

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

A Prophecy of Daniel

God's answer to unbelief. A prophecy of future world Empires revealed from Ancient Babylon to the end of the world as we know it.

AUTHOR:- MIKE FORFAR

A famous English author once said: "A silent heaven is the greatest mystery of existence." Why is God silent? Is He indifferent to human needs and sorrows? Will He remain silent forever or will He one day break the silence, burst forth with awesome majesty upon the human scene and actually do something to bring the long reign of evil to an end?

The bible answers: God will break the silence. He will intervene. He has vast and wonderful plans in mind for the future of this planet. Some of these plans are revealed in Daniel chapter 2. This prophecy has been called "God's window into the future".

GODS ANSWER TO UNBELIEF IS TO FORTELL THE FUTURE.

See Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things of old, For I am God and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying My council shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure." NKJV

God claims to be the only being in the universe to be able to make known the end from the beginning. He bases the proof of His existence on the accuracy of bible predictions.

2 Peter 1:20-21 "...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." NKJV

Prophecies of God that are recorded in the Bible are not to be interpreted any way that a person chooses. The prophetic symbols in the book of Daniel and Revelation must be interpreted by the bible itself. Private man-made interpretations have no validity whatsoever. In order to understand the prophecies correctly we must let the bible explain them. Both Daniel and Revelation contain the keys to understand the symbols that are used.

WHO WAS DANIEL THE PROPHET?

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah (606 BC), Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the kings descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the kings palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans...Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Asariah. To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-nego...As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Daniel 1:1-4,6-7, 17.



Daniel's life and ministry bridge the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian captivity. Deported to Babylon at the age of sixteen, and hand picked for government service, Daniel becomes God's prophetic mouthpiece to the world declaring God's present and eternal purpose. The book of Daniel shows God's guidance, intervention, and power in the affairs of men.

MATTHEW 24:15 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads let him understand). NKJV

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The above quote is the words of Jesus Christ who believed Daniel to be a prophet to be read and understood by Christians.

DANIEL CHAPTER 2 (NKJV) *THE KING DREAMS OF WORLD EMPIRES.*

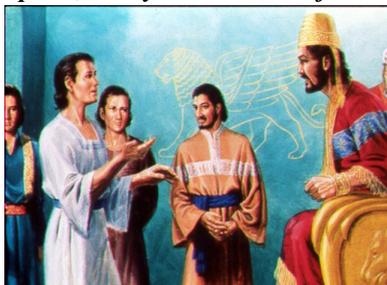
DANIEL 2:1-13 “Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, “I have a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.” Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.” The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honour. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.” They answered and said again, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation.” The king answered and said “I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see my decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation. The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, “There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. “It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions to kill them.” NKJV



Soon after Daniel and his companions enter the service of the king of Babylon, events occurred that revealed to the idolatrous nation the power and faithfulness of the God of Israel. The magicians, astrologers, and Chaldeans prove themselves to be failures and imposters.

GOD REVEALS NEBUCHADNEZZARS DREAM.

DANIEL 2:14-23 “Then with council and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; he answered and said to Arioch the king’s captain, “Why is the decree from the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said



“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever; For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals the deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have know made known to me what we asked of You, For you have made known to us the kings demand.”

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

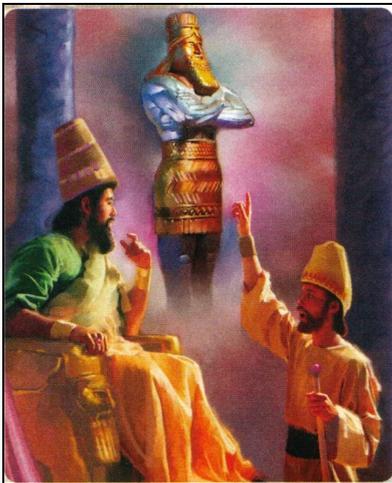
DANIEL REVEALS THE DREAM TO THE KING.

DANIEL 2:24-35 "Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: 'Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation.' Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and thus said to him, 'I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.' The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, 'Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?'" Daniel answered in the presence



of the king, and said, 'The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: 'As for you O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart. 'You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! Whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. This is the dream.'"

