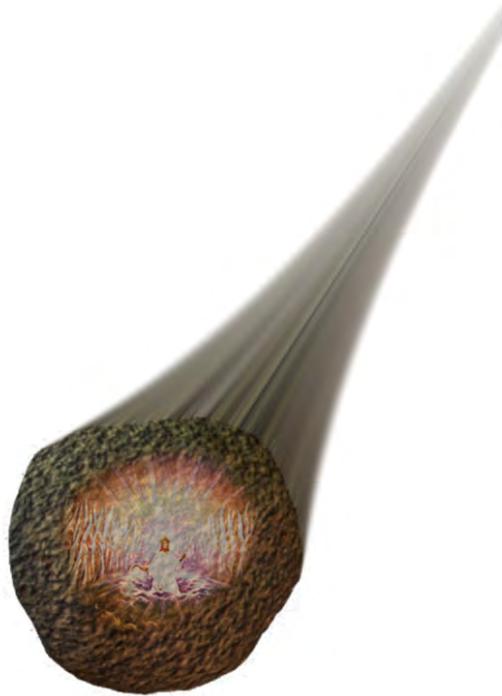


Jesus is soon to return  
The Dream is Certain and  
the Interpretation is sure.



# DANIEL

## 2. THE GREAT GLOBAL DREAM



What will the 21st century bring?

## Look for these points

- Daniel sentenced to death.
- When astrology failed.
- Why the human race can never destroy itself.
- Seven words that have stopped the world uniting.

Soon after Daniel's appointment to the royal staff, strife broke out in the palace. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, which seemed to contain evil omens. He called anxiously for his magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans (scholar-priests) to explain the dream to him. "Tell your servants the dream and we will show the interpretation," replied the wise men.

But the king had either forgotten his dream or wanted to test these "prophets". "Tell me what I saw in the dream and give me the meaning," he demanded. The astrologers were stunned. "Impossible!" "Unreasonable!" they protested. "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation."



King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### A. DANIEL IN TROUBLE

#### QUESTION 1 (Daniel 2:1-9, page 856)

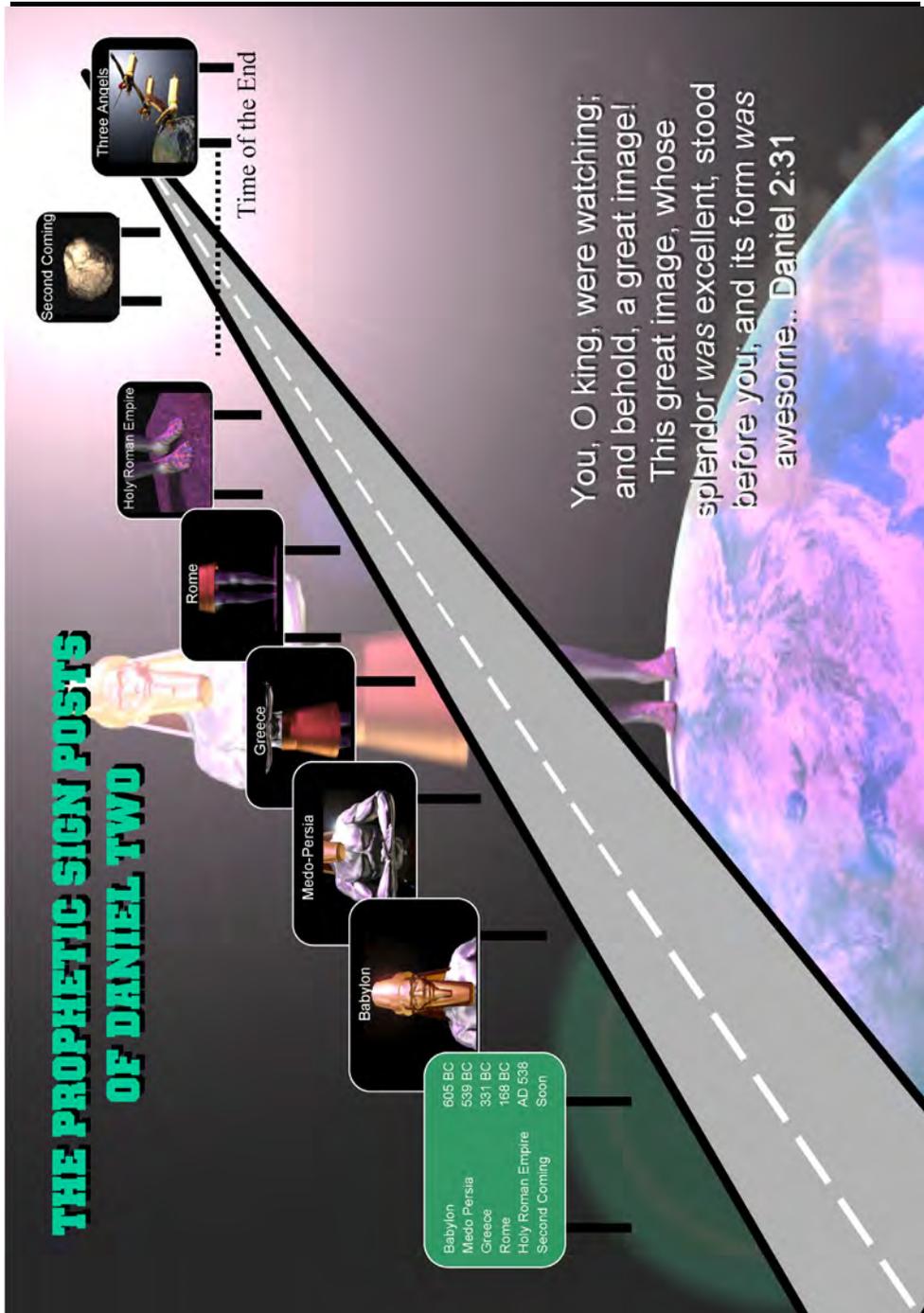
His anger rising, what threat did Nebuchadnezzar make?

