

# DISCOVER PROPHECY



## Confidence In The Crisis

2

### Y2K Bomb

What truly happened on 12:01 am, January 1, 2000? What was the taste of the new millennium? Many believed that the year 2000 (Y2K) computer bug would bring about a disaster of unproportionate scales.

When computers were just becoming popular and the programming was in its early stages, the programmers, when entering data related to dating, entered two digits instead of four to refer to the year. Instead of the year being 1970 (using four digits to record the year) they used “70”.

This lack of foresight caused computer problems throughout the world. Thus many believed that when the date on the computer rolled from 1999 (99) to 2000, the digits would roll to “00” Thus, many computers, would not be seen as 2000, but rather 1900, setting the computer back 100 years. Causing a system shut down.

If you owed money to a company and are to pay \$300.00 a month until 2001, their computers will set back to 1900, indicating you owe a centuries worth of money.

Many computers would freeze on that day and those devices and companies relying upon computer technology would be unable to operate until the problem was fixed. If the problem continued over several days, the company might lose enough money, forcing them to shut down the business and lay off employees.

Machinery, dependent on computer chips would stop, the stock market may crash, banks would not know who has what money for days, maybe weeks, not allowing anyone to access funds. Phones down, power out and water off.

The world wondered what the next millennium would be like. What would happen in the year 2000? Though the Bible doesn’t say anything about a Y2K bug directly, it does say a great deal about prophetic events that have already taken place and others that will soon come to pass.

### God Is In Control

Though there is a possibility of chaos, though countries rise and fall, God is still in control. God knows the beginning from the end and we can trust Him to the

events that will come to pass.

“He reveals mysteries from the darkness, and brings the deep darkness into light” Job 12:22.

“I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done” Isaiah 46:9.10.

What does the future hold? What has God revealed in the Bible to us?

We will be looking at one of the greatest prophecies in the Bible. When I first studied this passage, I was shocked. Amazed at how awesome God is and how reliable the Bible is. He outlines for us the history of the world, covering a long time span and revealing major world powers and their end.

You will find the Bible to be an outstanding book that has proven time and time again to be accurate and inspired. A book you can trust in. Written by a God who knows.

### A Kings Dream

The prophecy is found in Daniel chapter 2. The Babylonian Kingdom has just conquered the nation of Israel. As was common, the Babylonians would take young, intelligent men as their captives for the purpose of training and equipping them in the customs and laws of the empire to be released again as representatives to their own nations.

Daniel and his three friends were among those taken into captivity.

One night, not too long later, the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. This dream was different than other dreams he’d had. In fact it troubled him greatly. “Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him” Daniel 2:1.

Nebuchadnezzar wanted to find out the meaning of the dreams so he called in his special wise men to explain the dreams.

“Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans, to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king” Daniel 2:2.

When the wise men came into the presence of

the king, Nebuchadnezzar presented them with an interesting request. He asked them to not only tell him what the interpretation of the dream was, but to first tell him what the dream itself was.

You see, the king could have informed the wise men of the content of the dream. He knew, however, that they might just give an interpretation that would please the king, rather than actually knowing the dream's true meaning. So, he instructed them to first tell him the content of the dream and then follow with the interpretation.

Now this caught the wise men off guard and they knew full well that they couldn't provide the king's request. So they attempted to persuade the king to first give them the content and then they would provide it's meaning. The king was enraged and said that if they couldn't provide both the dream and it's interpretation, they would be executed.

Knowing that their heads were at stake, the wise men, after counseling together tried once more to persuade the king to give them the dream's content and that then they would interpret it's meaning.

"Execute them!" Was the reply. And not only them, but all the wise men of Babylon. In uncontrollable anger the king gave orders to not only kill these men before his presence, but all of the wise men in the country. And this included Daniel and his three friends.

### **Daniel's Audience With The King**

Word got around rather quickly that all of the wise men of Babylon were to be executed. Daniel, knowing that this included himself, chose to seek an audience with the king.

After going to the head guard and explaining the situation, knowing that Daniel had nothing to lose, the guard allowed him to see King Nebuchadnezzar.

Once in the presence of the king, Daniel asked if he might be able to have some time to seek his God for wisdom and counsel concerning the matter and that he would give the king both the content of his dream and the interpretation also.

The king gave Daniel some time to consider the matter. Daniel returned to his friends and together they sought the wisdom of God.

### **God Has The Answers**

"Then Daniel went to his friends and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, about the matter, in order that they might request compassion from the God of Heaven concerning this mystery, so

that Daniel and his friends might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon" Daniel 2:17,18.

Friends, if you have a problem, you can go to God. He is the God with the answers. You can go to him in prayer and he will give you wisdom and understanding in your problem. Going through a tough time and need help? There is a God in Heaven that will help you, all you need to do is ask.