King Nebuchadnezzar, a worshipper of the Chaldean Gods was an idol worshipper. An image was an object that would at once command his attention and respect. Furthermore, earthly kingdoms, represented



by this idol, were objects of esteem and value in his eyes. This idol is a good representation to convey a needful truth to the king. Besides showing a history of future world empires God is showing the emptiness of worldly pomp and glory. The first empire is described as one of gold but below this head was a body composed of inferior metals descending in value until they reached their basest form in the feet of iron and clay. The whole lot is then dashed to pieces and made like empty chaff. It was finally blown away where no place could be found for it. After this something of heavenly value takes its place. God is showing that earthly kingdoms will all pass away, their greatness and glory will vanish, and will be replaced by a kingdom from heaven that will not pass away.

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAM FOR THE KING

DANIEL 2:36-38 "Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all – you are this head of gold."

Now opens one of the most comprehensive of histories of World Empire. The history covered in this dream beginning more than twenty-five centuries ago, reaches from that far distant point past the rise and fall of kingdoms, past the setting up and overthrow of empires, past our own day and into the future.

The king must have been astonished to learn that this head of gold represented him and his kingdom. Also that it was the God of Israel who had made him great, not the false Babylonian gods. And that Daniel, a captive from Judah and a worshipper of the true God, is able to do what the so-called wise men of Babylon could not do.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The head of gold indicates the character of the Babylonian Empire. It was a golden kingdom of a golden age. Babylon was a city of grandeur and glory. Standing over the Euphrates River, the inner city formed a near perfect rectangle. An outer wall and an inner wall surrounded it. The inner wall had a perimeter of ten miles (16 Km) and was about twelve feet thick while the outer wall was about twenty-two



feet thick. Towers were spaced at intervals of fifty-five yards (51m). Houses were built along the outer and inner edges of the top of the wall leaving a central roadway (for purposes of defence) along the top of the inner wall. There were at least one hundred gates of bronze in the wall and the entire city was surrounded by a moat. A roofed bridge, made of stone and fastened together by cramp irons connected the two halves of the city, bisected by the river Euphrates. Recent excavations revealed that the bridge rested on eight piers.

The luxury of the Babylonians is a constant theme of both sacred and profane writers. The 'daughter of the Chaldeans' was tender and delicate, given to pleasures, apt to dwell carelessly. Her young men made themselves 'as princes to look at' exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, painting their faces, wearing earrings, and clothing themselves in robes of soft and rich material. Extensive polygamy prevailed. The pleasures of the table were carried to excess, drunkenness was common. The tables groaned under the weight of gold and silver plate. In every possible way the Babylonians practiced luxuriousness of living, and in respect of softness and self-indulgence they did not fall short of any nation of antiquity.

The main glory of the palace was its pleasure ground - the hanging gardens that the Greeks regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. This extraordinary construction built by Nebuchadnezzar for his median wife Amytis, was a square, each side of which measured 400 Greek feet. It was supported upon several tiers of open arches, built one over the other, like the walls of a classic theatre, and sustaining at each stage or story, a solid platform from which the next tier of arches rose. The building towered into the air to the height of at least seventy-five feet and was covered at the top with a great mass of earth, in which there grew not merely flowers and shrubs, but trees also of the largest size. Water was supplied from the Euphrates through pipes.

Thus Babylon was no mean city. It was something to be wondered at, and such was rightly dubbed "the glory of the Chaldee's Excellency. Babylon ruled from 606BC-539BC.



DANIEL 2:39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth".

History has shown the accuracy of this forecast. The book of Daniel chapter 5 tells of the overthrow of the city of Babylon by the Medo-Persian Empire in 539 BC by Cyrus king of Persia and Darius the Mede. This succeeding kingdom answers to the chest and arms of silver of the great image. It was to be inferior to the preceding kingdom. Not in power, for it conquered Babylon. Not in extent, for Cyrus subdued the entire east from the Aegean Sea to the river Indus thereby erecting a more extensive empire. It was inferior in wealth, luxury, and magnificence.

