

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 02

Discover: How Ancient Babylon
Foretold the End of the World

- Who is symbolized by the belly of bronze? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____
- Who is symbolized by the legs of iron? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____
- Who is symbolized by the feet of iron and clay? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____

*Note: according to verse 39, these powers had to be universal powers, not localized or regional entities. Each of them ruled over the then-known world.

Consider the following quotation from Edward Gibbon, the famed English historian, "The images of gold, silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome." Even secular historians recognize the historical verifiability and accuracy of this prophecy! Historians, however, can only look *back* and describe what *has been*, but God can look *forward* and predict what *will be*. The Bible can be trusted!

The Kingdom-stone, verses 44, 45

The stone that smashes the image represents what? _____
When, according to v. 44, will it strike the image? _____

The _____ coming of Jesus Christ to earth will usher in the eternal reign of the Kingdom of _____. When, precisely, will this happen? The answer is: we don't know, but we do know that we are living in the very last part—the toes—of the great metal man. Men try in vain to solidify and unite the "feet of iron and clay", but the Word of God is clear: "**They Shall Not Cleave**". The futile efforts of man cannot thwart the great plans and purposes of God! Just as this heavy statue would be wobbly with its feet-foundation of clay, so too we live in "wobbly" and unstable times. No man, no politician, no leader can solve the great problems that face this world. We need an external solution, and that solution is God and His marvelous coming Kingdom! How near is it? Nearer than we think!

Our Next Topic Will Be: Discover: How Near is the End?

Many are wondering *when*, or *if*, the world will ever come to an end. This question has intrigued mankind since the dawn of time. But does the Bible have anything to say about this subject? The answer is: *yes, it has much to say!* In fact, the Bible is the only reliable guide concerning this subject, as we will soon see. Before going into the details of one of the Bible's most incredible prophecies, let us first note the Four Essentials of Bible Prophecy.

1. To set the God of the Bible apart from other gods as the _____ God
 P Text: _____
2. To accurately reveal the _____ and thus create _____
 in the heart of the hearer
 P Text: _____
3. To reveal to the hearer the _____ and _____
 of his heart
 P Text: _____
4. To introduce the hearer to _____ and his
 heart's need of Him
 P Text: _____

These four essentials constitute the core reasons that Bible Prophecy was given. Bible Prophecy is not given merely to accommodate and satisfy mankind's curiosity about the future; Bible Prophecy serves a *moral purpose*, that is, to effect conversion and transformation in the heart of the hearer.

Considering one of the great prophecies of the Bible

Let us turn our attention to one of the cornerstone prophecies of the Bible. This prophecy, as we will see, perfectly embodies the Four Essentials of Bible Prophecy. This prophecy, given roughly 2,500 hundred years ago, is precisely

calculated to give us hope and courage in these strange times. Most people recognize that the world is seemingly spinning out of control. Violence, immorality, war, pollution, and a host of other factors, at unprecedented degrees, are causing thinking people to wonder how much longer we can go on like this. Yet, as distressing as these times are, the Bible tells of a better day to come and gives us true hope and security even now. Let's see...

Setting the Context:

This foundational prophecy is found in the book of _____, chapter _____.

Approximately when was the book written? _____; by who? _____

Where was the book written? _____; what was the condition of Daniel's hometown, Jerusalem, at the time it was written? _____

Why was Daniel taken from his homeland? _____

What does the name *Daniel* mean? _____

The King Has a Dream, verses 1-12

King _____ had a dream in which year of his reign? _____

Who did the king call for help? _____

Could they give the help the king wanted? _____; What two things did the king demand to know? _____ and _____

According to the king's counselors, who alone could give the information that the king wanted (note: see verse 11)? _____

Daniel Sought, verses 13-18

Daniel asked the king for _____; What did Daniel do after visiting with the king? _____

What would you have done? _____

God Answers Daniel's Prayer, Reveals the Dream, verses 19-23

What is the first word of verse 19? _____; Why is this word so important in this setting? _____

Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who

asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Notice how easy it is to remember: **Ask, Seek, Knock— A.S.K.**

Daniel Returns to the King, verses 24-30

According to Daniel, who alone could reveal the dream? _____

Did Daniel take any credit for his ability to reveal the dream? _____

According to v. 28, to what time does the dream apply? _____

According to v. 30, why did God give the king this incredible dream? _____
_____ (remember #3 of the Four Essentials!)

The Dream, verses 31-35

The king saw a great _____ man. Fill in the appropriate materials:

- ▷ Head of _____
- ▷ Chest of _____
- ▷ Belly of _____
- ▷ Legs of _____
- ▷ Feet of _____

What happened to the image in the king's dream? _____

What happened to the stone at end of the dream? _____

Remember that King Nebuchadnezzar would have been an idolater. God purposefully chose an idol-like image to arrest the king's attention!

The Interpretation, verses 36-43

Don't forget that the king wanted two things: the dream *and* the interpretation. In verse 36 Daniel makes it clear, no doubt to the king's utter dismay, that the dream was exactly as he had told it. Daniel could stand with confidence before the king, because he had knelt before God! Now we turn our attention to the interpretation of this remarkable dream.

- Who is symbolized by the head of gold? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____
- Who is symbolized by the chest of silver? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____