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DANIEL

3. THE NEW WORLD ORDER

In the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never pass away

Discoveries You Will Make In Unit Three

- Five evidences that Daniel's prophecy will be fulfilled.
- Other prophets joined Daniel in predicting the future world.
- The coming King of Kings.
- The dawn of the true space age.

In his search for the meaning of his dream, Nebuchadnezzar has put Babylon's wise men and astrologers to the test. Though they were supposed to understand the mysteries of the future, they failed the king badly. On the other hand, Daniel gave Nebuchadnezzar a series of five long term predictions which have now been fulfilled beyond question. He said that:

1. Babylon would fall. It did! To Medo-Persia - 538BC.
2. Medo-Persia would fall. It did! To Greece - 331BC.
3. Greece would fall. It did! To Rome - 168BC.
4. Rome would break up and divide, said Daniel. It did! AD476.
5. Daniel claimed that division would remain until the end of time. This prediction has stood true now for more than 1,500 years.

"The Dream Is Certain"

The accurate fulfillment of all these five long term prophecies provides strong evidence that Daniel was truly guided by a divine mind. Considering the fact that all five events have occurred, and occurred in the sequence foretold, we can have confidence that the sixth event – the coming of the everlasting kingdom – is sure to take place. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar: "The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure." (Daniel 2:45, page 857)

Signs of Christ's Second Coming



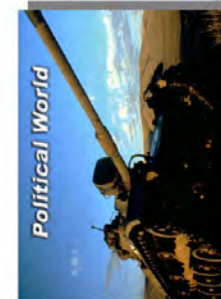
James 5:1-4



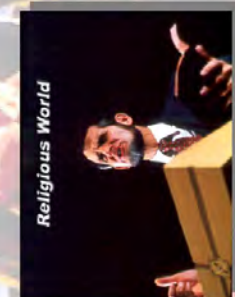
Matt 24:37-40



Matt 24:7



Matt 24:6,7



Matt 24:5

EXHIBIT 2

SOME SIGNS OF THE COMING OF CHRIST

Jesus was asked, "What will be the sign of your coming?" (Matthew 24:3) In reply, He predicted various events to take place between then and his return. Later, Peter, Paul, and John added to Jesus' predictions.

1) SIGNS IN THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD

- Matthew 24:7,8 - earthquakes, famines, pestilences
 Mark 13:7,8 - wars and rumours (reports) of wars
 Matthew 24:7 - nation rising against nation
 Revelation 11:18 - nations angry
 1 Thessalonians 5:3 - claims of "peace and safety"
 Luke 21:25,26 - fear, distress, and perplexity increasing

2) SIGNS IN THE SOCIAL WORLD

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5 - perilous times through breakdown of morality; greed, violence, and lust
 Matthew 24:12 - lawlessness
 Luke 17:26-30 - preoccupation with materialism as in the days of Noah and Lot (see Genesis 6 and 19)
 2 Timothy 3:2-6 - nineteen sins marking the last days
 James 5:1-4 - riches accumulated - monopolies; conflict in the workplace

3) SIGNS IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

- 2 Peter 3:3,4 - unbelief about Christ's return
 Luke 18:8 - diminishing faith
 1 Timothy 4:1-4 - departure from truth, and fanciful speculation
 Matthew 24:24 - many deceived by false prophets and false messiahs
 Matthew 24:14 - the Gospel preached throughout the world
 Revelation 14:6-12 - a world movement proclaiming the Gospel of judgment, true worship, the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus
 Matthew 24:42,44 - God's people constantly watching and preparing for Christ's coming
 Mark 13:35-37

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. WORLD KINGDOM OF THE FUTURE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45, Page 857)

What did Daniel say to show that God will one day take complete control of the world?

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a _____ which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other _____; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand _____." (Verse 44)

**QUESTION 2** (Daniel 2:35)

Where will this everlasting kingdom be located?

"And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the _____."

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 2:34,45)

Will this kingdom be introduced by political coalition, military force, United Nations resolutions, or other human methods?

