

# DANIEL 2

## STUDY GUIDE



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# DANIEL 2 STUDY GUIDE

Daniel 2 contains a powerful prophecy depicting the powers that would rule the world until the end of time. To an inquiring king, God revealed information that we can use to interpret not only history but also other prophecies in the Bible. The simple dream given to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 is the starting point or key to unlocking prophecies in Daniel and Revelation related to the future and the end of the world.

The dream takes place in the second year of his sole reign. This was still during the lifetime of Jehoiakim, king of Judah. As a result of the prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the God of Daniel, and was in a position to save Jerusalem instead of destroying it.

*“It was because of these experiences that God could send word by His prophet a few years later that, should Zedekiah, king of Judah, deliver himself to the king of Babylon, Jerusalem would not be burned, and the world would receive the light of the gospel.” (1)*

**Please note:** The entire chapter is provided here below, but because the study refers frequently to specific verses, it will be easier to complete it using a Bible opened to the chapter we are studying. This will prevent having to flip back to the pages at the beginning of the lesson as you progress through the lesson. You may also want to add notes or mark passages directly in your Bible.

These studies use the King James Version. Please keep in mind that if you use a different version, Bible verse fill-in-the-blank questions will not be a perfect fit and will not yield results that match the answers given in the answer key.

## Daniel 2, KJV

1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

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

13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom 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.

24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret 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 revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

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

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

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

34 Thou sawest till that a stone 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.

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

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 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

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

40 And the fourth 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.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet 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.

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

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never 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.

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; 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.

46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.



## Daniel 2:1-2



**1) Why do you think God chose to reveal the future by giving a dream like this to a Babylonian king instead of to one of His own prophets? (See [Acts 17:24-27](#).)**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

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We learned from Daniel 1 that Daniel and his three friends were taken from Jerusalem to Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar took the city. God's prophets had predicted this would happen because of Judah's disobedience. (See [Deut 28:15, 49-58](#); [2 Kings 20:16-17](#); [Is 39](#); [Hab 1:1-6](#).)

In setting His people at the crossroads of the ancient world, it was God's intent to lift them up as an example to the nations around them ([Deut 28:1](#)) that He might bless the world with a knowledge of Him through the seed of Abraham ([Gen 12:3, 22:18](#)).

But Israel failed. Rather than being a light to the world, His people had corrupted themselves by disobeying God's laws and adopting the ways of the heathen.

But God's purpose to save the world from Satan's tyranny was not thwarted. He saw that He could work with Nebuchadnezzar, that with this proud monarch could be persuaded to acknowledge God's sovereignty.

With Daniel in the king's court as His faithful ambassador, God saw an opportunity to reach the world with the truth. In presenting a view of the future to the most powerful ruler of the most powerful and influential kingdom in the world, God offered knowledge of His coming kingdom. This knowledge was a challenge to the Babylonians who prided themselves for their wisdom. In contrast to the false wisdom of the Babylonians, Daniel and his three faithful friends were living examples of true wisdom. (See [Ps 111:10](#), [Pr 9:10](#).)

The Chaldeans were highly educated advisors to King Nebuchadnezzar.<sup>(2)</sup> They were famous philosophers considered to be the most ancient Babylonians, of the same caliber as the Egyptian priests. Their knowledge was passed down from father to son over centuries through tradition. Diodorus Siculus, an ancient Greek historian, wrote about them in his *Bibliotheca Historica* and said this:

*For being deputed to Divine Offices, they spend all their Time in the study of Philosophy, and are especially famous for the Art of Astrology. They are mightily given to Divination, and foretell future Events, and employ themselves either by Purifications, Sacrifices, or other Enchantments to avert Evils, or procure good Fortune and Success. They are skillful likewise in the Art of Divination, by the flying of Birds, and interpreting of Dreams and Prodigies: And are reputed as true Oracles (in declaring what will come to pass) by their exact and diligent viewing the Intrals of the Sacrifices.*

*...The Chaldeans far exceed all other Men in the Knowledge of Astrology, and have study'd it most of any other Art or Science. (3)*

So astrology, interpretation of dreams and foretelling the future was a major part of their job and training. According to Diodorus, they believed:

*... that the World is eternal, which had neither any certain Beginning, nor shall have any End; but all agree, that all things are order'd, and this beautiful Fabrick is supported by a Divine Providence, and that the Motions of the Heavens are not perform'd by chance and of their own accord, but by a certain and determinate Will and Appointment of the Gods.*

*Therefore from a long observation of the Stars, and an exact Knowledge of the motions and influences of every one of them, wherein they excel all others, they foretell many things that are to come to pass.*

It would seem natural, with this background, that the king should expect these Chaldeans to be able to communicate with the gods and to not only interpret his dream but to tell him his dream. They were the wisest of the wisest, and understood all mysteries and had a direct connection with the gods. Surely this should not be a problem for them.

Interestingly enough, the consultation of mediums is nothing new as kings and rulers have consulted with magicians, astrologers, and sorcerers throughout history. Even today, world leaders consult with the dark side. There's nothing new under the sun. (Eccl 1:9)



But the Bible tells us that: "...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14.

Only by God's Spirit are we able to discern spiritual things. This dream was from God, and it needed someone with a connection to the Living God to be able to interpret it.

The Holy Spirit blesses the humble sincere searcher after truth with understanding that the "wise men" of the world are unable to comprehend.

## Daniel 2:3-12

**2) How did God use the words of the Chaldeans to distinguish Daniel from the everyday magicians in the king's court? ([Daniel 2:3-12](#))**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Chaldeans admitted that only a God could know a man's thoughts and dreams. In saying this, they acknowledged beforehand that Daniel's knowledge of the king's dream could only come from communication with God, something none of them could claim for themselves.



## Daniel 2:13-25

**3) What did Nebuchadnezzar discover about his counselors during the questioning process? ([verses 10,11](#))**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

King Nebuchadnezzar discovered that his counselors were not able to tell him, that they had no connection to the gods after all, and that very likely, they had been making up interpretations for him without real divine guidance all along.

