



How can I know what the future will hold?

The shortest history of the world was written 2,600 years ago. It shows us “what will be in the latter days”. Five of the six predictions have already been fulfilled.

Will Europe become a united political entity? What is still to come?

Dear Andrew, *

You have already seen from several other examples that biblical prophecies really do come to pass. Today, we want to take a look at a very important prophecy. It is the basis for understanding the biblical books of “Daniel” and “Revelation”, both of which were written for our time. The prophecies are in part repeated and amplified.

The rise of certain world empires and the establishment of God’s kingdom is revealed in this prophecy. Of the six prophecies, five have already been amazingly fulfilled. Thus, we can count of the fulfillment of the sixth prophecy: the establishment of God’s kingdom. Enjoy getting to know this prophecy.

Jesus Christ spoke about the prophet Daniel (Matthew 24:25). Daniel was a statesman and a

prophet. He is still revered today by Christians, Jews and Muslims. By the conquest of Jerusalem in the year 605 B.C., he was taken captive as a young man and deported as a hostage to Babylon. Due to special circumstances, he became the prime minister of the great King Nebuchadnezzar and held this position also for King Darius and King Cyrus of Persia.

One day, Nebuchadnezzar had an extraordinary dream, which troubled him greatly. But in the morning, he couldn’t remember the content of the dream. So, he demanded his “wisemen” (soothsayers, magicians, conjurers) to tell him his forgotten dream and its interpretation. They had to admit that they were incapable of doing this. But Daniel and his friends asked God to reveal the dream and its interpretation to them. God answered their prayer and revealed the dream to Daniel. He then told the king:

* This name was selected to remind us of the biblical Andrew, who led his brother Peter to Jesus (John 1:40-42).

“But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.” (Daniel 2:28 NKJV)

Now, Daniel told the king his dream:

“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.” (verse 31)

What did the great image look like?

“This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.” (verses 32-33)

Daniel continued:

“You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” (verses 34-35)

Then the king wanted to know the meaning of his dream, which is also very interesting for us:

“You, O king, are a king of kings ... you are this head of gold.” (verses 37-38)

This is the first explanation that Daniel gave the king. He tells Nebuchadnezzar that the head of gold represents him in the statue. **Thus, the head of gold represents the kingdom of Babylon**, which existed from 605 – 539 B.C. We can read about the further course of events,

which are only sketched in an outline here:

“But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours...” (verse 39)

The Babylonian kingdom was **conquered by the Medes and Persians. This kingdom was represented by the chest and arms of silver.** It was a dual-kingdom, in which the Persians were predominant. The expanse of this kingdom was greater than the Babylonian kingdom. This kingdom also disappeared – as prophesied. This means that the second prophecy was also fulfilled.

The daring campaigns of Alexander the Great created the Greek empire. **The Greeks** conquered the Persians. Daniel described Greece as:

“... then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.” (verse 39)

This world empire also disappeared – as prophesied. This means that the third prophecy was also fulfilled.

We can read about the fourth world empire in the following verse:

“And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.” (verse 40)

This is an apt description of the “iron Roman empire”. Whoever didn’t subject to the Romans was ruthlessly fought and eradicated. All the countries bordering the Mediterranean, all of central Europe and large portions of Asia Minor were part of the Roman world empire. It existed from 168 B.C. to 476 A.D. **The fourth kingdom – the Roman empire came and fell again.** This means that the fourth prophecy was also fulfilled.

The interpretation of the dream continues:

“Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.” (verse 41)

History confirms that the vast Roman empire died out because of the migration of the Germanic tribes. Daniel prophesied under the authority of God:

“... the kingdom shall be divided.”

Since the collapse of Roman empire, we speak about a divided Europe. **Divided Europe is represented by the feet and toes out of iron and clay in the image.**

No one can create a permanent and stable mixture out of iron and clay. This is an apt description of the European countries, which aren’t able to make any lasting political union.

There have been enough attempts to unite Europe: Charles the Great, Charles V, Louis XIV, Napoleon I; then through marriage (before WWI all the European ruling families were related) and finally Adolf Hitler.

For decades there have been commendable efforts made to unify Europe through the European Union. Will a political union happen in the sense of united states of Europe? God’s word says in verse 43:

“... but they will not adhere to one another ...” (NKJV)

These eight words in this divine prophecy were stronger than all the well-intentioned efforts to unite Europe. Thus, we can see that the fifth prophecy of the six has also been fulfilled.

Remember that King Nebuchadnezzar saw a large stone in his dream, which was cut without the aid of human hands and fell on the statue’s feet. The wind blew everything away and the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. The stone didn’t hit the statue on its golden head, nor on its chest and arms of silver, nor on its belly and thighs of bronze, nor on its iron legs.

The stone hit the statue at the very bottom and smashed the feet. So, we can understand the explanation and interpretation in verse 44:

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom ...” (NKJV)

The expression “in the days of these kings” refers to the time of divided Europe, since the previous four great world kingdoms all no longer exist. This means that during the time of the divided European nations the last great event will take place. What event is this? God has shown us what will happen in the future.

What kingdom will be raised up as the next world kingdom during the time of divided Europe? It is the kingdom which is mentioned in the Lord’s prayer:

“Your kingdom come.” (Matthew 6:10 NKJV)

It is the kingdom, which is spoken of in the creed: “from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.” It is no other kingdom than God’s eternal kingdom which Jesus Christ will establish.

In contrast to all the previous kingdoms, which have all fallen or will be destroyed when Jesus comes again, God’s kingdom will exist eternally. **God’s kingdom is the last and final kingdom and it starts when Christ comes again.**

Jesus Christ will be visible to all people in the clouds of heaven and will be accompanied by His angels when He comes again. Christ's second coming will be the greatest event which the world has ever experienced.

The four kingdoms, Babylon, Persia, Greece and the Roman Empire, made history for a total of 1,081 years. But divided Europe already exists for 1,500 years and has been in existence about 400 years longer than all the other kingdoms put together.

Now, a legitimate question arises: Why has divided Europe lasted so long? Why didn't Christ return years ago? We are aware that when the duration of divided Europe is measured with the duration of the previous kingdoms, then its time should already be up. Christ's second coming could have already taken place. We are really living at the end of the world's history. The next great event can happen at any time.

The books "Daniel" and "Revelation" build upon this prophecy. They repeat and amplify this prophecy. Both of these books were written for our time – for the last days (see Daniel 12:4,9). So, I would like to recommend studying these books. There are also correspondence courses and CDs on this subject.

I would like to share some thoughts from professor Dr. Ing. Werner Gitt from his book *It is Written* which was in a shortened format in *factum* May 2009, p. 24. As a computer scientist he tested the prophecies with the aid of the probability theory.

Yes, the Bible is an amazing book. It is the most valuable book that we have. It greatly profits us to spend time studying this book.

With warm greetings,

Helmut

"The Bible contains more than 3,000 prophetic statements, which have already been fulfilled. No other book in the history of the world can boast this quality. Hence, we have been given unique criteria to test truth ... Were the prophecies coincidentally fulfilled or was it only possible because God is the author of the Bible and due to His omniscience gave prophecies, which can be tested in their historical context?"

The probability that more than 3,000 prophecies have been coincidentally fulfilled is basically zero. The numeric results of the mathematical calculations grow to be so gigantic and astronomical that our minds and imagination are greatly overwhelmed by trying to adequately estimate this reality. ... The existence of an all-knowing and all-powerful God, who is identical with the God of the Bible, can be proved with prophetic-mathematical evidence."

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