

# SIGNS *of the Times*

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

## The Great Reset

The World is about to change. With many attempts made throughout history to make this world a better place things just keep getting worst. Men try hard to set up their own New World Order but the Bible lets us know if it is going to happen.

Would you like to know what the coming year holds for you and your family? What will happen in the world in the months ahead? Supermarket tabloids scream predictions from their front covers. Thousands in our world today are anxious to know the future.

Can we really know anything about tomorrow? Is it possible to see into the future? God does reveal the future in His Word, the Bible. He doesn't tell us in detail exactly what the coming year will hold for our lives. But He does give us prophetic outlines of where the world is going and of the major events that will mark the future of our world.

About 500 years before the birth of Jesus, God gave the world a startling glimpse into the future through the prophet Daniel. He presented an outline of world history, from Daniel's time to our own day. Accurate prophecy is one of the great evidences that the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God.

Let's see what the Bible says about the future.

## GETTING STARTED WITH A KING WHO HAD A DREAM

1. Our story begins in **Daniel 2:1**. Who was the king who had a dream of all future World Orders?

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It was a dream. A nightmare. He woke in the middle of the night, his heart pounding wildly in his chest, a cold bead of sweat running down his forehead. His eyes were darting around in the dark, trying to figure out what was scaring him so badly.

2. Is there a God in Heaven that reveals Secrets? (**Daniel 2:27, 28**)

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The wise men. Some people call them “Chaldeans” - or “Magi,” which is where we get the word “magician.” These were the philosophers, the scientists, the astronomers, the mathematicians, and the priests of the empire.

They were the religious authorities of the day - really talented men who claimed to have a special connection to the so-called gods. Nebuchadnezzar wants them to not only interpret his dream but firstly, to be sure, tell him what he dreamt.

The wise men realize they have been exposed and now come clean to the king and let him know that his request can only be answered by the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. The king realizes they are frauds and makes a death decree to kill all wise men in Babylon.

And while they’re out collecting wise men, they knock on the door of a young man named Daniel. He is NOT a Babylonian. He is a Hebrew - a member of the royal family, in fact. He was taken captive during Nebuchadnezzar’s siege on Jerusalem, and because he was Jewish royalty, they put him in a special retraining program. They immersed him in Babylonian culture. They renamed him after a Babylonian god. They gave him a Babylonian education - because they hoped that he would help inculturate the rest of the Hebrew captives. But Daniel stayed faithful to His God. And because of this Daniel is SO bright, so gifted, that he quickly rises to the top, and they consider him to be one of the Chaldeans - one of the wise men. The difference is that Daniel only prays to the God of Heaven and His Prayer to God gave the revelation and interpretation of the king’s dream.

## THE DREAM

3. In the second chapter of Daniel, what did God use to represent world history from Daniel’s day to our day? (**Daniel 2:31-33**)

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Let’s review the details of the image as described in the Bible.

4. Which world power is represented by the head of gold? (**Daniel 1:1; Daniel 2:36-38**)

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Daniel was, in essence, telling the leader of the world’s greatest empire, “Nebuchadnezzar, your dream is a message from God. He represents your kingdom by the statue’s golden head.” Historians refer to ancient Babylon as the “golden kingdom” or the “golden age.”

5. What world power followed Babylon and is represented by the chest and arms of silver? (Daniel 2:39; Daniel 8:20)
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In fulfillment of God's prediction, Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom crumbled into ruins when Cyrus, the Persian general, overthrew the Babylonian Empire in 538 BC. You can read about this conquest of Medo-Persia in Daniel chapter 5.

6. What world power followed Medo-Persia and is represented by the belly and thighs of bronze? (Daniel 2:39; Daniel 8:21)
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The kingdom of Greece, under Alexander the Great, overthrew the Persians at the Battle of Arbela in 331 BC. Greece became the world's third great empire.

7. What world empire followed Greece and is represented by the legs of iron? (Daniel 2:40)
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Edward Gibbon, the renowned historian, even uses the symbols of Nebuchadnezzar's dream to describe Rome's conquests. "And 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 History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 38, paragraph 1.)

8. Which part of the image represents the dissolving of the Roman Empire? (Daniel 2:41, 42)
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9. How does God describe man's efforts to reunite the divided Roman Empire? (Daniel 2:43)
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The tribes that overran the Roman Empire formed the kingdoms that later developed into the modern nations of Europe. Just as the prophecy predicted, some of the nations are strong and others remain weak.

10. How does Daniel describe the culmination of this prophecy in the second coming of Jesus? (**Daniel 2:44, 45**)

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### **Personal Reflection in your own time:**

What does this dream of Daniel tell us about God? Discuss your answers.

He knows everything.       He controls everything.

Life is pre-determined.       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think God cares as much about your personal life as He does about what happens to nations throughout history? Read **Matthew 6:26, Matthew 10:30 and John 3:16, 17**, and write down your answer.

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Remember, God has shared this overview of history because He cares about your life. He wants your personal life to be the best that it can be! God wants you to understand world history so you can be aware of what is happening in the world today, and He especially wants you to know that He wants you to join Him in His kingdom!

What would you like to say to God?

Thank You for revealing history to me.

I want to be part of Your Kingdom.

Thank You for caring for my life.

### **MY PRAYER**

*Father, thank You for caring enough for me that You revealed world history in advance so that I could be aware of the future. As I continue to study the Bible, please give me understanding and guide me in Your ways. I ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.*

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