

Ready Answers Unit E: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and God's Deliverance

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E105.jpg

Welcome, Opening prayer, and Introduction.

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Unit E

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and God's Deliverance

Bill and Shelley Houser

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E115.jpg

About 2600 years ago,¹ Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream but couldn't remember it.

3



E125.jpg

He asked his magicians and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed and explain its meaning, but they could not. So the king said that all the wise men should be killed. Although Daniel and his Jewish friends were not magicians or astrologers, they were considered to be wise men, and were going to be killed.

4



E135.jpg

When Daniel heard this, he asked the king for more time.



E137.jpg

Then he asked his friends to pray with him that God would tell him the dream and what it meant.



E145.jpg

God granted their request and Daniel explained the dream and its meaning to the king.



E155.jpg

In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a great image of a statue of a man. Its head was gold. Its chest and arms were silver. Its belly and thighs were brass. Its legs were iron. Its feet were part of iron and part of clay.



E165.jpg

A stone was cut out without hands and it hit the image on its feet. It broke them to pieces. Then the entire image fell and broke into such small pieces that the wind blew them away. Then the stone that had hit the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This was the dream. Then Daniel explained what God said it meant.



E175.jpg

Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Daniel 2:37



E185.jpg

And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Daniel 2:38



E195.jpg

And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Daniel 2:39



E205.jpg

And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Daniel 2:40



E215.jpg

“And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.” Daniel 2:41 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Daniel 2:42

14



E225.jpg

“And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”
Daniel 2:43

15



E235.jpg

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

As we will now see, this prophecy accurately predicted what has already happened. This helps us know the Bible can be trusted.

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E245.jpg

Gate relief of Babylon, built during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II.

The kingdom of Babylon was the world’s super-power from 605 BC to 538 BC.²

17



E255.jpg

History records: “The rebuilt city of Babylon was a thing of wonder... The Chaldeans enjoyed a high standard of living and surrounded themselves with richly beautiful buildings... The Greeks regarded [the] ‘Hanging Gardens of Babylon’ as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.”³

18



E265.jpg

About 200 years before Babylon was overtaken, Isaiah wrote, “Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;” Isaiah 45:1

19



E275.jpg

The Medes and Persians formed the world’s next super-power. Under Cyrus they conquered Babylon⁴ in 538 BC² and ruled until 330 BC.² Cyrus’ record of how he took Babylon agrees with Isaiah’s prophecy in many ways.⁵ For example, he wrote “Without any battle, he [the great lord] made him enter... Babylon, sparing Babylon any calamity.”

20



E285.jpg

The Greek kingdom, symbolized by brass or bronze⁶ in the image, was the world’s next super-power from 330 BC to 146 BC.² Alexander the Great led Greece to its power using an army of soldiers wearing **bronze** helmets, **bronze** breast plates, **bronze** shin guards, and carrying **bronze-plated** shields.⁷ He quickly conquered nearly all the world known to him, including Babylon, in only 13 years.⁸

21



E295.jpg

The kingdom of Rome expanded from a part of Europe that looks like a leg or a boot, matching God’s Word. They overthrew the Greeks and were the super-power from 146 BC² until their kingdom gradually fell apart into numerous divisions in AD 476.⁹

22



E305.jpg

Notice that each of the previous kingdoms were conquered by the next, but the prophecy indicates a different end to Rome. Rome became divided because of the love of luxury, political corruption, and moral decay.¹⁰

23



E315.jpg

Numerous leaders have tried unsuccessfully to reunite the old Roman Empire, but those studying God's word knew they would fail. This 2600 year history shows the accuracy of this Bible prophecy, and helps us to be certain that the last part of this prophecy will also be fulfilled.

24



E165.jpg

We can look forward to the day when God will destroy these kingdoms and set up his eternal kingdom. This day is described in Psalm 97.

25



E335.jpg

The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

Psalm 97:1–2

26



E345.jpg

A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.

