

Daniel



Lesson 5-Our day in Bible Prophecy and the Coming Kingdom! *Focus: Daniel 2:31-49*

- ❖ ***The King of Babylon is about to have his dream explained by the young prophet Daniel (v.1,28-30).***
 - “...in the second year “ (v.1) of King Nebuchadnezzar’s reign (the King of Babylon), he had a troubling dream (around **603 B.C.**). None of his worldly wise men could show him the dream or the meaning of it! **“But, *there is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets...*” (v.28), and *who decided to reveal to the king what would happen in the future!!***
 - This vision was not revealed just for Daniel to glory in, but so that many would have the chance to believe in the God of Heaven, and to be saved. (God cares about every soul)
 - **Prophecy is one of the ways in which God shows us that He is the True God** (when there are so many fake gods, religions, and idols in this world) (ref. Isaiah 46:9,10).
 - ***This prophecy reveals over 2,500 years of world history before it ever happened!!***
- ❖ ***What is the dream that God showed to the king? (v.31-35)***
 - *The king must have been amazed as he heard Daniel revealing to him the dream he’d had just the night before, in perfect detail!!! **How many parts to this image?** The head of gold, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, the legs of iron, the feet part of iron and then part of clay; finally, this great stone crushes it all.*
 - ***Where does the stone strike the image? (v.34)*** *Is it on the head, belly, or what other place? **How important do you think this stone is?** How much of the earth does it fill after crushing the whole image to a billion pieces?!*
- ❖ ***How should we interpret this dream? (v.36, 37-40)***
 - ***Should we give our own interpretation?*** *Should we make up our own value for the symbols? Maybe it could represent our families?! Should we use some person’s or some church’s interpretation? Or, **should we let the Bible just interpret itself?!! (2 Peter 1:20, 21).** Of course! We must let the Bible interpret itself!*
 - ***According to the Bible, What is the first kingdom represented by these metals? (v.37, 38).*** *Babylon ruled the world from **612-539 BC**. They controlled the whole Mediterranean area and the nation of Israel; Egypt also was controlled by them. They were a real superpower (similar in power to the USA today). Babylon was very wealthy like a golden kingdom. They had gold everywhere! They are very famous for their hanging gardens—one of the seven wonders of the ancient world!*
 - ***What would rise next? (v.39)*** *The next world superpower to conquer ancient Babylon and to control this area of the world was the **Medo-Persian Empire**. They were ruled at first by king Cyrus! Their Empire lasted from **539-331 BC**. In one fateful night the city of Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. The whole story is recorded on the “**Cyrus Cylinder**,” an ancient Persian artifact that is kept in The British Museum in London today.*
 - ***The 3rd Empire to rise was (v.39) Greece!*** *The kingdom of Alexander the Great! They conquered Persia and ruled from **331-168 BC**.*

- **The 4th Empire to rise was Rome! (v.40)** This Roman Empire lasted from **168 BC to AD 476**. All of these kingdoms ruled one after another, and all of them had control over Jerusalem—the land of the Bible. **Jesus** lived on the earth during the time of this Empire. **The entire New Testament of the Bible was written during the time of this Empire.** Jesus mentioned the Book of Daniel during this time (1st Century) (Matthew 24:15). Daniel was written hundreds of years before the time of Rome!
- ❖ **What would happen to the Fourth Empire? (v.41-43)** The Bible predicted very clearly that **the 4th Empire would be “Divided,”** not conquered by some other great Empire. That is exactly what happened to Rome!! First, into the Eastern and Western Roman Empire (by the end of the 4th Century A.D.). By 476 AD the Western Roman Empire had split into the divisions which became the European nations. Rome was DIVIDED exactly like the Bible said it would be!! **“Partly weak and partly strong” (v.42).** The European nations are like that today. **The faith of Christ largely spread into the nations of divided Europe** though it experienced much corruption during the middle ages. EUROPE has tried to unite time and time again, but they have failed...JUST AS THE PROPHECY FORETOLD (v.43). Hitler, Napoleon, Keiser Wilhelm, and others all tried to unite Europe through war—BUT THEY failed...just as the Bible says! **Many tried to unite Europe through intermarriage of Kings and Queens** but that failed too! One example is when Napoleon divorced his wife Josephine and married Marie Louise of Austria. During the Hapsburg dynasty there was a lot of royal intermarriage all over Europe—The Bible prophesied this from Daniel’s day! **Today Europe has tried to unite with the Euro dollar, etc. but they have failed!!**
- ❖ **What does the Bible promise would happen in the days of the European Kings? (v.44,45)** Jesus Christ would return to destroy the kingdoms of this earth and to set up His own world-wide kingdom. It would no longer be left to the earthly rulers! **The stone strikes the FEET (v.34,35).** **Revelation 17:12-14** describes the same events! The Dream and its interpretation **are “sure” (v.45).** **Just as we saw every detail and nation of history rise and fall, so we can be sure that Christ’s eternal kingdom is coming.** **The question is, do we want to be a part of it?!!** The things and nations of men will crumble, but Christ’s kingdom will last forever. The idols of men, like this statue will fail, but Jesus Christ will last forever!!! We can live with Him forever too in His Kingdom because He has invited us to, and He’s paid for our sins by His own blood. **What is Christ waiting for? (Matthew 24:14) How can we be sure to be there? (Luke 20:17,18)**
- ❖ **Christ’s Kingdom will have no death, no pain, no suffering or sorrow, no sin or Crime, but only the love and the holiness of God.** The Capital of the City will be the beautiful New Jerusalem. This earth made new will be our home. We can plant vineyards, eat the fruit of them, build houses in the country. There’s no sickness there. We’ll have real and eternal bodies like Christ’s! No more dentists or doctors, etc. (See **Revelation 21:1-5, 10 to 22:5; Matthew 5:5; Isaiah 33:24; 65:17-19,21,22,25; Philippians 3:20,21; Luke 24:39**). We can travel to world’s unknown and study whatever things we like throughout all eternity! And God himself will be with us!!
- ❖ **King Nebuchadnezzar was absolutely astonished and amazed by the dream and it’s prediction—he decided to promote Daniel (and his friends) to a higher position in the kingdom! (v.46-49)**

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to be a member of Jesus Christ’s Kingdom today by receiving Him as your personal Savior from sin and death? _____