

EARLITEEN SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Year 1 Quarter 1



What is Prophecy? The Basics

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy;
whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a
light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn,
and the day star arise in your hearts."

2 Peter 1:19

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EARLITEEN SABBATH
SCHOOL LESSONS

YEAR 1 QUARTER 1

WHAT IS PROPHECY?
THE BASICS



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THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

LESSON

1

Prophecy

noun ————— / 'präfəsē /

a declaration of something to come; prediction.



1. In relation to prophecy, what did Christ give to men when He ascended to heaven? Ephesians 4:8, last part.

2. Were prophets included in these gifts? Ephesians 4: 11

3. How long were these gifts to remain in the church? Ephesians 4:13.

4. Name the Old Testament prophets found in the following verses:

a. 2 Samuel 12:25

b. 1 Kings 17:1

c. 2 Kings 2:15

d. 1 Samuel 10:9,10



5. "... By a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved." (Deuteronomy 34:10). Who was he?

6. What two characteristics did John the Revelator see in the remnant church of the last days? Revelation 12:17.

a.

b.

7. What did John say the "testimony of Jesus" is? Revelation 19:10.

8. How do Seventh-Day, Adventists understand this scripture?

"As the end draws near and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes more important for those who accept present truth to have a clear understanding of the nature and influence of the Testimonies, which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel's message from its very rise." -*Testimonies for the Church*, vol.5, p. 654.

"The Lord chose His own instrument for this purpose, selecting as His agent one who had not only surrendered all for Him, but whose life trembled in the balance, 'the weakest of the weak.' Within two months after the passing of the time, Miss Ellen G. Harmon [later Mrs. Ellen G. White], of Portland, Maine, then only about seventeen years of age, began to receive revelations from the Lord." -J. N. Loughborough, *The Great Second Advent Movement*, p. 202.

Think It Through

- 1. When did prophecy first become necessary?**
- 2. In what ways were true prophets "spokesmen" for God?**
- 3. Must a prophet be in harmony with God? Why?**
- 4. Can we expect this gift to arise in the church again?**
- 5. How can you tell a true prophet from a false one? (Lookup Isaiah 8:19, 20).**

LEADING PROPHETS OF OLD

LESSON

2

"... Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established;
believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper."

2 Chronicles 20:20, last part



In each important period of the world, when the law of God was honoured, God had a particular prophet through whom He led His people. The prophets of old were not all foretellers of the future. Among the many prophets, there was a small number who were specifically used by God to predict coming events. All the others were active in far different ways. Elijah, for instance, was a great prophet; yet he made no prediction that did not deal with the immediate present. The nearest he came to prediction was when he announced the drought and the destiny of Ahab and Jezebel. Likewise, John the Baptist, the greatest among the prophets, and Samuel did not foretell future events. The work to which they were called was different. They were statesmen, moral teachers, spiritual guides, divinely appointed watchmen, and instructors of the people.

1. At the beginning of the world's history, how did God communicate with mankind? Genesis 1:28; 3:8.

2. What made this direct communication stop? Isaiah 59:2.

"Adam, in his innocence, had enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but sin brought separation between God and man, and the atonement of Christ alone could span the abyss and make possible the communication of blessing or salvation from heaven to earth. Man was cut off from direct approach to his Creator, but God would communicate with him through Christ and angels." -*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 67.

3. How does God communicate with us today?

a. John 16:13

b. 2 Timothy 3:16

c. Revelation 19:10, last part

4. In what ways were prophets spokesmen for God?



a. Exodus 4:15

b. 2 Peter 1:20, 21

c. Jeremiah 7:1-3

d. Ezekiel 33:7

"Reverence should be shown for God's representatives- for ministers, teachers, and parents, who are called to speak and act in His stead. In the respect shown them, God is honored." -*Prophets and Kings*, p. 237.

5. Who were they?

a. The evangelist of the Old Testament. Isaiah 1:1, 18.

Why? Isaiah 53.

b. The prophet chosen before his birth. Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10.

c. The greatest prophet who ever lived. Luke 7:24-28.

Think It Through

1. Why were the prophets so important?

2. List some of the things the prophets did.

3. List 5 things John the Baptist did in his work for the Lord.

THE
PERFORMANCE
OF PROPHECY

LESSON

3



"Surely the Lord God does nothing,
without revealing His secret
to His servants the prophets."

Amos 3:7, R.S.V.

Prophecy in the Biblical sense may assume various forms and is not limited to the prediction of future events. The word "prophecy" means both forth-telling and foretelling; a prophet speaks forth the message of God, relaying reproof, correction, and instruction to man; he also at times foretells events of either the immediate or distant future, announcing in advance the developments of God's purposes or what will come to pass in the working out of certain circumstances. Whether the prophet heard or saw the message from God, he spoke it forth as the word of God rather than that of man.

1. What does God plan to accomplish through prophecy? 2 Peter 1:19; Psalm 73:24.

2. Does the Lord desire to draw us closer to Himself by fulfilling prophecy? Jeremiah 29:10

3. In order better to understand prophecy, what did Daniel do? Daniel 9:1-3.

4. How did John the Baptist present prophecy? Luke 3:3-6, 16.

**5. Why did Christ prophesy the details of the siege of Jerusalem?
Matthew 24:15-20.**

"When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay. Throughout the land of Judea, as well as in Jerusalem itself, the signal for flight must be immediately obeyed... They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction." -*The Great Controversy*, p. 26.

6. True or False?: God predicts evil but hopes it will not have to be inflicted. His warnings are intended to lead people to repentance. Isaiah 1:4, 16, 17.

7. In the following texts, what two things do you learn about the work of the prophets?

a. Amos 7:1, first part

b. Amos 7:14, 15

8. How was the gift of prophecy a blessing in the missionary work of the early church? Acts 16:6-10.

9. Since we know that God used prophets in the past, do you think it would be possible for Him to have a prophet for these last days, too?