As a pastor, a young woman, named Rhonda pulled me aside one day at a church picnic and shared with me how frustrated she was that she couldn't find the right guy. The guy she had just broken up with she had dated on and off for several years. She knew he was not the right guy for her, but felt that she should "settle" for him for fear of not having someone at all and being lonely the rest of her life.

I assured her that if she remained faithful to the Lord and surrendered it fully to Him, He would hear her prayer and bring the right guy to her. As a young adult in our church, I knew her and assured her by telling her that there was a guy out there that liked hiking, wanted several kids and a big dog just as she did. There was a guy that loved the Lord and wanted to serve the Lord in ministry in the local church as she did. She just needed to take it to the Lord and wait on him. She wasn't fully persuaded, but decided to step out in faith, trusting in the Lord.

At another prophecy seminar I led out in, a young man attended the meetings. After a few nights, he called me aside to talk. After most had left that evening, we sat up front in the meeting hall and he shared with me how he had fallen away from the Lord and was wanting to come back to Jesus. As we spoke, he reached into his pocket, pulled out a pack of cigarettes and handed them to me. "I want to stop smoking and give myself to God again. Can you help me?" This young man, Matt and I prayed together that night and he recommitted his heart to the Lord, later making that decision public through Bible baptism- never to be the same again.

The church I pastored had an active young adult ministry where we always seemed to be going for hikes. Matt joined the church and loved to hike. One Saturday afternoon, there was a large group of us hiking through the woods together. When we finished the hike, my wife and I noticed that both Matt and Rhonda were gone. We later learned that as we hiked, they became better acquainted and decided that they'd started on their own hike. They wanted some alone time to talk more.

About a year later I had the honor of officiating at their beautiful wedding. Now Matt and Rhonda are active in their church, have three beautiful children and

love life together. When they chose to give their hearts to Christ, He answered their prayers. God answers prayers!

As Daniel and his three friends, we must turn to God. Turn to Jesus Christ. It is there, within His presence, while seeking His will, that we will find the answers to our problems. Are you tired of struggling? It's time to come to Jesus!

### **The Dream's Content**

After prayer that evening, the Lord brought to Daniel all the information needed to present to King Nebuchadnezzar. After seeking another audience with the king, Daniel came with both the content and the interpretation. "Daniel answered before the king and said, 'As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed'" Daniel 2: 27,28.

Daniel then proceeds to tell the king the content of his dream. While dreaming, the king saw a massive image. This image was made up of many different metals. This towering image had a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, its thighs were of bronze, its legs were of solid iron. The feet of this image was made up of both iron and clay mixed together.

While beholding this image in his dream, Nebuchadnezzar then saw a rock or asteroid that was hurtling toward the image. The rock struck the image at its feet and broke the image into pieces. These pieces fell to the ground as dust and were then carried away by the wind.

The rock however, remained and formed itself into a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

"This was the dream; now we shall tell its interpretation before the king" Daniel 2:36.

### **The Dream's Interpretation**

Daniel then proceeds to tell the king what the dream meant. Now before I proceed to show you what the dream meant, there is a very important principle of Bible study to consider. When studying the Bible, we must let the Bible interpret itself rather than our own speculation. The Bible doesn't leave us guessing at what it means. By reading the text ourselves, we can discover how the Bible interprets itself.

I'm sure that there could be many different ideas as to what this dream means, but we'll let the Bible interpret and explain itself.

What do the various metals of the image represent? Daniel, explaining the dream to Nebuchadnezzar said, "You are that head of gold" Daniel 2:38.

King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian kingdom was the head of gold. His kingdom was strong, rich and powerful. As gold represented the richest of metals, so Babylon represented the richest of kingdoms.

Stone tablets have been found from Babylon and there have been a couple speaking of its power and desire to continue throughout eternity. In one such stone, Nebuchadnezzar is noted as saying concerning Babylon, "...the whole earth prostrate at her feet..." Another says, "May it last forever."

Did it? Did the Babylonian kingdom last forever. No. Why didn't it? The interpretation continued...

### **The Fall of Babylon**

"And after you," Daniel continued, "shall arise another kingdom inferior to you" Daniel 2:39.

Another kingdom, represented by the less valuable metal of silver, would become the dominant kingdom throughout the earth, taking over Babylon.

And sure enough, that is just what happened! As the Bible foretold, Babylon was taken over by another kingdom. Years later, after King Nebuchadnezzar was no longer ruling and another king was sitting upon the throne, the kingdom came to an end.