This dream was from the Living God and the Chaldeans did not know Him but instead dealt with astrology, a science many even follow today. However, astrology is not of God, but rather of His archenemy, Satan. Satan did not know what dream God had given Nebuchadnezzar because Satan cannot know our thoughts. Therefore, only God could help Nebuchadnezzar. This crisis in Nebuchadnezzar's life was intended by God to draw his attention to the Living God, to show him who He is so that Nebuchadnezzar could come to a saving knowledge of God.

Nebuchadnezzar became furious with the Chaldeans, as he realized that they were trying to buy time so that they could figure out how to respond to him. His trust of their sorceries was being shaken and this was terrifying and infuriating to the king.

His threats were serious and deadly. He was not a king to be trifled with. These sorcerers claimed to have contact with the spirits but suddenly they were found out to have no power whatsoever, despite their training and tradition. They were frauds.

They admit: “There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter.”

And they almost chide the king for asking such a thing: “Therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.” (vs 10) “None other... can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh” (vs 11) How could they read his mind?

To King Nebuchadnezzar this seemed like a ridiculous statement. How could they not know if they claimed to understand all these mysteries and claimed to have power to interfere into affairs with their fortune-telling?

King Nebuchadnezzar had enough, and quickly all the wise men and counselors were condemned to death. Unfortunately this included Daniel and his friends even though they had not been present during the audience with the king.



**4) Why do you think Daniel was able to say with confidence “that he would shew the king the interpretation” (vs. 16) when the king’s magicians and Chaldeans were forced to admit it was beyond human ability (vs. 10) to do so? ([Daniel 2:13-25](#); [1 John 3:22](#); [Dan 6:22](#); [Acts 24:16](#))**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daniel had demonstrated his fidelity to God in refusing to eat the king’s food. Passing this first test on appetite strengthened his relationship with God and he knew of no unconfessed, unrepented of sin that would separate him from God or cause his prayer to be unheard. ([Is 59:2](#)) He knew that obedience was a prerequisite to answered prayer. (See [John 15:7](#), [Is 1:15-18](#), [1 John 3:21-23](#), [2 Chron 7:14](#), [1 Pet 3:12](#), etc.) To the best of their knowledge and ability, Daniel and his three friends were living up to God’s requirements for holy living.

This gave Daniel the confidence to declare, in faith, that God would provide him the information the king desired.

Daniel had been surprised by the death decree, for he had not been in attendance during the initial call for the Chaldeans, magicians, sorcerers, and astrologers. Perhaps they had excluded him because they thought he was a foreigner and didn’t want him present. Perhaps he was on some business for the king. Whatever the reason, Daniel’s life and the life of his friends was in jeopardy. After questioning Arioch to find out the reason for the king’s anger, Daniel went before the king to ask for time to inquire of God so that he could tell him the interpretation.

God chose Daniel, a man of upright character, to be His representative to the court of the most powerful empire in the world. God honored Daniel's fervent prayer, and provided him with the interpretation of the king's dreams.

Daniel took no credit to himself, but instead directed all the glory and honor to God. The Bible tells us something important in [Amos 3:7](#). What is it?

## Daniel 2:26-28

5) Surely the Lord God will do \_\_\_\_\_, but He \_\_\_\_\_

His \_\_\_\_\_ unto His \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. (Amos 3:7)

Even the Chaldeans admitted that no one could tell the king his dream unless it was revealed to them divinely, and God did reveal it—not to the sun-worshiping Chaldeans—but to His faithful prophet. The interpretation of the dream was given to Daniel because he sought and acknowledged God in all things. This is the beginning of wisdom and we too can receive wisdom and knowledge when we acknowledge God and seek Him in our lives.

After he receives the dream and the interpretation from God, Daniel immediately goes to Arioch to stop him from killing any of the wise men of Babylon. He wasn't going to just save himself and his friends. He was willing to save all of the wise men even though they did not honor God.

Arioch gladly goes before the king and takes credit for finding someone who can interpret the king's dream, possibly to gain favor before the king.



## Daniel 2:29-30

6) What does Daniel's answer reveal about him as an ambassador for God? ([Daniel 2:26-28](#))

A: \_\_\_\_\_

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God's kingdom was foremost in Daniel's life. His answer reflects Daniel's desire to promote the interests of his heavenly King above all else. Not only did Daniel use this opportunity to instruct the king and the court about the all-powerful, all-knowing God he served, but he did it with humility and diplomacy. He took no credit for himself and didn't give the impression that he was favored of God. Instead he simply points to the God of heaven and acknowledges that it was He who gave Daniel the interpretation. He alone can reveal secrets and He alone can interpret the dream.

At the same time, he softened the blame which the wise men rightfully deserved by agreeing with them in saying knowledge of another man's dream was beyond the sphere of humans.

Daniel's motive was always to glorify God and he made certain that God was always honored as the source of his wisdom. His unique position in the courts of Babylon allowed him to influence statesmen and leaders and he took the opportunity to point them to the God of heaven.

He proceeds to tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream.

## Daniel 2:31-36



**7) How does Daniel tactfully lead the king to see that the wisdom of man is foolishness with God ([1 Cor 3:19](#))?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

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Again, Daniel refused to take any credit and did his best to avoid having any greatness ascribed to himself. In denying that the interpretation had anything to do with his own wisdom, Daniel also removed the possibility of the Babylonians taking any indirect credit because he had recently been a student in their schools. Knowing what the king had dreamed and what it meant had nothing to do with the fact that Daniel was an alumnus of the Babylonian school. Daniel made it clear that this knowledge had come directly from God only and was due to His purpose and sovereignty.

God answered King Nebuchadnezzar's questions as he wondered how the future would unfold and what it would mean for his kingdom. God used Nebuchadnezzar's questions to give him a dream that would point him to the God of Heaven.

