

THE FUTURE UNVEILED

One night a minister was traveling from his home to an appointment some distance away. The night was dark and rainy. As he traveled along the mountain highway, the headlights of

his car went out. At that point the road was wet, crooked, and dangerous. Fear gripped his heart as he tried to bring his car to a safe stop.

Not until the car's lights went out did he realise how valuable they were and how much he depended on them to show him what danger lay ahead and to guide him around the treacherous curves. With God's help he avoided a serious accident. Never again were those precious headlights taken for granted. Everywhere we hear such perplexing questions as: How can I know what to do and what to believe? What does the future hold for me and my loved ones? As we speed down the dark highway of life, we need a bright light to guide us, and to lead us to our destiny which is Heaven. That light is the Word of God.



HIS WORD SAYS

1. What has God given man to guide him in this age? 2 Peter 1:19

God has given us His sure word of prophecy so that we can know what is going on in the world today! By studying these prophecies we can also learn to trust in the reliability of God's word. God alone declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). See also Amos 3:7.

2. Why should the dream of Daniel 2 be of special interest to us?
Daniel 2:28 _____

Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed things that should happen in the 'latter days', this extends to the times in which we are now living.



WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE FUTURE

“So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near even at the doors!” Matthew 24:33

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

3. Who revealed Nebuchadnezzar’s dream to Daniel? Daniel 2:27,28

Daniel prayed to God, the revealer of secrets, and his prayer of faith was immediately answered. Only God could reveal Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and its interpretation.

4. What did the Chaldeans say to the king about his dream? Daniel 2:10

Without God to guide us there is no way that a man can reveal the secrets of God. The Chaldeans followed the pagan gods of their time, which were unable to give the King the revelation he was searching for. If not for faithful Daniel, the Chaldeans would have lost their lives to an angry king.

5. What had the king seen in his dream? Daniel 2:31-35

In this dream God outlined the history of this world from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to its very end. By the use of different metals in the image He revealed that there would be four world empires in the succeeding years. History reveals that these empires were: Babylon (head of gold), Medo-Persia (chest and arms of silver), Greece (thighs of brass), and Rome (legs of iron). By this image He showed that the fourth world empire would be divided, represented by the feet and toes composed of iron and clay.



6. What was represented by the head of gold? Daniel 2:37, 38.

Babylon (605 - 539 B.C.), with its magnificent display of wealth, was one of the wonders of the ancient world. Its beautiful buildings were interspersed with luxuriant gardens. Indeed it was the capital city of a golden kingdom.

7. What was to happen to Babylon? Daniel 2:39

God, through the prophet Daniel, later told Belshazzar that the Babylonians were to be succeeded by the Medo-Persians (539 - 331 B.C.). Daniel 5:25-31

8. What part of the image represented the third kingdom of Greece? Daniel 2:39

Greece reigned from 331 - 168 B.C. "The battles of Granicus, 334 B.C., Issus in the following year, and Arbela in 331 B.C., settled the fate of the Persian Empire, and established the wide dominion of the Greeks." The Divine Programme of the World's History," page 308

9. What part of the image represents the fourth world empire, Rome? Daniel 2:40

"The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome."- Edward Gibbon. "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," chap. 38, General Observations at end of chapter, par. 1. Rome reigned from 168 B.C - 476 A.D.



10. As the feet, part iron and part clay, represented a divided condition, what was to happen to the iron kingdom of Rome? Daniel 2:41

Between A.D. 351 and 476 a series of invasions by barbaric tribes from Europe completely overran the Western Roman Empire and brought it to its end. These tribes included: Saxons (English), Franks (French), Alemanni (German), Burgundians (Swiss), Lombards (Italians), Visigoths (Spanish), Suevi (Portuguese), Vandals, Ostrogoths, and Heruli. Rome merely divided up into ten nations.



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11. What statement shows that the “Old World” powers would never be welded back into one great kingdom? Daniel 2:43

Napoleon, Kaizer Wilhelm, Queen Victoria and Hitler, all tried to reunite Europe without success, each defeated by circumstances beyond human control, but in God's control. Queen Victoria tried by marrying her relations and family off to the various Kings and Queens of Europe, but still no union. Today the European Union is still trying. Will they succeed? God says not.



12. At the end of earth's history, what will God set up? Daniel 2:44, 45

The promise of the second coming of Jesus to set up an eternal kingdom is one of the greatest promises in scripture. One day all pain and suffering will end, the saints will be raised to eternal life, and God will reign over a kingdom of people who have been redeemed to reflect His perfect righteous image once more.

13. What did king Nebuchadnezzar say to Daniel after Daniel revealed the dream and the meaning to him? Daniel 2:47

The future of the world as seen by a pagan king but given to him by God. This vision has held true through from 600 BC till today. Just one more event to happen and that is Christ's return. Because all else has happened, we can fully trust the last to happen soon. Are you ready? As Christ was dying on the cross of Calvary, a dying thief turned to Him for salvation. From the depths of his contrite heart he cried out, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Luke 23:42. Back came the promise of Christ that the thief would be with Him in His kingdom.

14. Where do we fit into the timescale of Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

We are now living during the time of a divided Europe. Essentially we are living in the toenails of this great image. The only thing left to happen according to this prophecy is the setting up of God's eternal kingdom. Jesus said that His second coming would come as a surprise to the world (Revelation 3:3). However, those who are familiar with the prophecies will see the signs that His coming is near and be prepared to meet Him (Matthew 24:32, 33).



15. Would you like to be ready for Jesus to return?

God has revealed these marvelous prophecies to give us assurance that His word is true. Just as he was able to predict the end from the beginning, He is able to save us from a world of darkness and sin and restore us to the perfect people He planned for us to be. Jesus is waiting now to have you seek after Him so that He can change your life and prepare you to live with Him through eternity.

Isaiah 11:6-7 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox."



What a place to be!

LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

I am thankful that God has revealed the future for me and all people.

I still feel unsure about the future. I would like to study more about the future from the Bible.

I am looking forward to meeting Jesus when He comes again.

Other _____