

What does the Bible say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

Bible Prophecy (Daniel Chapter 2)

Let's open our Bibles to Daniel 2 as we explore this remarkable prophecy. See Dan. 2:1-3. Here's some background: this event occurs around 603 B.C., during the reign of a king who rules the most powerful empire of that time. Daniel, a Jewish captive, was taken to Babylon after Jerusalem was conquered.

This story tells how God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a prophetic dream about the events of the last day. We know this because God gave Daniel the ability to interpret the dream. Let's see what Daniel shares with the king.

See Dan. 2:27-30. Daniel explains to the king that the God of heaven is revealing future secrets. Verse 28 states that this dream pertains to "the latter days," indicating it relates to the last days of the Earth. It encompasses even more, as discussed in verse 29.

In Daniel 2:29, Daniel explains to the king that this dream will reveal “what would come to pass hereafter” (or, after this). This is a key point because Daniel indicates that the dream spans from around 603 B.C. directly to the last days. Essentially, God provided the king with a broad outline of the history of the earth from 603 B.C. until the end. Why did God give the king this dream? Three reasons are identified. The first is to help him understand the future, as explained in verse 28. The second is found in verse 30.

In Dan. 2:30, the dream was revealed to Daniel and his friends, who interpreted it. God intended to put Daniel and his friends in influential roles to serve as His witnesses. Therefore, He made sure they were the only wise men able to interpret the king's dream.

The ability to interpret dreams and understand prophecy would have a lasting impact on Daniel, as shown in verse 49. There is a lesson in this for us: understanding Bible prophecy brings many blessings. It helps us understand what the future holds so that we can prepare accordingly.

Just as a weatherman warns of an upcoming storm, helping us secure our homes and take precautions, knowing what lies ahead helps us get ready. Ultimately, the most important preparation for the future is to be spiritually right with God.

The third reason God shared this dream with the king is in Dan. 2:30 (see the last phrase): “And that thou mayest know the thoughts of thy heart.” This emphasizes the main purpose of prophecy: to better understand our hearts and draw nearer to God. Essentially, God wanted the king to repent and accept salvation. Through this dream, God intended to guide Nebuchadnezzar toward salvation. Personally, I’ve found that studying prophecy does the same for me — it brings me closer to Jesus and encourages me to live fully for Him.

The three reasons God revealed this dream to the king are the same reasons He gives us prophecy to study. These are:

1. To predict the future—so we understand what lies ahead.
2. To protect His people—so we can get ready for upcoming events.
3. To convert and bring us closer to Him so that we can draw nearer to Jesus, the only one able to lead us into the future safely.

I pray that through these studies, you will personally experience three benefits: understanding what the Bible says about the future, gaining guidance to protect yourself and your loved ones, and most importantly, growing closer to Jesus by learning His Word. Is that what you're seeking from our studies?

Now, let’s examine the dream the king had in Daniel 2:31-35. In his vision, he saw a statue of a man made of four different metals: a gold head, a silver chest and arms, a brass abdomen and thighs, and legs of iron. The feet were a mixture of iron and clay. Then, he saw a stone strike the statue at its feet, shatter it into dust, and expand until it covered the whole earth.

At this moment, the king was likely filled with excitement. What was its significance? Daniel doesn’t keep the king waiting for long. Let’s find out in... Dan. 2:36 shows Daniel preparing to explain the king's vision, highlighting an important principle: the Bible should interpret itself. It’s risky to read a dream, then try to interpret it on your own and declare, “This is what it means.” Such an approach amounts to personal interpretation, which the Bible explicitly forbids (2 Pet. 1:20). Today, many conflicting opinions about biblical meaning exist. Would you agree? The best approach is to let the Bible interpret itself, and I aim to guide us toward this in our studies. Let’s find out what the Bible teaches. What does the head of gold symbolize?

See Dan. 2:37, 38. “You, O king,” the king of Babylon, “are this head of gold.” God used gold as a symbol for Babylon. It was an appropriate choice because Babylon was well known for its wealth in gold. Aeschylus, a Greek poet who died in 456 B.C., described Babylon as “teeming with gold.” Herodotus (died 424 B.C.) also noted the extensive use of gold in the Babylonian

shrine of Bel. This part of the interpretation likely made a strong impression on the king. Babylon's reign lasted from 605 to 538 B.C. (Remember, B.C. dates count down to A.D.)

What about the silver and brass?

See Dan. 2:39. The prophecy states that Babylon would fall and be replaced by an inferior kingdom, symbolized by silver. Then, a third kingdom, represented by bronze, would emerge. This was fulfilled when Babylon was overthrown by the Medo-Persian Empire (538–331 B.C.). The Persians were known for collecting taxes in silver.

Later, the Persians were defeated by the Greeks, marking the third kingdom (331–168 B.C.). Notably, the Greeks fought battles while wearing bronze breastplates. In a future study, we will analyze Daniel 8:20-21, in which an angel identifies Media-Persia and Greece as the two kingdoms that follow Babylon.

What do the legs of iron symbolize?

In Dan. 2:40, they refer to the fourth kingdom after Babylon, which history identifies as the Roman Empire. The Romans are known for their extensive use of iron and are depicted as this fierce beast because of their cruelty toward enemies and their dominance. The next part of the prophecy shows a different scene. In Dan. 2:41, 42, it predicted that instead of another single kingdom overthrowing Rome, it would split into ten separate nations that would not get along. This indeed happened. In A.D. 476, Rome fell and was eventually divided into ten nations of Western Europe, symbolized by the ten toes. Seven of these nations still exist today. When we examine Daniel 7, you will learn what happened to three of them.

PAST	PRESENT	PAST	PRESENT
Anglo-Saxons:	English	Suevi:	Portugal
Lombards:	Italy	Alemanni:	Germans
Burgundians:	Switzerland	Vandals:	don't exist today
Visigoths:	Spain	Heruli:	don't exist today
Franks:	France	Ostrogoths:	don't exist today

We are also told that these ten kingdoms will not unify into a single nation (see Dan. 2:43). Instead, they will try to unify through “mingling their seed” via intermarriage. By the start of World War I, all European ruling houses were related, yet this did not prevent the war's destruction. Every effort to put Europe under a single leader—such as Napoleon, Kaiser

Wilhelm, and Adolf Hitler—has failed, in line with the prophecy. The next part of the prophecy is the most exciting!

See Dan. 2:44, 45. God will establish His kingdom. When will this happen? “In the days of these kings.” This refers to a time when Europe was divided into many nations. This is the current era! We are living in the toes of this image! We are right before Jesus’ return!

When Jesus returns, this prophecy states He will overthrow the kingdoms of the earth and establish His own kingdom. This is a remarkable prophecy! God foretold the rise and fall of empires. Over time, Bible students have identified where they are on the prophetic timeline and learned how to live for God. Now, as we approach the last days before God's kingdom is established, how should this influence our decisions? It reminds us to put God first in everything, don't you think?

I want to be prepared to enter His kingdom when He returns. Don't you? Let's share our desire with Jesus. I suggest studying this on your own, as that's the best way to truly understand. I encourage you to review your answers at home.

Let's get ready; don't you want to be prepared? I encourage you to pray that the Lord grants you a hunger, a thirst, and a love for His truth, amen!

As you prayerfully reflect on this topic, please know we are available to assist with any questions. For inquiries, visit the contact page at <https://freechristianbooks.us>.