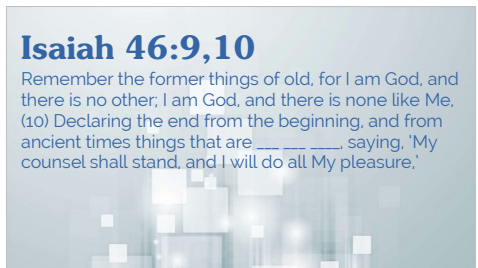


Prophecy of World History 1



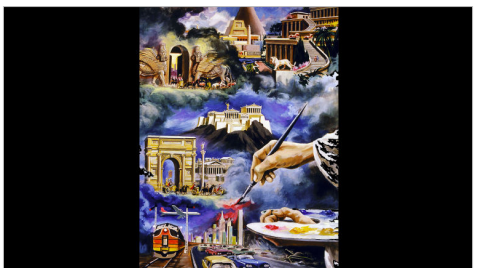
Welcome to our Bible study on the prophecy of world history! God cares about us and wants us to know what will happen in the future. We want to believe in a God we can trust. How does prophecy demonstrate this?

Prophecy of World History 2



Isaiah 46:9,10
Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, (10) Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are **not yet done**, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'

Prophecy of World History 3



We can trust God because He has the ability to predict future events before they happen. About 500 years before the birth of Christ, God gave the world, through the prophet Daniel, an outline of world history, beginning with the very time and place where Daniel lived.

Prophecy of World History 4



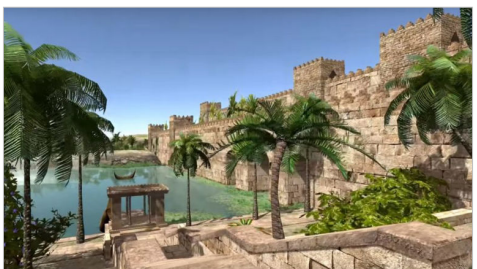
Babylon surpassed in splendor any city in the known world. It was a center of learning and culture. The city was 15 miles on each side, with walls 200' tall, and wide enough to race three chariots on top.

Prophecy of World History 5



The famous Ishtar gate was the main entrance to the city. The walls were made of blue glazed bricks, carved with bulls and dragons and pictures of their gods. The gates were of solid brass.

Prophecy of World History 6



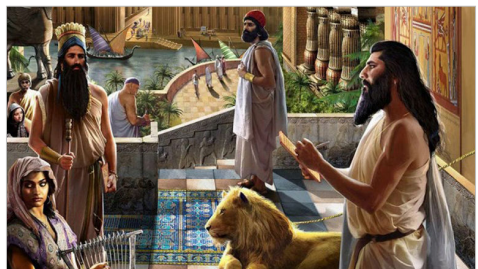
The Euphrates river ran right through the middle of Babylon. Banks were built up to hold back the seasonal floods. The city was irrigated, and had wide streets and avenues. There were bridges and a royal palace.

Prophecy of World History 7



Babylon's hanging gardens were one of the wonders of the world. This large park, full of beautiful trees and flowers, was terraced and watered with machinery.

Prophecy of World History 8



Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, lived in luxury, pride and idolatry to his heathen god Marduk. At the time of Daniel's prophecy, he was the world's greatest monarch.

Prophecy of World History 9



Nebuchadnezzar was called "the destroyer of nations*". He conquered Syria and Egypt and Jerusalem. He demolished the beautiful temple Solomon had built, and took the golden vessels and put them in Marduk's temple. Because God's people had turned away from Him and not listened to His warnings, God allowed them to be taken captive. **How did Daniel end up in Babylon?**

*Jeremiah 4:7

Daniel 1:1,3,4

...Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to _____ and besieged it. (3) Then the king instructed Ashpenaz...to _____ some of the children of Israel. (4) young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace...

Daniel 1:1,3,4

...Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to **Jerusalem** and besieged it...(3) Then the king instructed Ashpenaz...to **bring** some of the children of Israel...(4) young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace...



Daniel and his companions were of the royal line. They grew up in simple Jewish homes and had been taught to be faithful to God and honor Him in all they did. Nebuchadnezzar wanted to train them for important positions in Babylon. He changed their Hebrew names to names representing Babylonian gods. Then they were enrolled in a three-year course of study. **What kind of a diet did he provide for them?**

Daniel 1:5

And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's _____ and of the ____ which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

Daniel 1:5

And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's **delicacies** and of the **wine** which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.