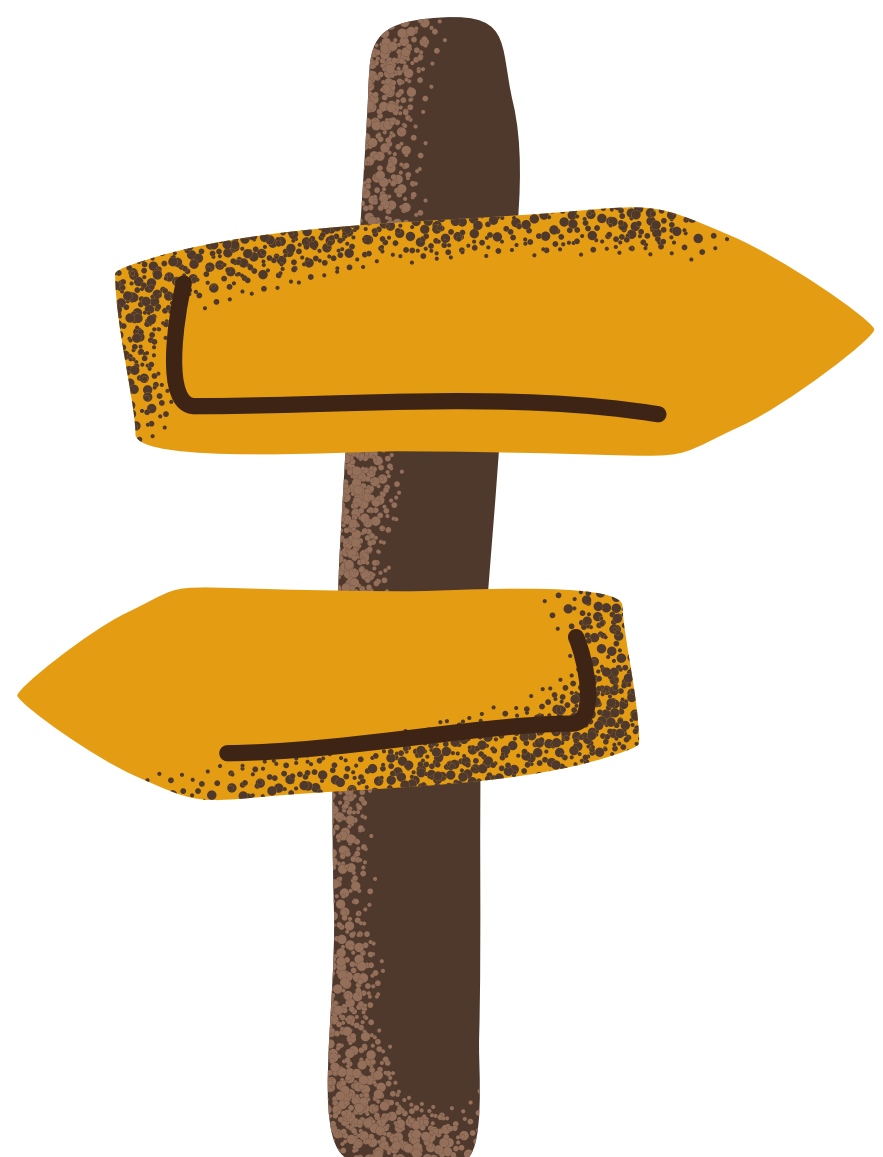
Think It Through

1. How does a person become a prophet?

2. What would you say is the main work of a prophet?

**3. Do you think that prophecies are important for us today?
Why?**

**4. Do you know some of the future events God has revealed to us?
Name them-**



HOW PROPHECY COMES

LESSON

4



"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man:
but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

2 Peter 1:21

"Before the entrance of sin, Adam enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but since man separated himself from God by transgression, the human race has been cut off from this high privilege... God has communicated with men by His Spirit, and divine light has been imparted to the world by revelations to His chosen servants. 'Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.' (2 Peter 1:21).

"During the first twenty-five hundred years of human history, there was no written revelation. Those who had been taught of God communicated their knowledge to others, and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations. The preparation of the written word began in the time of Moses. Inspired revelations were then embodied in an inspired book. This work continued during the long period of sixteen hundred years from Moses, the historian of creation and the law, to John, the recorder of the most sublime truths of the gospel." -*The Great Controversy*, p. v.

1. List the five steps through which prophecy comes to us.

Revelation 1:1.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

2. Who reveals prophecy to us? 2 Peter 1:21.

"The truths revealed are all 'given by inspiration of God' (2 Timothy 3:16); yet they are expressed in the words of men. The Infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants." -*The Great Controversy*, p. v.

3. What means does God use to transmit His will to men? Psalm 89:19; Hosea 12:10.

4. Name six types of people who received such communications from God.

a. Genesis 20:2,3

d. Genesis 41:1

b. Genesis 37:5-11

e. Matthew 27:17, 19

c. Genesis 40:5-19

f. Acts 10:18

5. List the physical phenomena which occur when a true prophet goes into vision.

a. Daniel 10:8

e. Daniel 10:18

b. Daniel 10:15

f. Jeremiah 1:9

c. Daniel 10:16, first part

g. 2 Samuel 23:2

d. Daniel 10:16, second part

h. Numbers 24:16

6. When prophets speak, what do they say? 2 Chronicles 36:12; Ezekiel 3:17.



Think It Through

- 1. What do you think your reaction would be if you saw a prophet in vision?**

- 2. How can you test the things the prophet speaks to be sure they are of God?**

- 3. Do you think it would take courage to be a true prophet of God?**

TRUE & FALSE PROPHETS

LESSON

5

"Beloved, believe not every spirit,
but try the spirits whether they are of God:
because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1



"Every conceivable message is coming to counterfeit the work of God, and always bearing the inscription of truth upon its banner...

"It is no light matter to substitute for God's revealed will, opinions and assertions, dreams, symbols, and figures from human, finite beings. Our actions, words, spirit, and influence are watched and criticized. Those whom God has chosen to be His ministers are to settle solidly into His word and let the word of God be their authority." -*Selected Messages*, vol.2, pp. 92, 93.