That evening, amidst a drunken party, God's hand appears and writes upon the the wall. The writing was in a language unknown to the people present, so they sought once again for Daniel. Daniel, much older by this time, came in and made known to the new king the meaning of the writing on the wall. "MENE-God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. TEKEL-you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. PERES-your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians" Daniel 5:26-28.

That night, the kingdom of Babylon fell to the Medo-Persian Empire as foretold years before to King Nebuchadnezzar.

In Isaiah 45, verse one the Bible foretells approximately 150 years before his birth that Cyrus would be used by God. "Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him, and to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut."

Not only is Cyrus mentioned by name, but it also describes the method by which Babylon would fall. That night in Babylon, as the king and his people partied, someone had forgotten to shut the gate that was in the river Euphrates.

The river Euphrates ran through the city. To prevent people from swimming into the city, a gate was kept at the wall in the river. However, that night, the gate was not shut!

Cyrus diverted the river water and marched his army right into the city of Babylon and took it down with little fight.

### **A Third Kingdom**

“Next,” Daniel continued, “a third kingdom, one of bronze will rule over the whole earth” Daniel 2:39.

After the kingdom of Medo-Persia, another kingdom would arise, conquering and becoming the dominating world force. That kingdom was the kingdom of Greece.

Speaking of Alexander the Great and his powerful army and ability, the Historical Library, Book 16, chapter 12 says, “I am persuaded that there was no action, city, nor people...where his name did not reach....There seems to me to have been some divine hand presiding both over his birth and his actions.” This kingdom swept through with great speed and took the world.

### **The Kingdom of Iron**

“Finally,” Daniel continued, “there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron - for iron breaks and smashes everything” Daniel 2:40.

The kingdom to come next according to history was the kingdom of Rome. “The images of gold, or silver, or brass that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, are successfully broken by the iron monarchy of Rome,” History and Fall of Rome.

Just as prophesied, there would be another kingdom to follow the third. This one being described as iron. Rome, and its iron monarchy was the country to follow the Grecian Empire. Once again the Bible proves it’s accuracy. Once again, God’s word is true.

### **Divided Kingdoms**

At this point in the process of interpreting the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, the format changes in Daniel’s explanation. Whereas there had been one kingdom after another kingdom, now, we see that as the legs turn into ten toes, Rome divides into ten different kingdoms.

“And whereas you saw the feet and toes, part of

potter’s clay and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided” Daniel 2:41. Rome would be divided and the kingdoms would never reunite.

When Rome fell, it fell into ten different kingdoms:

- Alamanni - Germans
- Burgundian - Swiss
- Franks - French
- Lombards - Italians
- Saxons - English
- Suevi - Portuguese
- Visigoths - Spanish

(the Heruli, Vandals and Ostrogoths are now extinct)

“And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery” Daniel 2:42,43.

Though some kingdoms were stronger than others, they would not be joined together. They might even try to wed each others children to unite the kingdoms but they would not join. No matter how hard they might try, no matter what methods used, the Bible says that they would not join together.

Throughout the years there have been many who have tried to unite modern Europe. There have been world wars attempting to bring them together, but time after time, they failed.

Adolf Hitler, when confronted with this Bible text while trying to take Europe during World War II, said that he would prove that this passage was wrong; that he himself could beat God. And we know, that he too failed.

The kingdoms, just as the Bible foretold, came and went. Note the dates:

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Babylon       | 606 - 538 BC     |
| Medo-Persia   | 538 - 331 BC     |
| Greece        | 331 - 168 BC     |
| Rome          | 168 BC - 476 AD  |
| Modern Europe | 476 AD - Present |

### **The Mighty Asteroid**

Would there be then an asteroid that would come and hit the earth to destroy what we know to be modern Europe? What is the Rock that was cut without hands that grows to the size of a mountain?

“And in the days of those kings [modern Europe]

the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever” Daniel 2: 44.

According to the Bible, Jesus Christ is going to set up His kingdom. When He sets up His kingdom, He will destroy all the present earthly kingdoms. Therefore we know for certain that He hasn't come and set it up yet.

Jesus, time and time again in the Bible is noted as the rock. The kingdoms of this earth will eventually be destroyed by the second coming of Jesus Christ. When He returns, He will set up His own kingdom, which we know will last for all eternity.

According to the Bible, according to the second chapter of Daniel, this is the next event that is to take place.

Nebuchadnezzar was given an outline view of the history of the world before it came to be. Now you and I, standing down at the far end of time, can look back and see that the Bible has been true so far. “The dream is certain, and the interpretation is sure” Daniel 2:45.

### **The Bible's Accuracy**

Once again, the Bible has proven true. Here the Bible describes the kingdoms that would last from about 606 BC to the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

If the Bible has been true and right thus far, it is very likely that it will come to be again. Jesus is coming again, don't you want to be ready for His return?