*If you do not make known the dream to me, and its \_\_\_\_\_, you shall be \_\_\_\_\_. (Verse 5)*

#### QUESTION 2 (Daniel 2:10,11, page 856)

What admission did the frightened magicians make about their inability to reveal the unknown?

## NOTES:



“ There is not a \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ who can tell the king's matter.” (Verse 10)

Only the gods could do this! (Verse 11)

**QUESTION 3** (Daniel 2:12,13)  
Nebuchadnezzar was furious! The Babylonian wise men claimed to have supernatural insights into the unknown, and they had failed him. What decree did he issue?



Daniel and his friends prayed earnestly to God for help

For answer choose: (a), (b), or (c)

- (a) A death decree upon all the wise men of Babylon
- (b) A decree to implore special help from his god, Marduk
- (c) A decree to destroy all his advisers except Daniel

**B. DANIEL'S LIFE IN THE BALANCE**

**QUESTION 4** (Daniel 2:13-16)  
When Daniel learned that his life and the lives of all the wise men were in peril, he went straight to the king. What request did he put before him? (Verse 16)

**ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 5** (Daniel 2:17-18)  
On returning to his house after his encounter with Nebuchadnezzar, what did Daniel do in an attempt to avert execution?

For answer circle: (a), (b), (c), or (d)

- (a) Tried to think of a plan to escape from the city
- (b) Blamed God for the trouble he and his friends were in
- (c) Suffered a nervous breakdown
- (d) Organised a prayer group to seek help from God

**QUESTION 6** (Daniel 2:19, page 856)

There was only one hope for Daniel and the wise men of Babylon. Their lives depended upon an answer to prayer. How did God answer the prayers of the four Hebrews?

*"Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night \_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 19)*

This vision saved not only Daniel and his companions from death, but all the wise men of Babylon as well. Notice Daniel's thanks and praise to God. Also notice Daniel's recognition that God rules in the affairs of people and nations. (Verses 20-23)

**C. THE KING'S DREAM**

**QUESTION 7** (Daniel 2:24-31)

So Daniel now knew the secret of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. When brought before the king again, who did Daniel tell him was the author of the dream? What was the dream's purpose?



*"But there is a \_\_\_\_\_ who reveals secrets and has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the \_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 28)*

It is the God who made the heavens and the earth that knows the future

*Notice that the king's dream was a prophecy - something to do with the "last days".*

**WHAT HAD THE KING SEEN?**

*"YOU, O KING, WERE WATCHING, AND BEHOLD A GREAT IMAGE!" (Verse 31)*

*Nebuchadnezzar had seen a huge man-like image composed of various metals, with head, body, arms, legs, and feet. The dream ended with a stone hurtling through space and smashing the image. Its fragments were blown away like chaff in the wind. The stone became a great mountain, which filled the whole earth.*

**Exhibit 2  
FACTS ABOUT ROME'S BREAK-UP**

Between AD350 and 650, western Rome was overrun by successive waves of Germanic invaders. Boundaries fluctuated so rapidly that no single map could give an accurate picture at any one time of the disintegrating empire. Eastern Rome fell to the Turks in 1453.

