

7 WHO WILL RULE THE WORLD IN THE FUTURE?



Will it be the USA, Russia, China, Japan, or some other power?
Hitler and Napoleon dreamt of having a great empire, but:
Four words written 2,600 years ago prevented them from doing so!

1. Where only can we find true light concerning the future?

2 Peter 1:19. _____

Only God knows the future (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

AN EXTRAORDINARY REVELATION OF THE FUTURE: DANIEL CHAPTER 2

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who lived about 600 B.C. had a very strange dream, but he forgot it. (Daniel 2:1). He summoned his sorcerers and astrologers to reveal to him the dream and its significance, but they could not do it. (Verses 2-11) The monarch signed a decree which commanded that all the wise men of Babylon, among whom were Daniel and his companions, should be put to death. (Verses 12-14). Daniel asked the king to give him some time, he and his companions prayed to God, and He revealed everything to him in a vision. (Verses 15-19).

2. Who is the only one who can direct and reveal the destiny of nations?

Daniel 2:20-22, 27, 28.

Daniel even revealed to the king what he was pondering when he fell asleep. (Verses 29-30).

3. What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream? Daniel 2:31-35.

A large _____. Its head was made of _____; its chest and arms of _____, its belly of _____; its legs of _____, and its feet of _____ and _____.

MEANING OF THE DREAM

4. What empire did the head of gold represent? Daniel 2:37-38. _____

- This was a kingdom of great splendor. The city of Babylon had wide avenues and luxurious palaces. Its hanging gardens were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. A large amount of soil had been placed on tiered terraces and giant trees grew there.
- There was gold in abundance. In the great temple of Marduk there was an image of Bel and an enormous table 12 x 4.50 m., both made of pure gold which weighed 23,000 kg. There were also lions and a sculpture made of the same metal, which was 5.40 m. tall.
- The city was apparently impregnable. According to Herodotus, a Greek historian, it was surrounded by a wall about 60 m. high and by a deep moat.
- It had enough provisions for 20 years. There was plenty of water since the Euphrates river flowed under its walls, right into the center of the city.

5. The chest and arms of silver symbolized MEDO-PERSIA (538-331 B.C.). How would the empire compare to the previous one? Verse 39. _____

- The two arms represented the two parts that composed the empire: Mede and Persia.
- For the first time, silver coins were used for commercial transactions.

6. What did the prophecy say about the kingdom represented by the bronze belly? Verse 39.

This part of the statue represented GREECE (331-168 B.C.).

- *The weapons used by the Greeks were made of bronze. Greek soldiers were called "brass soldiers."*
- *The belly: Alexander the Great was a slave to his stomach, he died very young due to the feasts he participated in. Alexander died at the age of 32, while drinking his second-round Herculean cup, which contained 5 liters of wine. His kingdom was later divided.*
- *The temporary sheen of bronze aptly depicted the passing glory of his kingdom.*

7. What would the fourth kingdom, symbolized by the iron legs, be like? Verse 40.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE (163 B.C. - 476 A.D.)

- *The Roman Empire lasted 644 years. It was rough and cold, just like iron. It was cruel and fearsome, and this can be seen by the atrocities committed by Nero and other emperors.*
- *The weapons used by the Romans were short iron swords.*

8. What kind of a kingdom was represented by the feet of iron mixed with clay? Verses 41-43.

- *The Roman Empire was divided into 10 parts between the fourth and fifth centuries. It weakened under the pressure of the Germanic tribes coming from the north of Europe. Finally, the territory of the Roman Empire was occupied by the Franks (France), Germans (Germany), Anglo-Saxons (England), Lombards (Italy), Suevi (Portugal), Visigoths (Spain) and Burgundians (Swiss). The Herules, Vandals and Ostrogoths have now disappeared. All these nations were partly strong and partly weak.*
- *They would try to reunite by intermarriage.*
- *Justinian, the Emperor of the East; Charles V; Philip II; Louis XIV; Napoleon; Wilhelm II and Hitler tried to achieve this unity by force to fulfill their dream of forming a great empire, but they all failed.*

9. What are the six words written in the Bible which tell us that all attempts to unite Europe would fail? Verse 43.

10. What will God establish when these nations try to unite? Verses 34, 44, 45.

The words "without hands" mean that it is not a human but rather a divine event.

11. Whom did the stone that smote the image represent? Acts 4:11; 1 Corinthians 10:4.

CONCLUSION

12. Who will be the ruler of the next world empire? Revelation 11:15. _____

13. Now that this wonderful event is imminent, what appeal does the Lord make? Luke 12:40.

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My decision: I want to prepare myself to be a citizen of Christ's kingdom. Yes No

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