

# "THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

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## King Nebuchadnezzar Dreamed Dreams (Daniel 2:1)



King Nebuchadnezzar's bad dream turns out to be prophecy for you and I.

God is allowed to use even the ungodly to complete His purposes. And interestingly enough, Daniel and his three companions are in the kingdom at the exact same time. Not only that, "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams" (Daniel 1:17).

Do you believe in coincidences? You should not. God uses events for His purpose. It is not by chance when you are at a certain location at the time God wants to use you to reach someone.

### So what did the king dream?

Daniel 2:29-36 "As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came [into thy mind] upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for [any] wisdom that I have more than any living, but for [their] sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness [was] excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof [was] terrible. This image's head [was] of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the

brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. This [is] the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king." King Nebuchadnezzar must have been on the edge of his seat with his chin dropped open. Detail for detail of the dream was given.

### But what does it mean?

How do we understand the meaning of this dream? Remember, to understand the mysteries of the Bible, there is an important principle. Isaiah 28:9-10 tells us that we must search all the scriptures, and 2 Peter 1:19-21 tells us that the Bible is its own interpreter and is not for private interpretation. Besides, Daniel just told us "This [is] the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king" (Daniel 2:36). We do not need to buy one of the many books on the market full of private interpretations. Let us allow Daniel and the Bible alone to tell us the meaning of this dream.

Daniel 2:37-38 "Thou, O king, [art] a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou [art] this head of gold." Without any guesswork, Daniel states that King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian kingdom are represented by the head of gold. Babylon was known for its hanging gardens, was known as the

## WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

### MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

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The world has been given an open book exam —

Are you looking in the Book for the answers — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

## Debt Reduction Progress

Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 accumulated in ministry debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when we personally could not sustain this ministry.

He had lost his employment due to religious conflict. Without that income we were not able to sustain this ministry and so the debt accumulated.

Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment, but in order to recover financially it requires him to work very long hours. Can you help eliminate this ministry debt faster?

### OVERALL STATS:

**\$80,000** Starting Balance

- **11,204** Readership

- **37,776** O'Donnell's

**\$31,020** Current Balance

### AUG STATS:

**\$33,535** Prior Balance

- **325** Readership

- **2,190** O'Donnell's

**\$31,020** Current Balance

**WE PRAISE THE LORD FOR YOUR HELP—WE ARE OVER HALF WAY!!!!**

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

golden city, had a population of 200 million, seemed impregnable with walls 200 feet high and 30 feet thick, and contained 200 temples. It reigned from 606 to 538 BC.

By the way, this dream of a statue provides us with a perfect timeline, which begins in 606 BC and concludes in the "latter days" (Daniel 2:28). Let us continue on to see what the other pieces represent allowing the Bible to interpret itself.

The first half of Daniel 2:39 states, "*And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee.*" Babylon was predicted to fall, which it did in the year 538 BC. Notice that an inferior kingdom would conquer it just as silver is inferior to gold. What kingdom is represented by the two arms and chest of silver? Daniel does not tell the king the actual kingdoms to follow at this moment, but an incident that happened years later, as recorded in Daniel chapter 5, does reveal the answer.

Daniel 5:1-5 "*Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which [was] in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which [was] at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.*"

As these verses reveal, a descendant of King Nebuchadnezzar is now in charge, Belshazzar, revealing that Babylon is still ruling. Now during this party, a bloodless hand writes something on the wall. By the way, this is where we get the phrase, "The writing is on the wall." Now Belshazzar repeats the same thing by calling in the sycophants who let him down and finally resorts to calling in Daniel.

Daniel 5:13-14 "*Then was Daniel brought in before the king. [And] the king spake and said unto Daniel, [Art] thou that Daniel, which [art] of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry? I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods [is] in thee, and [that] light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.*"

What does the writing mean?

Daniel 5:25-31 "*And this [is] the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This [is] the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and [put] a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, [being] about threescore and two years old.*"

Clearly verse 28 reveals the next kingdom as the Medes and Persians. Notice how God used symbolism. The second kingdom is not a single nation. In the overthrow of Babylon, two nations joined forces because one had the might and the other had the brains. How did people form contracts before lawyers got involved? By a handshake, hence the use of the chest and arms of silver representing the joint effort. The Medo-Persian empire began in 538 BC but lasted only until 331 BC because it was conquered by the next world power.

And Daniel tells us who the next power was, but because of limited space, we will continue this study next time.

### To be continued

Until then, remember, things do not happen by coincidence. God places you in position for the moment He needs you. Be open to be used and your eyes will even see what God sees – opportunities to tell someone the gospel.

## DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



By Grace Ye Are Saved

1. What is required to be saved? **Acts 16:31**
2. What evidence does a Christian show they have been saved? **John 8:11**
3. What did Jesus do for us? **Romans 6:18**
4. Who rules us when we lack the evidence of salvation? **1 John 3:8**
5. What hope is there to regain that relationship? **1 John 1:9**
6. How is this possible? **1 John 2:1**

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Life Giving Title Of Jesus

1. What is Jesus? **John 6:48** "I am that bread of life."

2. What does that mean? **John 6:33** "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." (As bread is a reference to food and is necessary to sustain physical life, Jesus is necessary for eternal life.)
3. What did God provide for the Israelites in the time of Moses? **Exodus 16:15** "And when the children of Israel saw [it], they said one to another, It [is] manna: for they wist not what it [was]. And Moses said unto them, This [is] the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat." (Manna was symbolic of Jesus.)
4. What are the two promises associated with this title? **John 6:35** "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (We shall never be in want.)
5. What is the ultimate promise? **John 6:50** "This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die." (Or one could say that they have eternal life.)
6. What does it all symbolize? **John 6:51** "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (The bread is Jesus' body which was sacrificed to give life of the world, eternal life that is.)

## ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



Hard Work Good For Muscles

*Ruth 2:15-16 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: And let fall also [some] of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave [them], that she may glean [them], and rebuke her not.*

Here we find Boaz, the owner of many servants telling them to make it easy for Ruth to pick up food to take from the field back to Naomi and herself. That was kind of Boaz.

But too many people wish everything was that easy. They do not like to strain any mus-

cles, work up a sweat, or will even give up when they deem that it is too hard.

Work is meant to be a strain on the muscles – mind and body. So if you struggle to lift, pull, push, or do anything to an object, praise the Lord that your muscles are forming. If it hurts your mind to think and work on a problem, praise the Lord that your brain is expanding.

Now here is the cop out. There are things that are impossible and will require help. We are not discrediting that fact. But we are condemning the popular belief that if it is a struggle, we are not meant to do it. That leads to weakness in the muscles.

## Think On These Things

Be Ye Therefore Wise As Serpents

Proverbs 1:2-9 *To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise [man] will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they [shall be] an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.*

Why search the world for wisdom? The so-called wise ones do not have the answers.

Why seek the opinions of others? There is no opinion pole in the Bible. In fact, many things contained in the Bible are low on the opinion poles. They are even considered unpopular. You are either God's or not. He does not want your opinion, He just asks, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Why even take your minister as the final word? The people of Berea did not take the apostle's word as the last word. They took Paul's words to the scriptures to be tested (Acts 17:10-12). Do you test your minister? Beyond the fact that he did or did not quote a verse correctly? "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

What Does King  
Nebuchadnezzar Know  
About the Future?  
*(Main Article)*

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Hard Work Is Good  
For The Muscles?  
*(See page 3)*

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The Ultimate Hypocrite  
Preacher—Preaches After  
Murdering His Wife!  
*(See page 4)*



## WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED? (Isaiah 53:1)

### »World Net Daily, July 19 - Major U.S. city officially condemns Catholic Church

San Francisco city and county board resolution officially labeled the Catholic church's teachings on homosexuality as "insulting," "hateful," "defamatory," "insensitive" and "ignorant" will be challenged in court for violating the Constitution's prohibition of government hostility toward religion.

### World Net Daily, July 19, 2008 - San Fran's next step: Legalized prostitution?

Petitioners have succeeded in moving a measure that would decriminalize prostitution in San Francisco to the Nov. 4 ballot.

**COMMENT:** COMMENT: Hosea 4:1-2 *"Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because [there is] no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood."* So we remove whatever Word of God the Catholic Church teaches to San Francisco and moved into adultery. Eventually blood will touch blood and we are not talking an occasional murder. God warns of a grander scale. Time will tell.

### »World Net Daily, Aug. 9 - Fear mark of

### the beast? State OKs special license

It's not "666," but it's close enough to the Bible's "mark of the beast," says a religious group in West Virginia who has won an exemption from the state's requirement that driver's license photos be stored in a digital database. In 1999, WND reported Hudok's fight with the school board over his refusal to wear a photo ID with a bar code that had to remain visible at all times. For Hudok, the digital photographs are "getting closer and closer to the mark of the beast" associated with the arrival of the Antichrist.

**COMMENT:** Many Christian organizations believe the last war involves Muslims and Israelites have accepted the rise in power from the Muslim world since 9/11. But besides this, even since the invention of the Social Security Card, people have sought exemption from various tracking devices as the mark. What paranoia! People are all caught up in the tracking device and are missing the actual mark, which has nothing to do with the beast. People even reject the use of credit cards for fear of receiving the mark. Those that believe they will be raptured out before all of this of course are not concerned, but those that believe in the post rapture, you will not be able to escape the tracking devices. Cease the paranoia. Reject the mark, which existed before com-

puters. Revelation 13:17 *"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."* We said in the past, go back to the 1970's. License plates controlled buying and selling. Even and odd plates determined the day of purchase. Folks, once again read all four sections of the Bible in 1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3, and 2 John 1:7 and there is nothing about credit cards, photographs, bar codes, etc. It is all about doctrine, truth vs. error, truth vs. lies, etc. In the future a false worldwide religious rule will be enforced. To track the participation, bar codes, credit cards, ID cards, etc. may be and probably will be used. But they are not the mark. It's the doctrine! And what strange words to a bunch of people who profess to be Christian yet state, "It does not matter what you believe", "Who can trust the Bible", "No one is correct when it comes to understanding God or the Bible", "All religions are the same", etc. These, most populous Christians, are ready for the mark of the beast.

### Other News Items At [www.tstl.net](http://www.tstl.net):

World Net Daily, Aug. 8 - Legislators tell school kids to celebrate homosexuality

»Press Register, July 30, 2008 - Body in freezer as man preached