The following chart lists the European kingdoms which resulted from the overthrow of the west.

Anglo-Saxons.....England	Visigoths ..... Spain
Franks .....France	Su.....Portugal
Alemanni .....Germany	Ostrogoths .....disappeared from history
Burgundians ..... Switzerland	Vandals .....disappeared from history
Lombards..... Italy	Heruli .....disappeared from history

**ATTEMPTS TO REBUILD A UNITED EUROPE**

The Roman Empire has been named "History's Humpty Dumpty". Since its downfall in AD476, "all the king's horses and all the king's men" have failed to "put Humpty together again". Six notable rulers who tried to unite Europe by military force were:

Charlemagne (of the Franks) . . 8th century	Napoleon (of France) ..... 19th century
Charles V (of Spain) ..... 16th century	Kaiser Wilhelm (of Germany) . 20th century
Louis XIV (of France) ..... 18th century	Adolf Hitler (of Germany) ..... 20th century

Peace-pacts, trade agreements, and inter-marriage between ruling families, especially in the period between 1850 and 1914, also failed. The fragments have not "adhered".

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 such a yoke, but it always, in the end, succeeded in escaping it." (Modern European History, page 229)

## Exhibit 1 THE IMAGE INTERPRETED

<b>Symbol</b>		<b>Meaning</b>
HEAD OF _____		(BC605-538)
CHEST OF _____		(BC638-331)
THIGHS OF _____		(BC331-168)
LEGS OF _____		(BC168-AD476)
FEET OF _____ AND _____		(AD476- )
THE _____		_____
<b>“CUT OUT WITH- OUT HANDS”</b>		_____

**QUESTION 8** (Daniel 2:31-35, page 857)  
After reading these verses, can you name the various metals of the image?

HEAD	
CHEST AND ARMS	
BELLY AND THIGHS	
LEGS	
FEET	

### D. DANIEL INTERPRETS THE IMAGE

**QUESTION 9** (Daniel 2:36-38)  
a) Who was represented by the gold head? (verse 37)

**ANSWER:** King \_\_\_\_\_

b) Over which empire was he ruler? (Daniel 1:1)

**ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_

So the head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, Babylon (605-538 BC).

**QUESTION 10** (Read carefully Daniel 2:39,40)  
Now notice the other parts of the image.

THE CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER  
THE BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE  
THE LEGS OF IRON

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that these three metals represented three major kingdoms that would follow Babylon. According to history, which three kingdoms were they?



THE SILVER:	MEDO-PERSIA	Conquered Babylon, 538 BC
THE BRONZE:	GREECE	Defeated Medo-Persia, 331 BC
THE IRON:	ROME	Overcame Greece by 168 BC

The four metals, then, represented:

BABYLON	MEDO-PERSIA	GREECE	ROME
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SCAN EXHIBIT 1: Page 12

Write the names of the metals in the left column and the names of the kingdoms they represent in the right column.

**E. THE FEET OF THE IMAGE**

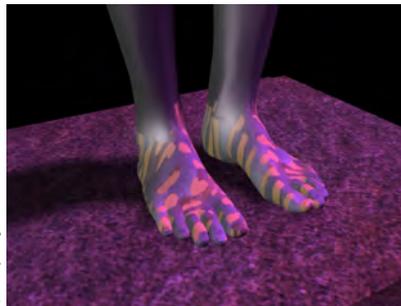
**QUESTION 11** (Daniel 2:33; 41-43, page 857)

Next look at the feet. Of what odd mixture were the feet and toes made up?

“Partly of \_\_\_\_\_ and partly of \_\_\_\_\_ .” (Verse 33)

What did Daniel say the mixture of iron and clay meant?

“The kingdom shall be \_\_\_\_\_ .” (Verse 41)



The feet of iron and clay pointed forward nearly 1,000 years from Daniel's time to the break up of the Roman Empire. This break up took place in western Rome between the fourth and sixth centuries AD, when distant barbarian tribes overran the empire. In time, their descendants developed into various nations in Europe. Eastern Rome continued until the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453.

**QUESTION 12** (Daniel 2:43)

What did Daniel predict about future attempts to unite these di-

**REVIEW QUIZ**

(Matching Items)

Look for the correct answers to the questions in the right hand column, (a) to (j). Answer on the lines provided. As there are more answers to draw from than questions, you will need to use them all.

