

FUTURE AHEAD

Would you like to know the future of our world? Today we will learn about a king named Nebuchadnezzar who also wanted to know the future. God showed him what would happen in the future, and we are going to study this prophecy together so we can know the future, too.

Have you ever awakened from an amazing dream, but then couldn't remember anything about it? That's very frustrating!

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that he knew was very important. But what happened the next morning when he tried to remember the dream?

He called in his wise men to help him. They were supposed to be able to help people with problems like this.

1 **Daniel 2:3** "And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to _____ the dream.'"



Now these wise men had a big problem. They didn't know how to talk with the God of heaven. They got their power and so-called wisdom from Satan.

Satan can't know our thoughts, so he didn't know the king's dream, and he couldn't help the wise men.

2 What did the king do when his wise men could not help him?
Daniel 2:12 He gave the command to **ODTYRSE** _____ the wise men.

When the king found out that his wise men couldn't help him, he was so angry that he ordered all of them to be killed.

3 What godly men did this death decree include?
Daniel 2:13 _____ and his friends

Oh, no! Remember, we learned in the last lesson that Daniel and his three friends were studying to be wise men. Sure enough, the guards came to arrest them, too. Daniel asked what was going on. He knew the God of heaven could help them, so he asked the king for time to talk with his God. His request was granted, and what a prayer meeting Daniel and his friends had that night!

4 What promise could Daniel and his friends claim during this terrible time?
Psalms 46:1 "God is our _____ and _____, a very present help in trouble."

5 How did God help them?
Daniel 2:19 "Then the _____ was revealed to Daniel in a _____ vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven."



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Daniel awoke praising God. Then he quickly went to Arioch to stop him from killing the wise men. "Take me before the king," he said. (Daniel 2:24.)

The king asked Daniel, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?" (Daniel 2:26).

Daniel reminded the king that the wise men couldn't help the king.

6 But who could help the king?
Daniel 2:28 "There is a _____ in heaven who reveals secrets."

Daniel told the king that God even knew the *thoughts* he was thinking on his bed! God cared for a heathen king; that is why He had sent him this dream!



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7 Does God know what you think? Yes!
Psalms 139:2 "You understand my _____ afar off."

God cares about our thoughts, which no one else knows.

He knows the hidden questions of our hearts. He wants to help us understand beautiful secrets He has hidden for us to find. He wants to be our friend. He says, "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).



Daniel explained to the king that he had dreamed of a great and amazing image.

What did the image look like? **Daniel 2:32, 33**

8 Its head was made of _____.


9 Its chest and arms were made of _____.

10 Its belly and thighs were made of _____.

11 Its legs were made of _____.

12 Its feet were partly of _____ and partly of _____.

Then the king watched while a stone was cut out without hands. It struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, crushing together the iron, bronze, silver, and gold. These "became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:35).

 **Chaff:** Dry, scaly protective casing of the seeds of grains



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Chaff isn't used for anything, but it has to be separated from the grain before the grain can be ground into flour. If you pick a ripe head of grain and roll it around in your hand, the chaff will separate from the seeds. The seeds are heavier, so if you lightly blow over it, the seed will stay in your hand while the chaff will blow away.

After the image was crushed by the stone, Nebuchadnezzar saw it blow away like chaff!



Gold — Head

After telling King Nebuchadnezzar the dream, Daniel told him what it meant. (Daniel 2:36.)

13 Daniel 2:37, 38; Daniel 1:1 The head of gold represented the kingdom of _____.

Daniel told the king that the God of heaven had made him a king of kings, and that the head of gold represented his kingdom. Daniel pointed out that God had given him his kingdom, power, strength, and glory.



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17 What did the stone represent? Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the _____ of _____ will set up a _____ which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

Daniel had told the king, "After you shall arise another kingdom, inferior to yours" (Daniel 2:39).

God was saying that an inferior kingdom would take over a superior kingdom.

18 Is an inferior nation usually able to take over a superior kingdom? Yes / No

19 Did God make a mistake in His prediction? Yes / No

Did God predict this accurately? Yes, He most certainly did! We will see in Daniel chapter 5 that, just as God said, Medo-Persia, an inferior kingdom, conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.

After Medo-Persia, the kingdom of Greece ruled the world.

What kingdom came after Greece? It was the kingdom that ruled in Jesus' day.

20 Who ruled the world when Jesus was born? Luke 2:1 "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from _____ Augustus that all the world should be registered." Caesar was the ruler of Rome.



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21 Will one nation ever rule over the entire world? No! What does God say? Daniel 2:43 "They will _____ to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay."

Adhere: To stick together



We are living in the time of the feet of the image. Some nations in our world are strong; others are weak. Just as iron doesn't blend with clay, these nations will not stick together. They will stay separate.

22 According to Bible prophecy, which kingdom will be set up next? Daniel 2:44 _____

Jesus' kingdom will be much different than any of the nations in our world now.

- Nothing will hurt or destroy anything else. (Isaiah 11:9)
- Dangerous animals will be tame. (Isaiah 11:6-8)
- There will be no sorrow or crying. (Revelation 21:4)
- There will be no pain or death. (Revelation 21:4)

Psalms 139 says that God has known you from the time you were growing inside your mother. He knows everything about you—even your thoughts! You are so special to Jesus. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." He is saying that to you now. He wants to give you a future and a hope. Does this prophecy in Daniel 2 help you have hope? No matter what happens here on this earth, we can look forward to Jesus' kingdom. It will come soon!

Jesus wants to set up His kingdom in your heart now.

He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

23 Will you let Him in? _____



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Silver — Chest & Arms

14 What did the silver represent? Daniel 2:39 "...another _____ inferior to yours."

Inferior: Not as good as
Superior: Better than



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Bronze — Belly & Thighs

15 What did the bronze represent? Daniel 2:39 "... then another, a third _____

of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth."



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Iron — Legs

16 What did the iron represent? Daniel 2:40 "And the fourth _____ shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like _____ that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others."

Iron & Clay — Feet and Toes

Oil and water do not mix together. You can stir them up, but as soon as you stop stirring, they will separate. Iron and clay don't mix, either. They would stay separate if you tried to stir them together. In the feet of the image, the iron and clay also stay separate.

The feet and toes of iron and clay represent a time when the kingdoms (nations) would be divided. Some would be strong, and some would be weak. Just as iron doesn't mix with clay, these kingdoms would stay divided. Even if a king from one kingdom married a princess from another kingdom (that used to be a way to unite two kingdoms), it wouldn't work. God predicted that the kingdoms would stay divided until they are destroyed and the God of heaven sets up His kingdom.



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Alexander the Great, ruler of the kingdom of Greece, conquered the Medes and Persians in 331 B.C. He was very young—only in his 30's.



Rome ruled the world when Jesus was born. This kingdom was known for its cruelty and hardness. Just like iron that crushes, they destroyed all the nations that stood in their way.

Rome did not last forever. But it was not followed by another single kingdom, like the others before it. It was divided into many smaller kingdoms (A.D. 476). This was represented by the iron and clay feet. Since then, many have tried to unite that part of the world so they could rule over it. But none of them have succeeded.

Answers

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. know | 7. thought | 13. Babylon | 18. no |
| 2. destroy | 8. gold | 14. kingdom | 19. no |
| 3. Daniel | 9. silver | 15. kingdom | 20. Caesar |
| 4. refuge / strength | 10. bronze | 16. kingdom / iron | 21. not adhere |
| 5. secret / night | 11. iron | 17. God / heaven / kingdom | 22. God's kingdom |
| 6. God | 12. iron / clay | | |

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