

Questions / Answers

1. How was Daniel able to tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream and meaning?
God showed Daniel the dream and the meaning.
2. What did King Nebuchadnezzar dream?
He saw a great statue made of different metals—head gold, chest and arms silver, belly and thighs bronze, legs iron, feet iron and clay. A stone hit the image and broke it and became a mountain.
3. What did the dream mean?
Empires ruling in Middle East—gold Babylon, silver Medes and Persians, bronze Greece, iron Rome, iron and clay weak and strong nations, stone Jesus establishing God's Kingdom for ever.
4. When will this prophecy be completely fulfilled?
When Jesus returns to the earth to establish God's Kingdom.
5. What did Ezekiel see in his vision?
A valley of dry bones which came together into skeletons. Flesh grew on them and they breathed and stood up a great army.
6. What did this prophecy mean?
The Jews were scattered throughout the world, eventually they would come back to their land and become a nation again.
7. When were the Jews scattered into every nation of the world?
In AD 70 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.
8. For about how long have the Jews been scattered?
About two thousand years.
9. When was the nation of Israel established in their own land again?
In 1948.
10. How were Daniel and Ezekiel able to what would happen in the future?
God knows all things. God showed them the future.

Memory verses

Daniel 2:44 Ezekiel 37:14 Acts 3:20—21

Discussion

Discuss what Ezekiel saw in his vision. Why and when were the Jews scattered. How was this prophecy fulfilled in recent history?

Writing

Draw the statue that Nebuchadnezzar saw. Mark on it the metals it was made from and the Empires it represented.

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 29 Prophecies about the future

READING Daniel 2:1 – 5 & 27—45; Ezekiel 37:1—14

LESSON

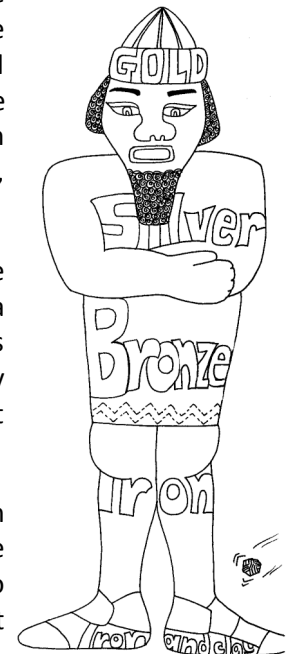
Although the Jews returned to their own land, they did not have their own king again. Foreign nations ruled over them as God had said. While Daniel and Ezekiel were captives in Babylon God gave them wonderful prophecies to tell them what would happen to their nation and other nations in the future. These prophecies were a comfort to the Jews in their captivity.

These prophecies which God gave to Daniel and Ezekiel told about events which would take place over hundreds of years. In fact they are still being fulfilled in our own time.

Daniel was taken captive as a young man by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. He became one of Nebuchadnezzar's wise men. One night Nebuchadnezzar had a very strange dream which terrified him. In the morning he had forgotten the dream. He demanded that his wise men tell him the dream and what it meant. When the wise men were not able to tell him the dream, Nebuchadnezzar threatened to kill them all.

Daniel prayed to God and God showed Daniel the dream and its meaning. Nebuchadnezzar had seen a great statue made of different metals. The head was made of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of bronze, the legs of iron and the feet were made partly of iron and partly of sticky clay.

Nebuchadnezzar saw a stone cut out of a mountain without any hand. This stone hit the image on the feet and the image fell down and was broken into little pieces. The stone then grew into a great mountain which filled the earth.



Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar that God was showing him all the empires which would follow the empire of Babylon. Each different metal in the statue represented a different empire.

The head of gold represented the empire of Babylon ruled by Nebuchadnezzar. Gold was a good metal to represent Babylon. It was a very rich empire. All the temples had altars of solid gold.

The silver chest and arms represented the empire of the Medes and Persians. The two arms showed the two parts of the empire. The money of this empire was made of silver. The bronze belly and thighs represented the Greek empire. The Greeks wore brass armour. The two iron legs represented the Roman Empire, which was as strong as iron.

The feet were made from iron and clay, which do not mix. There has been no great empire in the Middle East since the Roman empire. There are lots of nations, some strong like iron, others weak like clay. This represents what it is like today.

All these empires ruled over the Jews down the centuries while they were living in their land. This dream showed the Jews which nations would rule over them until the time when their righteous king—Jesus would come, as God promised.

The stone which was cut out of the mountain without hands represents Jesus. Jesus was born without a human father. In the days of the weak and strong nations, God will send His Son, Jesus, (the stone) to destroy all the kingdoms of men. Then Jesus will set up God's Kingdom in Israel. God's Kingdom will grow until it fills the whole earth and it will last for ever.

Ezekiel also had a vision from God to show him what would happen to his nation, the Jews, in the future. The Jews were living in captivity in Babylon when this prophecy was given to Ezekiel. After 70 years in captivity they were able to return to their own land. But they were always ruled over by other nations.

In the time of the Romans, after the Jews had crucified the Lord Jesus Christ, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. In AD 70 the Jews were turned out of their land and scattered to live in all the nations of the world. The Jews did not exist as a nation any more.

In a vision Ezekiel saw a valley with dead bones scattered about. The bones were very dry. There did not seem to be any hope that these bones could ever come to life again. This was like the nation of Israel (the Jews) after it was scattered in AD 70. They were no longer a nation.



a valley full of dry bones

The Jews were scattered in all countries of the world. The nation was dead and scattered around like the bones. It did not seem possible that the Jews could ever become a nation in their own land again.

God told Ezekiel to tell the bones to come together to make skeletons. Then Ezekiel saw the bones come together to make skeletons; and the valley was full of skeletons. Ezekiel told flesh to grow on the bones; then flesh came on the bones and the valley was full of bodies. But there was no life in the bodies. Ezekiel told the wind to blow on the bodies so that they would breathe and live. When the wind blew the bodies came alive and stood up - a great army.

Ezekiel 37:11 -12 explains what this prophecy means. God says to His people, the Jews, that they will come up out of the many countries where they have been scattered. It will be like the nation coming back from its grave. Then the nation will live again and God will bring them back to their own land.

This prophecy has recently been fulfilled. For nearly two thousand years the Jews have been scattered in every nation of the world. God has been working in recent history to fulfil this prophecy which He gave to Ezekiel so many hundreds of years ago. In the Second World War Nazi Germany persecuted the Jews. Hitler ordered several million Jews to be killed. After the war people were horrified by this persecution of the Jews. The Jews were given the land of Israel as their homeland. In 1948 the Jews became a nation again in their own land. Thousands of Jews returned to live in the land. Today Israel is a nation, living in its own land with a strong army.



the bodies stood up - a great army

These prophecies foretold future events that would happen in the world. All the empires ruled in the Middle East exactly as God foretold through Daniel. The nation of Israel was scattered throughout the world, but now they are a strong nation again in their own land, exactly as God foretold by Ezekiel.

God will also fulfil the last part of His prophecies. Soon the Lord Jesus Christ will come like the stone. He will destroy the nations and set up God's Kingdom on the earth. He will rule over the whole world from Jerusalem .