

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



1

A Dream From the Past Speaks to the Present



2

An absent-minded scholar was riding the train one day, totally absorbed in his reading. The conductor walked by and asked for his ticket. The scholar reached into all his pockets but couldn't find it. He began checking again, rather frantically.

So the conductor said, very kindly, "Never mind, sir, when you find it, mail it to the company. I'm certain you have it." The scholar shot back in a panic, "But you don't understand, I've got to find it now! I need that ticket to know where in the world I'm supposed to be going!"

Millions of people around the world tonight are asking: "Where in the world are we headed?" The future appears uncertain. They are confused. They wonder where our world is going.

We don't need to wonder any longer. Twenty-five hundred years ago an ancient king's dream outlined the history of our world.



3

(Video: 10 sec) Scientists say that all of us dream-usually several times each night.

But most of our dreams, we don't remember.



4

Perhaps the most remarkable dream ever recorded in all of history occurred one night over 2,600 years ago in the ancient kingdom of Babylon.

The story of the dream is well documented, it was written and told by the man who experienced it.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



5

The biblical Book of Daniel, chapter two, tells the story. However, the man who had the dream, the powerful king Nebuchadnezzar, could not (or would not) recall what it was that he had dreamed!

He knew it was no ordinary dream. He knew the mysterious dream must have an extremely important interpretation. And indeed, it did!



6

God had given him a dream that outlined for us the world's history — especially of Europe and the Middle East — from King Nebuchadnezzar's day until the end of time!



7

Thank God that He shared with us what the future holds. Babylon, the first world empire, was the greatest, richest, and most influential of all the empires in the then known civilized world.

It also had the most powerful king. This leader of men had managed by sheer force to put down his enemies one by one until his kingdom stood as the Queen of nations.



8

In the second year of his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar went to bed wondering just how long his kingdom would endure. He, like other rulers, wanted to know about the future.

That night, God looked down from heaven and chose to entrust this benevolent dictator with a look into the future.



9

When the king woke up early from his fitful sleep, He was troubled. He had experienced a dream, and he knew that it was something of great importance, but he apparently couldn't remember what it was!

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE

The Babylonians placed great importance on dreams, and the king wanted to know the dream and its interpretation.



10

Of course, he had astrologers, magicians, enchanters, and sorcerers. Surely they could tell him what it was all about. Despite the early hour, they were summoned to the court. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them,



11

(Text: Daniel 2:3)

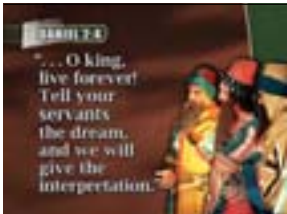
“...I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.”

Daniel 2:3.



12

These men were like many who pretend to know and foretell the future. They could make a guess at interpreting dreams, but they didn't really know the dream's meaning. They stalled for time. Finally they said,



13

(Text: Daniel 2:4)

“...O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.”

But their self-confidence soon vanished as the proud monarch, tired of their stalling, said,



14

(Text: Daniel 2:5, 6)

“The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, ‘My decision is firm:



15

if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces,

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



16

and your houses shall be made an ash heap.



17

However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts,



18

rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.”
Verses 4-6.



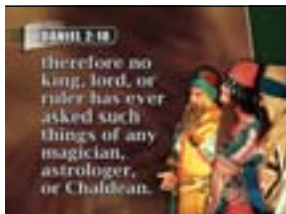
19

Again they tried to get the king to tell the dream.
The king knew by this time that they were frauds.
He threatened them again, and finally they confessed,



20

(Text: Daniel 2:10, 11)
”The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, ‘There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter;



21

therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean



22

... there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”
Daniel 2:10, 11.



23

The Bible says the king was furious and commanded his soldiers to execute all of the wise men.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



24

Unfortunately, Daniel and the three Hebrew young men with him were classed among the wise men, though they were not present with the wise men when the king demanded an explanation of his dream.