1. Did Jesus say false prophets would come? Matthew 24:24.

2. Would they do "believable" miracles? Matthew 24:24.

3. How can we distinguish the true from the false? Isaiah 8:20.

The words of a true prophet will harmonize with the law of God and the testimony of all previous prophets of God. one who claims to be a prophet may fulfill every other test, but if his instruction is contrary to the Bible and the testimonies, he proves himself to be false.

4. What two characteristics does a true prophet reveal? 1 John 4:2,3; Deuteronomy 13:1-4.

5. Can a prophet be of God if the things he says do not come to pass? Deuteronomy 18:21, 22.

6. A true prophet must be called by God. Look up the following texts and describe in your own words how God revealed His will so that the selected men could speak for Him. 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Daniel 2:19

7. Does God always use visions to talk to a prophet? 2 chronicles 20:14-19; Acts 13:8-11.

8. What will a true prophet never do? Jeremiah 23:16.

9. What will a true prophet do? Acts 11:17-30.

10. Can an inspired testimony ever be withdrawn? Jeremiah 36:32.

Think It Through

1. Should we expect false prophets in our day?

2. What spirit do you think leads false prophets?

3. How can you distinguish a false prophet from a true one?



PROPHECY IN
THE NEW
TESTAMENT

LESSON

6

"Blessed is he that readeth,
and they that hear
the words of this prophecy,
and keep those things
which are written therein:
for the time is at hand."
Revelation 1:3.





- 1. Why do you think so many people are reluctant to study prophecy in the book of Revelation? Why do you think there is so much misunderstanding of Bible prophecy?**
- 2. Did Moses point to a New Testament prophet to come? Deuteronomy 18: 15.**
- 3. Who was this prophet? Acts 7:37, 38, 52.**
- 4. What priest possessed the gift of prophecy? Luke 1:67.**
- 5. Who was the woman who prophesied the news of the Saviour's birth? Luke 2:36-38.**

6. Who was called the greatest prophet of all? Matthew 11:9-11.

"Christ declared John the Baptist to be one of the greatest of the prophets, and He showed His hearers that they had had sufficient evidence that John was a messenger from God. The words of the preacher in the wilderness were with power. He bore his message unflinchingly, rebuking the sins of priests and rulers, and enjoining upon them the works of the kingdom of heaven. He pointed out to them their sinful disregard of their Father's authority in refusing to do the work appointed them. He made no compromise with sin, and many were turned from their unrighteousness." -*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 278.

7. Which New Testament prophet foretold the famine that came in the days of Claudius Caesar? Acts 11:27,28.

8. What did this same prophet do seventeen years later? Acts 21:10,11.

9. Which disciple of Jesus received visions? Acts 10:9-17.

10. What vision was revealed to John in A.D.96? Revelation 1:10,11.

11. Did Paul ever receive a vision? 2 Corinthians 12:1; Acts 9:1-7.

Think It Through

1. How do you know the prophetic gift reaches beyond the times of the New Testament?

2. Could there be more than one prophet at a time?

3. What was the purpose of Peter's dream in Acts 10?



PROPHECY IN THE REMNANT CHURCH

LESSON

7



"And the dragon was wroth with the woman,
and went to make war with the remnant of her seed,
which keep the commandments of God,
and have the testimony of Jesus christ."
Revelation 12:17.

1. What description of the remnant church did John give in Revelation 12:17?

2. What is the testimony of Jesus? Revelation 19:10.

3. Make a list of gifts given to the Christian church. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11.

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | f. |
| b. | g. |
| c. | h. |
| d. | i. |
| e. | |

4. Who gave the gift of prophecy to the church? Ephesians 4:10, 11.

"Early in my public labors I was bidden by the Lord, 'Write, write the things that are revealed to you.' At the time this message came to me, I could not hold my hand steady. My physical condition made it impossible for me to write. But again came the word, 'Write the things that are revealed to you.' I obeyed; and as the result it was not long before I could write page after page with comparative ease. Who told me what to write? Who steadied my right hand, and made it possible for me to use a pen? - It was the Lord. When we come into right relation with Him, and give ourselves wholly to Him, we shall see the miracle-working power of God in word and deed." - *Review and Heralds*, June 14, 1906.

5. Was Ellen G. White the only one in her day who claimed to have visions?

"Various things will appear claiming to be revelations from God, but which flow from the imagination of a conceited and deceived mind. We had to meet these things in our early experience. There were youth and children as well as those of mature age who claimed to be led and taught of God, having a special message to declare. They were springing up on every side, having the truth on some points, and error upon other points. For years the message from God came to me, 'Believe them not, for they lead into false paths. God hath not sent them.'" -*Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 90.

6. What was the spiritual condition of the first Adventists after the discouragement of 1844?

"Our first Conference in New York was held at Volney, in a brother's barn. About thirty-five were present-all that could be collected in that part of the state. But of this number, hardly two were agreed. Some were holding serious errors, and each strenuously urged his own views, declaring that they were according to the Scriptures." -*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 86.

7. What was used to bring harmony and unity to the believers? Ephesians 4:11-14.

8. Does the gift of prophecy cease when the prophet dies? Joshua 1:2-9.

9. What result does the activity of the Spirit of Prophecy have for the church? 1 Corinthians 1:4-8.

Think It Through

1. Was Sister White God's first choice for the office of a prophet?

2. Since Sister White has died, can we expect another prophet to arise?

3. Do you think it would be good to have a living prophet today?

4. What do you think a prophet could do for our church today?



PREDICTIVE PROPHECY

LESSON

8

Remember the former things of old:
for I am God, and there is none else:
I am God, and there is none like Me.

Declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times the things
that are not yet done, saying,
My counsel shall stand,
and I will do all My pleasure.”

Isaiah 46:9, 10.

"God has in His word opened before us the great events of the future all that it is essential for us to know-and He has given us a safe guide for our feet amid all its perils; but it is Satan's purpose to destroy men's confidence in God, to make them dissatisfied with their condition in life, and to lead them to seek a knowledge of what God has wisely veiled from them, and to despise what He has revealed in His holy word." - *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 686, 687.