"You watched while a stone was cut out _____" (verse 34)

"You saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain _____" (verse 45)

RSV says: "Cut out by no human hand" (verse 34)
 "Cut from a mountain by no human hand" (verse 45)

NIV says: "Not by human hands" (verse 34,45)

While it is right for all of us to do everything possible to bring peace, or-

der, and prosperity, God alone can change the present tragic conditions. What human genius could undo the complex tangle of current affairs? "Not by human hands", said Daniel, "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom".

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 2:44, page 857)

In what ways is God's coming kingdom completely different from all others before it?

Read verse 44 and place a tick beside each correct phrase:

- "Never be destroyed"
- "Not be left to other people"
- "Consume all these kingdoms"
- "Stand forever"

What are some of the present world conditions, which you think would need to be changed?

ANSWER: _____

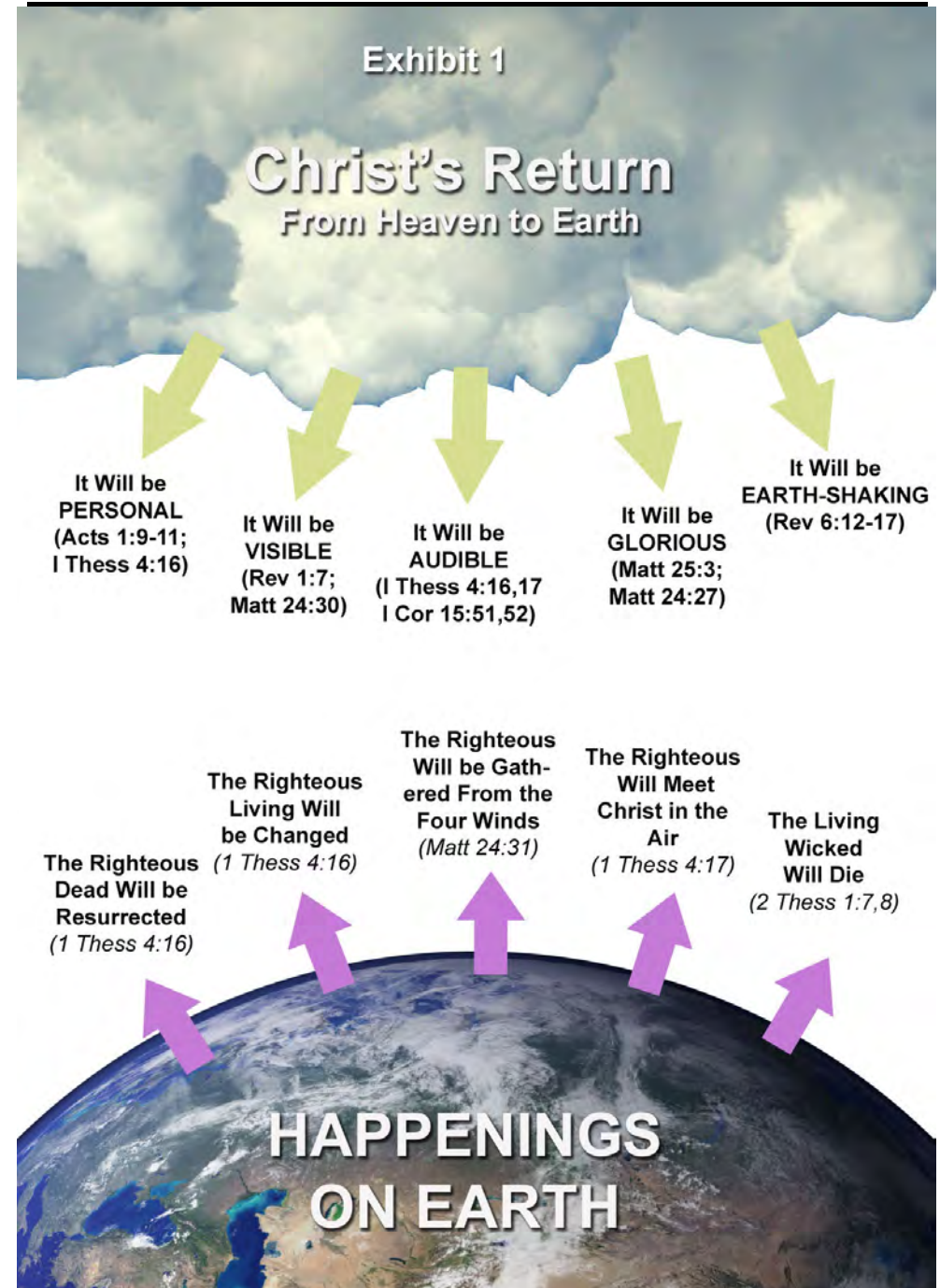
B. THE COMING NEW WORLD RULER

QUESTION 5 (Revelation 11:15, page 1182)

All the leading prophets of Bible times gave the same message, as did Daniel regarding God's coming kingdom. Who did the prophet John say would be the king of this kingdom?



"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 _____, and He shall reign forever and ever." (Verse 15)



REVIEW QUIZ

(Multiple choice – mark your answer with a tick)

1) REACTIONS TO THE IMAGE PROPHECY

- (a) the king was doubtful about Daniel's interpretation
- (b) the astrologers were slightly wrong in theirs
- (c) the king believed Daniel's interpretation

2) THE STONE STRUCK THE IMAGE ON ITS:

- (a) gold head
- (b) iron legs
- (c) feet of iron and clay

3) DESTRUCTION BY THE STONE MEANT:

- (a) that the earth would be smashed to pieces by collision with an other planet
- (b) that the human race would destroy itself in the end
- (c) that man's kingdoms would be brought to an end by God

4) GOD'S EVERLASTING KINGDOM WILL BE:

- (a) only in heaven
- (b) only on earth
- (c) on earth and throughout the whole universe

5) DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE IMAGE WAS:

- (a) "certain" and "sure"
- (b) 50 percent accurate
- (c) proved by history to be somewhat wrong

6) WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, HE WILL FIRST APPEAR:

- (a) in a desert in the Middle East
- (b) in the heavens from space with power and great glory
- (c) in the United Nations Assembly

QUESTION 6 (Revelation 19:16, page 1188)

What title did the prophet John see written on Christ's robe at His return?

"A name written: _____ of _____ and Lord of Lords. " (Verse 16)



King of Kings is a special title. Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: "You, O King, are a king of kings." (Daniel 2:37) Many a ruler since Nebuchadnezzar has aspired to be king over the kings of the earth, but the true king of kings is Christ. He is the rightful owner of the world.

C. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

QUESTION 7 (John 14:1-3, page 1042)

What prophecy did Christ Himself make which shows that He intended to come the second time?

"I will come _____ and receive you to myself: " (verse 3)

QUESTION 8 (Matthew 24:30, page 961)

How will His second coming differ from His first coming as the newborn child of Bethlehem?

(a) "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with _____ and great. _____" (Verse 30)

(b) Also read Matthew 25:31, 32. "He will sit on the _____ of His glory. " (Verse 31)

Occasionally we hear claims that Christ has been reborn somewhere on earth, or will suddenly appear from some secluded place, or come secretly or invisibly. What warning did Jesus give regarding such expectations as these? Read Mathew 24: 24-27 and jot down a few of the points given in this text which shows that he will come openly for all to see.

ANSWER: _____

The return of Christ to earth is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament. That is an average of once in every 25 verses. Taken together, all these passages paint a picture of a most glorious and awe-inspiring event - the most overwhelming spectacle since the beginning of time.

QUESTION 9 (Matthew 24:30, page 961)

Will the coming of Christ be welcomed by all earth's people?

"Then all the tribes of the earth will _____, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. " (Verse 30)



The mourning comes from the many who have rejected Christ. They must now meet Him face to face.

QUESTION 10 (Matthew 25:32-34)

How many of the world's nations will be involved? Will anybody be omitted?

