

## Chapter 4 Feet of Clay

**Introduction.** The statue was so impressive. It towered above the earth in the King's dream! None of the King's magicians or sorcerers could fulfill the King's request. Not only did the King demand an interpretation of his dream, but the magicians and sorcerers must also tell him the dream itself. If they couldn't, they would be "*torn from limb to limb*"; and, everything they owned would be reduced to rubble (Daniel 2:5)! *Not a good time to be a magician!*

The Hebrew slave who saved the day is named, "Daniel." His interpretation of the dream coined a phrase used even to the modern day – "*feet of clay*". . . *So strong, but deceptively, so very weak.*

The book of Daniel includes two chapters that are essential to interpreting Bible prophecy in the Last Days. Daniel 2 and 7 are filled with no less than eleven separate characteristics given to identify satan's instrument, his hand, in holy war. Each of these chapters uses a metaphor to describe an empire in the Last Days that will wage this war against the kingdom of God. A statue is present in Daniel 2 and a ten horned beast is present in Daniel 7. Each of these two chapters include characteristics in the metaphor that are given to identify the hand of satan in Last Days' prophecies. Each characteristic standing alone is not sufficient to conclude who this instrument might be; but taken together, their combined weight all pointing to the same instrument, makes the identification almost irrefutable.

Here is how we are going to do this. Imagine a picture puzzle with many separate pieces to the puzzle. Each time Islam fulfills a characteristic in the Bible's metaphor, we will "lay a piece to the puzzle." After we have laid all the pieces to the puzzle, we will be able to see satan's hand in Daniel's prophecy of the Last Days.

This chapter will identify the last kingdom symbolized by the feet of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Daniel 2.

**King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2) and Daniel's Vision (Daniel 7).** The year is 603 BC.<sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has had a dream. Daniel, perhaps age 15, an Israelite captive in exile in Babylon, has come forward to both reveal the dream and to provide its interpretation. A single statue appears in the dream. The head of the statue is made of gold (2:31). It has breast and arms of silver (2:32); belly and thighs of bronze (2:32); legs of iron (2:33); and feet, partly of iron and partly of clay (2:33). In the dream, a stone is cut out of a mountain, without hands, and strikes the statue on its feet, crushing the feet of iron and clay (2:34). Then, the iron, clay, bronze, silver and gold, are all crushed to pieces at the same time. The wind sweeps them away without leaving a trace behind (2:35). The stone that struck the statue becomes a huge mountain and fills the whole earth (2:35).

Daniel then provides the King the interpretation of the King's dream. The first three parts of the statue –

the head of gold, breast of silver, and thighs of bronze – represent three kingdoms, each of which will defeat the next.<sup>2</sup> The legs of iron represent a fourth kingdom which will be as strong as iron (2:40). This kingdom will crush the other kingdoms – just as iron crushes and shatters everything (2:40). In the time of these kingdoms, God will set up a kingdom that will not be destroyed (2:44). This kingdom will be the stone “cut out of the mountain without hands” (2:34, 45). This kingdom will put an end to all these kingdoms (2:35), and it will endure forever (2:44).

**The Feet of Iron and Clay.** The traditional interpretation of Bible scholars is that the kingdoms represented in the statue of Nebuchadnezzar are as follows (see Stephen Miller, *Daniel*, pp. 92 -102, for a thorough discussion of each characteristic):

1. Head of Gold - *Babylon* (destroys Jerusalem, 586BC; and, the text names Babylon as the head of gold in 2:37);
2. Chest and arms of silver - *Medo-Persia* (539-331BC);
3. Belly and thighs of bronze - ancient *Greek Empire* (331BC - 146BC);
4. Legs of iron, including feet made of iron and clay - *Rome* (146BC - 476AD).<sup>3</sup>

The above view is supported by history. Medo-Persia defeated Babylon in 539 BC and continued its dominion of Babylon until 331BC when it was defeated by the Greeks, led by Alexander the Great.<sup>4</sup> The Roman Empire (ancient) defeated the Greeks in 146BC, and continued its dominion until the division of East and West Roman Empires in 395AD. The last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustus, (Western Empire) was deposed in 476AD, and the Eastern Roman Empire continued until 1453AD<sup>5</sup> when the Muslims overwhelmed the Byzantine Empire in the fall of Constantinople. The Muslims had previously defeated the Byzantines in Palestine in the 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, AD.