This was a test of their character. The food and wine had been offered to idols, and to eat and drink it would be considered offering worship to the Babylonian gods. Also, the food was not a healthy diet. Daniel and his three friends asked to be given simple, healthy food for a ten-day trial. **What was the result of this test?**

Daniel 1:8,15

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not _____ himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself...(15) And at the end of ten days their _____ and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

Daniel 1:8,15

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not **defile** himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself...(15) And at the end of ten days their **features appeared better** and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.



At the end of the ten days, because Daniel and his companions looked so much better than the others, they were allowed to continue their simple diet. God rewarded their faithfulness to Him and obedience to nature's laws. He taught Daniel to read the mysteries of the future, and to record for generations to come, prophetic events in the history of the world up to the close of time. **When their schooling was finished, how did Daniel and his friends do on their final exams?**

Daniel 1:17,20

As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams...(20) And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them _____ than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Daniel 1:17,20

As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams...(20) And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them **ten times better** than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.



One night Nebuchadnezzar had a remarkable dream that troubled him, but in the morning he couldn't remember it at all. He offered his wise men great honor and rewards if they would tell him what he had dreamed and what it meant. Shocked and dismayed at his request, they insisted there was no way anyone could do such a thing. The king, now suspecting they had been lying to him all along, was furious and ordered them all to be executed. **When Daniel was told that he must die, how did he respond?**

Daniel 2:13,16

So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them...(16) So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him _____ that he might tell the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:13,16

So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them... (16) So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him **time**, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

Prophecy of World History 19



Together Daniel and his companions asked for wisdom from the Source of light and knowledge. Their faith was strong. They believed God had put them where they were and that they were doing His work. They had always trusted His guidance and asked Him for protection and help in every situation. So now they pleaded that He would deliver them in this crisis. **How did God answer their prayer?**

Prophecy of World History 20

Daniel 2:17-19

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to...his companions, (18) that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (19) Then the _____ was _____ to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:17-19

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to...his companions, (18) that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (19) Then the **secret** was **revealed** to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Prophecy of World History 21



Grateful that lives had been spared, Daniel was taken in before the king. Calm and self-possessed, he didn't take any personal credit for the revelation or claim that he had more wisdom than anyone else. **What did he say to the king?**

Prophecy of World History 22

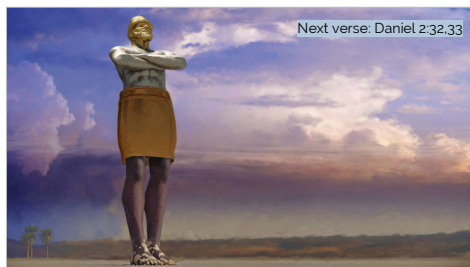
Daniel 2:28,31

But there is a _____ who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these... (31) "You, O King, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you...."

Daniel 2:28,31

But there is a **God in heaven** who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these... (31) "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you...."

Prophecy of World History 23



The king listened with close attention as Daniel continued to describe exactly what he had seen in his dream. God was showing him the events of the future. There is a king above all earthly rulers. The King of Kings has power to set up and dethrone kings and empires! God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to understand his duty to God and his responsibility to heaven. **How did Daniel describe the image the king had seen in his dream?**

Prophecy of World History 24

Daniel 2:32,33

This image's head was of fine _____, its chest and arms of _____, its belly and thighs of _____, (33) its legs of _____, its feet partly of _____ and partly of _____.

Daniel 2:32,33

This image's head was of fine **gold**, its chest and arms of **silver**, its belly and thighs of **bronze**, (33) its legs of **iron**, its feet partly of **iron** and partly of **clay**.

Prophecy of World History 25



What happened to this great image?

Prophecy of World History 26

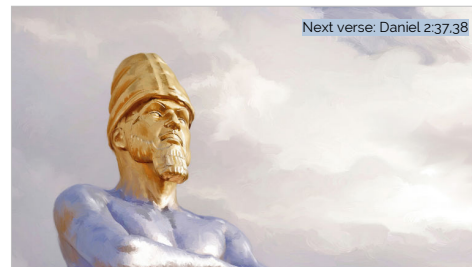
Daniel 2:34,35

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which _____ the image on its feet of iron and clay, and _____ them in pieces. (35) Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were _____ together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and _____ the whole earth.

Daniel 2:34,35

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which **struck** the image on its feet of iron and clay, and **broke** them in pieces. (35) Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were **crushed** together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and **filled** the whole earth.

