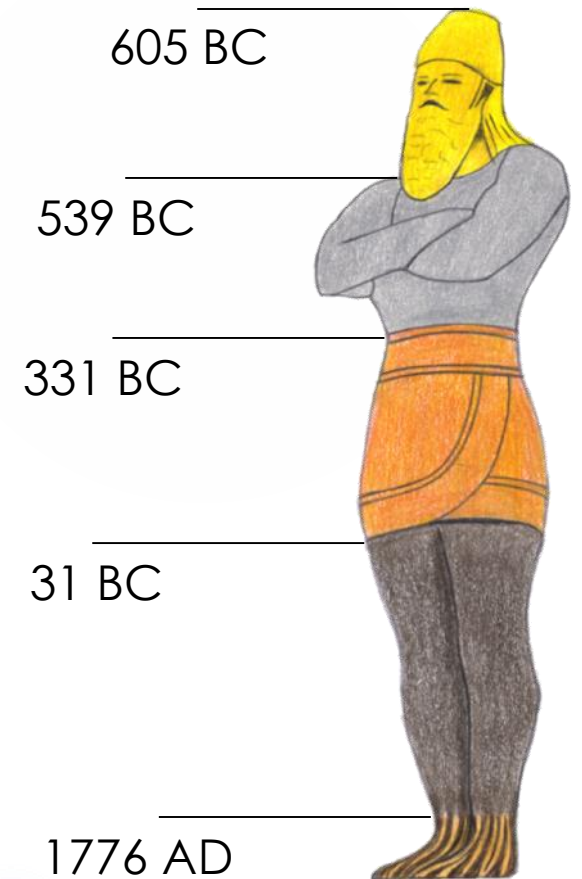
Democracy at a Dead-End in America

On the eve of the US election, Hillary Clinton has a lead in the polls, but it's a small one. Donald Trump's success is the logical outcome of the decades-long erosion of liberal democracy in America.

What Comes Next?



- ▶ The final 3½ years
- ▶ The beginning of the great day of God's wrath
- ▶ The appearing of the beast, Antichrist
- ▶ The 10 kings will rule with the beast
- ▶ The war of Armageddon



What Point in Time Are We at?

- ▶ *“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light..”* (Romans 13:11-12)
- ▶ *“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near..”* (Luke 21:28)
- ▶ *“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”*
(Revelation 1:3)
- ▶ Conclusion – a solemn warning from the Lord
 - *“But **take heed to yourselves**, lest your hearts be **weighed down** with carousing, drunkenness, and **cares of this life**, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*
(Luke 21:34, 36)

Take heed!

HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.