

Daniel Chapter 2

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One of the keys to unlocking Bible prophecy is the Bible itself.

2 Peter 1:20

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any _____ interpretation.

NOTE: God is the ultimate story teller. In prophecy concerning world history, God tells us the same story over and over. Each time He gives the prophecy, He adds more and more details until you get the full picture. You can then recognize where you are in time. You can look back in history to see the fulfillment of what has come to pass, and see just how much is yet to come.

What is the very first prophecy concerning world history?

Genesis 3:15 (God said to Satan...)

And I will put _____ between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy _____, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

NOTE: This is world history in a nutshell; God wins, and the devil loses. This prophecy says that the seed of the woman will bruise the devil's head, and the devil will bruise His heel. Now we learned that a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church. And through God's church would come a savior.

Now, to get more details, we must look to the next prophecy concerning world history: Daniel, chapter 2.

This prophecy was given to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon about 600 years before Christ. This took place early in the time of the Israelites' exile into Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that he knew meant something, but he could not remember it.

Daniel 2:3

I have had a _____, and my spirit is anxious to know the _____.

NOTE: So that the king would know that their interpretation of the dream was not just something they conjured up just to please him, Nebuchadnezzar commanded that they first tell him his dream, and then tell him what it means. When the psychics said that the king asked too much of them, the king got furious.

Daniel 2:12

For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to _____ all the wise men of Babylon.

NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar was not a patient man. Not present at this gathering of so-called wise men was Daniel and his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. These four Hebrews were chosen out of the exiles to

be trained in the king's employment because of their exceptional abilities and intellect.

When Daniel learned about the death decree, it says in verse 16:

Daniel 2:16

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the _____. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions.

So the four men prayed and asked God for help. And the Lord revealed the dream to Daniel.

Daniel 2:23

I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me _____ and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

NOTE: Daniel was brought before King Nebuchadnezzar. Now we find out why God gave this dream to the king, and why the Babylonian psychics could not help.

Daniel 2:27, 28

²⁷ Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The _____ which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

²⁸ But there is a God in heaven that _____ secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.

NOTE: God revealed to His faithful servant, Daniel, what the dream meant. God had outlined until the end of time the rise and fall of the world empires that would have a direct influence on His people. And God employed symbolism to do it.

Here is the dream:

³¹ Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great _____ (or statue). This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

³² This image's head was of fine _____, his breast and his arms of _____, his belly and his thighs of brass,

³³ His legs of _____, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

³⁴ Thou sawest till that a _____ was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

³⁵ Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

NOTE: The first thing the king saw was a great image made of the following minerals:

- The head was of gold.
- The chest and arms were of silver.
- The belly and thighs were of brass.
- The legs were of iron.
- The feet of iron mixed with clay.
- Next, the king saw a stone that had been cut without hands.

³⁶ This is the dream; and we will tell the _____ thereof before the king.

NOTE: Here's an example of how the Bible interprets itself. It tells us what each metal on the statue represents, starting with the head of gold:

³⁷ Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory... ³⁸ Thou art this _____ of gold.

NOTE: The head of gold represents Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon. Babylon was known as the golden kingdom, as gold was used in everything from art to architecture. It ruled the world from 612-539 B.C. The prophecy begins in Daniel's time.

The Babylonian kingdom would not last forever:

³⁹ And after thee shall arise another kingdom _____ to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

NOTE: Succeeding kingdoms, inferior to Babylon, would rule in their turn. Just as silver is inferior to gold, so the kingdom that followed Babylon was diminished in its glory. Led by Cyrus in 539 B.C., the Medo-Persian empire conquered Babylon. Symbolized by the silver chest with two arms, the Medes and Persians ruled the world from 539-331 B.C. During their reign, all taxes had to be paid in silver.

What metal would represent the kingdom that followed Medo-Persia?

³⁹ ... and another _____ kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

NOTE: Alexander the Great conquered the Medes and Persians at the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C, and the brass kingdom of Greece came into power. Greece

remained in power until about 168 B.C. Greek soldiers were called "brazen coated" because their armor was all bronze. Notice how each succeeding mineral depicted in the image is less valuable, yet stronger than the one before it.

This brings us to the fourth kingdom:

⁴⁰ And the _____ kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

NOTE: Rome conquered the Greeks in 168 B.C., and it was known as the iron monarchy. Rome reined supreme A.D. 476. It was the kingdom that dominated the world when Jesus Christ was born.

Through Daniel, God foretold a thousand years of world history with complete accuracy. The rise and fall of these four world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—are clearly foretold in the Bible and proved by the history books.

What would happen after the fall of the Roman Empire?

⁴¹ And whereas thou sawest the _____ and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

⁴² And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

NOTE: When the Roman Empire began to crumble in A.D. 476, it was not overtaken by another world power. Instead, barbarian tribes conquered the Roman Empire and divided it just as Daniel prophesied. Just as there are ten toes in the statue, ten of these tribes evolved into modern Europe. They were the Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Alemannians, Sueves, Anglo-Saxons, Heruls, Lombards, and Burgundians. Seven of them still exist today in Europe. For example, the Anglo-Saxons became the English, the Franks became the French, the Alemannians became the Germans, and the Lombards became the Italians.

⁴³ And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall _____ themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

Would these 10 kingdoms ever succeed in uniting?

All throughout history, leaders such as Charlemagne, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Mussolini, and Hitler have fought to build a new European empire. Just as Scripture foretold, all of them failed.

So what is yet to be fulfilled in this prophecy?

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall _____ be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

What does the stone do to the other world kingdoms?

³⁴ Thou sawest till that a _____ was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.
³⁵ Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great _____, and filled the whole earth.

NOTE: The stone that was cut without human hands represents God's kingdom. The Bible says that Jesus is the Rock, the corner stone. He is represented by the Ten Commandments, which were written on stone. His kingdom will replace all earthly kingdoms and last forever.

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a _____ heaven and a _____ earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.

NOTE: In terms of time, we are in the toenails of this statue. The return of Jesus is next. History shows that the rest of this prophecy has been fulfilled. This gives us confidence to trust that what is yet to come will happen. Daniel said in **verse 45**, "...the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." The Son of God will return in majesty. The Scriptures declare that when Jesus Christ returns to earth at the second coming, He will completely consume all the kingdoms of earth and establish an everlasting kingdom. All history is moving toward this climactic conclusion. It will happen, and soon. Will you be ready?

Daniel 2

Gold = Babylon -----
612-539 B.C.

Silver = Medo-Persia -----
539-331 B.C.

Bronze = Greece -----
331-168 B.C.

Iron = Rome -----
168 B.C.-A.D. 476.

Iron and Clay = the Divided Empire -----
A.D. 476, and it will remain divided until Christ's return.

**Stone = Christ's Eternal Kingdom,
His Word, and His Law**