"He has not left His church forsaken, but has traced in prophetic declarations what would occur, and that which His Spirit inspired the prophets to foretell has been brought about. All His purposes will be fulfilled. His law is linked with His throne, and no power of evil can destroy it. Truth is inspired and guarded by God; and it will triumph over all opposition." - *Acts of Apostles*, p. 12.

1. What can the Lord do in regard to the future? Isaiah 42:9.

2. What is God's purpose in foretelling the future? Isaiah 46:9,10.

3. To what people does the Lord reveal His secrets? Amos 3:7.

4. Do you think we will be able to understand everything that pertains to the future? Deuteronomy 29:29.



5. Can we be sure Bible prophecy is accurate? 2 Peter 1:16.

6. Why is Bible prophecy reliable? 2 Peter 1:21.

7. What are we to do with prophetic counsel? 2 Peter 1:19.


Think It Through

- 1. Make a list of all the New Testament prophets who recorded future events that you can think of.**
- 2. Make a list of all the Old Testament prophets who recorded future events that affect us today.**
- 3. There is a blessing given to those who study the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:3). Do you think it's important for you to study these prophecies? Why?**

DANIEL
THE PROPHET

LESSON

9

A wooden surface, likely a cutting board, is surrounded by fresh vegetables. At the top, there are two red tomatoes on a vine, a bunch of green thyme, and a green cucumber. On the left side, there is a whole orange carrot and a yellow bell pepper. On the right side, there is a red bell pepper and some green parsley. At the bottom, there are several more vegetables: a red tomato, a green pepper, a yellow bell pepper, and another red tomato. The wood grain of the surface is clearly visible.

"And in all matters of wisdom and understanding,
that the king inquired of them,
he found them ten times better than
all the magicians and astrologers that were in alt his realm."
- Daniel 1:20.

Let's go back some 25 centuries in time and step into the golden age of the fabulous Babylonian period. Here we meet Daniel, a handsome young prince of noble Jewish birth. Far from his native land, we find him at the Babylonian court, for he was carried off by King Nebuchadnezzar during his siege of Jerusalem in B.C. 606. The progressive king selected Daniel and other Hebrew captives of good birth and great promise to be trained for state service.

Flattering as it was to be singled out by a great monarch, this position posed serious problems for Daniel and his friends. Many of the daily rituals, actions, and customs were closely related to heathen idol worship. This often brought the devout, God-fearing Hebrews into great danger and the most perplexing situations.

Due to the hatred and envy on the part of his jealous fellow courtiers, Daniel and his friends were repeatedly exposed to severe tests of fidelity to God. But over and over again these young men not only escaped the ingenious traps of their enemies but even gained Spectacular victories over them.

In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Daniel described and interpreted the king's forgotten dream, after which he was promoted to the position of the ruler in Babylon and elevated to the leadership of all the wise men of the realm. In spite of all the honours and prestige heaped upon him, the young captive remained unspoiled, calmly trusting in the mighty protection of God, whom he continually served. The meaning of his name, "God is my judge," was obviously fulfilled in his life.

That his fortune and fame in the secular world of his time were not due to the favouritism of one potentate, in particular, can be seen from the fact that Daniel with equal stature and success served no less than four great monarchs and in two great empires. Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius the Mede, and Cyrus the Persian all highly appreciated Daniel's wisdom, skill, and integrity. While occupying the position of a famous and influential statesman, Daniel at the same time humbly filled the position of the faithful prophet of the living God.

1. At the court of _____ we first meet Daniel and his friends. Daniel 1:1, 6, 7.

2. How did he arrive in Babylon? Daniel 1:2-4.

3. List five things that King Nebuchadnezzar expected of those he desired to be a part of his kingly court. Daniel 1:4.

a.

b.

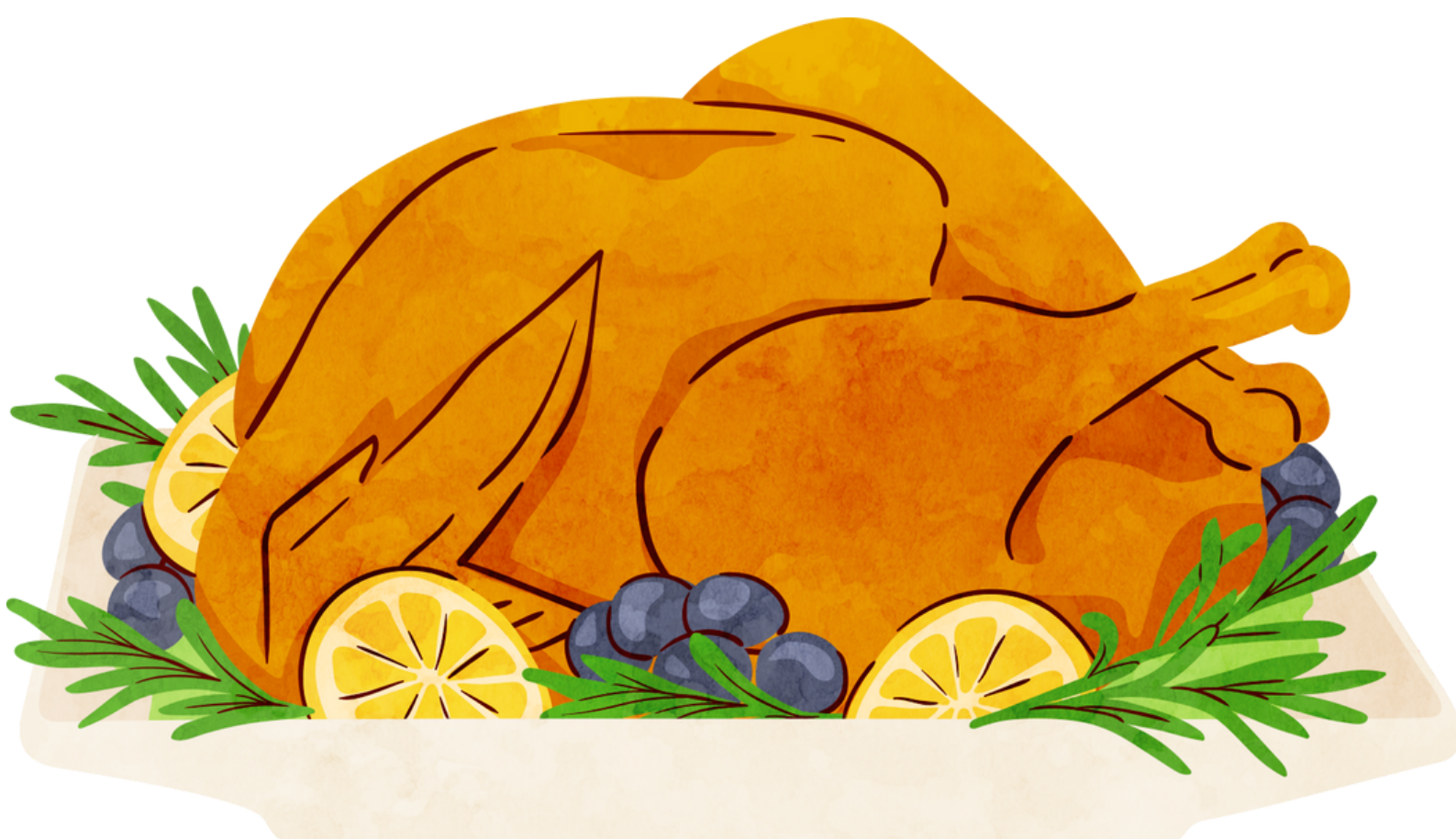
c.

