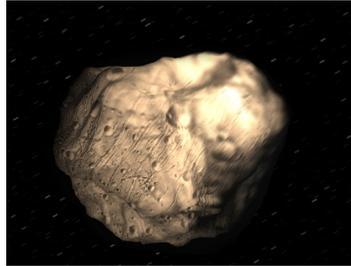


on the cruel cross to pay the debt for the sin of humanity. When He comes again, He comes as King of Kings and Lords of Lords. Friend, you can be a subject in His kingdom if you accept Him as your King and Saviour. His kingdom will last forever. Why not plan to be one of His subjects? It will be a kingdom of peace and happiness and what is more, you can live in it for eternity.



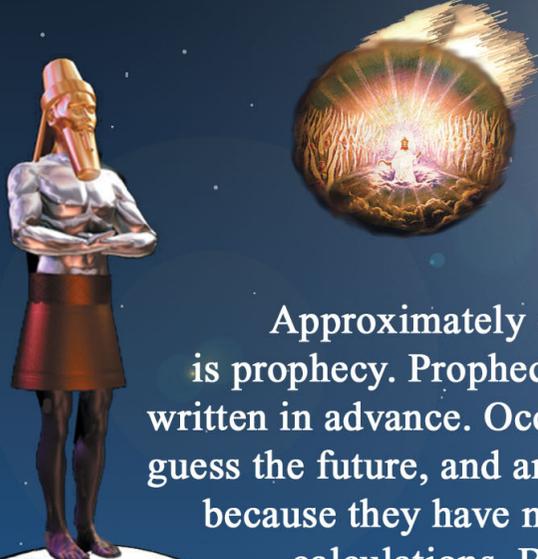
Do you plan to be a citizen of God's eternal kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Head of Gold</b> <b>Babylon</b> [B.C. 605 - 539]
	<b>Breast of Silver</b> <b>Medo-Persia</b> [B.C. 539 - 331]
	<b>Thighs of Brass</b> <b>Greece</b> [B.C. 331 - 168]
	<b>Legs of Iron</b> <b>Rome</b> [B.C. 168 - A.D 476]
	<b>Feet of Iron &amp; Clay</b> <b>Divided nation of Western Europe</b> [A.D. 476 - 2nd Advent]

Text—NIV Version. AUC Resources PO Box 116 Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia.

# Life's VITAL ANSWERS

## Uncanny Predictions

Approximately one third of the Bible is prophecy. Prophecy defined, is history written in advance. Occasionally people guess the future, and are right, simply because they have made some logical calculations. Because this world and its affairs are so complex, it is almost impossible to foretell the future. A human attempt to predict what lies ahead is usually wrong: but not so with God. Bible prophecy is accurate – God knows the end from the beginning.



**Isaiah 46:9,10** Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. \_\_\_\_\_, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

Prophecy is from God. He claims to be the only one who can make known the “end from the beginning”. God bases the proof of His existence on the accuracy of Bible predictions. Thus, if you prove any Bible prophecy wrong, then you prove God's existence is wrong. But, if one-third of the Bible foretells the future, and it all proves true, then we can confidently acknowledge the fact that there is a Supreme Being – the Great God of the Universe. Notice one marvellous prophecy of Scripture – a prophecy that gives so many details it could not be fulfilled merely by accident.

**Daniel 2:1** In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

Read verses 1-30 of Daniel Chapter 2.

Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten his dream (see verse 5). Nebuchadnezzar II was the greatest king of the second Babylonian Empire. He brought the power of ancient Babylon to the pinnacle of its glory about 600 B.C. Daniel was a young Hebrew captive in Babylon, a worshipper of the true God, who had already earned a reputation for great wisdom (see Daniel 1). Verse 29 shows that before Nebuchadnezzar fell asleep on the night of his dream, he had been worrying about the future of his kingdom. This was probably the reason why he was so anxious to recall the dream. It might contain some kind of key to the future.



Babylon's wise men failed to tell the king the dream or provide an interpretation. These men were members of a guild of magicians, soothsayers and astrologers, who claimed to be in direct contact with the Babylonian gods. This explains why Nebuchadnezzar became so

riod between 1850 and 1914, these too, have failed. Says historian Charles Downer Hazen:

“Europe has always refused to be dominated by a single nation or a single man, it has run the risk several times in its history of passing under the yoke, but it always, in the end succeeded in escaping it”. *Modern European History*, page 229.

Why have all past efforts to unite Europe failed? Because leaders have attempted to do what God has said would never be done! “The kingdom shall be divided” (verse 42). “They shall not adhere to one another” (verse 43).

In 1500 years no person has been able to break the spell of prophecy. Today we are down in the feet of iron and of clay. We have been there now for 1500 years. WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?



**Daniel 2:44,45** “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, \_\_\_\_\_. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.”

The stone cut out without hands represents the great kingdom of God. There will be a fifth World Empire, ruled by the King of Kings. This is great news for our world today, as leaders cannot solve the problems of world control – but God can. He will set up a kingdom that will fill the earth, and rule forever.

