

## Bible Studies

### The Worlds History in Prophecy

1. THE prophecies can be understood. 2 Peter 1:19.
2. Christ's instruction in reference to the book of Daniel. Matthew 24:15. Prophecy is "history In advance." Daniel 2:1.
3. The remarkable dream of Nebuchadnezzar.
4. What did Daniel tell the king that God had made known to him? Verse 28.
5. What was the dream? Verses 31-35.
6. After relating the dream, what did Daniel immediately proceed to do? Verse 36. What does the Lord command those who explain these visions of Daniel and Revelation to do? Habakkuk 2:2.
7. What did he say was represented by the head of gold? Verses 37, 38.
8. Did he refer to Nebuchadnezzar as an individual, or to his kingdom? Verse 39.
9. What was the name of the kingdom over which Nebuchadnezzar ruled? Daniel 1:11.

This kingdom, In prophecy, dates from BC 606, because it then became connected with the people of God y the capture of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and his people. It reached the height of its glory under Nebuchadnezzar, to whom this dream was given. The metal used to represent this kingdom is the finest of all metals, and fitly represents the kingdom of Babylon, as it was the grandest of all earthly kingdoms. The city of Babylon, its capital and metropolis, well represents the entire kingdom. This city was laid out in a perfect square, surrounded by a wall 350 feet high, and 87 feet thick, with a moat or ditch, outside, of the same cubic capacity. It had fifty streets, twenty-five running each way, each 150 feet in width and fifteen miles long, raved with polished stones. It contained 225 miles of enclosed surface, laid out n luxuriant pleasure-grounds and gardens interspersed with magnificent dwellings. The River Euphrates running through the center with a wall on either side. Taking thirty miles of river wall. 150 gates of solid brass: and hanging gardens rising terrace above terrace until they equaled in height the walls themselves.

Among the large buildings was the temple of Belus three miles in circumference at the base; also two royal palaces-one three and one-half miles, the other eight miles in circumference-connected with each other by a subterranean tunnel under the River Euphrates. Never before had the earth seen such a city and never since has it seen its equal. See Rollin's Ancient History. Book 3, chapter 1, section 1.

10. Was this kingdom of Babylon to stand forever? Daniel 2:39; Isaiah 13:19-22.

Alexander the Great employed 10,000 workmen in an unsuccessful attempt to rebuild Babylon, himself dying in the midst of the work, the project consequently falling through.

11. How many kingdoms were there to be? Four. Daniel 2:39, 40.

The kingdom of Medo-Persia, represented by the breast and arms of silver, succeeded Babylon. Daniel 5:28. The third kingdom was Greece. Daniel 8: 21.

12. What are the legs of iron said to represent? Daniel 2:40. The fourth universal kingdom was Rome Luke 2:1, also Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," chap. 3, par. 37.

13. What was indicated by the fact that the feet and toes of the image were part of clay and part of iron? Daniel 2:41. "The kingdom shall be divided."

The Roman Empire was at last divided into ten parts, between the years AD 356 and 483. These divisions were the Alernaul, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, vandals, Suevi, Burgundians. Herull, Anglo-Saxon, and Lombards. These are now known as England, Germany, France. Austria, Prussia, etc. See "Newton on the Prophecies," Machiavelli, Gibbon, etc.

14. In the first part of verse 43, what is it said that these kingdoms should do? Mingle themselves with the seed of men. This probably indicates that they should seek to strengthen their powers by the marriage alliance, which history records has been done. Witness the existing relationship between all the crowned heads and princes and princesses of Europe and England.

15. Were they to succeed in this attempt? Verse 43, last clause.

16. The division of the Roman Empire was completed in AD 483.

17. What kingdom was to be set up in the days of these kings? Verse 44.

This cannot refer to the introduction of the gospel, for in the days of Christ's earthly ministry, Rome was in its undivided form. Luke 2:1.

18. Then since the God of heaven was to set up his kingdom "in the days of these kings," it could not have been set up in the days when Christ was on earth. These kings had not then appeared.

