

# A Bible Prophecy Series

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## How Close Are We To The End?

### Lesson #1

#### ***Introduction:***

King Nebuchadnezzar led Babylon into Jerusalem and ransacked the city and took sacred vessels out of the temple and he also took some of the young, strong, good looking young men and added them to his kingdom. Among these young men were four Hebrews named Daniel, Hananiah, Misheal, and Azariah. He took these young men and trained them in his courts and gave them a Chaldean education. After being tested and standing fast to their God (Daniel chapter 1) they were admitted as wise men in the kingdom.

One night the Babylonian king had a dream. He knew this dream must be important so he demanded an interpretation from his wise men which consisted of astrologers, soothsayers, and magicians. When the “wise men” were unable to interpret the dream they were found to be frauds. Out of anger the king ordered their execution.

It is in this context that we will look at the following study.

#### **1. Why did God give the Babylonian king this dream?**

Daniel 2:28

To reveal what shall be in the latter days.

#### **2. When the king's counselors failed to reveal and interpret the dream, what was Nebuchadnezzar's command? – Daniel 2:12**

To destroy the wise men of Babylon.

#### **3. When Daniel learned about the death decree, what did he ask of the king and what did he tell his friends)? – Daniel 2:16-18**

Daniel asked for time and he and his friends prayed. This is the same thing we should, when no human has answers for us. It is God alone who can enlighten and comfort.

#### **4. When the Lord revealed the dream to Daniel, to whom did Daniel give praise and credit?**

Daniel 2:23, 28

Daniel gave all praise and glory to God just as we should. He could have taken all the credit but he gave it all to God.

#### **5. What two objects did Daniel say the king saw in his dream? – Daniel 2:31-34**

An image/statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass/bronze, and feet of iron mixed with clay. Then a stone cut without human hands.

#### **6. What does the head of gold represent? – Daniel 2:38**

The gold represents Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, Babylon. Just as the Queen of England represents England, so does Nebuchadnezzar represent Babylon. The kingdom not the king is represented by the gold. Babylon was known for its gold. It literally had streets paved with gold, walls of gold etc... Babylon ruled the world from 612-539 B.C.

#### **7. Would the Babylonian kingdom last forever?**

Daniel 2:39

No the next power to rule would be the Medo-Persian empire led by Cyrus the great. Medo-Persia ruled from 539-331 B.C. during this reign all taxes were paid in silver...Medo-Persia is represented by silver in the statue.

**8. Was this prophesied elsewhere? – Is. 45:1**

Cyrus was named 150 years before his birth and 180 years before he overthrew Babylon. Please read Daniel ch. 5. During a drunken feast that the entire city was present for, a bloodless severed hand appeared and wrote on the wall ‘MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN meaning you have been weighed in the balances found wanting your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians (Dan. 5:25-28). It was this night that Babylon fell in one night without battle. Cyrus led his army in and took the Babylonians by surprise.

**9. What metal would represent the Kingdom that would follow Medo-Persia? –**

Daniel 2:39

Brass or bronze is the next kingdom representing Greece. Greece ruled the world from 331-168 B.C. The Greek soldiers were called brazen coated because their armor was all bronze. Alexander the Great led Greece and conquered the Medes and Persians at the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C.

**10. What metal represents the fourth kingdom?**

Daniel – 2:40

Iron representing Rome. The iron monarchy of Rome enjoyed world supremacy from 168B.C. – 476 A.D. Rome had weapons made of iron. This is the time frame that Jesus was born in. Rome was a ruthless kingdom and destroyed anything and everything.

**11. What would happen after the fall of the Roman empire? – Daniel 2:41, 42**

The kingdom would be divided. Rome fell and was overtaken by the 10 tribes of Western Divided Europe. The Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks (French), Vandals, Alemannians (Germans), Sueves, Anglo-Saxons (English), Heruls, Lombards (Italians), and Burgundians. Seven of these are still around today.

**12. Would these ten kingdoms ever succeed in uniting? Daniel 2:43**

No. Through the attempts of intermarriage and through warfare (Charlemagne, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Mussolini, and Hitler) it has never been and never will be united.

**13. Who will set up the final kingdom? – Daniel 2:44**

Jesus, the rock (Psalm 62:6, 1 Corinthians 10:4) made without human hands will set up the next and final kingdom.

**14. What does the stone do to the other kingdoms? Daniel 2:34, 35**

All other manmade kingdoms will be destroyed when Jesus'



**15. After hearing Daniel's clear interpretation of the dream what did Nebuchadnezzar say about the Lord? – Daniel 2:47**

“Your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets.”



***Conclusion:***

Daniel foretold 1,000 years of world history with unerring accuracy before any of it happened. Everything in this prophecy has taken place exactly as foretold. We can have confidence that that last part will happen also. There will be a time when there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more sorrow, this is something only Christ can offer.

Recognizing that God is in full control of Earthly events, are you willing to let Him have full control over your life?