Prophecy of World History 27



This was exactly what the king had dreamed! Now he was anxious to hear the interpretation. **What did the head of gold represent?**

Daniel 2:37,38

You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; (38) and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—
 ___ are this ___ of ___

Daniel 2:37,38

You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; (38) and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—**you** are this **head of gold**.



Babylon was described as “the golden city”*. With its wealth and strength, it seemed like the Babylonian empire could never be overthrown.
What did God predict would happen to Babylon?

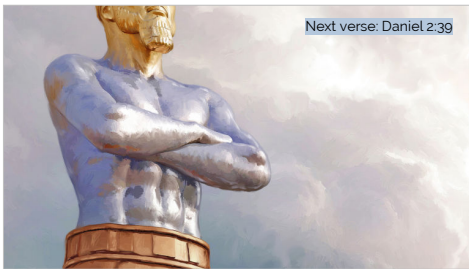
*Isaiah 14:4

Isaiah 13:19,20

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. (20) It will ___ be ___, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.

Isaiah 13:19,20

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. (20) It will **never be inhabited**, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.



Silver is not as valuable as gold. **Compared to Babylon, what would the next kingdom be like?**



Daniel 2:39
But after you shall arise another, a kingdom **inferior** to yours...



Babylon was conquered by Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian (symbolized by the two arms of the image). When just an infant, Cyrus' own grandfather tried to have him killed. A shepherd rescued him and raised him in the place of his own baby who had died. Many years before, the prophet Isaiah had spoken of Cyrus. **What did God say he would do?**

Isaiah 45:1

"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to ___ before him the double doors, so that the ___ will not be shut..."

Isaiah 45:1

"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to **open** before him the double doors, so that the **gates** will not be shut..."



Outside the fortified city of Babylon, Cyrus and his troops had diverted the river of Euphrates and were preparing to enter the city through the river gates, which had been left open. That night in 539 B.C., Belshazzar, king of Babylon, was hosting a huge party to his heathen gods. He served wine in the golden vessels his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar had taken from God's temple in Jerusalem. Then the fingers of a hand appeared on the wall, writing fiery letters which Belshazzar could not understand. Terrified, he called the prophet Daniel to read the writing. It was God's message to him. **What did it say?**

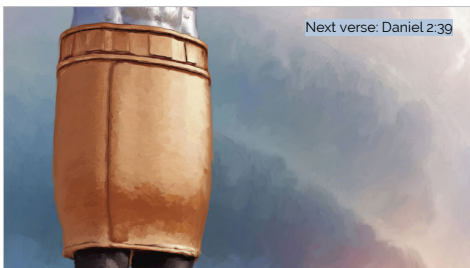
Daniel 5:26-29,30-31

This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and _____ it; (27) TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found _____; (28) PERES: Your kingdom has been _____, and _____ to the Medes and Persians"...(30) That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. (31) And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Daniel 5:26-29,30-31

This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and **finished** it; (27) TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found **wanting**; (28) PERES: Your kingdom has been **divided**, and **given** to the Medes and Persians"...(30) That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. (31) And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Prophecy of World History 37



What metal was used to represent the third kingdom, the nation who conquered Medo-Persia?

Prophecy of World History 38



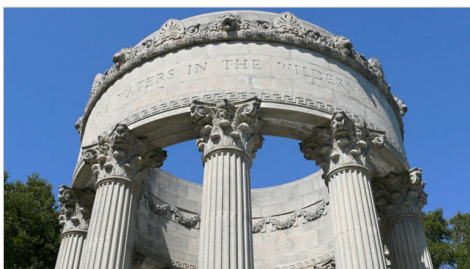
Daniel 2:39
...then another, a third kingdom of **bronze**, which shall rule over all the earth.

Prophecy of World History 39



The Greeks were known for their bronze armor. Alexander the Great led them to victory over the Medes and Persians in the Battle of Arbela in 331 B.C. Thousands of Persian soldiers, horseman, chariots, and even elephants were overthrown.

Prophecy of World History 40



Greece is said to be the birthplace of democracy, because city states like Athens were the first to elect their leaders and not have kings. Greece is famous for its many philosophers. The Greek language became widespread throughout the Middle East.

Prophecy of World History 41



During the years of Alexander the Great, a huge Macedonian empire was created that stretched from modern-day Greece to Egypt and Iran, until the borders of India. **How was the fourth kingdom described?**

Prophecy of World History 42



Daniel 2:40
And the fourth kingdom shall be as **strong as iron**, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and **crush** all the others.

Prophecy of World History 43



The legs of iron were a symbol of the iron monarchy of Rome, which conquered the Greeks in 168 B.C., and ruled for over 600 years.