God's answer also came to the king through Daniel because He wanted Daniel and his three friends to come up before the king so that they could have access to the king and be able to witness for the God of heaven. God knew that the king would give Daniel and his three friends a position where they could influence Babylon for good as a result. ([vs 48 & 49](#))

*“It was in the providence of God that His people should carry the light of truth to all the heathen nations. What they failed to do in the time of peace, they must do in time of trouble. Babylon was the ruling power of the world; it was the educational center. The Jews were comparatively a small people; they lost the power of God by neglecting the education of their children; they failed to let their light shine. From their midst God took a few who were trained in the fear of the Lord, placed them in the heathen court, brought them into favor with the ruler of the world, so making Himself known to the heathen king. He did even more: He revealed Himself to the king and used these children of His to prove that the wisdom of God excelled the wisdom of the Chaldeans. Having exalted true education, He put Daniel and his companions at the head of that vast empire that the knowledge of the God of heaven might go to the ends of the earth.” (4)*

How God loved King Nebuchadnezzar! He wanted him saved and saw in him an inquiring mind. He wanted to give Nebuchadnezzar the opportunity to get to know Him.

## Daniel 2:37-38

**8) What is significant about the order of the metals as given in the dream?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From its golden head to its iron and clay toes, the metals diminished in value but increased in strength. The decline of each metal's value symbolized the decline of each kingdom's glory and moral value. Each subsequent kingdom declined in its spiritual, moral, or cultural qualities, but their military or political powers increased as one empire overthrew the other.

An image is something that Nebuchadnezzar would have been very familiar with, as his religion had many gods. Babylon's religion played a key role in the culture of the city, with over 43 temples and sanctuaries in the city alone, and hundreds of shrines. Nebuchadnezzar would have had great respect for the image he saw in his dream.

Notice that Daniel did not say, "I will now tell you the interpretation of the dream." Instead, he said, "We will tell the interpretation" ([vs. 36](#)). It seems that Daniel, though the spokesperson, wanted the king to remember that he was part of that little group of friends who had already distinguished themselves from the other captives simply because they chose to cling to the God of their fathers. The other three had joined him in pleading with God to reveal the dream.

## Daniel 2:39

**9) How do you think Nebuchadnezzar felt when Daniel told him that the God of heaven—the God of the Israelites whom he'd conquered—had given him his kingdom?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

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Nebuchadnezzar may have felt indignant that Daniel, his captive, so boldly attributed his power and success to the God of Israel. But how could he argue with such an undeniably humble man who obviously had access to divine wisdom? The self-assured conqueror could only hold his peace and listen with captivated wonder.

Nebuchadnezzar was amazed at Daniel's ability to tell him his dream, but the interpretation was even more amazing. Nebuchadnezzar was shown the "political" future of the world. Daniel told him that he, Nebuchadnezzar, was the head of gold.

The "head of gold" is a fitting symbol for Babylon's incomparable luxury and magnificence. In Isaiah 13:19, God calls Babylon "the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency" and indeed it was a city of beauty, glory and excellency in many ways.



Gold was a common metal used in Babylon, and under Nebuchadnezzar's rule, the city was in its "Golden Age." Babylon's reach expanded across the Middle East to the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea, and even into Egypt.

## The City

The city of Babylon was itself a marvel. Originally built by Semiramis, the city was completed in a year's time according to her specifications. (5)

The River Euphrates ran through the middle of it, and it was surrounded by a wall 45 miles in circumference.



*The Neo-Babylonian Empire under Nabonidus (r. 556–539 BC) Neo-Babylonian Empire at its greatest territorial extent.*

The brick walls were so thick that six chariots could be driven abreast on them and their height was beyond anything anyone had ever heard of to that time. There were 250 turrets on the wall.

On either side of the river she raised a 12.5 mile broad bank and built two palaces at each end of the river. More palaces and buildings were added by other kings. There were broad avenues, interspersed with parks and gardens, and the houses were up to four stories high.





*Ishtar Gate, Babylon. Rictor Norton, via Wikipedia.*

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ishtar\\_Gate\\_at\\_Berlin\\_Museum.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ishtar_Gate_at_Berlin_Museum.jpg)

The city was built of brick and the walls were covered with enameled tiles of blue, yellow, and white. The famous Ishtar gate, which is now reconstructed in the German Pergamon Museum, had reliefs of mythical beasts such as dragons, along with wild and domesticated animals such as lions and bulls. Winged lions stood as statues throughout the city.





Babylon also had the famous Hanging Gardens (6) —one of the Seven Wonders of the World—terraced gardens that were supported by pillars and resembled a lush mountainside. Historians say the gardens were built for a princess that missed her home country of Persia. Because Babylon was in a very dry area without rain, the river Euphrates, which ran through the city, was an important part of the irrigation system used to water crops and to keep the Hanging Gardens green. A special system of conduits and conveyances brought water up to the top of the Hanging Gardens.

## Babylon's Religion

Babylon was a center of paganism. Babylon's religion played a key role in the culture of the city, with over 53 temples and sanctuaries in the city alone, and over a thousand shrines. The city streets were named after the many gods of Babylon. The priests worshiped more than 4000 separate gods, each with a different function but their main god was Marduk, the sun god, creator and ruler of Heaven and Earth. As the king of the gods, 50 names and powers were attributed to him.(7)

A magnificent ziggurat crowned with the temple of Marduk was located near the city's center. Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar, was a worshiper of Marduk. Inscribed foundation cylinders tell the story of his deep devotion to Marduk and how he consulted the gods on the temple's construction and bestowed rich gifts in its building. According to the inscriptions, King Nabopolassar carried bricks and had the crown prince, Nebuchadnezzar, carry earth mixed with wine for making bricks, while his younger brother was put to labor with a mattock and spade.