"All the _____ will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. " (Verse 32)

"Then the King will say unto those on his right hand, 'Come you blessed of my Father, _____ the _____ prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Verse 34)

QUESTION 11 (Matthew 25:41)

What will the verdict be for those on the left hand?

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, '_____. From me, you cursed ...'" (verse 41)

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you think we are helped by knowing that Christ will return?
2. If you did not know or did not believe in Christ's second coming, what would you expect as to the future of this world?

Notes:

QUESTION 19 (Read Daniel 2:45-49, page 857)

Daniel finished his interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar by saying; "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." (Daniel 2:45) Did Nebuchadnezzar believe in God?

ANSWER: _____

Do you welcome the prospect of God's eternal kingdom? _____

Unit 4 tells the amazing story of how Nebuchadnezzar defied Daniel's predictions. How successful was he?

STUDY EXHIBIT 1: Page 12
SOME OF THE MAIN EVENTS TO TAKE
PLACE AT CHRIST'S COMING

D. SETTING UP CHRIST'S KINGDOM**QUESTION 12** (Daniel 2:44, page 857)

(a) When did Daniel say the kingdom will be "set up"?

"And in the days of these _____ the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. " (Verse 44)

(b) In the days of which kings did Daniel mean? For answer, note which particular part of the image the stone struck. Place a tick in the correct box. Did it strike

- The head of gold - Babylon?
- The silver chest and arms - Medo-Persia?
- The bronze belly and thighs - Greece?
- The legs of iron - Rome
- The feet of iron and clay - our divided world?

E. EARTH RENEWAL**QUESTION 13** (Matthew 6:10, page 939)

In the Lord's prayer, where did Jesus indicate His eternal kingdom for His people would be located?

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on _____ as it is in heaven. "
(Verse 10)

**QUESTION 14** (Matthew 5:5, page 938)

What else did Jesus say which indicates that His kingdom will be located on earth?

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the _____
(Matthew 5:5)

QUESTION 15 (Revelation 21:1-5, page 1189)

John, the prophet of Revelation, saw a vision of the future world. How did he describe what he saw?

"And I saw a _____ heaven and a _____ earth." (Verse 1)

The original Greek word for "new" here, conveys the idea of "renewal" – renewal of our battered, sick and sorry planet. The "heaven" mentioned here would include the atmosphere which supports the life of all creatures on earth. The atmosphere is sometimes referred to in the Bible as "the heavens" or "heaven" (see Genesis 1: 20) and is quite distinct from the starry heavens of the universe (Psalms 8) or the heavens of heavens where God has his throne (1 King 8:30) Do you think the present atmosphere and earth must be renewed if they are to go on sustaining life forever?

Though great reaches of space separate the worlds, the new earth will not be isolated from God's heavenly kingdom. The whole universe will be at one with God. The true space age will have come - the age of everlasting peace.

QUESTION 16 (Hebrews 11:13-16, page 1155)

Should we find it hard to believe that the world of the hereafter will be a real country?

What words or phrases in this passage indicate that the renewed earth will be as real as the present one?

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some passages of scripture indicate that a period of time will elapse between the second coming of Christ and the actual renewal of the earth. (See Revelation 19, 20, 21)

F. THE CERTAINTY OF DANIEL'S PROPHECY

Daniel's message to Nebuchadnezzar was as clear as day. If Nebuchadnezzar and all "would-be" world rulers had heeded it throughout time, the human family would have enjoyed a happier history. Read the message of the Bible prophets below.

All the struggles of mankind to bring the world and its people into subjection, will fail. When his time comes, God will terminate man's works and create a new world order – a "better land" – an everlasting kingdom without crime, sickness, and death, and it will stand forever.

READ EXHIBIT 2: Page 13
SOME SIGNS OF THE COMING OF CHRIST

QUESTION 17 (2 Peter 3:13, page 1167)

What did Peter say about the society of the world made new?

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which _____ dwells." (Verse 13)



QUESTION 18 (John 3:16, page 1027)

Why does God want to create an everlasting kingdom out of this failing, troubled world?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have _____" (verse 16)