d.

e.

"The king did not compel the Hebrew youth to renounce their faith in favor of idolatry, but he hoped to bring this about gradually. By giving them names significant of idolatry, by bringing them daily into close association with idolatrous customs, and under the influence of the seductive rites of heathen worship, he hoped to induce them to renounce the religion of their nation and to unite with the worship of the Babylonians." - *Patriarchs and Kings*, p. 481.

4. The king gave these special young people the food that he was used to eating. What was this food? Daniel 1:5,8.



5. Daniel wanted to remain faithful to God, so he requested that the prince of the eunuchs give them pulse to eat. What is pulse? Daniel 1:12.

"Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink." -Daniel 1:12, Revised Standard Version.

6. What was the result of the diet? Daniel 1:15, 16.

7. A great crisis occurred soon after in the kingdom. Explain what happened. Daniel 2:1-12.

8. Was Daniel affected by this crisis? Daniel 2:13.

9. As we study more about Daniel's life, we will learn that God took an active part in helping him and his faithful friends. If you desire to be faithful like Daniel, do you believe God will help you, too? Explain your answer in class.



Think It Through

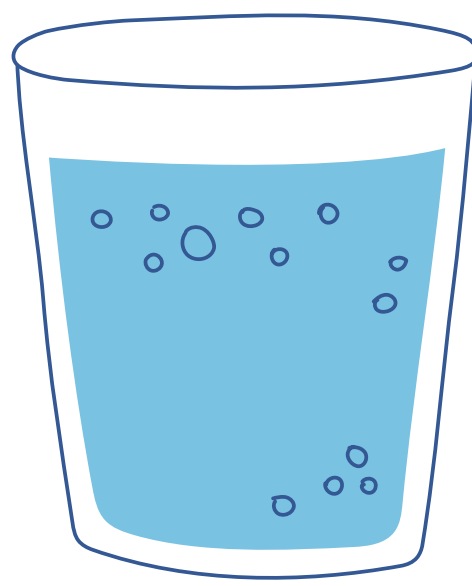
1. Do you think Daniel was a stable person, or moody and temperamental?

2. When did Daniel show the greatest courage?

- a. When things were calm and pleasant.
- b. When in the midst of a crisis.

3. Do you think it's possible to reach a high position in the world while being faithful to God?

4. How would you get along with Daniel if he were here today?



"As God called Daniel to witness for Him in Babylon, so He calls us to be His witnesses in the world today. In the smallest as well as the largest affairs of life, He desires us to reveal to men the principles of His kingdom. Many are waiting for some great work to be brought to them while daily they lose opportunities for revealing faithfulness to God. Daily they fail of discharging with wholeheartedness the little duties of life. While they wait for some large work in which they may exercise supposedly great talents, and thus satisfy their ambitious longings, their days pass away.