Psalm 97:3–4

27



E355.jpg

The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

Psalm 97:5–6

28



E365.jpg

Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

Psalm 97:7

29



E375.jpg

Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD. For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

Psalm 97:8–9

30



E385.jpg

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 97:10



E395.jpg

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Psalm 97:11-12

Picture Sources

- p. 0 JesusImageStoneHorz.jpg by Linda Anderson McDonald
- p. 2 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream: <http://www.TheGloryStory.com> Daniel 1 13 Picture used with permission: (c)2006 www.TheGloryStory.com
- p. 3 Nebuchadnezzar asking wise men: <http://www.TheGloryStory.com> Daniel 1 14 Picture used with permission: (c)2006 www.TheGloryStory.com
- p. 4 Daniel asks for more time. <http://www.TheGloryStory.com> Daniel 1 15 Picture used with permission: (c)2006 www.TheGloryStory.com
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- p. 7 golden image Dan 2 HD from Linda Anderson McDonald Focus on image.
- p. 8 golden image Dan 2 HD from Linda Anderson McDonald Focus on stone.
- p. 9 Original work by William Houser.
- p. 10 Original work by William Houser.
- p. 11 Metal man from Linda Anderson McDonald focus on arms and brass. Map of the Grecian kingdom: <http://www.sparklebox.co.uk/6121-6130/sb6124.html#.WR9PJ8a1vIV>
- p. 12 Metal man from Linda Anderson McDonald focus on iron. Mohr's hardness scale for metals: <http://www.solarroadways.com/Specifics/Glass> <http://www.jewelrynotes.com/the-mohs-scale-of-hardness-for-metals-why-it-is-important/> Roman Soldier with "Divide and Conquer" :<https://it-it.facebook.com/catenaumanaparlamento/photos/divide-et-impera-ovvero-la-strategia-usata-dal-potere-per-controllarci-meglio-di/1233347483438253/>
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- p. 15 Metal man and rock from Linda Anderson McDonald combined by William Houser. New Jerusalem coming down: <http://westloop-church.blogspot.com/2011/01/god-will-create-new-heavens-and-new.html>
- p. 16 Xuan Che , flikr 86747233_04e9a49fc7_b <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rosemania/86747223/in/photolist-8EAVM-mA2r3-aWgHqg-RecwG-3ftCoJ-dfVxkx-g9vXgR-eejQYj-oSkTRW-3UDxn4-q7tNEN-qcQ1vR-9dQhTQ-qJViz4-dov5M3-6YTr7y-sAcAba-fQY5vj-iyXwM-oFUbmY-amcwSw-bGKjg4-qkBvsx-8mQu49-6S51Sq-6rNhrx-eijkqh-b6ZPJ2-mhXKSN-qabzs-7Ak2Qm-3ftyLy-dAX81i-6BGsbV-ecn199-54L7ny-edChYB-dE2hRn-ehuq88-7DTywf-2yk2qX-ez4p3G-6Nz4aQ-5iYiLg-diPSyZ-mdX2VW-euv9PQ-euvS7f-q3b3H9-oEQDWn> Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC. Gate relief of Babylon, built during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II. Two Panels with striding lions, Neo-Babylonian, Nebuchadnezzar II; 604-562 B.C.
- p. 17 Hanging Gardens of Babylon: Posted by Carla216 on flikr. Number 232968544_c172f3d83e_o.