Among the Semites and Israelites, Marduk was known as Baal, the Semitic word for "lord." (8) He was known as Zeus to the Greeks and Jupiter to the Romans. His symbols were a bull calf and a dragon. He was considered to be the "immortal son of Utu"—Utu being sun god as well. (9)



### **Babylon's Knowledge**

As we have seen, the Chaldeans were also great sorcerers and magicians, and Daniel was no doubt introduced to their religious thinking and all their divination and sorceries. No wonder Daniel had to make a conscious decision to stay faithful to his God, even in diet.

In the realm of science, the ancient Babylonian scientists were great thinkers, making important discoveries in mathematics, physics & astronomy. They developed trigonometry and methods of tracking time still used today.

It's clear from these facts that God chose a very fitting symbol when He represented Babylon as the head of gold in the king's dream. In a later vision given to Daniel himself, God repeats and enlarges the prophecy of the statue to include more details about Babylon. See Daniel 7 to learn more.



Arms of silver = Medo Persia



Thighs of brass = Greece

Legs of iron = Rome

Feet of iron and clay  
= 10 tribes

## Daniel 2:40

**10) What is significant about the organization of the dream's details?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The statue from head to toe is a timeline and depicts world ruling empires in succession. (see previous page) This is evident in vs. 39: "But *after* you shall arise another kingdom . . . *then* another." Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would not last forever despite his ambition and greatness. Babylon passed away because in her prosperity, she ignored the true God and ascribed the glory of her prosperity to human achievement.

Nebuchadnezzar was followed by kings that did not rule with integrity. They chose not to recognize and acknowledge God. The next kingdom to follow would be represented by the two arms and chest of silver. History tells us that Medo-Persia was the kingdom that conquered Babylon shortly after Babylon's Golden Age under Nebuchadnezzar. Only a few years after his death, Cyrus entered the city gates during a night of partying by the Babylonian king Beshazzar.

Daniel was still alive at this time, and became important to the Medo-Persian king as well and served in his courts. The Medo-Persian empire was represented by the arms of silver—representing the union of the Medes and Persians in this empire.

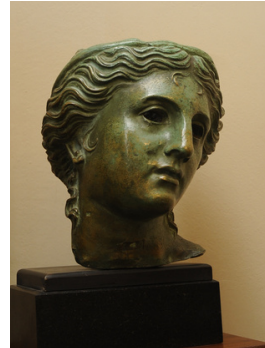


*The succeeding kingdom, Medo-Persia, is the one which answers to the breast and arms of silver of the great image. It was to be inferior to the preceding kingdom. In what respect inferior? Not in power; for it was its conqueror. Not in extent; for Cyrus subdued all the East from the Aegean Sea to the River Indus, and thus erected the most extensive empire that up to that time had ever existed. But it was inferior in wealth, luxury, and magnificence. (10)*

God reveals much about this kingdom in the details. “Another kingdom inferior to thee”—silver which is less precious than gold, was the preferred metal of Medo-Persia, yet it is harder than gold. And we see the statue increasing in hardness but decreasing in value which also coincides with what happened in history.

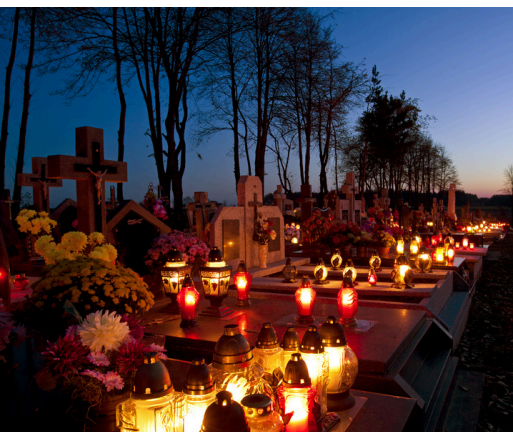


*Mithra (left);  
[Goddess Anahita](#)  
(right).*



The Medes and Persians also had a polytheistic religion, worshiping many false gods, just as Babylon had. The religion of Medo-Persia incorporated aspects of the Babylonian religion into their own. The gods of Babylon were renamed and worshiped in addition to their own gods. The gods of the Medes and Persians were Mithra (the sun god) and Anaita, the goddess of fertility. Their main religion was Zoroastrianism which taught that the world was created by a god named Ahura Mazda to allow a forum for good and evil to engage with each other until evil was incapacitated. Nimrod/Tammuz and Semiramis from the Babylonian mystery religion were renamed as Mithra, the sun god, and Anaita, the goddess of fertility.

Part of religious ceremonies of the Medes and Persians included a ritual of drinking an intoxicating drink. This supposedly allowed them to communicate with their gods. Many of the beliefs of the Mithra cult were continued into the Roman Empire and are embraced in Gnosticism and Catholicism, including Mithra's birthday (Dec. 25), Sunday, All Soul's Day, hell, and purgatory.



The Medo-Persian kingdom was visited by the wrath of heaven because in this kingdom God's law was trampled under foot. The fear of the Lord found no place in the hearts of the people. The prevailing influences in Medo-Persia were wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption.

More detail about Medo-Persia's conquest is provided in subsequent visions received by Daniel and described in [Daniel 7 & 8](#).

The image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream symbolically showed that each succeeding kingdom was to be inferior to the one before it. Yet each kingdom was also stronger in military might than the ones that came before. This prophecy provides a basic outline of the major prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. Each prophecy reveals details about the prophet's day and extends to the end of time.

The Bible predicts another empire after Medo-Persia. Who conquered the chest and arms of silver?

It was Macedonia or Greece under Alexander the Great, moving with lightning speed to take over the area. And his kingdom was even greater than Medo-Persia's. Bronze, a metal extensively used by the Greeks, is also harder than silver but is of less value.



A subsequent vision given to Daniel directly expands on Greece's rule and is discussed further in Daniel 7, 8 and 11.

In terms of religion, the Greeks also had a polytheistic religion, just as the two previous kingdoms had.



