

Mark Twain



“The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.”

**“I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly.”**

John 10:10



IDEALISM -
We expect the world to be fair.

DEISM -
We worship a God that we don't trust.

SECULARISM -
We take responsibility for too much.

Anxiety



Daniel 2

“1 Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and **his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him.** 2 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. 3 The king said to them, “I had a dream and **my spirit is anxious** to understand the dream.”

DANIEL 2

The setting vs. 1-13	Daniel is saved vs. 14-30	Daniel interprets the dream vs. 31-45	Daniel is promoted vs. 46-49
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The Setting

1. The King has a dream that leaves him anxious.
2. He asks his magicians to describe it and interpret it.
3. They are not able to do so.
4. They (along with Daniel) are sentenced to die.

DANIEL 2

The setting vs. 1-13	Daniel is saved vs. 14-30	Daniel interprets the dream vs. 31-45	Daniel is promoted vs. 46-49
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Daniel is saved

1. Daniel requests time to seek God.
2. Daniel has a vision of the dream.
3. He asks for permission to reveal his vision to the King.
4. Daniel reveals that God has shown him what will take place in the latter days.

DANIEL 2

The setting
vs. 1-13

Daniel
is saved
vs. 14-30

Daniel interprets
the dream
vs. 31-45

Daniel is
promoted
vs. 46-49

“31 “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

“32 The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 “This *was* the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. . . 38 . . . You are the head of gold.”

“39 After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. 40 Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. 41 In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 As the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, *so* some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. 43 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.”

“44 In the days of those kings 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.”

Lessons

A. Biblical prophecy is unclear.

There is little consensus about the nature and time of future events.

Predicted dates of Christ's return and the END

70	1533 (Oct.19)	1763 (Feb.28)	1880	1954 (Dec.21)	1994 *8
247	1534 (April 5)	1780 (May 19)	1881	1957 (Apr.23)	1994 (Sept. 29)1995
365	1544	1789	1890	1958	1996 (Dec. 13)1997 *8
380	1555	1790	1891	1959 (Apr.22)	1998 *15
500	1556 (July 22)	1792	1895	1960	1999 *36
793 (April 6)	1583 (April 28)	1794	1896	1962 (Feb. 4)1966	2000 *59
800	1584	1795 (Nov.19)	1899	1967 (Aug. 20)1969 (Aug. 9)1972	2001 *17
806	1588	1801	1900	1973	2002 *6
848	1600	1805	1901	1974	2003 *6
870 (March 25)	1603	1814 (Dec.25)	1908 (April 23)	1975	2004
992	1623 1624	1820 (Oct.14)	1910 (May 18)	1976	2005 *3
995	(Feb. 1)	1832	1911	1977	2006 (Feb.12)
1000	1648 1654	1836	1914 (Oct.1)	1978	2007 *4
1033	1656	1843 (April 28)	1915	1979	2008 (Mar. 21)
1184	1657	1844 (Mar.21)	1918	1980 (April.1)	2009
1186 (Sept.23)	1658	1845	1919 (Dec.17)	1981 (June 28)1982 (Mar. 10)1983	2010
1260	1660	1846	1925 (Feb.13)	1984 (Oct.2)	2011 (Dec.31)
1284	1666 1673	1847 (April 7)	1928	1987 (Apr.29)	2012 (Dec.21)
1290	1688	1849	1934	1988 (Sept.15)	2017
1306	1689	1851	1935	1989 (Sept.30)	2020
1335	1694	1856	1936	1990 (April 25)1986	2022
1367	1697	1862	1938	1987 (Apr.29)	2023
1370	1700	1863	1941	1988 (Sept.15)	2025
1420 (Feb.14)	1708	1867	1943	1989 (Sept.30)	2026
1496	1716	1868	1945 (Sept.21)	1990 (April 23)1986	2033
1504	1719 (April5)	1869	1947	1991 (Mar. 23)1991 (Mar. 31)1992 (April 26)	2035
1524 (Feb.20)	1734	1870 (June 28)	1950	1993 (Nov.14)	2037
1525	1736 (Oct.13)	1872	1952		2040
1528 (May 27)	1757	1874	1953 (Jan.9)		
1532	1761 (April 5)	1878	1953		

Prophetic texts cannot always be interpreted at face value.

Psalm 78:69

“the earth which is founded forever”

2 Peter 3:10

“the earth and its works will be burned up”

Luke 21:32-33

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

Matt. 1:18-23 (Isa. 7:14)

“Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet; ‘Behold, the virgin (maiden) shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.’”

There is no clear record that the virgin birth of Jesus was predicted in Isaiah (from a grammatical-historical perspective).

It was only made clear through Matthew’s Gospel.