The Kingdom of the Medes and the Persians ruled from 539BC-331BC. Alexander the Great overthrew them. Alexander's Kingdom is the third kingdom of bronze corresponding to the thighs on the great image. The Persian king Darius III was defeated by Alexander the Great in three battles: Granicus-334 BC, Issus-333 BC, and Arbela-331BC. From Egypt Alexander retraced his steps to Syria and marched eastward. At Arbela, not far from ancient Nineveh, Darius disputed his farther advance with an immense army, numbering over a million men. The vast Persian host was overthrown with enormous slaughter. Darius fled from the field but was later treacherously killed by two of his own generals. The battle of Arbela was one of the most decisive combats of history. It marked the end of a long struggle between the east and the west, between Persia and Greece, and prepared the way for the spread of Hellenic civilisation over all Western Asia. Alexander the Great died in 323 BC at the age of 33. He died from a fever caused from excessive alcohol consumed at a drunken party. Greek civilisation ruled the world from 331 BC – 168 BC.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

DANIEL 2:40 *“And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others”.*



When Alexander died his kingdom began to die also. Within a year it had been divided into four parts. This was the signal for the legions of Rome to begin to march, to “break in pieces”. All that has been constructed of Roman history confirms this description. Rome won her territory by the force or the fear of her armed might. Crushing one opponent after another, she finally became the aggressive, irresistible conqueror of the Mediterranean world and Western Europe. By 168 BC the Iron monarchy of Rome dominated the Mediterranean area and soon became the mightiest empire the world had seen.

Edward Gibbons in his work “The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, vol 3 p634 ” says “The arms of the Republic sometimes vanquished in battle, always victorious in war, advanced with rapid steps to the Euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine, and the ocean; and 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.”



DANIEL 2:41-42 *“Whereas you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.”*

The iron legs terminate at the feet and toes. The dividing up of the Roman Empire begins at the feet of the image. The Roman Empire ruled from 168 BC – 476 AD. The ten toes indicate that the Roman Empire would be divided into parts.

Legs of Iron. Do the two legs represent the divisions of Western and Eastern Rome?

“But it may be asked, Why not suppose the two legs denote division as well as the toes? Would it not be as inconsistent to say that the toes denote division and the legs do not. We answer that the prophecy itself must govern our conclusions in this matter; for though it says nothing of division in connection with the legs, it does introduce the subject of division as we come to the feet and toes. The record says, 'Whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters clay and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided.' No division could take place, or at least none is said to have taken place, until the weakening element of the clay is introduced; and we do not find this until we come to the feet and toes.

Daniel and the Revelation..Uriah Smith Southern Publishing association Nashville Tennessee 1944, pp58

The dividing up of the Roman Empire into Western Europe was accomplished between 351 AD and 476 AD. Though mentioning the toes Daniel does not specifically call attention to their number. However there were about ten kingdoms that came from the fragmented Roman Empire. These ten kingdoms were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Visigoths - Spanish | (6) Franks - French |
| (2) Alemanni - Germans | (7) Anglo-Saxons - British |
| (3) Burgundians - Swiss | (8) Heruli - destroyed 493 AD |
| (4) Suevi - Portuguese | (9) Vandals - destroyed 534 AD |
| (5) Lombards - Italians | (10) Ostrogoths - destroyed 554 AD |

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

DANIEL 2:43 *"As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay."*

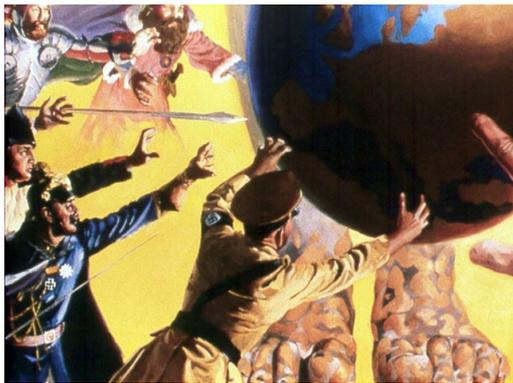


The aramaic word translated "seed" is ["zera" *strongs 2234*] and means posterity: - seed, child. To mingle with the seed of men in this case means to intermarry for the purpose of forming alliances.