## Daniel 2:41-42

**11) What empire is represented by the iron legs and feet of iron and clay?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In 168 BC, Greece was taken over by the iron monarchy of Rome, the kingdom with the largest expanse, and represented in the image by the hardest metal—iron. Rome was known for its crushing aggression. "... forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise." Iron can crush gold, silver, and bronze. Rome was the greatest empire of antiquity and is the subject of many books.

It subdued a much greater area than any of the previous kingdoms, and its effect is still felt today. It was an empire that broke in pieces the areas it subjugated.

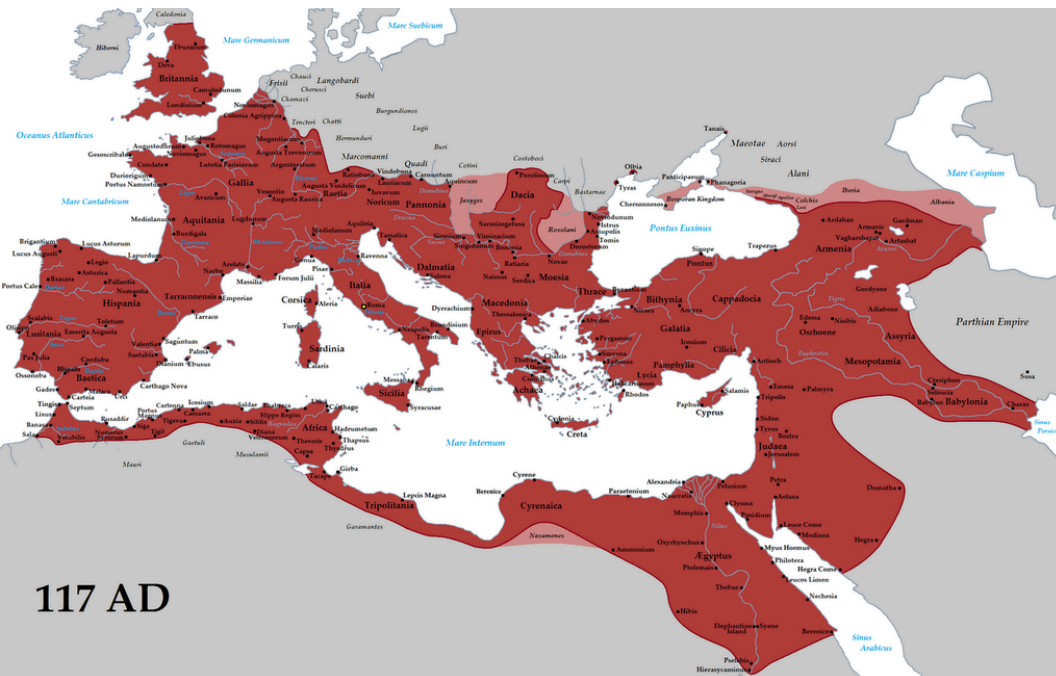
John F. Walvoord, a Bible commentator, writes: "The glory of Rome was built on the misery of its conquered peoples." (11)



The historian Edward Gibbons, in his magnum opus, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* describes how the Romans maintained control over the regions they ruled: “They preserved peace by a constant preparation for war.”

He recognized the relationship between the iron of Daniel 2 and Rome:

*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, silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations or their kings, were successively broken by **the iron monarchy of Rome.**” (12)*



*Roman Empire, via Wikipedia.*

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman\\_Empire\\_Trajan\\_117AD.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire_Trajan_117AD.png)

The iron kingdom of Rome is the fourth empire that ruled the world.

Its empire expanded even farther than any of the previous kingdoms, reaching all of mainland Europe, across to Asia, and down to Africa.

The legs of the statue in Daniel 2 were made of iron which is the strongest and hardest metal of all the metals in the statue, but it is also of diminished quality showing its decrease in moral value from all the previous kingdoms.

Bible commentators for the most part all agree that the legs, feet, and toes represent the Roman Empire in various stages.

The fourth kingdom of Rome is one of the primary subjects of Bible prophecies and is discussed in [Daniel 7, 8, 11, 12](#) and [Revelation 13, 17](#), and many more chapters of the Bible. It played a huge role in the world, affecting millions of God's people.

Some interpretations count the Median and Persian powers as two separate entities, making Greece to be the fourth kingdom, omitting the Roman Empire altogether. But this is Scripturally unwarranted since Media and Persia are combined as one in the Scriptures ([Est 1:19; Dan 5:28; 6:8, 12, 15](#)). Also, verse 39 says the third kingdom would "rule over all the earth" and neither Media nor Persia ruled all the earth, but Greece did, making it the third kingdom and Rome, by default, the fourth.

## Daniel 2:43

### 12) Who conquered Rome?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The legs of the statue transition into the feet and toes, part of clay and part of iron, which does not mix at all. These two components do not bond together, therefore, their union is fragile and unstable, although the hardness of iron continues throughout.

*The element of weakness symbolized by the clay, pertained to the feet as well as to the toes. Rome, before its division into ten kingdoms, lost that iron tenacity which it possessed to a superlative degree during the first centuries of its career. Luxury, with its accompanying effeminacy and degeneracy, the destroyer of nations as well as of individuals, began to corrode and weaken its iron sinews, and thus prepared the way for its subsequent disruption into ten kingdoms. (13)*

The kingdom of Rome was not conquered, instead it was divided.

The presence of the iron continuing to the bottom of the statue shows that Roman ideas continue right through to the end of all the kingdoms. It also indicates that Rome would never be conquered. And all these points are exactly as it has happened.

The fall of Rome has been the subject of many books and articles, the most well-known of which is the very lengthy *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon. Rome had such a large territory and such a strong rule, that it seemed like the Roman Empire could not fall, and yet it did. What was the cause? Many historians have suggested reasons, but the main one is internal decay.

