

HOPE through Prophecy



Lesson 2 – The Mystery of Babylon

1. Which two prophetic books did Jesus expect His followers to read and study? Matt. 24:15; Rev. 1:3.
2. What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar that troubled him so much he couldn't sleep? Dan. 2:1-3.
3. Who did the king call to his aid? Dan. 2:2. Were they able to help him? What was the king's reaction? Vs. 5-9.
4. When Daniel and his friends were confronted with the situation, what is the first thing they did? The second? Vs. 16-17.

Daniel was so confident in God's love and concern for him and his friends that he confidently told the king of Babylon that Daniel would have an answer for him. Contrast this with the trust of the Babylonian wise men in their gods (see. v. 11).

5. Did Daniel take the credit for revealing the dream and its interpretation to the king? V. 27-28.
6. What were God's two purposes in revealing the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, and to us? V. 30.

Note: One of God's key purposes in all life's transactions is to reveal to us our need for Him.

7. What did the king see in his dream? A _____ (v. 31-33).

What did the image look like? "This image's head was of fine _____, its chest and arms of _____, its belly and thighs of _____, its legs of _____, its feet partly of _____ and partly of _____."

8. What did the head of gold represent? Vs. 37-8.

The head of gold represents the kingdom of Babylon, which conquered God's people in 605 B.C. and rose to world dominion.

9. What did the chest and arms of silver represent? Another _____ (v. 39).

The chest and arms of silver represent the next world power. Cyrus, the Persian prince and general of the Medo-Persian king Darius, overthrew Babylon in 538 B.C. (see also Isaiah 21:2-4,9 and Isaiah 44:27-45:5)

10. What did the thighs of brass represent? A third _____ of bronze, or brass (v. 39).

The third world power was the kingdom of Greece, which conquered the Medo-Persian empire in 331 B.C. under the rule of Alexander the Great.

11. What did the legs of iron represent? The _____ (v. 40).

The world empire that followed Greece was Rome. In his book, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, chapter 38, the noted historian Edward Gibbon wrote, "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."

12. What did the feet and toes represent? The kingdom was to be _____ (v. 41).

From 351 to 476 A.D., Rome was divided up into the following kingdoms: AngloSaxons (England), Franks (France), Suevi (Portugal), Visigoths (Spain), Alemanni (Germany), Burgundians (Swiss), Lombards (Italians), Ostrogoths, Heruli, and the Vandals (Extinct).

13. What will happen in the days of divided Europe? Were the kingdoms to reunite? Dan. 2:43.

"The pages of history, for the past two thousand years, though wet with the blood of untold millions, record in unvarying sequence the repeated failure of all attempts to establish a world power. The attempts to break the prophecy of Daniel went merrily on. The mighty Charlemagne, the swift Charles V of Spain, the resistless, eagle-eyed Napoleon, the ambitious Kaiser [Wilhelm], and many other Goliaths of war have hoped to wear the toga of the mighty Caesars, but always their endeavors have ended in failure." – Rowell, Prophecy Speaks, p. 43.

14. Does the Bible tell of a last-day effort to create a One World Order? Rev. 17:12-13.

15. According to the prophecy, who will be the next world ruler? Vs. 44; Ezek. 21:27. How long will this kingdom last? Isa. 9:7; Lk. 1:31-3. When does this event take place? Matt. 25:31. How does Revelation describe it? Rev. 11:15-18.

16. What happens to the image when the stone collides with it? Dan. 2:34-5.

According to the prophecy, the final world empire will be established at the coming of Christ. Every earthly kingdom will pass away "like chaff from the summer threshing floors," and God's eternal kingdom will fill the whole earth.

17. Does the God who "removes kings and replaces kings" (Dan. 2:21) have a plan for your life? Ac. 17:24-28. Do you want to follow His plan? Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome have all passed away. We are now living in the tiptoes of the image, getting ready to usher in the eternal kingdom of Christ! Do you, by God's grace, desire to be a part of that kingdom?