- p. 18 Babylon4 from <http://www.truthnet.org/Daniel/Chapter5/> we added colorizations
- p. 19 Metal man from Linda Anderson McDonald combined by William Houser with his own photograph of Cyrus' Cylinder
- p. 20 Stone image of Greek armor: <http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Chaos/4103/armor.html>, in November, 2002 Bronze images of Greek armor: <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/sparta/topics/panoply.htm>, in November, 2002
- p. 21 Metal man from Linda Anderson McDonald http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italy-12.68449E_42.33265N.jpg
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- p. 23 Leaders Trying to Unite Old Roman Empire: Charlemagne (742-814 AD), Durer_Empperor-Charlemagne-and-Emperor-Sigismund-2 from <http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting-221441/Albrecht-Durer/page-1>; Charles V (1500-1558), [http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting-367610/Louis XIV \(1638-1715\)](http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting-367610/Louis_XIV_(1638-1715)), Rigaud_Louis-XIV-1638-1715-in-Royal-CostumeNapoleon (1769-1821), from <http://www.worldstandards.eu>; Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941), Strassberger_Portrait-of-Kaiser-Wilhelm-II-1859-1941 from <http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting-234837/Bruno-Heinrich-Strassberger/page-1>; Adolf Hitler (1889-1945), Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-S33882,_Adolf_Hitler_retouch from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler
- p. 24 golden image Dan 2 HD from Linda Anderson McDonald Focus on stone.
- p. 25 Original work by William Houser.
- p. 26 A fire goeth before Him: 5671687542_5242d8628c_o from flickr Waiting for the Word <https://www.flickr.com/photos/waitingfortheword/5671687542/in/photolist-curmno-7DUHca-7EjtF-8LaeS-sPHwpSoyJ1qN-9vonNr-8DwTee-b5e4Rr-owri8y-9xhtD2-9DbT7f-9DbSRs-9x3Gek-nmCtLL-f1fh1y-cVeCkb-aZk6YD-rcd28x-4PKrJK-61HM17-oLdTdw-5Z8Hsd-bT4JUa-9K9v3g-oQP85F-7fq4Tq-eyC68p-6E9UA4-fQxdBB-5LREDU-bWJaag-fu2Wz-bzNjcM-bMLSTa-61zhnh2-aep1XC-aeoTsd-9D8YGV-4s8Sd3-aeoSmL-aem6px-buaeBo-7QAanD-aem4hx-5MnBYt-aeoV6b-UsoEC-8V225y-9DbT7N>
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- p. 28 Judgement: <http://media.ldscdn.org/images/media-library/gospel-art/new-testament/the-last-judgement-john-scott-355306-print.jpg>, focus on bad guys in lower right corner.
- p. 29 Judgement: <http://media.ldscdn.org/images/media-library/gospel-art/new-testament/the-last-judgement-john-scott-355306-print.jpg>, focus on good people in middle of picture.
- p. 30 He delivereth the souls of his saints: Salvation2 from http://sonofjoseph.blogspot.com/2010.08_01-archive.html?view=classic
- p. 31 Light is Sown for the Righteous: city-of-zion-taken-up-82612-print from <http://media.ldscdn.org/images/media-library/gospel-art/old-testament>

End Notes

Page numbers are listed in parentheses to help you find where each end note is referenced.

¹ The Wall Chart of World History ISBN 0-88029-239-3 indicates Nebuchadnezzar started to reign in 605 BC. Daniel 2:1 says the dream was in his 2nd year. (p. 2)

² The Wall Chart of World History ISBN 0-88029-239-3. (p. 16, 19, 19, 20, 21)

³ Page 46 of Men and Nations: A World History ISBN 0-15-373480-9. (p. 17)

⁴ Translation of “Cyrus’ Cylinder” is published on http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/articles/c/cyrus_cylinder_-_translation.aspx (p. 19)

⁵ See how well the translation of the Cyrus Cylinder agrees with the Bible! This gives us confidence that the books of Isaiah and Daniel are as old as they claim to be. Since the prophecies in these book accurately predicted the subsequent events, we can be confident the rest of their predictions will come true.

Cyrus did not know God’s name. Cyrus gives credit for his success to the king of gods, (lines 6, 9), but he calls him by a foreign name. God prophesied this in Isaiah 45:4–5. God would know Cyrus’ name, and work with and through Cyrus, but that Cyrus would not know God’s name. (Approximately 200 years before it happened!)

Belshazzar was in control of Babylon-not Nebonidus. Until fragments (ME47176 with lines 34-37, and ME47134 with lines 1-2, 42-45) of a duplicate of the Cyrus Cylinder were identified in December, 2009 and January, 2010 which gave us words from line 2, historians had no record of Belshazzar being in control of Babylon when it was conquered by Cyrus. This new evidence proves that the book of Daniel was indeed written within living memory of this event. Line 2 in the Cyrus Cylinder states that the King of Babylon, later referred to as Nebonidus in line 16, left to inspect his regions, and put his firstborn, Belshazzar, in charge. In Daniel 5:1, we see that it was Belshazzar who was on the throne in Babylon when the Medes and Persians took over. This would also explain why whoever could explain the writing on the wall would be the third ruler in the kingdom, and not the second, according to Daniel 5:7, 16, 29. Nebonidus was the king, Belshazzar was the regent, and the next open spot would be the third in the kingdom.