Rome was never founded on godly principles to begin with, and the Romans ruled cruelly and harshly. The countries they controlled hated them and their presence. We know that Israel certainly detested the Romans, and they wanted desperately to be free of their rule, which is why they expected Jesus as the Messiah to come and free them and make them their own nation. In one revolt by Galileans in AD 6, Rome put down the insurrection and crucified 2000 men along the roads for all to see their suffering as they died.

All throughout Jesus' ministry, He countered the dream and expectation of throwing off the Roman yoke. When He fed the 5000, many in the crowd reasoned that with such miracles possible, their army could never go hungry, and they would much more easily vanquish the Romans. This focus on Roman oppression made it so that even the disciples did not understand the principles Christ was trying to show them until much later.

Yet despite its power, Rome was decaying. The decline of Rome began several centuries before its actual fall. Historians credit three reasons for this:

1. Internal corruption
2. Overexpansion, economic collapse, and administrative division
3. Barbarian invasions

Edward Gibbon's reasons for the decline and fall of Rome through internal corruption, can be summed up in these points:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within: the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion—faith fading into mere form—losing touch with life and becoming impotent to guide the people.

Over-taxation, over-expansion, and over-reliance on slave labor represent some of Rome's excesses that caused its decline.



*Thomas Cole, Destruction from The Course of Empire.  
1836. The New York Historical, via Wikipedia.*

The Roman Empire became so extensive it became hard to control, which led to administrative division. In 293 AD, the emperor Diocletian made the decision to split the empire into four large administrative divisions, which caused the empire to weaken over time. In 330 AD, Constantine moved the capital from Rome to Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul), which caused a number of consequences administratively but also in the area of religion, affecting thereby also the early Christian church.

Starting at 351 BC till 476 AD, Rome was slowly ripped further apart by barbarian tribes in the north, later known as the Germanic tribes, which began to attack various regions and cities.

The Goths, Vandals, and others encroached on the borders of Rome, and because the frontier was weakening, they successfully sacked parts of the Roman Empire. The Western Roman Empire eventually crumbled into ten parts, making up the Germanic tribes of Europe.

Who are these 10 tribes? The ten divisions of the Roman Empire represent the nations that populated Europe. As the political infrastructure of the Roman Empire weakened, it divided into ten regions, each developing its own governmental system. The incohesive mixing of iron and clay represents the inability of the divided kingdoms to hold together.

Most of the European nations have their roots in the Germanic tribes that settled approximately the same areas where the nations of mainland Europe are now located, although there was a fair amount of intermingling among the tribes. Some of these nations have since split into further divisions, but they stem from the same ten primary cultures. The following list shows the relationship between each of the ten tribes and its associated nation.

Alemanni

Germany

Burgundian

Switzerland

Franks

France

Lombards

Italy

Saxon

Britain

Suevi

Portugal

Visgoths

Spain

### **Tribes that are now extinct**

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Heruli

East Germanic people originally from Scandinavia

Ostrogoths

Tribal group originating from Goths; from area north of Black Sea

Vandals

Germanic people from what is now Southern Poland



The extinction of the last three tribes was prophesied in later chapters of Daniel.

Never again would there be another world-dominating empire. Rome crumbled to pieces under its own weight, never to be united again.

*“The iron was mixed with the clay. Its elements lost the power of cohesion, and no man or combination of men can again consolidate them.” (14)*

History has proved that the book of Daniel is indeed a God-inspired book, for its accuracy is impeccable. The iron and clay symbolize another important feature that developed in Europe—the domination of religion over the political states.

*The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. (15)*



How do we come to this conclusion?

Clay in the Bible is used as a symbol of humanity. In Genesis God creates man out of clay, forming him out of the dust of the ground, and breathing in him the breath of life (ruach) so that he becomes a living soul. [Isaiah 64:8](#) affirms this:

**13) But now, O Lord, thou art our \_\_\_\_\_; we are the \_\_\_\_\_, and thou our \_\_\_\_\_; and we all are the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy \_\_\_\_\_. (Isaiah 64:8)**

God is the potter, and we are the clay. When the fledgling Christian church met in an upper room to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost as Jesus had told them to do, flaming tongues of fire suddenly descended after a rushing mighty wind from heaven filled the house they were in. ([Acts 2:2-3](#)). This is an example of God filling His church (made of people) with His Spirit. So the Christian church, consisting of His people made alive through His breath and filled with His Spirit, represents this clay component of the legs on the statue. However, the church during this period of time was mixed with the state, and as a result, its spiritual health declined, putting the rights and liberties of people at risk.



After Rome broke into 10 divisions, the Papacy took control over Europe, and they practiced a mingling of church and state which caused great persecution to exist throughout the Dark Ages.

A mild form of the mingling of religion and politics can be seen in Europe even to this day, where there are prohibiting work on Sundays.

For example, even in recent times, washing your car and renovating your home were activities that were frowned upon in Germany, and neighbors were encouraged to file complaints against those that broke the sacredness of Sunday.

Any union of church and state is dangerous and causes the restriction of civil and religious liberties. One of the tenets of the formation of the United States of America was the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. Today, the separation of church and state is at risk in America and will continue to be at risk, until it makes an image to the beast as predicted in Revelation 13.

No other kingdom was to succeed Rome or to re-unite it. The prophecy tells us that the feet and toes kingdom would be “partly strong and partly broken” and this is the case. Rome’s empire may have been broken and its ten divisions remained distinctly separate, but its strength has continued. Though some have tried to unite Europe and rebuild the Roman Empire under one ruler, all attempts have failed.. Daniel 2:43 was stronger than all their armies: “They shall not cleave one to another” it said. As for the iron hardness of this final empire, the cruelty of the pagan Roman emperors continued under papal Rome in the persecutions of those who disagreed with the Roman church’s teachings.

Some may say that the 10 divisions of Europe have all disintegrated as there are many more than 10 nations of Europe today. But even if they rename themselves and redesign their borders, the ethnic regions can still be traced to the original ten divisions.

