

WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE**DANIEL 2.44****INTRODUCTION:**

1. The establishment of the church was not an afterthought, but was in the mind of God since the beginning.
2. The purpose of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was to establish a timeline in which the church will be instituted. (Dan. 2.44)
3. With elaborate details God reveals the nature of the church.

I. "A KINGDOM THAT SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED"

- A. **DANIEL 2.44:** "...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand forever"
1. In contrast to the earthly kingdoms which come and go, the church will exist till the end. (Dan. 2.44; Matt. 16.18)
 2. Even with innovations, the dark ages, and persecutions, the Lord's church continues to exist. (Acts 9.1-5)
- B. Only until the day of judgment will the church be taken and delivered to the Father. (1 Cor. 15.24)

II. "SHALL NOT BE LEFT TO OTHER PEOPLE"

- A. **DANIEL 2.44:** "...and the kingdom shall not be left to other people..." (cf. Dan. 2.34). The kingdom ruled by God.
1. Earthly governments and business are ruled by man and the laws and policies are subject to him. (Heb. 7.24,25)
 2. As the head of the church Christ provides consistency and continuity. (Eph. 1.22; Col. 1.18,19; 2.8-10)
- B. Church leaders are only to teach and enforce what has already been established by Christ. (1 Pet. 4.11)

III. "IT SHALL BREAK IN PIECES AND CONSUME..."

- A. **DANIEL 2.44:** "It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms..." It is a conquering kingdom!
- B. In what way shall the church become a global power?
1. Not a physical presence but a spiritual influence as the gospel is spread worldwide. (Mark 16.15; 2 Cor. 2.14)
 2. Not a violent crusade, but a relentless use of our spiritual weapons. ((2 Cor. 10.3-5; 1 Thes. 5.8; Heb. 4.12)
- C. Christians are "more than conquerors" (Rom. 8.37)

CONCLUSION: The prophecy of Daniel is fulfilled.

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping
 God "in Spirit
 and truth"
 (John 4.23)*

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"WHAT I SAY TO YOU, I SAY TO ALL"

The word of God will always be applicable regardless of any changes that occur and have occurred culturally, morally, and psychologically. Some believe that religion needs to change with the times and keep up with the ever evolving ways of man. What many do not seem to realize is that in spite of how much and how frequently man changes his views, God does not change (Mal. 3.6; Heb. 13.8).

Speaking to His disciples about the coming day of judgment, He emphasizes their need to keep watch and be prepared (Luke 12.35-40). Then Peter asked an interesting question. "Lord, do you speak this parable only to us, or to all people?" (Luke 12.41). This text does not have Christ offering an answer, but Marks account records it. **MARK 13.37:** "And what I say to you, I say to all. Watch!"

Clearly there are commandments and expectations only meant to be applied to certain individuals. When God commanded Noah to build an ark (Gen. 6.14), He did not mean that each of us should have an ark in our back yard. When God gave commands to husbands and wives it should be obvious that such would not apply to those who were single (Eph. 5.25ff),

Those commands that God issues to all are for all time. They do not alter because man suddenly has a different point of view, or because his culture has changed. Jude did not say that God delivered the faith only until such time that it became outdated. He writes that the faith was "delivered once for all" (Jude 3), that is, once for all time.

CLP

WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE**DANIEL 2:45****INTRODUCTION:**

1. As there have always been false prophets, there has always been necessary to *“test the spirits”* (Dan. 2.1-13; 1 John 4.1)
2. The dream of Nebuchadnezzar and its interpretation did not come from man, but from God. (Dan. 2.14-30; 2 Pet. 1.20,21)
3. Through the revelation of God, Daniel did what the astrologers and wise men could not do. (Dan. 2.31-36)

I. THE BABYLONIANS: HEAD OF GOLD

- A. Through the providence of God, Babylon became a world power. (Dan. 2.21,37; 4.22; Jer. 27.5-7; 28.14; Isa. 14.4)
 1. A fact of which Nebuchadnezzar lost sight. (Dan. 4.30-32)
 2. The greatness of Babylon was used by God as an instrument of judgment. (Jer. 5.15-19)
- B. However, their end would be forthcoming. (Isa. 47.5-7)

II. THE MEDO-PERSIANS: CHEST OF SILVER

- A. Through providence, the Medo-Persian empire conquered and replaced Babylon as the world power. (Dan. 8.3,4,20)
 1. That the Babylonian kingdom was about to fall was clear from the handwriting on the wall. (Dan. 5.28-31)
 2. Ruled by Darius the Mede, and Cyrus the Persian, The Israelites were free to rebuild. (2 Chr. 36.22,23)
- B. **DANIEL 2.39:** *“But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours...”* Inferior in influence and morality.

III. THE GREEKS: BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE

- A. In this vision, another kingdom would come. (Dan. 2.39)
- B. A later vision identifies it as the Greek empire which would be ruled by Alexander the great. (Dan. 8.5-8,21)

IV. THE ROMANS: LEGS AND FEET OF IRON/CLAY

- A. The fourth kingdom would have an unusual consistency.
 1.) The kingdom would be divided. (Dan. 2.41)
 2. Partly strong and partly fragile. (Dan. 2.42)
 3. Mixed with the seeds of men. (Dan. 2.43)
- B. **DANIEL 2.44:** *“And in the days of these kings...”*

CONCLUSION: History verifies what the Bible has already said.

THE POWER OF AN INVITATION

Researchers have conducted interviews, administered tests, and have taken surveys with the intention of determining how to get more people into church services. Evangelistic programs have been developed to give more tools to the faithful to get the message out to the public and entice the lost to become faithful Christians.

Research has shown some very interesting results. With all the evangelistic programs that have been implemented, less than four percent of churches show any kind of growth – a figure that is true in denominations as well as in churches of Christ. It is not as if these people are simply going to different churches, for research also indicated that more than seventy percent do not attend any church. But here is the most interesting of all the study. Most of those interviewed said that they would attend services if they were simply invited by a friend or family member.

The word of God confirms that there is power in a simple invitation. When Jesus met with the woman at the well, she was so impressed with Him that she went into town and told anyone she could find. And through her invitation to come and meet Him, many of the town came out to see. (John 4.28-30). All because of her simple invitation, *“many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman...”* (John 4.39).

Not everyone is going to respond to our invitation to services or to a Bible study. In the parable of the wedding feast, the king had invited many to the wedding only to be rejected and even mocked (Matt. 22.1-6). And those we invite may politely turn us down and may even ridicule us. But we are not going to know unless we ask. For the Christians we now are, we may have been long before if someone would have just invited us.

It is rare to find a Christian who sought out salvation on their own. Virtually all of us are Christians because we were invited by someone else to services, to a Bible study, or invited to obey the gospel itself. When Philip met Christ, he went and told Nathaniel. When Nathaniel was skeptical, Philip did not preach a sermon to him, but simply offered an invitation: *“Come and see”* (John 1.39). CLP