When the soldiers came to get Daniel for the execution, he was shocked, but he asked for time that he might consult the God whose dwelling was not with men, and ask for wisdom to make the dream known to the king. (Verses 12-15.)



25

The king, out of respect for this honest young man, granted Daniel time to talk to his God — the God of creation. What a responsibility rested upon Daniel's shoulders.

Not only was his life and the lives of his three friends at stake, but the lives of all the wise men of Babylon! Daniel returned to his house and explained the situation.



26

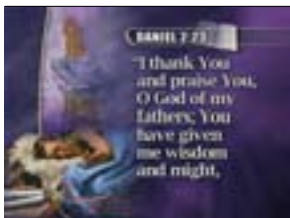
They all pled for mercy from the God of heaven to reveal this mystery, so that they might not be executed with the rest of the wise men in Babylon.

What a prayer meeting that must have been! Four young Hebrews praying that God would reveal the dream of a heathen king before a fateful deadline! (Verses 16-18.)



27

The Bible says that the God of Daniel that very night revealed the secret dream to him in a night vision. The God of heaven did not fail to hear and honor those prayers! So Daniel blessed the God of heaven and said,



28

(Text: Daniel 2:23)
“I thank you and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might,

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



29

and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king's demand." Verse 23.

What excitement there must have been in the hearts of Daniel and the three Hebrew friends!

Daniel ran to the chief executioner, Arioch, as the Bible says:



30

(Text: Daniel 2:24)

"Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said to him:



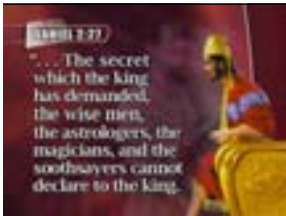
31

Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him." Daniel 2:24, NIV.



32

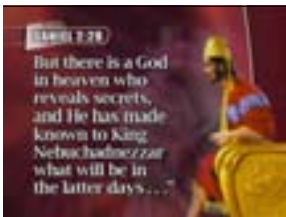
As Daniel came into the presence of the king, Nebuchadnezzar asked him if he was able to make known what the king had dreamed—along with its interpretation. Let's take a look at how Daniel replied to the king:



33

(Text: Daniel 2:27, 28)

"The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.



34

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..." Verses 27, 28.



35

Notice that Daniel did not take the credit for this knowledge. He knew that only God could reveal the future.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



36

(Text: Isaiah 46:9, 10)

No doubt he had studied Isaiah 46:9, 10:

"... For I am God and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,



37

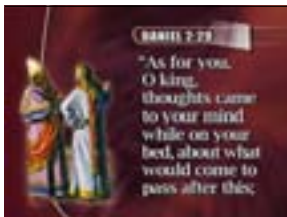
declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done..."



38

This wisdom came from God, who had taken this occasion to outline the history of the world for over 2,600 years to King Nebuchadnezzar and to us.

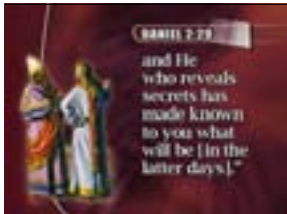
First, Daniel gives the background of this dream that the king had dreamed:



39

(Text: Daniel 2:29)

"As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this;



40

and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be." [in the latter days]

Daniel 2:29.



41

(Text: Daniel 2:31)

Next, Daniel tells the dream:

"You O king, were watching; and behold, a great image!



42

This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome."

Verse 31.



43

(Video: 9 seconds)

Can't you almost hear the king saying excitedly, "Yes, yes—that's it! An awesome image, towering above everything!"

Daniel describes the dream so clearly that Nebuchadnezzar has no doubt that it is the same dream he had.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



44

(Text: Daniel 2:32, 33)

Then Daniel continues:

"This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,



45

its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.