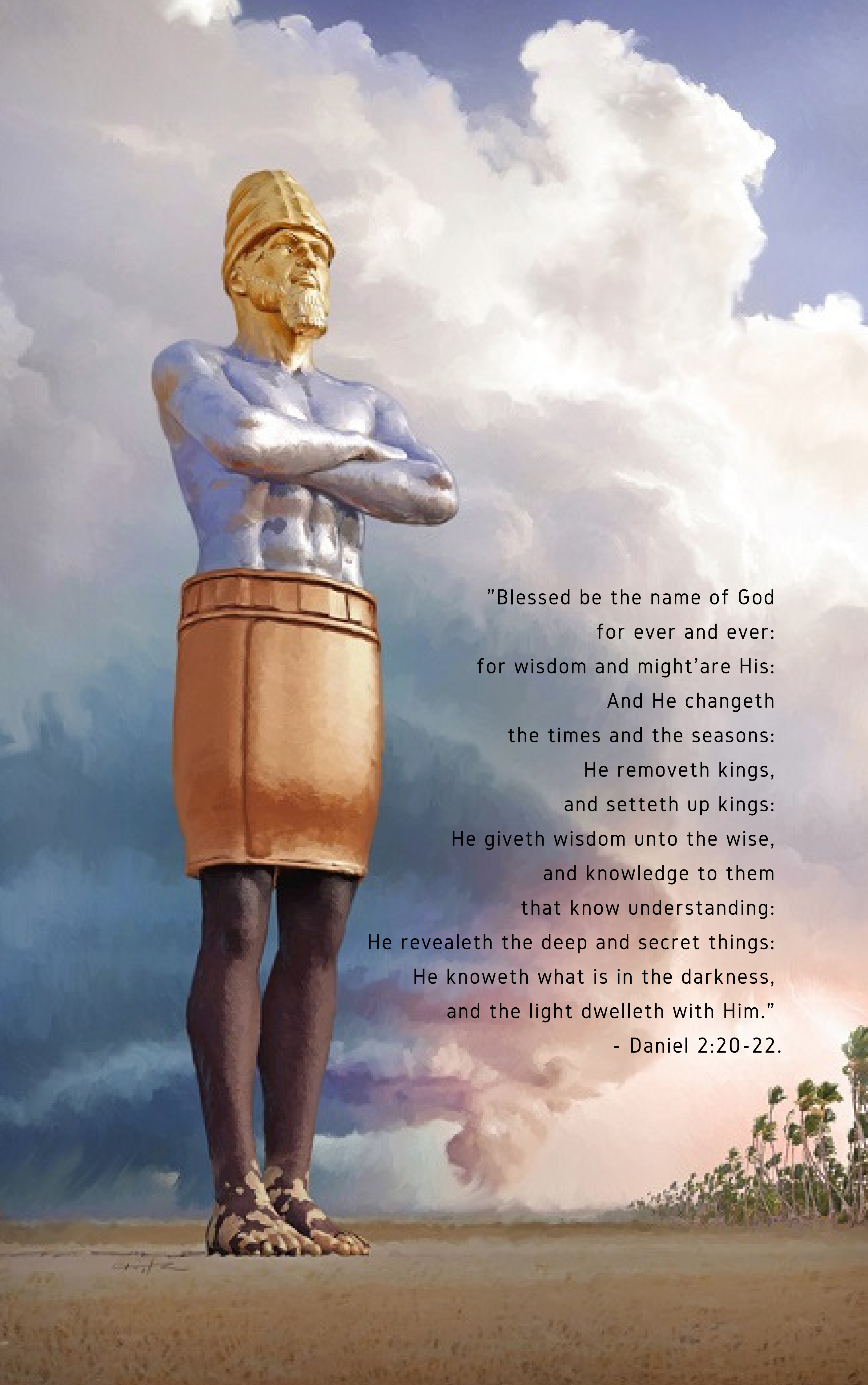
"In the life of the true Christian there are no nonessentials; in the sight of Omnipotence every duty is important. . . .

"A noble character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. It is the result of selfdiscipline, of subjection of the lower to the higher nature, of the surrender of self to the service of God and man." -*Patriarchs and Kings*, pp. 487, 488.

DANIEL 2, PART 1

LESSON

10



"Blessed be the name of God
for ever and ever:
for wisdom and might'are His:
And He changeth
the times and the seasons:
He removeth kings,
and setteth up kings:
He giveth wisdom unto the wise,
and knowledge to them
that know understanding:
He revealeth the deep and secret things:
He knoweth what is in the darkness,
and the light dwelleth with Him."
- Daniel 2:20-22.

"Soon after Daniel and his companions entered the service of the king of Babylon, events occurred that revealed to an idolatrous nation the power and faithfulness of the God of Israel...

"God gave to Nebuchadnezzar, who believed that Babylon would stand forever, the dream. By His prophet He gave to Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation of the dream, that Nebuchadnezzar might know that Babylon would not stand forever, and that the king might learn that truth was more than the ambitions of imperialism. God gave the dream and its interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar, not alone that the Babylonian king might know, but that every king who followed him might know, that earthly kingdoms are all temporal at best, and must pass away, and that the only eternal kingdom, which shall never pass away, is the kingdom of Christ, represented by the stone which became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." -*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 491, 495.

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar experience? Daniel 2:1-9.

2. Why wasn't the king able to tell his wise men what the dream was about? Daniel 2:5.

3. When Daniel found out the reason for the king's anger, where did he seek enlightenment? Daniel 2:17, 18.

"Upon hearing this, Daniel, taking his life in his hands, ventured into the king's presence and begged that time be granted, that he might petition his God to reveal to him the dream and its interpretation." -*Prophets and Kings*, p. 493.

