

The Prophecies of Daniel: Stone, Beasts, and Kingdom

Scholarly Interpretations with LDS Perspective

DANIEL 2: NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

The Vision: A great statue with head of gold, chest of silver, belly of bronze, legs of iron, feet of iron/clay. A **stone cut without hands** strikes the feet, destroys the statue, and becomes a mountain filling the whole earth.

The Four Kingdoms

Part	Material	Kingdom
Head	Gold	Babylon (explicitly stated)
Chest/Arms	Silver	Medo-Persia
Belly/Thighs	Bronze	Greece
Legs	Iron	Rome
Feet	Iron + Clay	Divided Kingdoms

The Stone Kingdom (Daniel 2:44)

"In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will **never be destroyed**... it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself **endure forever**."

Tradition	Stone Kingdom =
Jewish	Future messianic age
Catholic	The Church
Protestant	Christ's kingdom (spiritual/millennial)
LDS	The Restored Church

DANIEL 7: FOUR BEASTS

Beast	Description	Kingdom
Lion	Eagle's wings, made to stand like man	Babylon
Bear	Raised on one side, 3 ribs in mouth	Medo-Persia
Leopard	4 wings, 4 heads	Greece
Fourth	Iron teeth, 10 horns, little horn	Rome

The Ancient of Days (Dan 7:9-10)

"Thrones were set up, and the **Ancient of Days** took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames..."

Tradition	Ancient of Days =
Jewish, Catholic, Protestant	God the Father
LDS	Adam (Michael)

The Son of Man (Dan 7:13-14)

"One like a **Son of Man** was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days... to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom... His dominion is an **everlasting dominion**."

All traditions agree: The Son of Man = The Messiah. Jesus explicitly claimed this title (Mark 14:62).

DANIEL 9: SEVENTY WEEKS

"Seventy weeks are decreed... from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until **Messiah the Prince** there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks... Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be **cut off**."

The Calculation

70 weeks = 70×7 years = **490 years**
69 weeks (483 years) until Messiah
Starting point: Decree to rebuild Jerusalem (~457 BCE)
Endpoint: ~27-30 CE (Jesus's ministry/death)

THE LDS INTERPRETATION

The Stone = The Restored Church

D&C 65:2: "The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, **as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.**"

Joseph Smith: "I calculate to be one of the instruments in setting up the kingdom of Daniel."

Moroni quoted Daniel 2 to Joseph Smith as among prophecies about to be fulfilled.

Why "Cut Without Hands"?

The Restoration was not a human reform movement (Protestantism) but a **divine restoration** through angelic ministration and prophetic calling. It came from heaven, not from men.

The Ancient of Days = Adam

D&C 27:11: "Michael, or Adam, the father of all, the prince of all, **the ancient of days.**"

Joseph Smith: "Daniel vii speaks of the Ancient of days he means the oldest man, our father Adam, Michael."

Adam-ondi-Ahman: The Grand Council

Before Christ's Second Coming:

- Adam and righteous posterity gather
- Those who held keys give reports
- Adam delivers stewardship to Christ
- Christ assumes "reins of government"

Location: Daviess County, Missouri (D&C 116)

WHY LDS INTERPRETATION FITS

- ✓ "In the days of these kings" — European monarchs ruled in 1830
- ✓ "Cut without hands" — Divine origin, not human reform
- ✓ "Fills the whole earth" — Church has spread worldwide
- ✓ "Never destroyed" — Church has endured persecutions
- ✓ D&C 65 claims direct fulfillment

OTHER INTERPRETATIONS

Catholic: The Church is the stone kingdom — has survived 2,000 years and all empires that opposed it.

Protestant: Christ's kingdom — either spiritual (now) or millennial (future). Some see Daniel 9's timing as proof Jesus is Messiah.

Jewish: The messianic age is unfulfilled — no world peace, no Temple, therefore prophecy awaits completion.

SDA: 2300 days (Dan 8:14) = 2300 years ending in 1844. Little horn = Papal Rome. Stone kingdom = Christ's return.

SUMMARY

Prophecy	LDS Interpretation
Stone kingdom (Dan 2)	Restored Church (1830)
Ancient of Days (Dan 7)	Adam (Michael)
Son of Man (Dan 7)	Jesus Christ
70 weeks (Dan 9)	Points to Christ's ministry
Grand Council	Future at Adam-ondi-Ahman

The LDS Distinctive:

Daniel 2 = Restoration happening NOW
Daniel 7 = Future council BEFORE Second Coming
Both prophecies being fulfilled through the Restored Gospel