46

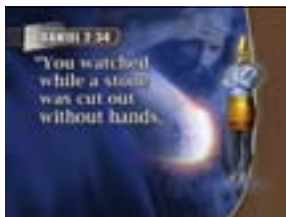
(Video: 14 sec) Amazed, Nebuchadnezzar listens as Daniel describes the elements making up the image exactly as he had seen it in the dream.

The head was bright shining gold.

The chest with the arms, was of less lustrous silver.

The belly and thighs were bronze or brass.

The legs were iron, and the feet were a mixture of clay and iron.



47

(Text: Daniel 2:34, 35)

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands,



48

which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.



49

Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together,



50

and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



51

(Video: 9 sec)

Next the king must have been startled to see a stone hurtling out of nowhere and coming with great speed, striking the image at it's feet,

crushing them, and then violently shattering and pounding the whole image in to dust so fine the wind removed it without a trace.



52

(Text: Daniel 2:35)

And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."

Daniel 2:29-35.



53

(Video: 8 Sec)

"Yes, Daniel," the king must have said, "a rock was cut out without hands and smashed the image and became a mountain that filled the earth."

The whole dream was exactly as the king had dreamed it. Imagine how amazed Nebuchadnezzar must have been to be told by this noble young man every detail of the dream just the way he had seen it himself!



54

One thing must have been absolutely certain to the king, no man could have revealed this to Daniel, no man can tell what someone else dreamed! It could only have come from some divine source.



55

The king may have wondered now what the dream had to do with him. We might have the same thought. Nebuchadnezzar's dream, however, predicts the rise and fall of key nations of the earth.

The kingdoms represented in his dream have in some way or another influenced every nation of the world, especially in modern times.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



(Video: 4 sec) In just a few words God sketched the main course of history from Babylon's time – 600 years before Christ – to the climax of Earth's history. Finally, Daniel gets to the heart of the dream.

56



(Text: Daniel 2:38)
Looking straight at the king, Daniel said: "You are this head of gold."
Verse 38.

57

Babylon was the head — a nation of pure gold!
A smile of satisfaction must have crossed the king's face as he heard those words.



58

The military conquests and the architectural splendor of Babylon were unsurpassed.
Historians confirm that gold was a fitting symbol to represent the kingdom of Babylon.



59

Gold was lavishly used to embellish the buildings of Babylon. Notice one historian's description of that great ancient city:



60

"Situating in the garden of the east; laid out in a perfect square . . . with a moat or ditch around it . . .



61

its gates of brass, its hanging gardens rising terrace above terrace . . . its two royal palaces . . .



62

there, with the whole earth prostrate at her feet, a queen in peerless grandeur . . .

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



63

stood this city, fit capital of that kingdom which was represented by the golden head.”

-Uriah Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 33, 34.



64

The fabulous hanging gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World!



65

Had Daniel been a clever politician trying to make a name for himself in Babylon, he would have stopped the interpretation of the dream right there.

But Daniel had a message that God wanted revealed to the world — a message not just for his time, but one that would be relevant to the end of Earth’s history.



66

(Text: Daniel 2:39)

So Daniel humbly but boldly declared to the king:

“After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours.”

Daniel 2:39.



67

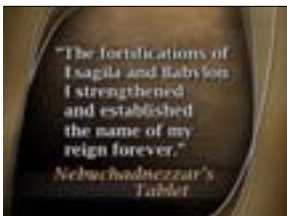
The king’s smile of satisfaction might have quickly faded when he heard those words from Daniel.

Babylon’s proud monarch had probably never given a thought to the idea that any other nation would ever rule the world.



68

In fact, archaeologists have excavated clay tablets inscribed with these words by Nebuchadnezzar:



69

“The fortifications of Esagila and Babylon I strengthened and established the name of my reign forever.”

