

FEET OF CLAY

Dan. 2:31-35

by Homer Hailey

Introduction:

- A. Every idol and image created by man has its feet of clay — clay because of the earth, earthy.
- B. From time immemorial man has built his towers and his images, but always they have tottered when struck by the stone cut out without hands, they have fallen. Cf. Gen. 11:1-9.

I. THE IMAGE OF NEBUCHADNEZZER'S DREAM.

- A. Judah in Babylonian exile; the king's dream, perplexity of the soothsayers, 2:1-13.
- B. Daniel's assurance that the God of heaven could interpret the dream, 2:14-30.
- C. The dream and its interpretation, 3:31-45.
- D. The fulfillment of the dream: the fall and rise and rise and fall of nations: Bab., MP, Mac., Rome.
- E. The lesson to us: Every **image** human in nature has its feet of clay; every **idol** we create brings disaster to its worshiper, Rom. 1:18ff.

II. IMAGES OF TODAY WITH THEIR FEET OF CLAY.

A. National powers.

- 1. Those of Neb's dream fell; so all that followed after.
- 2. In the days of Ahaz Judah sought to make a covenant with Tiglath-pilezer, Isa. 7 w/ 2 Kgs. 16:7.
 - a. Later with Egypt, but to come to nought, Isa. 28:14-19.
 - b. But their image had feet of clay; fell.
- 3. Our own image: mighty power in arms, wealth; but how quickly it can totter, as Rome, the power of John's day, Rev. 13; 19:19-20.

B. Wealth.

- 1. Men labor for a lifetime to accumulate wealth, or to build great economic powers; but they build for the fire, Hab. 2:9-13.
- 2. There is no sin in the possession of riches; the sin is in trusting in them, Mk. 10:24-25.
- 3. Covetousness is idolatry, Col. 3:5; flee it, 1 Cor. 10:14-15.
- 4. When the time of real need comes one finds that his financial image has

feet of clay. The stone of God's judgment smites, it falls as the harlot, Babylon the great, Rev. 18:2.

C. Men.

1. All of us are prone to have our heroes, some man to whom we look as an ideal.
2. It is human to admire, but each has his feet of clay.
 - a. Peter at Antioch, Gal. 2:11-13.
 - b. Paul's vow at Jerusalem I do not understand, Acts 21:17-26.
3. Men of our own age: A. C. Campbell, J. W. McGarvey.
4. Men of the present controversy.
5. **Only one whom we can follow implicitly, Jesus.** Jno. 8:12; 14:6; 1 Pet. 2:21-25.

D. Human institutions.

1. Schools: Bethany College, Add-Ran College to TCU, and many others. Those operated today. Each has its feet of clay.
2. Papers: human, weak, built to become great, yield a great influence, but eventually go down. Feet of clay.
3. Denominations: doctrines of men, Matt. 15:7-13.
4. Human philosophy and wisdom. Of these, men become enamored.
 - a. Warned against danger of philosophy, Col. 2:8-10; and the wisdom of men, 1 Cor. 1:18-25.
 - b. When these become sufficiently great that men can take refuge in them, they simply await the impact of the stone of truth to bring them to the ground, shattered and destroyed.

Conclusion:

1. In the midst of the ruin of the fallen image God built a kingdom which should never be destroyed, Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:28.
2. It is only in that kingdom of truth that man can build today and have no fear of being shaken.
3. Will you come to build in it?