Thomas Scott remarks in his commentary: —

*It is certain that the Roman empire was divided into ten kingdoms; and though they might be sometimes more and sometimes fewer, yet they were still known by the name of the ten kingdoms of the Western empire.” (16)*



## Daniel 2:44-45

**14) What does the prophecy of Daniel 2:43 say will never happen? ([Dan 2:43](#))**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

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Aside from a temporary union that Satan will bring about at the very end of time ([Rev 17:12-18](#)), the nations of Europe will never be united under a single leader. The nations of Europe represented by the “iron mixed with miry clay,” have tried many times to “mingle themselves” into a single alloy. But the prophecy says, “they shall not cleave [join] one to another.” The military might of these nations, along with all treaties, alliances, and diplomacy have failed to reunite them as one empire. In the end, all attempted unions have always failed.

In an effort to unite the divided interests of the nations of Europe, the royal families of Europe had intermarried their children so frequently that at the time of World War 1 they were all related to one another. Similarly, though borders have shifted and people have intermingled with each other, nationalism remains strong and people have retained their ethnic and cultural identities.

Many have tried to put these nations together again: Charlemagne (AD 800), Charles V (1519-1556), Louis XIV (1643-1715), Napoleon Bonaparte (1804-1814), Kaiser Wilhelm 1 (1914-1918), and Adolf Hitler (1939-1945). All have failed.

Even the European Union, which is based on economic unity, has ended up in a fractured state with some countries exiting the union, some countries being only partially part of the union (Sweden), and others wishing to join (Ukraine).

Although Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden are all a part of the EU, Norway, Britain, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, Moldova, Bosnia Herzegovina, Macedonia, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, are not.



*Political map of Europe, via Nations Online.*

## Daniel 2:46-49

**15) What guarantee is made by the historical precision of the dream in all its details?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As we have seen, the validity of this prophecy based on Nebuchadnezzar's dream has been borne out by history. Babylon was overthrown by Medo-Persia, which was in turn conquered by Greece, which was then overcome by Rome. Rome, rather than suffering defeat from another world power, slowly dissolved into the nations of Europe.

But the prophecy has yet one more important part.

In the days of "those kings"—meaning the time of the feet and toes, the prophecy says that God's kingdom, the stone cut out without hands, "a great mountain," would be set up. And this kingdom will "break in pieces and consume" all the kingdoms. This is the only part of this prophecy that remains to be fulfilled. This prophecy shows that the next great event in world history is the coming of the kingdom of God, which will destroy all earthly powers, and will continue forever. When it says "without hands" it means without human help or interference.

Some people have suggested that this refers to Christ's kingdom or church that was set up during Roman times when He came to earth, but there is plenty of evidence that this is not the case.

First of all, the stone that is cut out of the mountain without hands is not depicted in the prophecy as striking it at the legs or of simultaneously reigning while the iron is reigning. It is said to strike it at the feet which represents the period of the divided kingdom. The Roman Empire was not divided like this until 450 years after Christ.



Also, all the elements of iron, brass, clay, silver and gold are dissipated at the time of striking. This shows that all those elements remain right up to the very end of time when they are finally and completely destroyed by Christ and His kingdom. Even now, the empires that are depicted by the statue are not fully eliminated. The remnants of their empires still linger today. But when the stone cut out without hands comes, all of these elements will disappear. Verse 35 describes them as being “broken to pieces . . . like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them.”



“Without hands” also means that there is no human agent that is used to fulfill this prophecy. God does not use His church to destroy the previous kingdoms. He does it Himself. Also if the stone cut out without hands was His church and it had already come, why then would Christ teach His people to pray “Thy kingdom come” in the Lord’s prayer ([Matt 6:10](#)) if His kingdom was already there?

The kingdom being spoken of here is God’s kingdom still to come. We are living at a time when the next event to take place is the coming of Christ to “set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.” It is the fifth kingdom in the line-up that we’ve been looking at in Daniel 2, and there is no more after this. The passage of time has fully developed the great image of Daniel 2 in all its parts. It has been fulfilled in all its points except the last, and the accuracy with which it has been fulfilled thus far can give us confidence that the last remaining part will also be fulfilled.



When God sets up His kingdom, He will restore this world to the original beauty and perfection of Eden, and His people to a life of health and happiness. See Revelation 21 and 22.

We have been living in the period represented by the feet and toes for over 1500 years. The statue is still waiting to be smashed by the stone cut out without hand—the coming kingdom of Christ. The fact that it has taken so long does not mean it will not happen. One of the main parts of the Gospel is the good news of Christ’s soon return and the doing away of all earthly systems.

King David spoke of this event in the psalms:

*Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalm 2:8-9)*



**16) To show that the kingdom of God is still future, match the following statements with their corresponding Bible verses by drawing a line from the numbered statement in the left column to the lettered reference in the right column.**

1. The kingdom was still future at the time of our Lord's last Passover.	A. <a href="#">1 Corinthians 15:50.</a>
2. Christ did not set it up before His ascension.	B. <a href="#">James 2:5.</a>
3. Flesh and blood cannot inherit it.	C. <a href="#">Acts 1:6.</a>
4. It is a matter of promise to the apostles, and to all those that love God.	D. <a href="#">Acts 14:22.</a>
5. It is promised in the future to the little flock.	E. <a href="#">2 Timothy 4:1.</a>
6. Through much tribulation the saints are to enter therein.	F. <a href="#">Matthew 26:29.</a>
7. It is to be set up when Christ shall judge the living and the dead.	G. <a href="#">Matthew 25:31-34.</a>
8. This is to be when He shall come in His glory with all His holy angels.	H. <a href="#">Luke 12:32.</a>

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The Bible tells us how the second coming will be:

**17) ...when the Lord Jesus shall be \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall \_\_\_\_\_ to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. ([2 Thess 1:7-10 KJV](#))**

Other prophecies and signs show unmistakably that Christ's coming is very near. This should be the all-absorbing topic in our present day. Are you ready for Christ's soon appearing? His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and those who enter it to enjoy its privileges and blessings and share in its glories will be people that subscribe to its principles. Are you one of those who belong to Christ and His kingdom? "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" ([Gal 3:29](#)).

