



THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE

There seems to be no end of new tabloids blazing with bizarre and intriguing predictions of supermarket psychics and syndicated astrologers. They claim to know what will take place in the future.

If their information is coming from God, it surely seems a bit strange that most of their interest is in the people of the entertainment business. And it's interesting to notice that the batting average of the psychics is less than impressive.

Counterfeit prophets annually fire "buckshot into tomorrow's clouds, hoping to bag a stray duck as it passes overhead," says Ralph Blodgett in *These Times* (March 1979).

Blodgett also states that out of 250 specific published predictions he found less than 3 percent that he could list as reasonably fulfilled and 97 percent that missed the mark completely.

If we really want to know what the future holds we need to go back to the Bible, the book that has proved again and again its accuracy in predicting the future.

- 1. What gift has God given to man to reveal the future? 2 Peter 1:19-21 (KJV 898; NIV 860; NKJV 1166).**

The Bible says: _____

Webster's defines *prophecy* as "a prediction of the future."

Unless otherwise noted, Bible texts are from the King James Version. Bibles referred to by page number are published by the International Bible Society (KJV, 1985, #330 and NIV, 1984, #109) and Thomas Nelson Publishers (NKJV, 1990, #490).

- 2. To whom does God reveal His secrets of the future? Amos 3:7 (KJV 673; NIV 648; NKJV 889).**

The Bible says: _____

God looks into the future and foretells what is going to take place centuries before the events come to pass. As we see these prophecies fulfilled we can have faith in God and His Word.

Read the entire chapter of Daniel 2. The events of this chapter took place in about the year 605 B.C. Babylon was the first world empire. It is fascinating to notice that God outlines the future of the world for 2,500 years in this one chapter.

- 3. What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar during his second year as king? Daniel 2:1 (KJV 651; NIV 625; NKJV 856).**

The Bible says: _____

- 4. Whom did the king summon to tell him his dream and its interpretation? Daniel 2:2, 3 (KJV 651; NIV 625; NKJV 856).**

The Bible says: _____

- 5. When these "wise" men were unable to reveal the king's dream, what command was given by Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 2:4-12 (KJV 651; NIV 625, 626; NKJV 856).**

The Bible says: _____

- 6. When Daniel was sought to be slain, what request did he make of the king? Daniel 2:14-16 (KJV 651; NIV 626; NKJV 856).**

The Bible says: _____

Daniel and his three friends were Hebrews from royal families who were captured by Nebuchadnezzar during his siege of Judah. They had been educated and trained by the Babylonians and given high positions in the government because of their great wisdom. They were not magicians or astrologers as were the other wise men.

- 7. What did Daniel immediately do when the king granted him time to come up with the information the king desired? Daniel 2:17-23 (KJV 651; NIV 626; NKJV 856).**

The Bible says: _____

- 8. Whom did Daniel say could reveal the mystery of the king's dream? Daniel 2:24-28 (KJV 651, 652; NIV 626; NKJV 856).**

The Bible says: _____

- 9. With what time period of earth's history is this dream especially concerned? Daniel 2:28 (KJV 651, 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).**

The Bible says: _____

The King James Version says God was going to make known to King Nebuchadnezzar what would happen "In the latter days."

- 10. What did Daniel tell the king that he had seen in his dream? Daniel 2:29-31 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).**

The Bible says: _____

- 11. List the various metals that made up the parts of the image. Daniel 2:32, 33 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).**

The Bible says:

a. Head _____

b. Chest and arms _____

c. Belly and thighs _____

d. Legs _____

e. Feet _____

12. What happened when the great stone hit the image? Daniel 2:34, 35 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

13. What did the head of gold represent? Daniel 2:36-38 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

14. What nation would arise after the Babylonian kingdom? Daniel 2:39 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

The second world empire, of course, was Medo-Persia, which, indeed, was inferior to the golden kingdom of Babylon.

15. According to the prophecy, what was predicted after the reign of the Medo-Persians? Daniel 2:39 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

The third world empire was Greece. It is interesting to notice that much of the armor worn by the Grecians was made of brass! Alexander the Great and his army, in the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C., "settled the fate of the Persian Empire, and established the wide dominion of the Greeks" (*The Divine Programme of the World's History*, p. 308).

16. How did Daniel describe the fourth world empire—Rome? Daniel 2:40 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

"The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome" (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chap. 38).

17. What was to happen to Rome, the fourth world empire? Daniel 2:41 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

Barbarian invasions of Rome divided the empire. These divisions, ten in number, represented by the ten toes of iron and clay, formed the foundations of the nations located in Europe today. These barbaric tribes are listed as follows by most historians: Alemanni, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons, and Lombards. For further reading see *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. III.

18. What prediction by God assures us that there will never be any more world empires as we know them? Daniel 2:43 (KJV 652; NIV 626; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

19. Who will set up the next world empire? Daniel 2:44, 45 (KJV 652; NIV 626, 627; NKJV 857).

The Bible says: _____

20. What glorious event will mark the setting up of this kingdom? Matthew 25:31 (KJV 726; NIV 702; NKJV 962).

The Bible says: _____

21. Are you determined to be a citizen of that kingdom that will last forever?

Your answer: _____

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