



AN ANCIENT DREAM AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER

There is much fear and uncertainty in the world today. Are we headed for a nuclear holocaust?

Many claimed that Russia would one day rule the world.

The Soviet Union was definitely one of the most powerful nations in the world. But where is it today?

The Soviet Union did not succeed because it was on a collision course with a power it had refused to reckon with. A power that has eliminated a host of other world powers and continues to exhibit unmistakably strong influences in the world today.

Have you ever wondered why it is that Europeans cannot seem to get together?

Why is it that the English, Germans, French, Italians, Swiss, etc. can not seem to live together in unity and harmony? Why is there not a United States of Europe?

Here in this country Americans are made up of all these people and they live in harmony and unity. Why can't they do it in Europe? Is it because of the language differences?

China is a much greater area with more languages and dialects than Europe, yet without much apparent effort they seem to stick together pretty well. The same is virtually true of India. But why not Europe?

Many have tried to weld Europe together into one great power - Charlemagne, Charles V, Louis XIV, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, and Hitler - but all have failed. Why?

We have states in this country that are much larger than many of those entire countries. Why can't they be pulled together? The word of God answers this question.

The book of Daniel meets with much criticism from skeptics today, but its authenticity is attested to by Ezekiel (a contemporary of Daniel), as well as Jesus Himself. Ezekiel 14:14, 20; Matthew 24:15.

Nebuchadnezzar recognized that his dream, recorded in Daniel chapter 2 was more than an ordinary dream and so he sent immediately for those he felt could interpret it for him.

All of the wise men "came and stood before the king" and he told them he wanted an interpretation of his dream.

Nebuchadnezzar became infuriated and decreed that if they did not tell him the dream and the interpretation they would be killed and cut up in little pieces.

As soon as the death decree was passed, the soldiers went looking for Daniel and his friends, for they had not been called to the meeting at the palace.

Once Daniel finds out what is going on he asks for a little time to reveal the dream. Then he goes immediately to his companions and the four of them take the matter to the Lord in prayer. The Lord answers that prayer and reveals the dream to Daniel.

There are at least four reasons why God uses prophecy to reveal the future to us:

1. It produces evidence for the existence of an omniscient God who knows the past, present, and future and from whom nothing can be hidden.
2. It reveals to us an omnipotent God who rules and overrules in the affairs of men. He is all powerful and always in control.
3. It strengthens our confidence, not only in God, but also in His word. As we look back at the fulfilled prophecies and see how accurate they have been, we can look forward to those that have not yet been fulfilled and have complete assurance that things will take place exactly as God has declared they will.
4. By knowing what is going to take place in the future we might prepare ourselves to respond accordingly and not be taken unawares. Therefore, prophecy is to have a profound effect upon our actions, our attitudes, our entire lifestyle.

Three very important principles pertaining to prophetic interpretation.

1. Read the prophecy through, carefully noting each detail.
2. Discover the biblical interpretation of the prophecy.
3. Search for a historical fulfillment to the prophecy. If it does not seem to fit into history anywhere then we must of necessity apply it to the future as an unfulfilled prophecy.

Each of the metals of this great image represent successive kingdoms.

Babylon was represented by the head of gold.

Medo-Persia is represented by the arms and chest of silver. Daniel 5:28.

The Greeks were portrayed by the belly and thighs of brass. Daniel 8:20-21.

The legs of iron represented Rome.

The toes of the feet of iron and clay refer to the ten nations most instrumental in the fall of Rome. The Saxons, Franks, Alemanni, Burgundians, Lombards, Visigoths, and Suevi, which today are known as the English, French, German, Swiss, Italians, Spanish, and Portuguese. The remaining three, the Vandals, Ostrogoths, and Heruli, no longer exist today and are represented by the three "horns" or "kingdoms" which were destroyed by the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8, 24.

In this prophecy we have seen, in exact detail, the rise and fall of kingdoms from Daniel's day to our very own which can be outlined in the following manner:

Metal	Kingdom	Period
Gold	Babylon	605-538 B.C.
Silver	Medo-Persia	538-331 B.C.
Brass	Greece	331-168 B.C.
Iron	Rome	168 B.C.-A.D.476
Iron & Clay	Ten Kingdoms	476-Present
Stone	Christ's Kingdom	Soon-Eternity

Today there are many who claim that Europe will soon unite. That the forming of the European Common Market is a joining together of the ten kingdoms of Bible prophecy. But are all these books, films, and theories in harmony with that the Bible teaches on this subject?

The prophet Daniel declared that these kingdoms would attempt to unite but they would "not cleave one to another."

Throughout history numerous men have attempted to break this prophecy. Men such as Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, and Adolf Hitler all dreamed of a united world kingdom, but all have failed.

When force failed to achieve the desired goal another approach was used, this being intermarriage. At one time the Queen of England was known as the "mother of Europe" and was related to nearly every royal family in Europe, but even this failed and resulted in a long line of hemophiliacs.

After World War I the League of Nations was founded to bring about world peace, but within 19 years came World War II.

With the end of that war came the establishment of the United Nations, but since then there have been the two costly wars of Korea and Vietnam, not to mention the numerous other flare-ups of a smaller nature around the world.

Today there are at least a half-dozen organizations seeking to unite the nations of the world, but the Most High God has declared; "they shall not cleave one to another."

This prophecy reveals quite clearly that there are to be no more earthly kingdoms to become rulers of the world, but that in the period in which we are now living (the feet of the image) the great God of heaven is to set up a kingdom that shall stand forever.

The establishment of this kingdom will take place at the second coming of Jesus "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:31-34.

As early as the second century the church fathers had recognized the meaning of Daniel 2 as can be seen from Hippolytus' (160-236) exposition on Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. "The golden head of the image and the lioness denoted the Babylonians; the shoulders and the arms of silver, and the bear, represented the Persians and the Medes; the belly and thighs of brass, and the leopard, meant the Greeks, who held the sovereignty from Alexander's time; the legs of iron, and the beast dreadful and terrible, expressed the Romans, who hold the sovereignty at present; the toes of the feet which were part clay and part iron, and the ten horns, were emblems of the kingdoms that are yet to rise; the other little horn that grows up among them meant the Antichrist in their midst; the stone that smites the earth and brings judgment upon the world was Christ." Hippolytus, *"Treatise on Christ and Antichrist," Ante-nicene Fathers, vol. V, P. 210, par. 28.*

The details of this prophecy have been fulfilled, except for the striking of the "stone" and it is most important that we fully realize that we are now living in the days of these last kingdoms when the Lord Jesus Christ shall make His appearance and destroy all these earthly powers and give unto His people a kingdom of righteousness.

You too can be a part of the kingdom of God.

Won't you ask, as did the thief on the cross, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom"? Luke 23:42.

Study Helps

- Daniel 2:31 What did the king see in his dream?
Daniel 2:32-33 What did it look like?
Daniel 2:34-36 What happened to it?
Daniel 2:37-38 What did the golden head represent?
Daniel 2:39 What was represented by the silver and brass?
Daniel 5:28 What kingdom followed Babylon?
Daniel 8:20-21 What kingdom overthrew the Medes and Persians?
Daniel 2:40 What metal represented the fourth kingdom, Rome?
Daniel 2:41-42 What was represented by the iron and clay of the feet?
NOTE: The ten toes of this image represent the Saxons, Franks, Alemanni, Burgundians, Visigoths, Suevi, Lombards, Ostrogoths, Vandals, and Heruli.
Daniel 2:43 What will these 10 kingdoms not be able to do?
Daniel 2:44 What kingdom will rule the world next?
Daniel 2:45 How reliable is this prophecy?