

Study Guide #204

Total Onslaught

by Professor Walter J. Veith



The Mists of Time



DVD# 204



Amazing
Discoveries®



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AMAZING DISCOVERIES

2013 248 St
Langley, BC V4W 2B7
Canada

PO Box 3140
Blaine, WA 98231-3140
USA

1-866-572-9457

sales@amazingdiscoveries.org
www.amazingdiscoveries.org

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Understanding PROPHECY

1) What astounding claim does God make about Himself in Isaiah 46:9-10? (00:01:20) 

Prophecy can be confusing. Here are some of the symbols found in Bible prophecy, as well as their meaning as given in the Bible.

Symbol	Meaning	Bible References
White linen	Righteousness	Revelation 19:8
Trumpet	War	Jeremiah 49:36
Winds	War	Jeremiah 49:36
Prostitution	Idolatry	Leviticus 17:7, James 4:4, Judges 2:17
Water, Sea	Multitudes or nations	Revelation 17:15
Beast	Kingdom	Daniel 7:17, 23
Woman	Church	Ephesians 5:22-24, Jeremiah 2:3
Zion	God's People	Isaiah 51:16
Horn	Kingdom or King	Daniel 8:21
Rock, Stone	Jesus	Genesis 49:24, 1 Corinthians 10:4, 3:10-14

2) How does Daniel 2 begin? (00:07:50)



3) Who did the king ask to help him understand his troubling dream (Daniel 2:2)? (00:08:05)



*Calling upon sorcerers, astrologers, soothsayers, and other mystics was a **common practice** for ancient royalty, but this practice did not die with the ancient kings. The powerful people in our world **today** call upon **sorcerers and astrologers** for direction—a practices the Bible condemns as an **abomination**.*

4) What punishment did Nebuchadnezzar issue the Chaldeans (2:5)? (00:16:50)



5) How did the Chaldeans respond to the ultimatum (2:10)? (00:18:15)



*Daniel was wise and humble enough to declare that it is **God who can reveal secrets**, and through God's power Daniel was able to interpret the dream. The meaning of this dream was **not just** for the Babylonians, but it also has important implications for **us today**.*

6) What did Nebuchadnezzar dream (2:31-36)? (00:24:00)



7) What does the head of gold represent (2:37-38)? (00:32:30)



8) What do the silver chest and arms represent (2:39)? (00:40:20)



*This would have been a **shocking statement** to Nebuchadnezzar. He must have been astonished to hear that his kingdom would **soon fall** and another kingdom would arise.*

9) Who would arise as this next kingdom (Daniel 5:25-28)? (00:45:15)



A History Lesson: **BABYLON**

Daniel 5 is the historical account of the fall of Babylon. Since Babylon thought it was invincible, and that no nation could trouble it, the people of Babylon were given over to party life.

One night, during a huge drunken feast, the people of Babylon received a message from God that the party was over. The writing was on the wall, literally! God wrote a message with His finger on the wall, telling Babylon that its kingdom was finished and the Medes and Persians were coming to take it over.

That very night, the armies of Medo-Persia marched right into the city and took Babylon.

When we look at Daniel 2, we see why the arms and chest of silver represent Medo-Persia. This empire was a two-nation coalition, symbolized by the two arms. Silver was chosen by God to represent this nation because silver was Medo-Persia's currency.

10) How willing was Babylon to repent?

Jeremiah 51:9: (00:42:25)



Revelation 2:21: (00:42:30)



*Ancient and modern Babylon have the **same condition** and will suffer the **same consequences**. Even though God was merciful, Babylon would not turn from her evil ways. In future lectures, the identity of modern Babylon will be unveiled through a careful study of Revelation.*

11) Who from Persia led the attack on Babylon? (Isaiah 45:1)? (00:42:40)



Cyrus the Great once wrote this:

I am Cyrus, king of the world, the great and just king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four corners of the world, son of Cambyses...

When I stepped into Babylon as a friend and ascended the throne amidst cheers of joy and pageantry in the governor's palace, my countless soldiers roamed Babylon in peace and sincerity...

I abolished forced labour in respect with citizens of Babylon...I helped restore destroyed houses...I accommodated them again with a peaceful place."

12) Who really overthrew Babylon (Daniel 2:21)? (00:43:30)



13) What does the brass midsection of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represent (2:39)? (00:45:40) 

14) What kingdom is represented by the iron legs (2:40)? (00:46:50) 

15) What do the iron and clay in the feet and toes represent (Daniel 2:41-43)? (00:52:00) 

A History Lesson: GREECE AND ROME

Daniel 8 describes the battle between the ram and the he-goat. The ram is described as Medo-Persia, and the he-goat is the nation of Greece. Therefore Greece is the brass midsection of the image in Daniel 2, since Greece overthrew the Medo-Persian empire.