4. How do you know Daniel had a living connection with God? Daniel 2:19-23. What did he do after the dream was revealed?

5. What was the purpose of Nebuchadnezzar's dream? Daniel 2:28.

6. Describe the image the king saw in his dream. Daniel 2:31-33.

a. Head of fine _____

b. Breast and arms of _____

c. Belly and thighs of _____

d. Legs of _____

e. Feet-part _____ , part _____

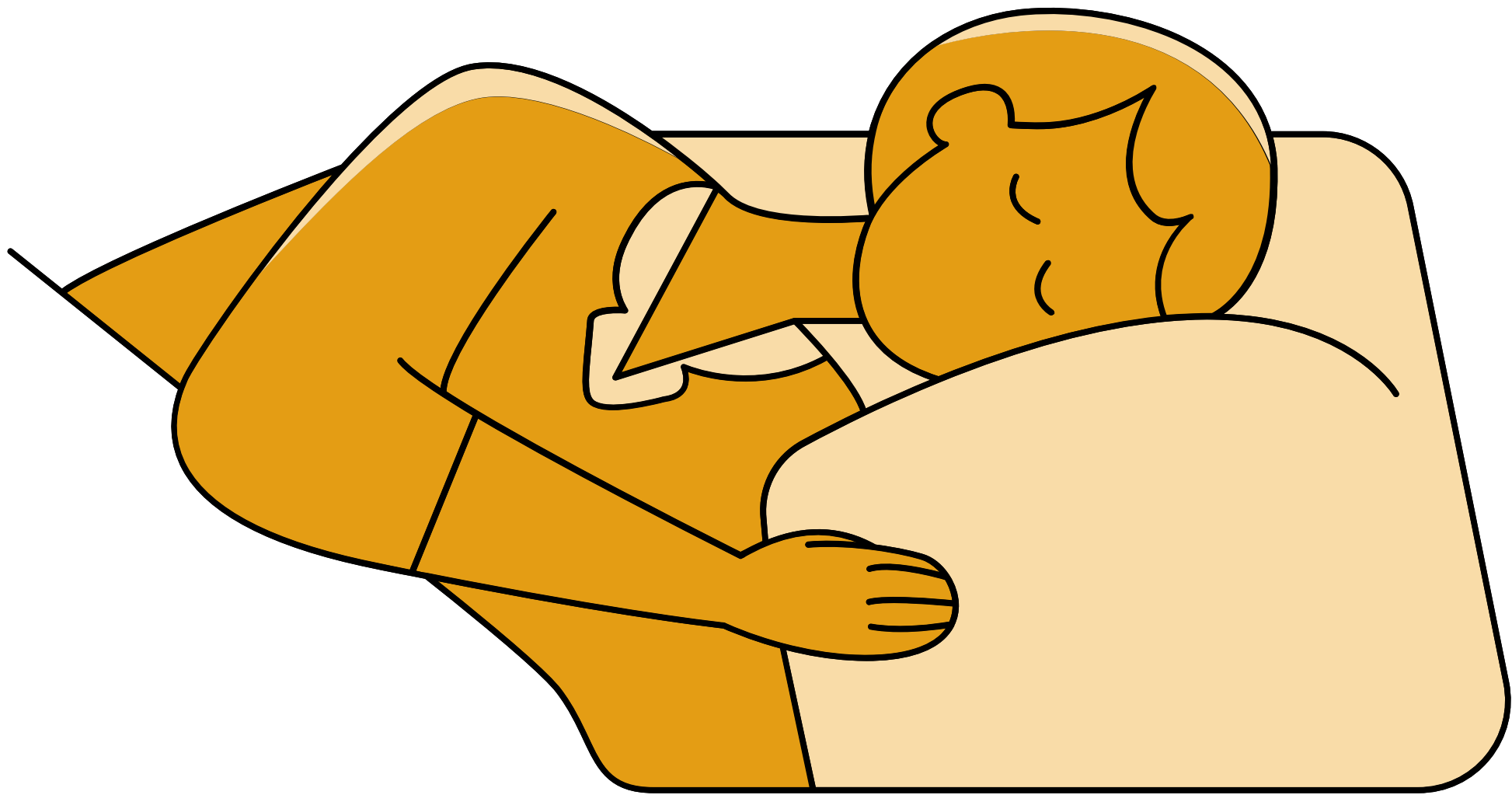
7. What happened to this image? (Circle one)

a. It stood forever.

b. It turned to gold.

c. It broke in pieces and was destroyed.

8. What was represented by the head of gold? Daniel 2:37,38.



9. Was the king impressed by the interpretation? Daniel 2:46-48.

10. What was the king thinking about before he received the dream? Daniel 2:29.

"The thought of establishing endure forever, appealed very strongly the nations of earth had been unable to the empire and a dynasty that should to the mighty ruler before whose arms stand." -*Prophets and Kings*, p. 504.

11. What truth did Daniel try to impress upon Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 2:28.

Think It Through

1. What kind of man was King Nebuchadnezzar?

2. What is your opinion of Babylon's wise men?

3. From what source did they get their wisdom?

4. Can we tap the source of Daniel's knowledge today?



DANIEL 2, PART 2

LESSON

11

"And in the days of these kings
shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom,
which shall never be destroyed:
and the kingdom shall not be left to other people,
but it shall break in pieces
and consume all these kingdoms,
and it shall stand for ever."

Daniel 2:44.

"Hundreds of years before certain nations came upon the stage of action, the Omniscient One looked down the ages and predicted the rise and fall of the universal kingdoms. God declared to Nebuchadnezzar that the kingdom of Babylon should fall, and a second kingdom would arise which also would have its period of trial. Failing to exalt the true God, its glory would fade, and a third kingdom would occupy its place. This also would pass away; and a fourth, strong as iron, would subdue the nations of the world...

"In the history of nations the student of God's word may behold the literal fulfillment of divine prophecy. Babylon, shattered and broken at last, passed away because in prosperity its rulers had regarded themselves as independent of God, and had ascribed the glory of their kingdom to human achievement." -*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 501, 502.

1. What kingdom followed Babylon? Daniel 2:39; 5:28, 30, 31.

Darius was king of this empire, and his general, who led in Babylon's overthrow, was named Cyrus. Within two years Cyrus became king of Persia (Medo-Persia). See Daniel 6:28.

2. What interesting fact can you find concerning this king? Isaiah 44:26-28; 45:1-5.

3. The name of the third kingdom was _____ . Daniel 8:20, 21.

4. What characterized the fourth kingdom to rise? Daniel 2:40.

5. What kingdom followed Greece? Daniel 8:23, 24.

6. What was to happen to this fourth kingdom? Daniel 2:40-43.

Between the years A.D.356 and 483, Rome was divided into ten parts. Some of the kingdoms were strong; others were weak. The ten toes represent the ten kingdoms of present-day Europe. They are Italy, France, England, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, and Switzerland.

7. What does Daniel 2:43 mean when it states, "They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men"?

"There have been mighty efforts put forth to weld the nations of Europe, the divisions of Rome, into one homogenous whole by intermarriage, referred to in the prophecy as mingling themselves with the seed of men, but they have failed. Charlemagne and Napoleon sought by force of arms to build a united kingdom; but they failed. The prophecy declared that these divisions would not unite, even as iron cannot mix with clay.... The word, 'They shall not cleave one to another,' is stronger than diplomacy or force of arms." -*Prophets and Kings*, p. 496.

8. What prediction was made concerning the future? Daniel 2:44.

"In the days of the last divisions of Rome the God of heaven shall set up His kingdom, never to be destroyed, never to be given to another people than His own, who shall inhabit it forever. 'And the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof is sure.'" -*Prophets and Kings*, p. 496.



Think It Through

- 1. How is God's character revealed in this vision given to Nebuchadnezzar and revealed to Daniel? How do you understand God's character?**

- 2. In relation to this vision, where do you place yourself in reference to the parts of the image?**

- 3. Knowing that all these kingdoms will be destroyed, on whose side do you wish to be when this happens?**

DANIEL SEES
THE FUTURE

LESSON

12



"But the saints of the most High
shall take the kingdom,
and possess the kingdom for ever,
even for ever and ever."

Daniel 7:18.

