

LifeSavers Lesson 2: *Bible Predictions Fulfilled*

People are fascinated with the future. We all want to know what it holds! Each year self-proclaimed psychics seize tabloid headlines with their predictions for the coming year. Occasionally some of their forecasts are fulfilled and they enjoy a few fleeting moments of glory. But more often, ninety-five percent of their predictions fail miserably!

Does God want to keep us in the dark? Does He laugh at our feeble efforts to know what tomorrow holds? Absolutely not! In fact, the Bible unveils the future to those who study it with faith. This is why it's so critical that we learn all we can about the Bible's contents and Author.

Check one answer for each question:

1. According to Scripture, no other being is equal to God because He is Creator of all and is able to see into the future.

Isaiah 40:25-26; Isaiah 46:9-10: TRUE FALSE

2. God reveals some of the future to us through specially chosen people.

2 Peter 1:21: TRUE FALSE

God's purpose for revealing His knowledge about the future is to strengthen our faith. When we accept His prophetic Words we are filled with hope and assurance!

Daniel chapter 2 is a prophecy that was given in 605 B.C. during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar (a Babylonian king). It draws more than 2,500 years of world history into one chapter.

3. Nebuchadnezzar commanded his wise men (magicians and fortunetellers) to reveal and interpret his dream.

Daniel 2:1-6: TRUE FALSE

4. The wise men quickly told Nebuchadnezzar what he wanted to know.

Daniel 2:7: TRUE FALSE

The king was angered by the obvious deceptiveness of the "wise men" and sent out a decree that they should be killed (Daniel 2:12-13). Among these were Daniel and his companions. These were choice Hebrew males from royal families in Jerusalem who had been captured by Nebuchadnezzar during his siege of Judah. Educated in Babylonian schools, they were being groomed for high positions of trust. But because of their faith and strict adherence to healthful principles, they remained true to their religious beliefs (see chapter 1). They were not magicians or sorcerers, as were the others, but were godly men of principle. Yet, they were included in Nebuchadnezzar's death decree.

When Daniel heard that he and his friends were to be killed with the others, he approached the king with a special request (Daniel 2:16). Daniel saw this as an opportunity to introduce Nebuchadnezzar to God's foreknowledge and wisdom.

5. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that only God could reveal and interpret his dream.

Daniel 2:26-28: TRUE FALSE

Nations may seem to randomly rise and fall, but it is God who's ultimately in charge (see verses 20-23). God is intimately acquainted with the affairs of man and directs nations according to His will. He is also very much in tune with you and with what's happening in your life right now.

6. Daniel accurately related to Nebuchadnezzar his dream but couldn't tell him what it meant.

Daniel 2:30-31: TRUE FALSE

7. The dream featured a large statute made of different metals. (Check the metals mentioned in Daniel's interpretation.)

Daniel 2:32-33: Aluminum Iron Silver Nickel Gold Zinc Bronze Copper

8. The head of gold represented Babylon.

Daniel 2:36-38: TRUE FALSE

Babylon's incredible wealth and Hanging Gardens (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world) truly made it a golden empire.

9. The kingdom that followed Babylon was superior in every way.

Daniel 2:39: TRUE FALSE

High school history books attest to the fact that two inferior kingdoms, the Medes and the Persians, joined forces to overthrow the Babylonian empire in 539 B.C. Together, they became the Medo-Persian Empire, co-ruled by Cyrus and Darius.

10. Medo-Persia was to be followed by a third kingdom (represented by the image's belly and thighs of bronze).

Daniel 2:32-39: TRUE FALSE

Greece, the third world empire, came on the scene in 331 B.C. It's interesting that each succeeding metal is inferior in value, yet is harder and stronger than those before. This is an apt description of the world empires they represent. (Daniel 8:20,21, uses other imagery to identify these empires by name).

11. The fourth empire, although exceedingly powerful, would eventually fall as well.

Daniel 2:40-41: TRUE FALSE

The "iron monarchy of Rome" came to power in 168 B.C., and, perhaps, never would have fallen, but for the immorality within her government. The antics of the Caesars and the frivolity of the Roman circus made the quest for pleasure the mainstay of their lives. Rome was not conquered by an outside foe—it merely fell from within (through moral decay).

The "feet mixed with clay" represent Rome's demise.

In 476 A.D., Rome began to be divided into 10 divisions by barbarian tribes throughout the empire. (Note: there were 10 toes.) Some were stronger than others and continued to battle for territory. The final outcome is representative of what we call, *Europe* (the nations of France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, etc).

12. God assures us that another earthly empire will follow Rome.

Daniel 2:43: TRUE FALSE

Through intermarriage and military prowess, rulers have tried to create a European Superpower strong enough to rule the world (Charlemagne, Hitler and Mussolini tried). But it hasn't happened and never will because God says, *"they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay"* (Last part of verse 43).

13. In Daniel's dream God's kingdom is symbolized as a "stone cut out of a mountain" that fills the whole earth.

Daniel 2:44-45: TRUE FALSE

This event is described again in Revelation 6:14-17, where the oppressive kingdom of darkness and selfishness is crushed and eliminated. Then, those who have embraced the lies of the Evil One will be destroyed by the brightness of Jesus!

14. Daniel uses different symbols to repeat his prediction of future events. In chapter 7, he presents earth's kingdoms as "beasts" coming up out of the sea.

Daniel 7:2-3; 17: TRUE FALSE

15. When Jesus calls is it your desire to be a part of His Kingdom? TRUE FALSE