
The Strange Man of Mud and Metal

I THINK THERE is a world market for maybe five computers,” said the chairman of IBM in 1943. Radio pioneer Lee DeForest stated in 1957, “Man will never reach the moon, regardless of all future scientific advances.”

From psychics to tabloids, many people try to predict the future. Why? Because we’re curious and concerned about what’s going to happen to us...our families...the world. We see wars and catastrophes all around, and we want to know if things are going to be all right.

There is One who sees the future clearly. God’s Word unfailingly reveals truth; we can rely on His Word and His care.

Thoughts to Remember:

- ♦ “For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done” (Isaiah 46:9, 10). God tells the end of the story at the beginning! The Bible outlines history in advance.
- ♦ Daniel 2 gives us a 2,500-year-old prophecy about our world’s history. When ancient Babylon was ruled by King Nebuchadnezzar, the king had a strange, troubling dream, but in the morning could not remember it. He demanded that his wise men both tell him his dream, and interpret it, or they would be executed. In fear for their lives, the wise men replied, “**There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king’s matter...And there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh**” (Daniel 2:10, 11).
- ♦ But God knew the dream, and a young Hebrew captive—Daniel—knew God. Friend, God knows the answers to all your problems and perplexities—and you can know God. You never need to figure out impossible situations on your own or try to solve the unsolvable; the Bible is God’s Word. It is a reliable source of guidance for your life.
- ♦ When Daniel was brought before the king, he promised to pray to God and return the next day. Daniel knew that *prayer makes a difference*. Are you concerned or heartsick over your marriage, your children? God in heaven has help for you.



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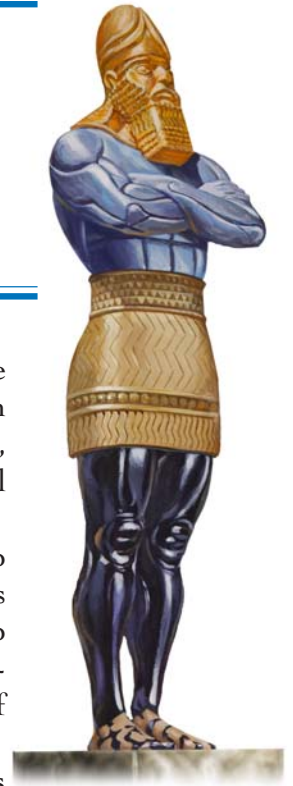
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• That night God showed Daniel the king's dream. Daniel told the king, "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known what will be in the latter days" (Daniel 2:28). "...He that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass" (Daniel 2:29). The king had dreamed of a great statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of mixed iron and clay (Daniel 2:32-43). God showed Daniel that the statue represented Earth's history: Babylon the head of gold, Medo-Persia the chest and arms of silver, Greece the thighs of brass, Rome the legs of iron, and 10 European tribes the feet of iron and clay. *Every one* of these prophecies has come true and can be historically verified.

• "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves...But they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay" (Daniel 2:43). Despite the efforts of Napoleon, King Frederick, Louis XIV, Charles V, and others, the tribes and countries of Europe have never been united...to this day...just as God foretold.

• "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people: but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). The rock represents Christ's eternal kingdom. It is evident that the nations of this earth are in God's hands. History is not a kaleidoscope of random events. History is in the hands of God.

• The last prophecy in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream was the return of Christ to set up His kingdom—a kingdom that is eternal and will never fade away. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...The great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation sure" (Daniel 2:44, 45).

• Babylon rose and fell. Medo-Persia rose and fell. Greece rose and fell. Rome rose and fell. Europe has never united. All this is according to prophecy. Now the only prophecy left is for God to set up his eternal kingdom. With all of the other kingdoms following the exact pattern of God's revelation to us in Daniel 2, how can we not believe that God's kingdom is coming? It is a kingdom of love, peace, and happiness, and He wants you to live in that kingdom forever.

The "take-home" message for you

• Are you tired of saying a final goodbye to loved ones who die? Are you tired of all the sickness and suffering and pain? Are you tired of divorce and heartache and anger between people? Are you afraid when you think of terrorists out to destroy all that's good and free in the world? Are you afraid when you hear about violent criminals striking all around you? Then take courage, friend. All of this will soon end forever. Jesus is coming to put an end to evil and to begin an everlasting kingdom of only good, and peace, and joy.

Just between you and God:

• The question that remains now is, "Are you on His side?" God's face is toward you at this moment. Why not turn your face toward Him too? Have you given your life to Him? Are you ready to say, "Lord, when all the kingdoms of this world are gone and You establish Your kingdom, I want to be there?"

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