All details of this prophecy have been fulfilled accurately so far. This gives us the certain hope that the remaining portion will also come to pass. Jesus Christ will come to this earth and set up this kingdom. When He came the first time, He came as a man of sorrows, and died

\_\_\_\_\_ ; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

The Roman Empire was divided into parts of Western Europe. Daniel had foretold there would be but four world dominating Empires, and then would come the division into a number of parts. And as the prophecy has foretold, so it came to pass 1,000 years later.



The legs of Iron represented Rome

**Daniel 2:42,43** As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

Here we see a divided Europe after the downfall of Rome. The prophecy states it will be partly strong and partly broken. This has been accurately fulfilled, as down through the history of Europe there have always been some nations strong, while others have been weak. The Roman Empire had been described as 'History's Humpty Dumpty'. After Rome's Downfall in A.D. 476, "all the king's men" – the warriors and diplomats of fifteen centuries – have failed to "put Humpty Dumpty together again".



The feet and ten toes represent Europe after the fall of Rome

Six notable rulers who have tried vainly to unite Europe were:

Charlemagne (of the Franks)	- 8 <sup>th</sup> Century
Charles V (of Spain)	- 16 <sup>th</sup> Century
Louis XIV (of France)	- 16 <sup>th</sup> Century
Napoleon (of France)	- 19 <sup>th</sup> Century
Kaiser Wilhelm (of Germany)	- 20 <sup>th</sup> Century
Adolf Hitler (of Germany)	- 20 <sup>th</sup> Century

Repeated efforts have also been made to weld the fragments of Europe by intermarriage between ruling families, especially in the pe-

angry with them. When put to the test, they confessed they did not have contact with the gods, after all, so their hypocrisy was openly unmasked (verse 11). Because of his reputation for wisdom, Daniel was evidently classed among Babylon's 'wise men'. Therefore, he too was involved in the death decree.



Note the simplicity and childlike faith of Daniel and his companions. In their extremity they got down on their knees in the manner of an old fashioned prayer meeting. And God heard their prayer. He will do the same for us today if we approach Him with Daniel's simple faith. Note also the reference to "the latter days" (verse 28): "after this" (verse 29) and "what would come to pass" (verse 29). God took the troubled mind of Nebuchadnezzar, filled with anxious thoughts about the future of his kingdom, and made it a channel through which to reveal the future history of the world!

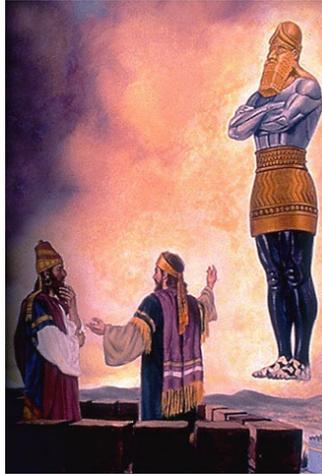
**Daniel 2:31-35** "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. \_\_\_\_\_"

Here is the great metallic man, composed of five minerals. Now for the interpretation of the image. It is interesting to see how the Bible interprets itself – one portion gives enlightenment to another portion. The Bible must explain itself. This is the only way for correct interpretation.

**Daniel 2:36** "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king."

A divine hand is about to turn the pages of world history in advance. The ages are now to be burst open before the king's astonished eyes.

**Daniel 2:37,38** You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. \_\_\_\_\_



The head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar, but this is really speaking of the kingdom of which Nebuchadnezzar was the head. This is made clear in verse 39, when following kingdoms were referred to.

**Isaiah 14:4** You will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased! (NKJV)

Babylon was referred to as the golden city, so appropriately it was represented by the head of gold in the image. Babylon ruled the world from 606 - 538 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar had planned that his kingdom would last forever, but God gave this dream to show this would not be so. Babylon would dominate only the early portion of human affairs.



The Head of Gold represented Babylon

**Isaiah 13:19,20** Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, \_\_\_\_\_ like Sodom and Gomorrah. She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there.

God foretold how Babylon would not stand forever, but would meet complete destruction. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed in the past because of their wickedness.

**Daniel 2:39** "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth."

The second kingdom, represented by the chest of silver, was Medo-Persia, which ruled the world from 536 - 331 B.C. The armies of Cyrus of Medo-Persia overthrew Babylon. This is mentioned in Daniel 5:30,31, when Darius conquered the city.



The chest and arms of silver represented Medo-persia

The third kingdom, represented by the thighs of brass was Greece, which ruled from 331 - 168 B.C. Under Alexander the Great, Greece conquered the world in a few years. Daniel 7 and 8 illustrate these kingdoms by depicting them as certain animals. In Daniel 8:20,21 we can see how Greece did succeed Medo-Persia.

**Daniel 2:40** Finally, \_\_\_\_\_—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

The fourth kingdom was Rome which ruled from 168 B.C. - 476 A.D. Rome ruled the world in Jesus' day (Luke 2:1). While the year A.D. 476 has commonly been given for the downfall of Imperial Rome, the disintegration of the Empire was actually a long-drawn-out process that lasted for over 200 years. Between A.D. 350 and 550, Rome's territories were penetrated by successive hordes of Germanic invaders. Some of these barbarian tribes passed quickly into oblivion, leaving scarcely a trace. Others succeeded in carving out more definite and permanent territories from the body of the prostrate Empire.



The thighs of bronze represented Greece

**Daniel 2:41** Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, \_\_\_\_\_