- |   |       |                         |
|---|-------|-------------------------|
| 1) What was the king's problem that caused him not to sleep?          | _____ | a) Palestine            |
|   |       | b) Babylon              |
|   |       | c) the people           |
| 2) Who was the originator of the king's dream and its interpretation? | _____ | d) Daniel               |
|   |       | e) God                  |
|   |       | f) Greece               |
| 3) What did the parts of the image represent?                         | _____ | g) God's future kingdom |
|   |       | h) the Roman Empire     |
| 4) What kingdom did the legs of iron represent?                       | _____ | i) a dream              |
|   |       | j) kingdoms             |
| 5) What did the coming of the stone represent?                        | _____ |                         |

**QUESTION 16**

Not only Daniel, but practically all the Bible prophets tell us that God's kingdom will come. This is one of the great certainties of the future. Would you like to have a place in the everlasting kingdom? Would you like to write YES? \_\_\_\_\_

**How will God's Kingdom Come?**

**Unit 3, "THE NEW WORLD ORDER" has the answer.**

**OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH**

- 1) What main message was God trying to get across to Nebuchadnezzar and to us by this unusual dream?
- 2) Why did God give the message to Nebuchadnezzar in such a way as to create this crisis? Could he not have inspired Daniel to give the message direct?
- 3) The image started with gold and ended in clay. Can you see any significance in this?

Notes:

vided nations?

*"They will not \_\_\_\_\_ to one another." (Verse 43)*

*"Just as iron does not \_\_\_\_\_ with clay." (Verse 43)*

*Many attempts have been made throughout history to reunite the Roman Empire, only to fail. A form of unity for a brief time is predicted in Revelation 17:12, 13, but this points to a competitive system rather than to true adhesion. Potter's clay will stick to iron to a point, but the bond is not lasting. It is always brittle and easily broken.*



**Daniel Said: "They will not adhere to one another."**

These seven words have stood in the way of world unity for more than 1,500 years. This is a most remarkable prophecy! The four kingdoms rose and fell just as predicted. We are now living in the era of iron and clay - a fragmented world, just as predicted.

**READ EXHIBIT 2: Page 13**  
**FOR FACTS ABOUT ROME'S BREAK UP AND**  
**ATTEMPTS TO REUNITE EUROPE**

From the head of gold to the feet of iron and clay, the image prophecy has been fulfilled to the very letter. 2,500 years of history have proved Daniel totally accurate.

## F. A DRAMATIC END AND A NEW BEGINNING

### QUESTION 13 (Daniel 2:44,45, page 857)

What happened to the image in the closing scene of the vision?

*"Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it \_\_\_\_\_, 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." (Verse 45)*



The falling stone and the destruction of the image point to the end of the long human struggle for control of the world. A New World is to rise from the chaos.

*In past history, campaigns for world unity were largely based on political ambition or religious zeal. A far more urgent cause exists today – sheer survival of our race and planet.*

In its divided state, the world cannot cope with the destructive forces of our time - ruin of the environment, nuclear threat, collapsing economies, crime, famine, overpopulation, and exhaustion of resources. Total cooperation and quick action through single world government are now seen as urgent. The great physicist Albert Einstein warned:

**“ONE WORLD OR NONE”**

**A NEW WORLD ORDER IS PRECISELY THE MESSAGE OF DANIEL. BUT WHO WILL FULFIL THE GLOBAL DREAM?**

### QUESTION 14 (Daniel 2:44)

Who will set up the New World order?

*"And in the days of these kings the \_\_\_\_\_ will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." (Verse 44)*

*"And it shall stand \_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 44)*

### REVIEW OF DANIEL'S FIRST PROPHECY:

**Gold Head = Babylon**

**Silver Chest and Arms = Medo-Persia**

**Bronze Belly and Thighs = Greece**

**Iron Legs = Rome**

**Iron and Clay Feet = Rome divided**

**Stone that fills the Earth = God's everlasting kingdom**

**QUESTION 15** (Daniel 2:19-23, 26-28, 36-45, pages 856-857) Who was the real interpreter of the king's dream? Please read these verses carefully before answering. Also read 2 Peter 1:20 (page 1166). Tick the correct statements below.

- Daniel conjured up the dream and its interpretation out of his own mind.
- God revealed some of the details to Daniel but left him to work out the rest.
- Daniel had inborn psychic powers by which he forecast these coming events.
- Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he had no more wisdom within him to reveal the future than any other person living.
- Every part of the dream and the interpretation were revealed by God.
- Prophecy is of no private interpretation. We must go to the Bible for both the prophecy and the keys to its interpretation.