Belshazzar was disrespectful to the King of the gods We see from lines 5–7 that Belshazzar did rites that were inappropriate to God, with impure food offerings, and was disrespectful to the King of the gods, which made God angry. We also see Cyrus saying in lines 10–11 that God decided to change the king who was over the people who were brought into Babylon, and asked Cyrus to be the new king. This matches Daniel 5:1–5, describing Belshazzar’s drunken feast, where he asked for the holy vessels of God that were taken from the temple in Jerusalem. He then drank wine from them, and praised other gods. God got angry with him, and decided that his kingdom was finished, and would be given to the Medes and the Persians. (Cyrus)

God Decided to Let the Sanctuaries be Rebuilt The Cyrus cylinder says in line 9 that God relented and changed his mind about the nations whose sanctuaries had been destroyed (by Nebuchadnezzar). Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.” (NIV) We know that God was mad with the Israelites, to let them be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. So, this shows that God relented, and changed his mind (even though it was prophesied before), and let the Children of Israel go back home.

God Called Cyrus by Name From line 11 in the Cyrus Cylinder, we see that Cyrus said God took him by the hand and called him by his name. This matches what Isaiah prophesied about Cyrus approximately 200 years before it happened. Isaiah 44:28 names Cyrus by name. Isaiah 45:3 states that God called him by his name.

God Called Cyrus His Shepherd. In line 12 of the Cyrus cylinder, Cyrus claims that he had proven himself as a good leader, by shepherding the black-headed people whom God had already put under his care. This is listed as his qualification of being chosen by God to take over Babylon. In Isaiah 44:28, God says that Cyrus is his good shepherd, and so will be able to restore Jerusalem.

God Went With Cyrus, and Held His Hand When He Conquered Babylon. In line 11 of the Cyrus Cylinder, Cyrus says God took him by the hand. In line 13–15, he describes that God and God’s armies went along with him down the road to Babylon. In Isaiah 45:1–3, God says he will take Cyrus by the hand, and go before him into Babylon, and help him take over the kingdom.

The Rulers of Babylon after Nebuchadnezzar Did Not Revere the True God. In line 6 of the Cyrus Cylinder, Cyrus states the firstborn son of Nebonidus tried to get the worship of the true God stopped. In line 16, we see that Nebonidus did not fear God, either. In Daniel 5:22–23, we see that Daniel told Belshazzar that he has not revered the true God, like his Grandfather Nebuchadnezzar

did. Apparently, Nebonidus didn't either, according to the Cyrus Cylinder.

Cyrus went in Peaceably, and there was a party going on in the palace when he took over. In the Cyrus Cylinder, line 16, 21, 22, 24 mention that Cyrus entered in peaceably. Line 22 specifically states there was a party going on when he took over. "I founded my sovereign residence within the palace amid celebration and rejoicing." Daniel 5:1 states that Belshazzar was having a party in the palace, and Daniel 5:31–32 state that Belshazzar was killed that night, and Darius the Mede took over.

Cyrus Let the Captives Go Back Home and Let them Rebuild Their Temples Line 24 and 25 of the Cyrus Cylinder state that Cyrus freed the population of Babylon from their bonds. Lines 29–35 state that he gathered up all the items of worship for all the foreign gods, and let them go back to their own lands, and let their people rebuild all the sanctuaries. This would include the Jews going back to Jerusalem, and rebuilding God's temple there. Isaiah 44:26–28 states that Cyrus would establish Jerusalem, and rebuild the foundation of the temple. Ezra 6:3–5 also confirms that Cyrus authorized the rebuilding of Jerusalem. (p. 19)

⁶ When Daniel described the metal representing the third kingdom, he wrote the Aramaic word נְכַשׁ (pronounced *n'chash*), for which many English translations use the word "brass". However, a standard dictionary for Bible scholars (The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic, ISBN 0-913573-20-5) gives the definition, "copper, bronze", on page 1102. This is Strong's number 5174. See also page 638 under Strong's number 5173. (p. 20)

⁷ This information was obtained November 2002 from <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~sparta/topics/panoply.htm>. See also <http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Chaos/4103/armor.html>. (p. 20)

⁸ Page 106 of Men and Nations: A World History ISBN 0-15-373480-9. (p. 20)

⁹ Page 158 of Men and Nations: A World History ISBN 0-15-373480-9. (p. 21)

¹⁰ Page 159 of Men and Nations: A World History ISBN 0-15-373480-9. (p. 22)