We can see in history that indeed the Grecian empire arose in a very short time, spearheaded by Alexander the Great. Interestingly, Greece used bronze weaponry, further connecting it to the brass midsection in Daniel 2.

The kingdom that followed in Greece's footsteps, and in many ways borrowed its culture, was Iron Monarchy of Rome. This cruel empire was in control when Christ was on earth, and in fact it was Roman soldiers who crucified Him and a Roman seal adorned His tomb.

Iron is fitting imagery for such an oppressive nation, and even more so because iron was used in Rome's armor and weaponry.

Consider these statements from the pages of history.

Theodor Mommson, *History of Rome*:

On June 22, 168 BC, at the Battle of Pydna, Perseus, king of Macedonia, was completely crushed by the armies of Rome, and on this day, "perished the empire of Alexander the Great which had subdued and Hellenized the East, one hundred and forty-four years after his death" (book 3 chapter 10).

Edward Gibbon, *The History and Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*:

The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings were successively broken by the Iron Monarchy of Rome (volume 3: 634).

Hippolytus, 3rd-century theologian, *Ante-Nicean Fathers*:

Rejoice blessed Daniel. Thou has not been in error...already the iron rules (volume 5: 210).

The iron is still present in the toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image, which means Rome will continue to be prominent even when it appears to have left the scene.

A History Lesson: EUROPE

When we take a look at history, we find that Rome was not conquered by a single empire but rather divided into ten parts. These are the remnants of those ten tribes:

Tribe	Nationality
Alemanni	Germans
Burgundians	Swiss
Franks	French
Lombards	Italians
Anglo-Saxons	English
Suevi	Portuguese
Visigoths	Spanish
Heruli	Extinct
Vandals	Extinct
Ostrogoths	Extinct

For many years, and even in today's politics, there has been a powerful push for unity of all nations, especially on the continent of Europe. But the Word of God says that they will mingle themselves with the seeds of men but will not cleave to one another.

For centuries, European leaders have intermarried for the purpose of unifying Europe, but it has never worked. And as we can see by watching the news, the present attempt to unify Europe—the European Union—is facing severe crisis and will not last either.

16) Who will set up the final kingdom (Daniel 2:44)? (01:14:02)



*The Bible says that **God** will **bring an end** to all these kingdoms and set up His **eternal Kingdom** (Matthew 24:30, John 14:1-3, Revelation 1:7).*

17) How reliable is this prophecy (Daniel 2:45)? (01:17:30)



*This prophecy shows that we can **trust God's Word**, lean on Him wholeheartedly, and give our lives **unreservedly** to Christ, because the next event to happen in the sequence of the image is **His glorious coming**.*

Summary: **THE STATUE**



Head of Gold:

Babylon 605-539 BC

Breast and Arms of Silver:

Medo-Persia 539-331 BC

Belly and Thighs of Brass:

Greece 331-168 BC

Legs of Iron:

Rome 168 BC - 476 AD

Feet and Toes of Iron and Clay:

Divided Kingdoms 476 AD - end

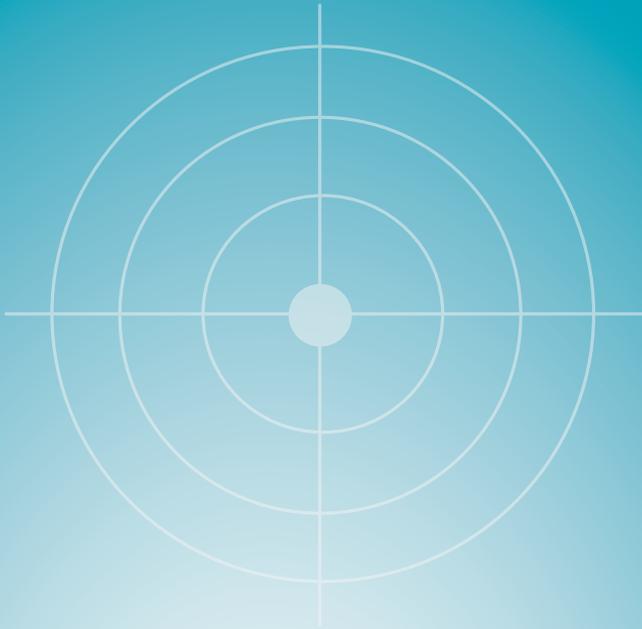
My DECISION For Jesus

As we have seen in this study, God knows the future more than you and I understand the present. He knows your future and wants what is best for you.

Do you see that you can trust Jesus with every fiber of your being? Although current events are troublesome and chaotic, we know that God is in control and we can rest in His wisdom.

Would you like to make a decision for Jesus? Seeing that He is in control, would you invite Him to come into your life and give you His peace?

Notes:



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