Miller continues the traditional interpretation of the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom as follows,

*Virtually all equate the fourth empire with Rome; however, there is a difference of opinion concerning the identification of the feet and toes of the statue. Some scholars construe the feet and toes of iron and clay to be a further allusion to ancient Rome, whereas others consider this part of the image to be symbolic of an empire that will arise in the last days.*<sup>6</sup>

It is the opinion of this writer that the feet and toes do not represent Rome, either ancient or revived, but another kingdom that will arise subsequent to the collapse of ancient Rome. Here are the reasons for this view.

The Kingdom When Christianity Begins. The text tells us the stone was cut out from the mountain “*without hands*” (2:34). This means God will be the one who establishes this kingdom (2:45). The text gives us the time when God will do this:

Daniel 2:44 "*And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never*

*be destroyed, . . .*"

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*Rome is the legs of iron, the surviving kingdom to Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece.*

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Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit of God (Luke 1:35). God did this, not humanity. This occurred in the first century AD under the dominion of the Roman Empire. Since Christianity was "set up" during Rome's dominion, Rome is the unnamed 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom referred to in the phrase: "*in the*

*days of those kings*" (2:44). Thus, Rome must be the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's statue. *It is the legs of iron, the surviving kingdom to Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece.*

The Kingdom at the End of Days. The text then defines the period of time when the stone will strike the statue on its feet of iron and clay and destroy this kingdom along with the prior kingdoms:

Daniel 2:34 "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. . . . 44, ". . . it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever." (Emphasis supplied)

*At this point, the text is unclear whether Rome continues as this last kingdom.* The text states, "*You continued looking. . .*", meaning, time passes between the dominion of the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom, Rome (the legs of iron), and the destruction of the kingdom symbolized by the smashing of the feet of the statue. The text then

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Thus, the time period of the stone's crushing of the feet of the statue is the end of this Age, upon the return of Christ.

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tells us that after the stone strikes the feet of the statue, and "*not a trace*" of the other kingdoms remains; and also, the stone will "*put an end to all these kingdoms.*" *Thus, the time the stone strikes the feet must be the End of days, not the time that Christianity began!* Rome was in dominion when Christianity began; but not necessarily in dominion in the End of days when all

these kingdoms are destroyed.

Thus, the time period of the stone's crushing of the feet of the statue is the end of this Age, upon the return of Christ.

The final kingdom symbolized by the feet of the statue. Notice another very important factor that is easily overlooked: *the stone strikes the feet of the statue; and, the entire statue is destroyed!* Seems sort of out of place don't you think? *If you were going to land a fatal blow to a living being would you throw a stone at the big toe? Hardly!* The text is telling us something about the relationship of the last kingdom, i.e., the feet of iron and clay, to the other kingdoms. If the fatal blow is directed at the feet, and the entire structure

falls, then the last kingdom, along with the other kingdoms have now become one kingdom! This last kingdom has dominion over all the others, and therefore, when the feet are crushed, they all fall. This can only mean that either Rome (the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom) is revived or *there is a fifth empire!*

*Notice how many parts are crushed:*

*Daniel 2:35, "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. . . ." (Emphasis supplied)*

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The clay is present to make sure we don't conclude the feet of the statue represent Rome! *The last kingdom will be a fifth kingdom, and it will be unrelated to Rome. . .!*

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*There are five parts crushed!*<sup>7</sup> Notice that "clay" has been added to the four parts. Why is the "clay" in the crushed group? If Rome, symbolized by the legs of iron (and iron in the feet), is revived in the End, why list the clay at all? Rome is the iron. The addition of clay has no meaning unless the last kingdom *is not Rome*. Rome would already be present as the "iron." Here is what the text is telling us. *The last kingdom will be a fifth kingdom, and it will be unrelated to Rome; and, it will have two parts, one*

*part iron, and one part clay!* Count them yourself:

1. Iron (symbolized by feet)
2. Clay (symbolized by feet)
3. Bronze (ancient Greek Empire)
4. Silver (Medo-Persia)
5. Gold (Babylon).