Prophecy of World History 44



The Romans were in power at the time Jesus came to our earth. A Roman ruler gave the decree that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, and years later, Jesus healed the servant of a Roman centurion.

Prophecy of World History 45



When Pilate, a Roman ruler, asked the Jews, "Shall I crucify your king?" what did they reply?

John 19:14,15

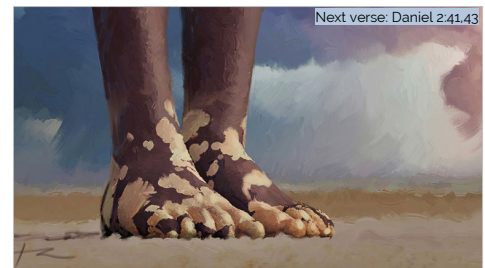
...And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" (15) But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! _____ Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but _____!"

John 19:14,15

...And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" (15) But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! **Crucify** Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but **Caesar!**"



During the long Roman rule, many of God's people were persecuted and killed, including Peter, James, and Paul.



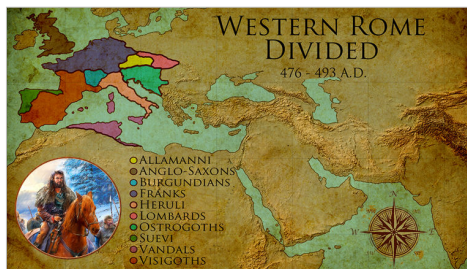
Instead of being conquered by another world-ruling empire, Rome was divided up into different kingdoms represented by the feet and toes of the image. **How was this division described in the prophecy?**

Daniel 2:41,43

Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be _____; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. (43) And as the toes of the feet were of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly _____ and partly _____.

Daniel 2:41,43

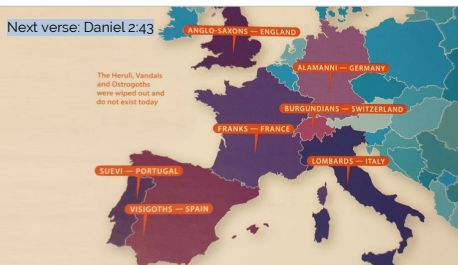
Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be **divided**; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. (43) And as the toes of the feet were of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly **strong** and partly **fragile**.



By A.D. 476, the Roman empire had been invaded and plundered by various barbarian tribes. Ten of these claimed control over different areas. By 538 AD, three (the Ostrogoths, Suevi, and Vandals) had been destroyed by the papacy because they didn't agree with her mandates.



Also in 538 A.D., the Emperor Justinian decreed that the pope should be "the head of all the churches, head of all bishops, and the true and effective corrector of heretics". Since then, the pope has claimed to represent Jesus Christ on Earth.



The seven barbarian tribes that remained developed into what eventually became modern Europe. Over the years, many different leaders* have tried to unite Europe, but all have failed. **How had Daniel's prophecy predicted this?**

*for example, Charlemagne, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm II, and Hitler

Daniel 2:43

As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will _____ to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

Daniel 2:43

As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will **not adhere** to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.



The Bible predicted that no ruler would be successful in uniting all the countries of Europe. **Who will set up the final kingdom on earth?**

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings the ___ of ___ will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings the **God of heaven** will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.



The stone that broke the image in pieces and became a mountain that filled the whole earth represents the kingdom of Christ, which will never end. **How did Nebuchadnezzar react when he heard this?**

Daniel 2:45,47

Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”... (47) The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the ___ of gods, the ___ of kings, and a _____ of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”

Daniel 2:45,47

Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”... (47) The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the **God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets**, since you could reveal this secret.”



Kingdoms have come and gone, but above the distractions of Earth, God sits enthroned. All things are open to His divine survey, and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best. It is time for His return!



Jesus is coming back! This hope is for us! We are living in the very tips of the toes of the image - the last days of earth's history. The final kingdom to come is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!



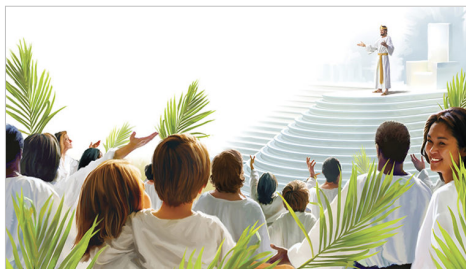
Soon, very soon, Jesus will come back to Earth and receive His kingdom. **How long will He reign?**

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign _____ and ___!”

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign **forever and ever!**”



Will you choose to be part of the kingdom of God that will never end?