Gold	Babylonian Empire 606 B.C.	Babylonian Empire 606 B.C.
Silver	2nd Kingdom	Medo-Persian Empire 539 B.C.
Bronze	3rd Kingdom	Greek Empire 332 B.C.
Iron	4th Kingdom	Roman Empire 168 B.C.
Iron/Clay	Divided Kingdom	?
Stone	God’s Kingdom	?




Gold	Babylonian Rule 606 B.C.
Silver	Medo-Persian Rule 539 B.C.
Bronze	Greek Rule 332 B.C.
Iron	Roman Rule 168 B.C.
Iron/Clay	Byzantine Rule 390 A.D.
	Persian Rule 611 A.D.
	Arab Rule 636 A.D.
	Egyptian Rule 1291 A.D.
	Turkish Rule 1517 A.D.
	British Rule 1920 A.D.
	Israeli Rule 1948 A.D.

Who wrote the book and when?

- A. 6th cent. or 2nd. cent.?
- B. Daniel or others telling the story of Daniel?
- C. Does it make a difference?

Possible interpretations

1. **False prophecy** - unfulfilled at Christ’s coming.
2. **Fulfilled at Christ’s 1st coming** - the church is crushing the world’s powers.
3. **Fulfilled at Christ’s 2nd coming** - Christ will physically come and rule.
4. **Combines 1st & 2nd coming** - Christ initiates the kingdom spiritually but does not fulfill it until the end of history.

"Thy Kingdom come"

Daniel 2:44

"In the days of those kings **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."

Luke 1:33

"He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and **His kingdom will have no end.**"

Mark 1:13-14

"Jesus came, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand**; repent and believe in the gospel'"

Matthew 24

"15 Therefore when you see the *abomination of desolation* which was **spoken of through Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), . . . 27 For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be."

Revelation 17

"¹² The **ten horns** which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. ¹³ These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast."

Daniel 2:41

"In that you saw the feet and **toes**, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom;"

O.T. Prophetic perspectives are timeless.



Isaiah 61:1-2 (Isaiah),

Luke 4:18 (Jesus)

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord"

O.T. Prophetic perspectives are timeless.

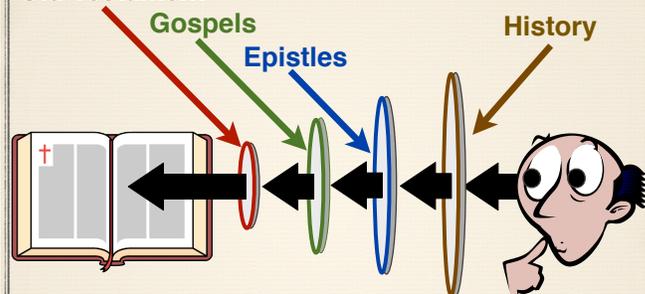


Isaiah 9

⁶ For to us a child is born to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Old Testament



We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.

1 Peter 2

“6 For *this* is contained in Scripture: *Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.*
7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, *the stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone,* 8 and, *a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense;* for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.”

Implications

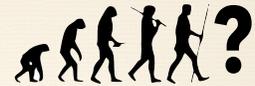
- ✓ **Be careful to respect differing interpretations.**
- ✓ **Read the O.T. through the eyes of the N.T.**
- ✓ **Expect to see images of Christ in the O.T.**

Lessons

- A. Biblical prophecy is unclear.**
- B. History is linear.**



Ancient cultures



Evolutionary biology

Focus on this world
(gives little meaning to ultimate destiny).

Historical Biblical view



- History has an end & purpose.
- God in some real sense has His hand on history.
- Christ is the focus of the historical narrative.
- Human governments will fail.
- God’s people will, after all, be blessed.

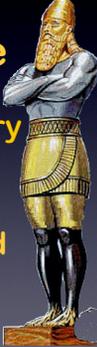
Implications

- ✓ **Christians have hope in spite of temporal circumstances.**
- ✓ **Christians trust that all things will ultimately work together for the good because God will ultimately prevail.**

Lessons

- A. Biblical prophecy is unclear.
- B. History is linear.
- C. Human governments are temporary.

Contrast

Statue		Stone
Temporary		Eternal
Of man		Not of man
Destroyed		Destructive

Implications

- ✓ Christians are not hopeful about, or heavily invested in, political solutions.
- ✓ Christians are committed to responsible citizenship but prepared for disappointment.

What do we know?

History is moving to a culmination - It has a beginning and an end. It has meaning.

All human governments will fail - They are temporal and disappointing.

In the end God's kingdom will stand - It will not pass away.

We are alien ambassadors until Christ comes - We are to abide as faithful stewards until.

What do we not know?

When and how this will take place.

We have hints but cannot be sure of time and means.

We are closer now than anyone has ever been.

We are not asked to know the details or time of the culmination - just to be faithful.

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Daniel's promotion

1. The King is impressed with Daniel's God.
2. He gives Daniel governing power in Babylon.
3. He also promotes Daniel's friends.
4. The challenge now is to see how Godly character handles prosperity and power.