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



70

(Text: Daniel 4:30)

The Bible states that proud Nebuchadnezzar “spoke, saying, ‘Is not this great Babylon,



71

that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?’” Daniel 4:30

However, God said that another power would arise that would supersede the golden kingdom of Babylon. And Daniel lived to see that happen.



72

(Video: 13 sec) During the reign of Belshazzar, the arrogant and proud grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus the Mede laid siege to Babylon.



73

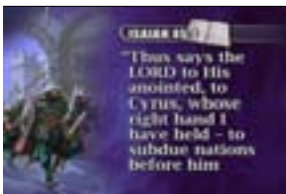
On October 13, 539 B.C., the golden kingdom of Babylon came to an inglorious end!



74

Notice that God had prophesied exactly by whom and how the city would be taken.

Nearly 200 years before the fall of Babylon,



75

(Text: Isaiah 45:1)

God, through the prophet Isaiah, said:

“Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held — to subdue nations before him



76

and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut.”
Isaiah 45:1.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



77

God even told by whom it would happen: Cyrus the Mede, 150 years before he was born.



78

(Video: 8 sec)

Cyrus could not break down the walls, as they were too high and too thick, so he devised another way:

He would divert the river that ran through the center of the city, and his army would go down the river bed until they found a way into the city.

Someone, through carelessness or treachery, had left the massive inner gates of bronze unguarded and open!



79

The soldiers of Cyrus entered the city and killed the king and his nobles as they drank wine from the golden vessels taken by King Nebuchadnezzar when he had captured the city of Jerusalem.

He had looted the golden vessels from Solomon's temple, years before.



80

Daniel had predicted that after the golden empire of Babylon, another kingdom inferior to Babylon, represented by the chest and arms of silver, would come to power.



81

The coalition government of the Medes and Persians was certainly inferior to the glorious Babylonian Empire, but it ruled the Middle East for two centuries.

Daniel predicted that the kingdom of silver would have its limitations also:



82

(Text: Daniel 2:39)

“... Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.”

Daniel 2:39 NIV.

Did that come to pass? Yes, indeed!

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



83

This prediction of the metal image, the bronze belly and thighs of bronze, was fulfilled when the brilliant young general, Alexander the Great, defeated Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Arbela in 331 B.C. and the third world empire was Greece!



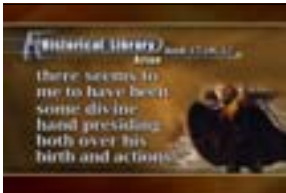
84

At the youthful age of 25, young Alexander became ruler over one of the most extensive empires the world had known.



85

The Greek historian Arian, writing about Alexander, said, "I am persuaded that there was no nation, city, nor people ... where his name did not reach...."



86

**There seems to me to have been some divine hand presiding both over his birth and actions."
-Historical Library, book 16, chapter 12.**



87

Fittingly, much of the armor worn by the Greek infantry was made of brass, the third metal in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.



88

Alexander died before his 33rd birthday of a fever. After his death, his empire was weakened and split into several parts until finally,



89

**"On June 22, 168 B.C., at the Battle of Pydna, perished the empire of Alexander the Great, 144 years after his death."
-History of Rome, book 3, Chapter 10.**



90

Now comes the most terrible of these ancient kingdoms. You remember that God predicted that there would be four world empires, one after another.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



91

Indeed, the iron legs described well the ruthless destructive power of the fourth world empire.
Here is how Daniel described it to the king:



92

(Text: Daniel 2:40)

“And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron...” (Daniel 2:40).



93

Her Caesars called themselves gods and demanded the worship and obedience of all men.

It was during this time of Roman rule that two events of great importance took place in this nation.



94

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

It was a Roman governor who made a decree to kill all the male babies who were two years old or younger in Bethlehem. He had hoped to kill Jesus. And



95

2. Jesus was crucified in Judea, under Roman authority.

A Roman governor allowed Jesus to be condemned.

Jesus was nailed to the cross by Roman soldiers, and a Roman seal was placed over Jesus' tomb to try to keep Him in it.

