

NEXT WEEK - IMAGES OF THE END

Sabbath Afternoon

Read for This Week's Study: *Dan. 2:31–45; Dan. 3:1–12, 17, 18; Rev. 13:11–17; Rom. 1:18–25; Acts 12:1–17; Matt. 12:9–14.*

Memory Text: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”
(*2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV*).

T

his week, we will look at two more Bible stories that foreshadow last-day events in remarkable detail.

First, we will examine the account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, which has obvious allusions to the issues portrayed in Revelation 13. Then we will turn to the New Testament, where we find that the experience of the early Christians also can help us understand what to expect between now and the return of Christ.

Both examples highlight remarkable courage and provide keys to finding peace of mind under the most trying of circumstances. Over and over, Jesus said things like “Do not fear,” and “Why do your thoughts trouble you?” It is important to remember that the focus of prophecy is Christ, and, as such, we *must* be able to find the same counsel throughout the scenes portrayed in earth’s closing moments. “ ‘Let not your heart be troubled,’ ” He taught His disciples, “ ‘you believe in God, believe also in Me’ ” (*John 14:1, NKJV*).

In other words, yes, last-day events will be difficult and trying for those who seek to stay faithful to God. But ultimately, we should view these events with hope, not fear.

FOR EXAMPLE THAT MEDIA ADDICTION THAT YOU HAVE FOR SPORTS OR ENTERTAINMENT WILL GO AWAY WHEN YOU CAN NO LONGER BUY OR SELL.

**Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, June 21.*

Sunday *June 15*

Daniel Two and the Historicist Approach to Prophecy

One of the most powerful prophecies in all Scripture is Daniel 2. Writing more than five hundred years before Christ, the prophet set out world history, starting from his time in Babylon, and then through Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the break-up of Rome into the nations of modern Europe as they exist today.

In fact, talking about these European nations, one text says that “ ‘they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere

to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay’ ” (*Dan. 2:43, NKJV*). This prophecy has been amazingly fulfilled. That is, despite all sorts of intermarriage between the people (from princes to plebes) of these nations, they remain divided. For example, the British monarchy is called The House of Windsor, a nice English name. However, that name is a relatively recent development—1917, actually. Before then, the family was called Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, a distinctly German name, because many of the British royalty—through mingling “with the seed of men”—were blood relatives with the Germans. However, those blood ties were not enough to keep them from war, and so, during World War I, wanting to dissociate themselves from their hated enemies, they changed the name to The House of Windsor.

Read Daniel 2:31–45. What was Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, and how did Daniel interpret it?

The apocalyptic prophecies in Daniel all follow the foundation set in Daniel 2. That is, the rest of these prophecies, like Daniel 2, follow the sequence of one world empire after another until God establishes His eternal kingdom (*see Dan. 2:44; Dan. 7:13, 14*). In other words, the prophecies go through history in *an unbroken sequence of empires*, starting in antiquity and ending in the future, even to our time. This is the historicist approach to interpreting prophecy and is what the texts demand. This use of the historicist approach is crucial for understanding last-day events, particularly as they are depicted in the book of Revelation.

How does Daniel 2 prove to us that not only does God know the future but that He is, ultimately, in charge of it?

AND WHILE DANIEL 2 PROVES THAT GOD KNOWS THE FUTURE IT ALSO SHOWS THAT HE IS NOT IN CHARGE OF IT. GOD HAS A PLAN. HE HAS SET UP HIS PURPOSES. THE WORLD WORKS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE POWERS OF DARKNESS TO THWART GODS PLAN. YET GOD WILL CARRY OUT HIS PURPOSES OUTLINED IN DANIEL TWO WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE DEVIL AND THE AGENCIES AT HIS COMMAND CARRY OUT THEIR PURPOSES IN OPPOSITION TO GOD. IN OTHER WORDS. NOT ALL THAT HAPPENS IN OUR WORLD TODAY FITS INTO GODS WILL, BUT GOD WILL OVERRULE EVIL IN THE LOVES OF THOSE WHO TRUST HIM AND THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO STEP INTO GODS PLAN WILL SEE ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD. (ROMANS 8:28; MATT 6:10, 13; 2 PETER 3:9).