*Are you on terms of friendship with Christ, the coming King? Do you love his character? Are you trying to walk humbly in his footsteps, and obey his teachings? If not, read your fate in the cases of those in the parable, of whom it was said, "But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me." (Lk 19:27)*

*There is to be no rival kingdom where you can find an asylum if you remain an enemy to this; for this is to occupy all the territory ever possessed by any and all of the kingdoms of this world, past or present. It is to fill the whole earth. Happy they to whom the rightful Sovereign, the all-conquering King, at last can say,*

*“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matt 25:34)” (17)*

**18) What does Nebuchadnezzar’s response to Daniel’s interpretation reveal about the king’s character? ([Dan. 2:47](#))**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Nebuchadnezzar was not so hardened by sin or corrupted by power and wealth that he could not be reached by God. Though he was named after the son of Marduk, the chief Babylonian god, and typically addressed Marduk as “lord of the gods,” he wisely acknowledged the superiority of Daniel’s God. The king of Babylon was awestruck by the interpretation of Daniel. He also acknowledged that Daniel’s God was to be revered and was greater than any of the Babylonian gods. Since religion was such an important part of the Babylonian culture, this must have been very significant to Nebuchadnezzar, since none of his gods were able to tell him the dream or the interpretation.

The whole purpose of the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar was to draw attention to the God of Israel as the one and only true God. God loved Nebuchadnezzar and the people of Babylon, and He wanted them to have an encounter with Him so that they could see that their own gods were nothing but wood, stone, and metal, and that He was the only living God.

Because of his faithfulness and honesty, the king promoted Daniel to a high position in the government of Babylon.

“Then the king made Daniel a great man and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.”

This was an amazing promotion, and surely also part of God's plan when He gave Nebuchadnezzar the dream, so that Daniel could have influence over the king and the people of the court, and continue to show them who the real God is.

Daniel asked for his three friends to also receive positions, so that they could work with him. It surely would have been a very great challenge for Daniel to have such power in Babylon, and having his three friends there to support him and take on leadership duties would have been a very great help.

*... his three companions were made counselors, judges, and rulers in the midst of the land. These men were not puffed up with vanity, but they saw and rejoiced that God was recognized above all earthly potentates, and that His kingdom was extolled above all earthly kingdoms. (18)*

"But Daniel sat in the gate of the king." In the Bible, when someone sits "in the gate" it means that they are judging. In Biblical times, the gate was where the elders of the city would go to meet and where deals were made and judgment was dispensed.

The overarching lesson for us is that God is sovereign. It is God who is ultimately behind the rise and fall of kingdoms. And it is that way with individuals, as well. God arranged matters in such a way that Daniel and his friends were promoted to high positions in Babylon because they had proven their fidelity to God and He knew they could be trusted to faithfully represent Him in the Babylonian court. God says, "Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed" ([1 Sam 2:30](#)).

19) How did Jesus express this principle in [Luke 16:10](#)? Fill in the blanks.

He that is \_\_\_\_\_ in that which is \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ also in \_\_\_\_\_: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

And so, as we look at the world around us, no matter how bleak things may look, we can know that God is in control and His purposes will be accomplished. It is not by the might of armies, by the wisdom of rulers, or by the progress of civilizations that the rise, prosperity and fall of kingdoms is determined; it is by the sovereignty of God. See [Proverbs 21:1](#); [Psalm 24:1-2](#). Whether the rulers in our world today are noble or corrupt, God is still in charge, making all things work together to fulfill His purposes. Romans 8:28.

We can have confidence that the future is secure with God because God Himself has promised and because we have seen the fulfillment of all but the final part of the prophecy of Daniel 2. For “the dream is certain and the interpretation thereof sure.”

### **Personal Reflection**

If it is your desire to be part of God’s coming glorious kingdom, ask God to help you to be faithful to Him in the trials you face today.

### **Prayer**

Father in heaven, You are sovereign. You hold the future in Your hands. Please help me to trust You with my life today. Help me to be faithful to You and prepare me for your kingdom of glory. Amen.



## Answer Key

1. God wanted to give the Babylonian king and nation a reason to learn about Him so that, ultimately, they might be saved.
2. The Chaldeans admitted that only a God could know a man's thoughts and dreams (vs 40). In saying this, they acknowledged beforehand that Daniel's knowledge of the king's dream could only come from communication with God, something none of them could claim for themselves.
3. He discovered that they were frauds.
4. Daniel had faith in God and knew of nothing in his own life that would disqualify him from receiving what he asked for from God.
5. Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.
6. His answer reflects Daniel's desire to promote the interests of his heavenly King above all else.
7. Daniel refused to take credit for the revelation but acknowledged God's sovereignty instead.
8. From top to bottom, the metals diminished in value but increased in strength.
9. Answers will vary.
10. The statue from head to toe is a timeline and depicts world ruling empires in succession.
11. The kingdom that followed Greece was Rome.
12. The kingdom of Rome was not conquered, instead it was divided.
13. But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.
14. Aside from a temporary union that Satan will bring about at the very end of time (Rev 17:12-18), the nations of Europe will never be united under a single leader.
15. Because every part of the prophecy has been accurate till now, we can be sure that the final events depicted by the dream will also be fulfilled.
16. Matching question. 1 F (Matthew 26:29.), 2 C (Acts 1:6), 3 A (1 Cor 15:50), 4 B (James 2:5), 5 H (Luke 12:32), 6 D (Acts 14:22), 7 E (2 Tim 4:1), 8 G (Matthew 25:31-34)
17. ...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (2 Thess 1:7-10 KJV)
18. He was humble enough to admit the superiority of Daniel's God.
19. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

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