Now the pattern of the prophecy changed.

No single WORLD EMPIRE would follow Rome.



96

(Text: Daniel 2:41, 43)

Daniel wrote: “Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron,



97

so this will be a divided kingdom . . .

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



98

... so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united,



99

any more than iron mixes with clay." Daniel 2:41, 43.



100

In other words, the prophet predicted, not a fifth world empire would rise, but a division of the iron monarchy of Rome would occur.



101

(Video: 3 sec) Rome would be divided into a number of kingdoms.



102

The iron fibers of this giant empire of Rome that had ruled for nearly 600 years disintegrated.



103

Through luxury, political corruption, and moral decay, Rome lost its stability and strength, becoming an easy prey for barbaric tribes that began to invade the empire between A.D. 351 and A.D. 476.



104

Emperor Augustus was deposed, and Rome was divided into many segments represented by the feet and toes of the image made of iron and clay.



105

(Text: Daniel 2:43)

"As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men;

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



106

but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.”
Daniel 2:43.

Barbarian invasions of Rome divided the empire.
These divisions represented by the feet of iron and clay,
formed the foundations of the nations located in Europe today.



107

(Video: 6 sec) Ten of these barbaric tribes are listed as follows
by most historians:

Alamanni - Germans, Burgundians - Swiss, Franks - French,
Lombarads - Italians, Saxons - English



108

(Video: 6 sec)

Suevi - Portuguese, Visigoths - Spanish

Heruli, Ostrogoths, Vandals - now extinct or merged with other
nations around them.



109

God's proclamation that these kingdoms will never be reunited
as a world empire again limits what these nations do.



110

Europe will still stay divided. They will not stay together!

Even with the European market and a common currency, they
are still divided.



111

He said that even if they mingle themselves with the seed of
men. In other words, they would intermarry royalty.



112

In a palace in Denmark, the family tree of the royal families of
Europe is pictured.

They were all related! They hoped it would prevent any wars.
Well, it didn't work.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



113

**They couldn't get along. So, many of the wars fought in Europe were really family squabbles!
God had predicted that they would not stick together.**

They tried to put the Roman Empire back together, but this would never last, even as iron and clay will not stick together!



114

**Think of the many attempts that have been made to glue the nations of Europe together again.
What happened to these would-be world leaders who tried to unite divided Europe?**



115

**(Video: 11 sec)
Charlemagne - DEFEATED, Charles V - DEFEATED, Louis XIV - DEFEATED, Napoleon - DEFEATED, Kaiser Wilhelm - DEFEATED, Hitler - DEFEATED**

**Exiled on the isle of Elba, Napoleon — that mighty warrior of France in the early 1800s — had to admit that God was too much for him.
God was too much for all of them!**



116

**God had said, "THEY SHALL NOT CLEAVE ONE TO ANOTHER!"
A fitting epitaph for all of these would-be world rulers!**

**However, men are still trying to weld the European countries together, but they just can't seem to stick together, just as God has said!
They may get together, but they can't stick together!**



117

**(Video: 12 sec)
Nebuchadnezzar must have been puzzled by this turn of prophecy.
God foretold the doom of four great world empires.**

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE

He predicted that Rome would be succeeded by a number of nations, seven of which are represented in Western Europe today — some strong, some weak, but all hopelessly divided.



118

What would happen next?

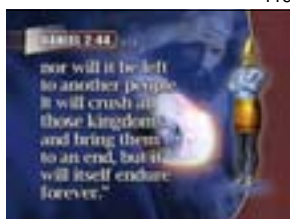
With obvious joy and confidence, Daniel now came to the astounding climax in interpreting the dream of the great metallic image. He wrote:



119

(Text: Daniel 2:44, 45)

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed,



120

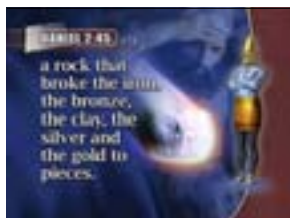
Nor will it be left to another people.

