

No. 19 Your Future—How Can It Be Known?

PLEASE NOTE: Explain the prophecy of Daniel chapter 2 with clarity and enthusiasm. Build the audience's confidence in fulfilled prophecy, and thus encourage them to have faith in prophecies yet to be fulfilled. At appropriate points during your talk, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate the contents of Nebuchadnezzar's dream

KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE HAS GREAT VALUE (3 min.)

Most people are very interested in what the future will bring

[Briefly give a few examples, such as attention to weather forecasts or future economic conditions]

If we could know with certainty what the future holds, it would likely affect how we live now

To benefit from knowledge of the future, we must be willing to adjust our decisions accordingly

JEHOVAH GOD REVEALS THE FUTURE (16 min.)

In his inspired Word, the Bible, God provides accurate information about the future [Read **Isaiah 42:9**]

Daniel chapter 2 contains an exciting prophecy that involves our future

This prophecy was given some 2,600 years ago, when Babylon was the dominant world power (Da 2:1-13)

Its fulfillment greatly affected servants of God in the past and will continue to do so in the future

In a dream, King Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge image that was to come to a disastrous end (Da 2:31-35)

God revealed to Daniel the meaning of the king's prophetic dream (Da 2:14-30)

Daniel explained that the king's dream involved a succession of world powers [Image 1]

Daniel identified Nebuchadnezzar, representing the Babylonian Empire, as "the head of gold" (Da 2:36-38)

The Medo-Persian Empire proved to be the chest and arms of silver (Da 2:39a)

In 539 B.C.E., the Medo-Persian Empire overthrew Babylon

Daniel's interpretation regarding Greece, the abdomen and thighs of copper, was also accurate (Da 2:39b)

"The first king," Alexander the Great, was followed by his four generals (Da 8:20-22)

The fourth kingdom, depicted by the iron legs of the image, proved to be the Roman Empire (Da 2:40)

Ironlike Rome shattered the Jewish revolt and crushed Jerusalem in 70 C.E.

The feet of mixed iron and clay represent the Anglo-American World Power (Da 2:41-43; w12 6/15 16 ¶9)

The Anglo-American World Power grew out of the Roman Empire and began operating as a united world power at the time of World War I (w12 6/15 15 ¶5, ftn.)

This portion of the prophetic dream is being fulfilled now

GOD'S KINGDOM ALONE WILL STAND FOREVER (4 min.)

The final portion of Nebuchadnezzar's dream shows what the near future will bring

In the dream's conclusion, a stone cut out of a mountain crushes the image [Read **Daniel 2:44, 45**]

The "mountain" represents God's universal sovereignty; the "stone" is the Messianic Kingdom

God's Kingdom will crush the kingdoms represented by the dream image (w12 6/15 17, box)

Revelation reveals that the Kingdom will eliminate *all* human governments (Re 16:14; 17:12-14)

The past fulfillment of portions of Daniel chapter 2 should give us confidence that the remaining portion will soon be fulfilled

SHOW YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE (7 min.)

Living under the rule of God's Kingdom will be a delight

Perfect laws will unite mankind in peace

An abundance of food will replace famine and malnutrition (Ps 72:7, 8, 16)

All will enjoy perfect health (Isa 33:24)

Even death will be brought to an end (Joh 5:28, 29; Re 21:3, 4)

Now is the time to show by your actions that you believe in and support God's Kingdom (Mt 7:24-27)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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