The iron and clay in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2:34) are actually the two parts that comprise the feet of the statue (2:41-42), *not the legs*. The bronze, silver, and gold symbolize Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon, the remaining kingdoms of the statue. Where are the legs of iron which symbolize Rome? *They are not present!* The iron that is crushed is the iron *in the feet*, combined with the clay *in the feet*.

*Rome is missing because in the Last Days Rome will not be a kingdom at enmity with God.* In the year 312 AD, Emperor Constantine of the Western Roman Empire converted to Christianity. In the year 313AD, the Edict of Milan was executed ending all persecution of Christians. Thereafter, Rome (Western) has been "Christianized," so to speak. In the Last Days, Rome (Western) will be on the side of God!

Thus, here is the kingdom of the Last Days that will unite against Christianity:

Last Days Kingdom at Enmity With God:

1. Feet of iron and clay:

Part 1: iron

Part 2: clay.

2. *Belly and thighs of bronze (the feet have dominion over ancient Greek Empire)*
3. *Chest and arms of silver (the feet have dominion over Medo-Persia)*
4. *Head of gold (the feet have dominion over Babylon).*

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*Who is this divided, two part kingdom, represented by feet, partly of iron and partly of clay, that has absorbed all the kingdoms of the Middle East? Islam.*

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Who is this divided, two part kingdom, represented by feet, partly of iron and partly of clay, that has absorbed all the kingdoms of the Middle East? Islam. Let me show you.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Will Be a “Divided Kingdom.”** Daniel 2:41states,

*“And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; . . .”*

Did you happen to see the cover story for *Time Magazine*, March 5, 2007? The headlines were:

**“Sunnis vs. Shiites, Why They Hate Each Other;  
What’s really driving the civil war that’s tearing the Middle East apart?”<sup>8</sup>**

We may not know much about Islam, but one thing we know. It is divided. Sunnis against Shias. Sunnis are the majority sect (85 - 90%) and Shias the minority (10%). This division runs so deep that many Sunnis (for example, the “Wahhabi” branch of Saudi Arabia) do not consider Shias as true Muslims, but unbelievers. Consider the following statement made by author Stephen Schwarz,

*“Today, the Saudi (Sunni Islam) school systems, following Wahhabi tenets, teach their children and other Muslims throughout the Umma (Islamic community) that Shi`a Islam was invented by an imaginary Jewish convert, that Shi`a theologians are liars, that their legal traditions are false, and that they are not Muslims at all.”<sup>9</sup>*

**The Dividing Event in Islamic History.** The roots of the dividing event in Islamic history can be traced all the way back to the choosing of the first caliphs of Islam and the resulting divide between competing individuals. The two choices for caliph were: Abu Bakr, Muhammad’s first convert to Islam; and Ali, the foster child, first cousin, and son-in-law of Muhammad through Ali’s marriage to Fatima, Muhammad’s daughter. Ali, as the closest male blood relative, was passed over in favor of Abu Bakr(632-634). Ali was passed over as caliph two additional times. When Umar (634-644) was chosen as the second caliph upon the death of Abu Bakr; and when Uthman (644-656) was chosen as the third caliph upon the death of

Umar. Uthman was then assassinated by a follower of Ali. Ali was elected caliph the 4<sup>th</sup> caliph, but Uthman's clan, the Umayyads, refused to recognize Ali as caliph. A powerful leader arose from the Umayyad clan – Muawiya. The two opposing forces met in battle. No clear victory was won by either in spite of months of skirmishing between the two forces. Muawiya meanwhile demanded that Ali hand over the murderers of Uthman while at the same time seeking the Caliphate for himself. Ali refused to hand over the murderers, and deadlock between the two groups resulted. Ali eventually lost, but not by the direct hand of Muawiya. From within his own camp, dissension occurred. In the year 661, Ali was stabbed to death in the mosque at Kufa by a clansman from within his own camp.<sup>10</sup>

Ali was survived in death by two sons, Hasan and Husayn, both through Fatima, Muhammad's daughter. Hasan succeeded his father as caliph for half a year but was forced by Muawiya to cede the Caliphate to Muawiya under threat of death. Hasan died a few years later, poisoned by his wife who had received a promise of marriage from Yazid, Muawiya's son.

After the death of Muawiya and the ascension of his son to the Caliphate, Husayn attempted to lead an insurrection against Yazid. Husayn was invited to Kufa by Muslims of Kufa with the intent of Husayn gaining the Caliphate from Yazid. Husayn's small force included eighteen of his own family members and another sixty or so followers. Husayn was urged by surviving Companions not to attempt the conquest of Yazid for his forces were severely outnumbered (Husayn's forces were numbered at less than a 100). Husayn refused this counsel, expecting the people of Kufa to join him in battle. They did not do so. The battle between the two forces took place at Karbala in modern day Iraq. Husayn's forces were outnumbered and were cut off from water for eight days.<sup>11</sup> His tragic death at the hands of troops of Yazid is described as follows:

*"With his six-month old son Ali Asghar in his arms, the Imam (Husayn) cried out to the enemy that as this innocent babe had defiled none, at least he should be spared and a little water given to him to allay his thirst. But the reply was an arrow shot at the child's neck which pinned it to his father's arm. After returning the cruelly murdered child to its sorrowing mother's arms, the Imam returned to pay the last of the sacrifice with his own blood. Arrow after arrow followed piercing his body into a sieve until, when the aged Imam fell from his horse his body did not touch the ground but was held off the ground by the arrows that were sticking out of his body. Shamr (one of the Umayyad soldiers) who has earned everlasting shame for himself, after deriding the fallen hero, cut off his head. Ruqaiya, Husayn's young daughter, weeps over the death of her father whose head is then brought into her presence whereupon she falls upon it moaning and sobbing until she, too, dies of sorrow, prostrate over the severed head."<sup>12</sup>*

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The Battle of Karbala is the dividing event in Islamic history between Sunnis and Shias. . . . The two . . . have not been united since this date.

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The Battle of Karbala is the dividing event in Islamic history between Sunnis and Shias, the two predominant sects of Islam. The death of Husayn is still remembered today by Shias in their annual "Ashura" festival. Shias commemorate Husayn's martyrdom through flagellation and other acts of personal suffering during the ten day

festival.<sup>13</sup>

The two primary sects have not been united since this date.

Islam is a divided kingdom. *We have laid a piece of the puzzle.*

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Will “Combine With One Another” in the “Seed of Men.”** Daniel 2:43 states,

*“And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.”*

Shias, the minority sect of Islam (10 - 15%), are followers of Ali ibn Abi Talib (599 - 661AD). Ali was the closest living male relative of Muhammad at his death (Ali was Muhammad’s cousin and his son-in-law by marriage to Fatima, Muhammad’s daughter). Shias believe Muhammad chose Ali to be his successor prior to his death, a fact Sunnis do not accept. To Shias, Ali was the rightful successor to Muhammad by virtue of his blood relationship to Muhammad.

For Shias, the rightful successor (referred to as “Imam” by Shias<sup>14</sup>) to Muhammad had to meet two criteria to be considered legitimate. First, he had to be a *male blood descendant* of Ali and his wife, Fatima (Muhammad’s daughter).<sup>15</sup> Second, he had to have been “designated,” i.e., “named,” by the predecessor Imam before the predecessor’s death. This appointment is considered by Shias to be a divine appointment by Allah and revealed by the predecessor Imam.<sup>16</sup> This means that divine authority, as Imam, is passed from father to son by the father’s “designation”<sup>17</sup> (as opposed to “elected” by consensus as is the case for the caliph in Sunni Islam). Shias consider their Imam to be an infallible, sinless, spiritual guide *by virtue of the bloodline of Muhammad* passed from one Imam to the next. Shias, therefore, “combine” with one another by virtue of the *bloodline of Muhammad passed through Ali and Fatima*.

Most Shias are of the “Twelver” branch (90% of Iran’s population is Twelver). They take their name from the belief that the legitimate Imams of Shiism are twelve in number, ending with the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam, Muhammad ibn Hasan, the last male descendant of Muhammad through Ali and Fatima. Twelvers are by far the largest group of Shiite Muslims. Twelvers constitute ninety percent of the modern population of Iran and fifty-five to sixty percent of the population of Iraq.<sup>18</sup>

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To “combine in the seed of men” parallels the Shia belief that legitimate leadership requires a blood relationship to Muhammad.

The phrase “*combine with one another in the seed of men*” refers to the distinguishing requirement for Shiism, i.e., the *bloodline of Muhammad*. To combine in the “seed of men” parallels the Shia belief that legitimate leadership requires a blood relationship to Muhammad.

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*We have laid another piece of our puzzle.*

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Will Not “Adhere to One Another”** Daniel 2:43 states,

*"And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery."*

Since the Battle of Karbala (680AD), Sunnis and Shias have been divided. Within the two sects, particularly for Shias, there is further division into separate branches. For example, for Shiites there are "Seveners," "Twelvers," and "Fivers" (and many others). Each of these branches is separated from the other for various reasons, the most predominant of which is their belief in who the "legitimate" Imam really is. Throughout Islamic history, Sunnis have been the dominant and most powerful of the two sects. Yet, Sunni leaders, i.e., caliphs, persecuted the Shia Imams because they saw them as a potential threat to their leadership (because of their blood relationship to Muhammad). This resulted in the premature and unexpected death of Shia Imams. As stated, in Shiism, the living Imam is required to "designate" his successor prior to his death. Sunni persecution of Shia Imams resulted in some of the Imams not clearly designating their successor because of their untimely death. The different branches in Shiism reflect the fact that the Shias could not agree on who the legitimate Imam should be.

Seveners consider Ismail, the elder son of Ja'far, to be the rightful successor as sixth Imam. However, Ismail died before his father's death, and Seveners believe that Ismail's son, Muhammad bin Ismail, should be the rightful seventh Imam. Hence their name, "Seveners" (or "Ismailis").<sup>19</sup> Seveners terminate the line of Imams with Ismail, the seventh Imam.<sup>20</sup> Twelvers believe that Jafar designated his younger son, Musa, as the seventh Imam and that the true line is through Musa not Ismail, believing that Ismail died before he was designated by his father. Twelvers continue the line of Imams through Muhammad ibn Hasan, who disappeared in 874AD and who will reappear in the Last Days as *Muhammad al-Mahdi*.

Therefore, Twelvers (Shias) agree on a line of twelve individuals who are legitimate Imams. Seveners (Shias) agree on a line of seven individuals who are legitimate, and similarly for Fivers (Shias). None of the groups consider the other groups Imams as legitimate. To illustrate the inability of the groups to agree or unite, a Twelver prophecy holds that when the Islamic leader referred to as Muhammad al-Mahdi "rises," he will issue an order to have all Shias of the Fiver branch (Zaydites<sup>21</sup>) killed.<sup>22</sup>

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*We have laid another piece of our puzzle.*

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Will be Composed of Both Strong and Weak Parts.** Daniel 2:41 provides:

*"And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. <sup>42</sup> "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle."*

Here is what the prophecy is telling us. The kingdom as a whole will be strong, for *"it will have the*



*toughness of iron;*” yet, the kingdom, will be made up of two parts – one part will be strong (toes partly of iron) and the other will be weak (toes partly of pottery; and brittle).

For most of us, our understanding of Islam is limited to what we see on our television sets. We see sectarian violence without end. One day it is the Sunnis that have bombed Shiites. The next day it is Shiites against Sunnis. Neither side ever seems to gain the upper hand, and everyone seems to hate the West. With this jaded view of Islam, we could quite easily miss the characteristic being described in verse 43 – *that one part of the kingdom will be strong and one part weak*. Yet, this is precisely the historical situation for Islam. The Sunni sect is by far the larger, stronger, more powerful sect since the beginning of Islamic history (comprising 90% of Muslims). The dividing point of the two sects has already been discussed: the Battle of Karbala in October, 680AD. But this victory by Sunnis over Shiites did little to stop Sunni violence against the weaker sect; and, history did not change which sect would remain the victor. Sunnis were always the victor and they saw the Shiites as unbelievers who they blamed for any problems experienced by the ruling majority sect. Consider this quote from author Vali Nasr:

*To the Sunni majority, (Shiites) increasingly looked like an errant interpretation of Islam, mistakenly bestowing larger than life importance on the progeny of Ali . . . The fear that the Shia Imams instilled in the caliphs resulted, not surprisingly, in persecution. . . . The Umayyad [Sunni] caliphs. . . and the Abbasids (750 -1228), who ruled from Baghdad, imprisoned and killed Shia imams . . . . When in 971 C.E., Roman forces attacked the Abbasid domain, the first response of the caliph’s forces . . . was to blame the Shia. Shia houses in al-Karkh (in today’s Iraq) – which had become a refuge for Shias who escaped persecution in Bagdad – were torched as the attackers chanted, “You [Shias] are the cause of all evil.”. . . By the middle of the eleventh century, persecuting the Shia of al-Karkh had become a custom; every Saturday, Sunni mobs would show up at Shia mosques and shrines before looting the town, saying, “You blasphemers! Convert to Islam!”<sup>23</sup>*

In more recent history, the dominance of the Sunni sect can be seen in the powerful Wahhabi sect of Sunni Islam (Of the 19 Muslims who piloted planes on 9/11, 17 of them were from the Wahhabi branch of Sunni Islam). Author Stephen Schwartz describes the origin of the House of Saud and the Wahhabis of Sunni Islam in this observation:

*“In 1792, Ibn Abd al-Wahhab died, and Abd al-Aziz took over the leadership of the Wahhabi-Saudi alliance, extending their raiding over the next three years to Medina, Syria, and Iraq. These campaigns saw mass murder and rape of Shi’a Muslims as well as adherents of the Hanafi and other legal schools rejected by Ibn Abd al-Wahhab. The Wahhabis [Sunnis] had an extraordinary hatred of Shi’ism, which became an early target of their violence. . . Whatever its source, bile against the Shi’as has remained a constant throughout Wahhabi-Saudi history.”<sup>24</sup>*

Shias throughout their history have been forced into quietist roles in order to survive from persecution by the stronger Sunnis. Shias even went so far as to formulate a doctrine called “*taqiyyah*.” This doctrine allows the deliberate “concealing or disguising [of] one’s beliefs, convictions, ideas, feelings, opinions, and/or strategies at a time of imminent danger, whether now or later in time, to save oneself from physical

and/or mental injury."<sup>25</sup>

*Al-Mahdi will Avenge. A final note about the "weak" part of the statue - the clay.* Shias believe that their 12<sup>th</sup> Imam, Muhammad ibn Hasan, went into "hiding" almost 1200 years ago to prevent himself from being killed by the dominant sect of Islam, the Sunnis. They believe he has been in hiding (called "occultation") for over 1,200 years, *and, he is still alive.* That is, he is in a state of "not being present," while at the same

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time being alive, in hiding. Shias refer to him as the "Hidden Imam." Shias (Twelvers) believe that when the world is at a time of great chaos, the Hidden Imam will return as "al-Mahdi." Al-Mahdi will lead Islam to conquer the world under the banner of Islam.

We will discuss the Mahdi at length in a later chapter; for now, the point that needs to be made is that *when al-Mahdi returns, Shias believe he will return as their*

*"redresser of wrongs."*<sup>26</sup> As a "robin hood" of sort, the Mahdi will avenge Sunni wrongs committed against Shias, the weaker sect, since the death of Muhammad in 632AD.<sup>27</sup> The point? Shia prophecy predicts the weaker will overcome the stronger; and, the two sects, irrevocably divided since Karbala, 680AD, will be one; not by treaty or consensus but by dominion of the weaker over the stronger. What could not adhere before, will, according to Shia prophecy, adhere for one final jihad: *a united Islam will convert the non-Christian world to Allah.*

*We have laid another piece of our puzzle.*

**Remember the Bible's prophecy.** *Judgment begins with the feet* - and, it's the clay, *not the iron*, that tells us who the feet will be. The clay reveals the divided kingdom that will not adhere to itself; the kingdom composed of two parts, one strong and one weak. Without the presence of clay neither of these attributes could be identified. Finally, it is this clay part within Shia Islam whose adherents combine with their legitimate Imams in the seed of men, i.e., the bloodline of Muhammad.

And so the prophecy fits. *Judgment begins with the feet; and the clay reveals the kingdom present in the feet.*

Islam is the feet of iron and clay that is in dominion of the kingdoms of gold, silver and bronze. It will be so in the last of the Last Days when the stone will strike the feet of the statue and all these kingdoms will come tumbling down.

## Chapter 4 Endnotes.

1. Stephen Miller, *Daniel*, p 76.
2. John F. Walvoord, *Every Prophecy in the Bible*, p 218.
3. Stephen Miller, *Daniel*, p. 96.
4. Miller, p. 93.
5. Miller, p. 95.
6. Miller, p. 97.
7. My first awareness of the fifth empire must be credited to “dadad” at <http://www.prophecytalk.com/index.php?topic=4584.30> at April, 2008. Although I could not disagree more with Dadad’s conclusions regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> empire as well as his reasoning for the empires of Daniel 7, he was the first to point this out to me.
8. Time Magazine, March 5, 2007, pp. 28f.
9. Stephen Schwartz, *The Two Faces of Islam*, p. 75.
10. Malise Ruthven, p. 74.
11. Cyril Glasse’, p. 33-34.
12. Malise Ruthven, p. 181, quoting from Gustav Thaiss in N. R. Kedie (ed.), *Scholars, Saints and Sufis* (Berkeley, 1972), p. 356.
13. Available at, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Karbala](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Karbala) at January 18, 2008.
14. The term “Imam” has different meanings for Sunnis and Shias. For Sunnis, the term means a prayer leader, and does not have significance in the history of a successor to Muhammad. For Shias, the term is likened to the Sunni term “caliph,” but only for those Shias consider legitimate. See Cyril Glasse’, *The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, p. 366.
15. Ali had eight wives after Fatima and a total of thirty six children, so the choice was not so much about Ali, alone, but rather, Ali and Fatima, together, thereby insuring the true and closest bloodline to the Prophet. Available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali#Descendants>.
16. Neither Shiite sect accept the first three caliphs as “rightly guided.” They begin their first true Imam with Ali, cousin of the Prophet, and husband of Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet.
17. S.H.M Jafri, *The Origins and Early Development of Shia Islam* (London: Longman, 1979), 281 as quoted at [http://www.wm.edu/so/monitor/spring2001/paper2.htm#\\_edn27](http://www.wm.edu/so/monitor/spring2001/paper2.htm#_edn27).
18. Available at <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/intro/islam-ithna-ashari.htm>.
19. Available at <http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismailis>
20. Timothy R. Furnish, *Holiest Wars, Islamic Mahdis, Their Jihads, and Osama bin Laden*, p 5.

## Chapter 4 Endnotes.

21. Available at <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/intro/islam-zaydi.htm> at October 24, 2007.
22. Abdulaziz Abdulhussein Sachedina, *Islamic Messianism, The Idea of the Mahdi in Twelver Shiism*, p. 165.
23. Vali Nasr, *The Shiite Revival*, p. 52-53.
24. Stephen Schwarz, *The Two Faces of Islam*, p. 75.
25. See Cyril Glasse' p. 369; and, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taqiyya>, at April 22, 2008.
26. Timothy R. Furnish, *Holiest Wars, Islamic Mahdis, Their Jihads and Osama bin Laden*, p. 4-5.
27. Timothy R. Furnish,, p. 5.