

Historical Confirmation

"The images of gold, silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome." Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Western Roman Empire*

"Europe has always refused to be dominated by a single nation or a single man. It has run the risk several times in its history of passing under such a yoke, but it always, in the end, succeeded in escaping it." Charles Downer Hazen, *Modern European History*, p. 229

"In the last decades of her life and reign, Queen Victoria received the nickname, 'Grandmother of Europe.' The nickname had much literal justification, as her many children had married into many of Europe's royal families, and her numerous grandchildren, once grown, did the same. Her own children had married into the houses of Prussia, Denmark, Russia, Schleswig-Holstein, Waldeck, and Battenberg. Among her grandchildren were the future German Emperor Wilhelm II; the future Queen Sophie of Greece; Maud the future queen consort of Norway; the future czarina of Russia, Alexandra, famed for her own, her husband Czar Nicholas II's, and their five children's 1917 assassination by the Bolsheviks; Marie, the future consort of King Ferdinand I of Romania; and the future Queen Victoria Eugenie of Spain." Wikipedia entry for Queen Victoria

An Impressive Climax

The prophecy closes with the setting up of God's own kingdom (vss 44, 45). Unlike the previous kingdoms, this kingdom, says the prophecy, will last forever. The king is none other than Jesus Christ, *"the King of kings and Lord of lords"* (Revelation 19:16).

A Reasonable Conclusion

Here we have a foundation as solid as the stone that crushed the statue—the Bible. The prophecy accurately and succinctly foretells the rise, fall, and fate of nations millennia in advance! We can have confidence that though we may not know all that the future holds, we can know Who holds the future!

Presentation guide 2:

Is the Bible **Trustworthy**?

Remember the former things of old, 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 things that are not yet done, saying, *"My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."* (Isaiah 46:9, 10)

"Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He." (John 13:19; 14:29)

An astonishing biblical claim—God knows and declares future events. This is, by all accounts, a remarkable claim. And it places the Bible in a somewhat vulnerable position. Why? Because if someone wanted to endeavor to undermine the Bible, all they would have to do is discredit this audacious claim. Put very simply: If the Bible's prophecies don't come to pass, then the Bible's claims are falsified and thus untrue. If, however, the prophecies do come to pass, then the Bible's claims and overall message are authenticated.

Writing History In Advance

One of the Bible's key prophecies is found in the book of Daniel. This prophecy forms a kind of outline for other major prophecies. The prophecy is found in Daniel chapter two. It was given some 2,500 years ago. The prophecy effectively gives the history of the rise and fall of nations well in advance of the events it describes. This is, after all, what a prophecy is—a foretelling of future events. It's history in advance! Journalists tell of the present, and historians of the past, but who can accurately reveal the future? God can!

The King's Unremembered Dream

Daniel 2:1-13

Nebuchadnezzar II (634 – 562 BC), king of Babylon, had a disturbing dream that roused him from his sleep. His intrigue turned to frustration when he tried to recall the dream. Try as he might, he just couldn't remember the dream! He sensed that it held some significance, so rather than just going back to sleep, he called his various counselors and fortunetellers to enlist their assistance. His request was as simple as it was difficult: tell me both the dream and its meaning! Predictably, they were unable to deliver what the king requested. In his fury and frustration he decreed death for all the realm's wise men. Daniel was one of them.

Daniel 2:14-28

Daniel went before the king to petition him for some time. The king, desperately eager to know both the dream and its meaning, consented. Then, together with his Hebrew friends, Daniel prayed to God asking Him to reveal the king's request. In the darkness of night, Daniel received an answer from God that unlocked the king's mystery. Daniel was quickly ushered into the presence of the king to tell what had been revealed to him. Young Daniel (likely 18-22 years of age) stood confidently yet humbly before the mighty and desperate monarch. Yes, he had knelt humbly before God, so he could stand confidently before the king!

Daniel 2:29-35

Daniel first assured the king that the dream and its meaning was not revealed by human wisdom. The God of heaven, he said, had revealed it to him. Daniel made it clear that the dream was about future events (v. 29). He then described the dream.

The Dream: A Statue of a Metal Man—

- › Head of Gold
- › Chest and arms of Silver
- › Belly and thighs of Bronze

- › Legs of Iron
- › Feet of Iron mixed with clay
- › Then the metal statue was crushed by a stone, which became a large mountain, filling the whole earth

The Interpretation

Daniel 2:36-45

The king was, no doubt, shocked as Daniel finished speaking. "How does this boy know my dream," he must have wondered. Daniel, though, took it one step further by giving the interpretation as well. And in ten amazing verses, the Bible foretells the rise and fall of nations! So what, precisely, did the dream symbolize?

- › Head of Gold Babylon 605 B.C. - 539 B.C.
- › Chest and arms of Silver Medo-Persia 539 B.C. - 331 B.C.
- › Belly and thighs of Bronze Greece 331 B.C. - 168 B.C.
- › Legs of Iron Rome 168 B.C. - A.D. 476
- › Feet of Iron and with Clay Divided Europe A.D. 476 – present

Verse 41 says of the fourth kingdom that it "*shall be divided*". Furthermore, the prophecy adds, "*they will not adhere to one another*" (v. 43). That is, Europe will not ever be nationally unified. Certainly, these words have been put to the test throughout history, both militarily and maritally:

- › Charlemagne tried in the 8th century
- › Charles V of Spain tried in the 16th century
- › Louis XIV of France tried in the 18th century
- › Napoleon of France tried in the 19th century
- › Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany tried in the 20th century
- › Adolf Hitler of Germany tried in the 20th century