Dan 2:43 *"This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix." New Living Translation.*

Until the beginning of the First World War, Europe was ruled by a household of relatives. Queen Victoria was often called the "Grandmother of Europe" Christian X of Denmark had six children, three sons and three daughters. His eldest son succeeded his father on the throne of Denmark as Frederick VIII. His eldest daughter married Edward, Prince of Wales, and became Queen Alexandra of England. His second son, Prince William, was elected King of Greece, and known as George V of Greece. His second daughter married Czar Alexander and became the Empress Dowager Dagmar of Russia. So we see that the Empress of Russia and Queen Alexandra of England were sisters. The eldest son of Queen Victoria became Edward VII of England. The eldest daughter, Princess Victoria, married Emperor Frederick of Germany and became the mother of Emperor William II. So the king of England and the Emperor of Germany were first cousins. The sister of Emperor William, Princess Sophia, married Constantine X of Greece. Therefore the Queen of Greece was also a first cousin of the king of England. Czar Nicholas II married Princess Alix of Germany, a first cousin of both King George V of England and Emperor William of Germany, being also a grandchild of Queen Victoria. Haakon VII of Norway married Princess Maude of England, a sister of George V. So the czarina of Russia, the Queen of Norway, and the Queen of Greece were all first cousins, being grandchildren of Queen Victoria, while the King of England and the Queen of Norway were brother and sister. So we might go on and on. The prophecy declared, 'they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men.' When World War One came it was really only a mighty family battle.

They will not adhere to one another. One of the greatest mysteries ever to puzzle historians is why a highly civilised continent like Europe, with so much to gain from unity of many of its diverse nations, as continued divided from the day the Roman Empire collapsed in 476 AD. The question was raised again in the N.Y. Times literary supplement of December 28, 1946.



"How has the continent of Europe escaped political unification?" asks the author. 'Everything in Europe seems to call for it; everything, that is, except the temperament and traditions of its peoples. More uniform in climate than China, less diverse in religion than India, less diverse in race than the United States of America, Europe has had for centuries a single culture and a common social structure. Landowner and peasant, merchant and banker, factory owner and factory worker, artist and scholar, would nowhere find themselves in an alien world in moving from one part of the continent to

another...For a thousand years men have dreamed of a European union; yet for a thousand years this most uniform of continents has defied political unification.

In Hitler's recent attempt to dominate the continent this author sees a 'perverse aping of an earlier French achievement,' but adds this significant statement: Yet in the Napoleonic Empire, too, appear the defects-one is tempted to say the inevitable defects-of attempting to force Europe into a single political mold.'

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

DANIEL 2:44-45 “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold – the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this.”

The great rock-cut out, but not by human hands – represents the kingdom that God shall set up. This kingdom is obviously different from all others in that it is outside of the image; it does not flow one into the other, as the kingdoms of the great statue had done; with it is an outside force, supernatural in its power and irresistible in its overwhelming strength. It strikes, not the head, the chest, the belly or the legs, but the toes, in the times of the last fragmented elements of the power that sprang from the might that was Rome. And when God sets up his kingdom, earthly kingdoms will be demolished; and God's kingdom will last forever.

The book of Daniel is designed to emphasise to the reader the mighty power of God. Nothing can resist it; nothing can withstand it; nothing can match it. And nowhere is this demonstrated more than in climactic moments of the vision that Nebuchadnezzar was given. W.G. Heslop, a noted Protestant commentator has written:



“The stone does not diffuse a transforming, sanctifying influence over the image of gold, silver, brass, and iron. Neither does the stone slowly crowd out the Colossus nor change it into a pious peaceful worshipper of the true God. The stone does not purify the kingdoms of the world - it pulverises them, and there is quite a difference between purification and pulverisation. The stone does not sanctify the image; it smashes them to smithereens. The stone does not transform either the monarchies of Babylon (head), or Medo-Persia (arms), of Greece (body), or Rome (legs), or the democracies of each (feet-part iron [strong] and part clay [weak]). It pulverises them.

The stone comes down from the skies and with a terrific force crashes into the feet and smashes the image to powder. The stone neither converts nor consecrates nor cleanses the Colossus. It crashes into it and crushes it to powder. After the stone has done its work there is not anything left either of monarchies or democracies. The stone fills the whole earth, thank God! Christ is Conqueror.

DANIEL 2:45 “The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

There is a ring of assurance in these words. What an amazing God we have! What is His power and what is His goodness that He should reveal to the children of men those things that will come to pass in the future.

DANIEL 2:45-49 “Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. The King answered Daniel and said, ‘truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.’ Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.”

Not only has God revealed the future to us through the prophet Daniel. But in a fair competition God has shown us the failure of trusting in people who practice the occult, like the wise men and astrologers of Babylon, and the success in trusting in prophets of God who alone can reveal God's truth. Not only did Daniel save the lives of the wise men and the astrologers but also he is now made a ruler over them.