MY DECISION:

❒ *Lord Jesus, I choose to follow You in all things and be one of Your children. I want to be remembered when You come into Your kingdom.*

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NOTES



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IT IS WRITTEN TELEVISION PRESENTS:

SEARCH FOR Certainty

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Our Day in the Light of Bible Prophecy
Certainty for the 21st Century



What does the future hold? Is anyone in charge? Can we look forward to the future with confidence? Is there anything we can count on? Our lesson today is on an ancient prophecy from the book of Daniel. The prophet Daniel's predictions have been amazingly accurate for the past 2,500 years. They speak with relevance to us today. They promise certainty for the twenty-first century. They reveal that God is really in control of history.

Throughout history the Bible has proven its accuracy in predicting the future. This study is an outline of world history from Daniel's time to our time today. Before we turn to the book of Daniel, let's discover a few things about Bible prophecy.

Throughout history the Bible has proven its accuracy in predicting the future.

1. How far-reaching is God's ability to reveal the future? Isaiah 46:9, 10

The Bible answer: _____

In contrast to all false gods, God knows "the end from the beginning." He alone has the ability to consistently reveal the future.

2. How does God reveal the future to His people? Amos 3:7

The Bible answer: _____

God has the ability to look into the future and foretell what is going to take place centuries before the events come to pass. He revealed the mysteries of the future to the Bible prophets. These Bible prophets share God's messages of the future with us. As we see these prophecies fulfilled, our faith in God increases. One of the Bible's most significant prophecies regarding the future is found in Daniel 2.

3. What unusual thing happened to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon? Daniel 2:1, 3

The Bible answer: _____

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of great significance, but when he woke up the next morning he couldn't remember it. He was greatly troubled.

4. Whom did the king ask to tell him his dream and the interpretation? Daniel 2:2, 3

The Bible answer: _____

the empire into the eastern and western sections formed the foundation of the nations located in Europe today.

12. Would the nations of Europe ever be united into one cohesive, lasting, political nation again? Daniel 2:42, 43

The Bible answer: _____

Oppression of God's people does not last forever. Although the Roman Empire lasted longer than any prior empire—no small feat in and of itself—God saw that ultimately oppressive regimes would collapse. God's Word is clear. These seven prophetic words, "They shall not cleave one to another," have stopped every would-be conqueror of Europe through the centuries. Throughout history, political leaders such as Charlemagne, Charles V, Louis XIV, Napoleon, Hitler, and Stalin have attempted to dominate by uniting Europe. Each has desperately failed. Communism stretched its tentacles across Europe. One nation after another fell into its grasp. But Communism failed. The Berlin Wall came down. Freedom triumphed! Bible prophecy is accurate. The future is in God's hands. He can be safely trusted. He will safely guide us into the twenty-first century.

13. What will be the next event in history? Is there hope for the twenty-first century? Daniel 2:44, 45

The Bible answer: _____

The rock represents the coming kingdom of God. Soon all wickedness, evil, and rebellion will be gone forever. The forces of evil will be crushed, destroyed, and broken in pieces. God will establish His everlasting kingdom forever. You can face the future with confidence. The twenty-first century is bright with the promises of God. The future is in the hands of God. Hope is on the way.

C. What metal follows silver? What kingdom would overthrow the Medes and Persians? Daniel 2:39; Daniel 8:20, 21

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The nation of Greece overthrew the Medes and the Persians in 331 B.C. The prophet Daniel describes the Greeks in two ways. First, as bronze in the image of Daniel 2. The Greeks were known for their bronze-plated armor. Second, the prophet describes a fierce battle between a ram and a he-goat in chapter 8. He clearly identifies Greece as the goat that tramples down Media-Persia, the ram.

D. How is the fourth world dominant power described? Daniel 2:40

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The Roman Empire conquered the Greeks in 168 B.C. The Romans ruled the world during the time of Christ. The ancient historian Edward Gibbon, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,* referred to "the iron monarchy of Rome" using the exact expression from the Bible.

11. What significant events would occur next? Would a fifth world-ruling empire arise to overthrow Rome? Daniel 2:41

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The prophet Daniel predicted that the Roman Empire would be divided. The breakup of the empire occurred from A.D. 351 to A.D. 476. Daniel continued, "But they will not adhere to one another" (verse 43, NKJV).* History has followed this prophecy like a blueprint. Dictators and rulers have attempted to unite Europe through the centuries, but have absolutely failed. The Roman Empire was divided. The divisions of

Miraculously, God hid the dream from Nebuchadnezzar's mind. If the king could have remembered the dream, the psychics would have been able to make up a plausible interpretation. The wise men of Babylon utterly failed.

5. When these men could not reveal the king's dream, what did Nebuchadnezzar do? Daniel 2:12, 13

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The angry king condemned all the wise men of Babylon to death when they could not tell him what he had dreamed. Daniel was a Hebrew captive in the king's court and educated in the University of Babylon. He too was considered one of Babylon's wise men.

6. When they sought to kill him, what did Daniel do? Daniel 2:16-18

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Daniel asked the king for time so he could pray to the God of heaven who reveals all secrets. He had confidence that God would solve the problem.

7. After Daniel and his fellows sought God earnestly, how was the dream and its interpretation revealed to Daniel? Daniel 2:19

The Bible answer: _____

_____

8. Who did Daniel say was the only one who could make known the dream and its meaning? Daniel 2:28

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Remember, the prophet Isaiah said that God is the only one who knows all things. The God of the universe is the only one who can reveal the future (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

9. To what time period does the dream apply? Daniel 2:28

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The book of Daniel especially reveals events in the last days of earth's history. The king's dream focuses on the end-times. It foretells events that occur at the close of this earth's history.

10. What did Daniel say King Nebuchadnezzar had seen in his dream? Daniel 2:31-35

The Bible answer: _____

_____

A. What do the different metals represent? Daniel 2:38-40

The Bible answer: _____

_____

According to Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, each corresponding metal represents a kingdom that would rule the world. Beginning with Babylon, the prophet traces the destiny of the nations through the centuries.

B. List the corresponding metals that make up the image. Daniel 2:32, 33

Image	*Metals*
Head	_____
Breast and Arms	_____
Belly and Thighs	_____
Legs	_____
Feet	_____

IDENTIFYING THE KINGDOMS

A. Whom does the Bible identify as the head of gold? What kingdom does this head of gold represent? Daniel 2:38 (last part)

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Gold is a fitting symbol for Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom ruled the world from 605 B.C. to 539 B.C. A metal represents a king or kingdom. Babylon would not last forever. It would be overthrown by a second dominant world power.

B. What metal follows gold? What kingdom would arise next? What nation conquered Babylon? Daniel 2:39; Daniel 5:28

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The Medes and Persians overthrew the Babylonians in 539 B.C. Under the leadership of the Persian king, Cyrus, they ruled from 539 B.C. to 331 B.C. Each of these empires were dominant world powers which aggressively oppressed God's ancient people.