19. What part of the prayer which the Lord has given for us shows that the kingdom has not yet been set up? Thy kingdom come." Matthew 6:9, 10.

20. What did the prophet say would be done to the other kingdoms when the kingdom of God should be set

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up? Daniel 2:44.

21. By what was this prefigured in the vision? Verses 34, 35.

22. Has any such great event yet occurred? No. There is a kingdom of grace and a kingdom of glory. We are in the kingdom of grace, but the kingdom of glory is not yet set up, for “flesh and blood cannot inherit It.” 1 Corinthians 15:50. God’s people are now only heirs of that kingdom. James 2:5. Jesus gives a parable to correct the view that it was set up in his day. Luke 19:11,12. It will be set up at his second coming. 2 Timothy 4:1.

23. When it is established, how long will it continue? Daniel 2:44.

24. What is indicated by the words, “The kingdom shall not be left to other people.” That the subjects of that kingdom will be immortal.

25. Can there be any doubt in regard to the fulfillment of this prophecy? Daniel 2:45.

RECAPITULATION. We see from this prophecy that the four universal kingdoms of earth were to be followed by the everlasting kingdom of God. From history, we learn that there have been four universal kingdoms, - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, and Rome. We have passed all these way marks, and are now living, not in the kingdom represented by the head of gold, as was Daniel, but in the days of those kings represented by the feet and toes of the image.

26. Then what will the next great event in this world’s history be? The destruction of all earthly governments, to make room for the everlasting kingdom of God. Verse 44.

27. What must we do in order to gain an entrance into that kingdom? 2 Peter 1:2 -11.

The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom.” “This gospel of the kingdom” was the theme of Christ and his apostles. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” was the burden of their preaching. How much more should it now be ours, as the signs indicate the kingdom near. With the penitent thief let us pray, “Lord Jesus, remember me when thou comes in thy kingdom.”

## The Kingdom of Christ

1. FOR what purpose did God make the earth? Isaiah 45:18.

2. Did the Lord design that the wicked should inhabit the earth? Proverbs 10:30.

3. To whom did the Lord give the earth? Psalm 115:16.

4. To what man did God especially promise the earth? Genesis 13:14, 15.

5. This promise includes the whole earth. Romans 4:13.

6. Did the Lord fulfil his promise to Abraham before his death? Acts 7:2-5.

7. Did his children receive the fulfillment of, this promise? Hebrews 11:13.

8. For what did Abraham look? Hebrews 11:10.

9. Christ was the seed spoken of in the promise to Abraham. Galatians 3:16.

10. Who are included among the children of Abraham Galatians 3:29.

11. Then are not all Christians interested in this promise made to Abraham?

12. If those to whom these promises were made died without having received them, how will God keep his promise to them? Ezekiel 37:12-14.

13. What has God promised to do with the earth, before giving it to his people? Isaiah 65:17.

14. For what did the early Christians look? 2 Peter 3:13.

15. Seeing we look for such things, what kind of persons ought we to be? Verses 11, 14.

16. John, the beloved disciple, was shown the new heavens and the new earth. Revelation 21:1.

17. Isaiah gives a description of the beauties of the new earth. Isaiah 35.

18. What besides the new heaven and new earth did he see? Revelation 21:2.

19. This is the capital city of Christ’s kingdom. Revelation 22:3.

20. What is the size of this city? Revelation 21:15, 16.

Dividing twelve thousand furlongs by eight, -the number of furlongs in one mile -we learn that the city measured fifteen hundred miles, or three hundred and seventy-five miles on each side. The custom of measuring cities in Bible times was to measure all around them; for example the city of Babylon was said to be sixty miles in measurement; it was actually fifteen miles on each side, sixty miles in circumference.

21. What description is given of the walls and gates of the city? Verses 10-14.

22. Of what was the wall made? Verses 18-20.

23. Of what were the gates made? Verse 21.

24. What is said of the light of the city? Verse 23.