It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."



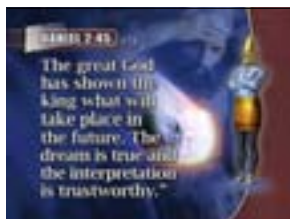
121

"This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain but not by human hands—



122

A rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.



123

the great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true, and the interpretation is trustworthy."

Daniel 2:44, 45.



124

The next great event on the stage of human history will be the second coming of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom, represented by the stone "cut out without hands."

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE

His kingdom will be founded, not by the hands of men, but by the mighty hand of God — a kingdom that will fill the whole earth.



125

(Text: Revelation 11:15)

Then will be fulfilled the prophecy,

“...The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord ... and He shall reign forever and ever.”

Revelation 11:15.



126

Notice the last events covered by this amazing prophecy in the Book of Daniel:



127

Jesus' second coming.



128

The nations of the world will come to an end.



129

God will set up His kingdom.



130

This kingdom will last forever.



131

Jesus will be anointed as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



132

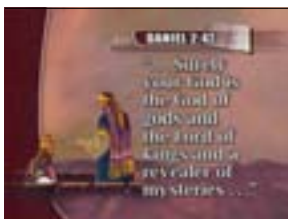
He comes to earth to reign over an everlasting kingdom.



133

When Daniel finished telling the king his sensational vision and God's astounding interpretation, King Nebuchadnezzar rose from his throne

and humbly prostrated himself before Daniel in honor of Daniel's great God, whose wisdom and power had been so impressively demonstrated.



134

(Text: Daniel 2:47)

The king said to Daniel, "...Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries..." Daniel 2:47.

Truly, Daniel's God is the God I want to be my God — the



135

By this giant metal image seen by Nebuchadnezzar in his dream six centuries before the birth of Christ, God unveiled the mysteries of centuries to come!



136

Yes, friend, "The dream is certain, and interpretation is sure!" The journey is almost over! The next great event is Christ coming in the clouds to set up His everlasting kingdom.



137

(Video: 5 sec) The kingdoms represented by the gold, the silver, the brass, and the iron have all passed into history. And the next glorious event is our Lord's soon coming!



138

He has planned a beautiful tomorrow that has been made possible through the blood-stained cross on Calvary. It is only a short time until all of these things are fulfilled. Right now God is making up His kingdom and those who will be a part of that kingdom.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



139

(Video: 7 sec) We can be certain that we will be a part of it if we will only, by faith, do what the thief on the cross did as he hung between heaven and earth next to Jesus.

He couldn't get any closer to Jesus, but he knew that he was a sinner and that he needed to be saved from those sins that he had committed.

He looked over at the Savior of the world and saw the blood running down His face from His thorn-pierced brow. His heart was touched. He confessed his sins and cried out,



140

(Text: Luke 23:42)

“Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”
Luke 23:42.

And Jesus gave him the assurance that he would be with Him in that kingdom.



141

You, too, can pray that prayer and receive that same assurance that you will be with Christ in His kingdom that is soon to be set up here on this earth.



142

(Text: Matthew 25:34)

Then you will hear from Christ's lips this invitation at His return:

“...Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. . .” Matthew 25:34.



143

This world is not in the hands of human beings. It is in the hand of God. We can face the future with greater confidence. Soon Christ will come.

The rock cut out without hands will smite the image.
The kingdoms of this earth will crumble.
God will usher in His eternal, everlasting kingdom.

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



144

**You can have confidence in this God.
You can trust in this God.
You can rest securely in His hands.**

**He is calling you today.
He is inviting you to come today.
He is appealing to your heart right now.**

**Would you like to say, “Yes, Lord, I will completely trust you.
I do surrender my life to your right now as we pray?”**

1 - HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE