

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32



PROPHETIC HISTORY OF THE WORLD

In warning His disciples of Jerusalem's destruction, Jesus drew their attention to the book of Daniel. Here we find a history of the world from the time of Daniel (about 550 BC.) to the end of the world. A study of the visions God gave to Daniel will reveal that we are living in the latter times of their fulfilment and that the second coming of Jesus Christ is just upon us.

At the time of Daniel, the nation of Israel was in captivity, subject to the kingdom of Babylon. Daniel, along with other of the Hebrew princes, had been given a special training and education into Babylonian culture and science, then appointed a position in the court of the king as one of the wise men, or counsellors (Daniel 1). On a certain occasion, the king, Nebuchadnezzar, called the wise men of his realm to a meeting.

1. For what purpose was this meeting called?

Daniel 2:2,3 _____

2. How did the wise men reply to the king's request?

Daniel 2:10,11 _____

Note: The wise men and astrologers professed to be able to foresee the future (Dan.2:4). The methods used by astrologers of today are much the same as the techniques used in ancient Babylon.

God gives counsel to His people, have nothing to do with spiritualism, astrology, consulting the "dead" (necromancy) fortune telling etc. (Deut.18:9-14). If we forsake His counsel and do these things, He may well leave us to suffer the consequences of our dangerous course (Isa.47:10-15).

3. The wise men finally admitted that they could not disclose the dream to the king, nor interpret it. What then took place?

Daniel 2:16 _____

4. By what means did Daniel receive an understanding of the dream?
Daniel 2:19 _____

5. From whom and for what purpose, did the king receive the dream?
Daniel 2:28,29 _____

6. What had the king seen in his dream?
Daniel 2:31 _____

7. Describe the object seen in the vision, its parts and materials that make up each part.
Daniel 2:32,33 _____

8. What became of this object? Did it rise to power or was it destroyed? Describe the fate of this central object of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
Daniel 2:34,35 _____

9. What became of the stone mentioned in the vision?
Daniel 2:35 _____

10. Having disclosed the actual dream to the king, what was the next part of this miraculous demonstration of divine communication?
Daniel 2:36 _____

11. What was represented by the various parts of this great image?
Daniel 2:37-43 _____

12. Knowing that the head of gold represents Babylon, what nation is confirmed to overthrow Babylon and take the second place in the order of world ruling powers?

Daniel 5:28-31 _____

13. What part of the image and materials represented the second kingdom and how did this kingdom compare with Babylon?

Daniel 2:32,39 _____

Note: The kingdom established by the Medes and Persians never equalled Babylon for wealth or learning. The Babylonians had a culture unrivalled in the ancient world.

LIGHT THROUGH ANOTHER VISION

Another vision received by Daniel identifies the third kingdom in the sequence of world controlling powers.

14. What animal symbols are used in this later vision received by Daniel?

Daniel 8:3-5 _____

15. Describe the outcome when these two animal symbols came into conflict.

Daniel 8:6,7 _____

16. What became of the victor and the horn/s that were on his head?

Daniel 8:8 _____

17. Describe the meaning of the ram and the goat.

Daniel 8:20,21 _____

Note: This prophecy begins with the second kingdom in the sequence of world powers. At the time this vision was given to Daniel, Babylon was about to fall to the Medes and the Persians. Hence Babylon had no significant part to play in this vision concerning future world empires.

18. Also indicate the meaning of the great horn and the four horns.

Daniel 8:21,22 _____

Note: Alexander the Great was the first king of Greece. At the height of his military career, while still a relatively young man, he was "broken-off" when he died in debauchery in 323 BC.

Able represented by the four horns, four of Alexander's generals divided the empire, each taking a part. By the end of 301 BC. the divisions were complete and were arranged as follows:-

1. Cassander took Macedonia (Greece).
2. Lysimachus took Thrace, Bithynia and most of Asia Minor.
3. Ptolemy took Egypt and Libya.
4. Seleucus took Syria, Babylon, and the remainder of Alexander's kingdom.

19. To what part of earth's history was the vision applicable?

Daniel 8:17, 19 _____

Daniel 2:28,29 _____

The study of Daniel chapters 2 and 8 reveal that through the avenue of prophecy, God has clearly shown the first three succeeding nations to take world eminence as the controlling power. Mentioned by name and

beginning at the time of Daniel, these kingdoms were :-

- ◆ Babylon
- ◆ Medo-Persia
- ◆ Greece

20. A fourth kingdom is also represented in the great image of various metals. What part of the image and what metal is used for denoting that kingdom?

Daniel 2:33,40 _____

Note: Daniel 8:9 represents the fourth kingdom as one of the four horns of the goat.

21. How does the prophecy describe the character of the fourth kingdom?

Daniel 2:40 _____

22. Describe the meaning of the mixture of iron and clay which make up the feet and toes of the image.

Daniel 2:41-43 _____

Note: As each nation in the prophecy rose to power, then fell to their conqueror, the fourth kingdom will not be vanquished by another single reigning monarchy, but will fall into a division of ten smaller kingdoms, never to recombine as a unified single power. This may be well represented by the ten toes of the image and will be confirmed in the next lesson.

23. What is seen to come out of one of the four horns on the head of the goat?

Daniel 8:9 _____

Note: A fifth world power is said to arise after the fourth kingdom and though not mentioned in Chapter 2, it is the point of special focus in Chapters 7 and 8. The identity and function of the fourth and fifth kingdoms will be the subject of the following study.

24. What is represented by the stone that smites the image at its feet and destroys it?

Daniel 2:34,35,44,45 _____

Note: According to these prophecies, we are now living in the time of the last nations of this world. Every earthly kingdom will be swept away and Christ will establish His everlasting kingdom on earth, the blessed hope of every believer (Hebrews 11:10,13-16; Revelation 21:1-7). If faithful to the end, you and I may inherit that kingdom (Matthew 24:12,13).

Lesson 11 will enlarge on this topic as we examine this portion of the parallel prophecies of Daniel 2, 7 and 8.

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Questions

20. A fourth kingdom is also represented in the great image. What part of the image and what part of the fourth kingdom?
21. How does the prophecy describe the structure of the fourth kingdom?
22. Describe the meaning of the materials of iron and clay which make up the feet and base of the image.

Note: As each nation in the prophecy rose to power, that fell to their conqueror, the fourth kingdom will not be composed of a single ruling authority, but will fall into a division of ten smaller kingdoms, never so reunited as a unified single power. This may be well represented by the ten toes of the image and will be explained in the next lesson.