The two outstanding prophecies of the Old Testament are Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. They are also very easy to understand. Why? Because the interpretation is given hand in hand with the symbols of the visions themselves. Thus they also form the foundation for the study of all prophecy, for a single symbol used in various prophecies stands for the same type of thing throughout. The outstanding theme of these two prophecies is: God in heaven guides the course of this earth's nations and rulers. Over 500 years before Christ came to this earth, God revealed to Daniel the future of the world's major powers. How was He able to do this? In the first place, God knows what will happen in the future. In the second place, He is the One who removes kings and sets up kings.

"All Scripture language is to be taken literally, unless there exists some good reason for regarding it as figurative. All that is figurative is to be interpreted by that which is literal. That the language here used is symbolic, is evident from verse 17, which reads: 'These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.'" Uriah Smith, *Daniel and Revelation*, p. 105.

1. What did Daniel see in his vision by night? Daniel 7:2,3.

2. What did the four beasts represent? Daniel 7:17.

3. How do we know that the prophecy refers not to individual kings but kingdoms? Daniel 7:18, 23.

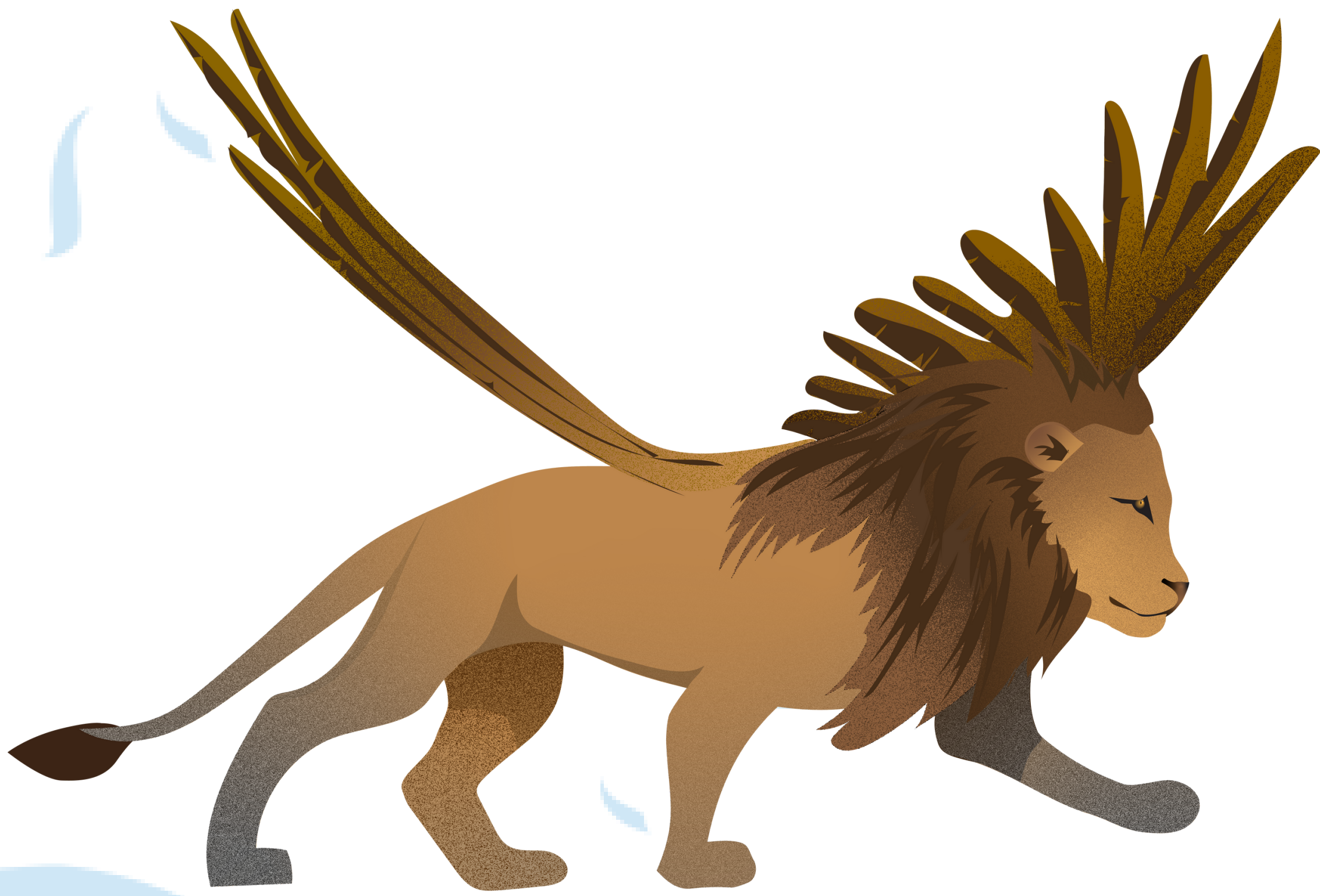
4. What did the lion represent? Daniel 7:4.

The first beast was like a lion with an eagle's wings. This is a very appropriate symbol for Babylon. The winged lion is found on many Babylonian art objects. The combination of the eagle with the lion was a common motif. The lion is commonly regarded as the king of beasts and the eagle as the royal bird. Hence they show the outstanding position of the Babylonian kingdom. Remember the golden head of the image? The wings show the rapid conquest this empire made over others; however, the wings were plucked, showing how the early power of Babylon waned under the successors of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Babylon became weak and enfeebled through wealth and luxury and was finally overcome by Medo-Persia. The Bible says a man's heart was given to it. The bold, proud kingdom now appeared weak, timorous, and faint.

5. Describe the second beast. Daniel 7:5

The second beast, which was like a bear, was leaning on one of its powerful paws, showing that the Persians were more powerful than the Medes. He held three ribs in his mouth. This power was described as very cruel and destructive. "Arise, devour much flesh." Daniel 7:5. The prophet Isaiah, over 100 years before, described the Medes as cruel (Isaiah 13:7,8). When Daniel saw the bear arise, he recognized it as the nation of which Isaiah had written.

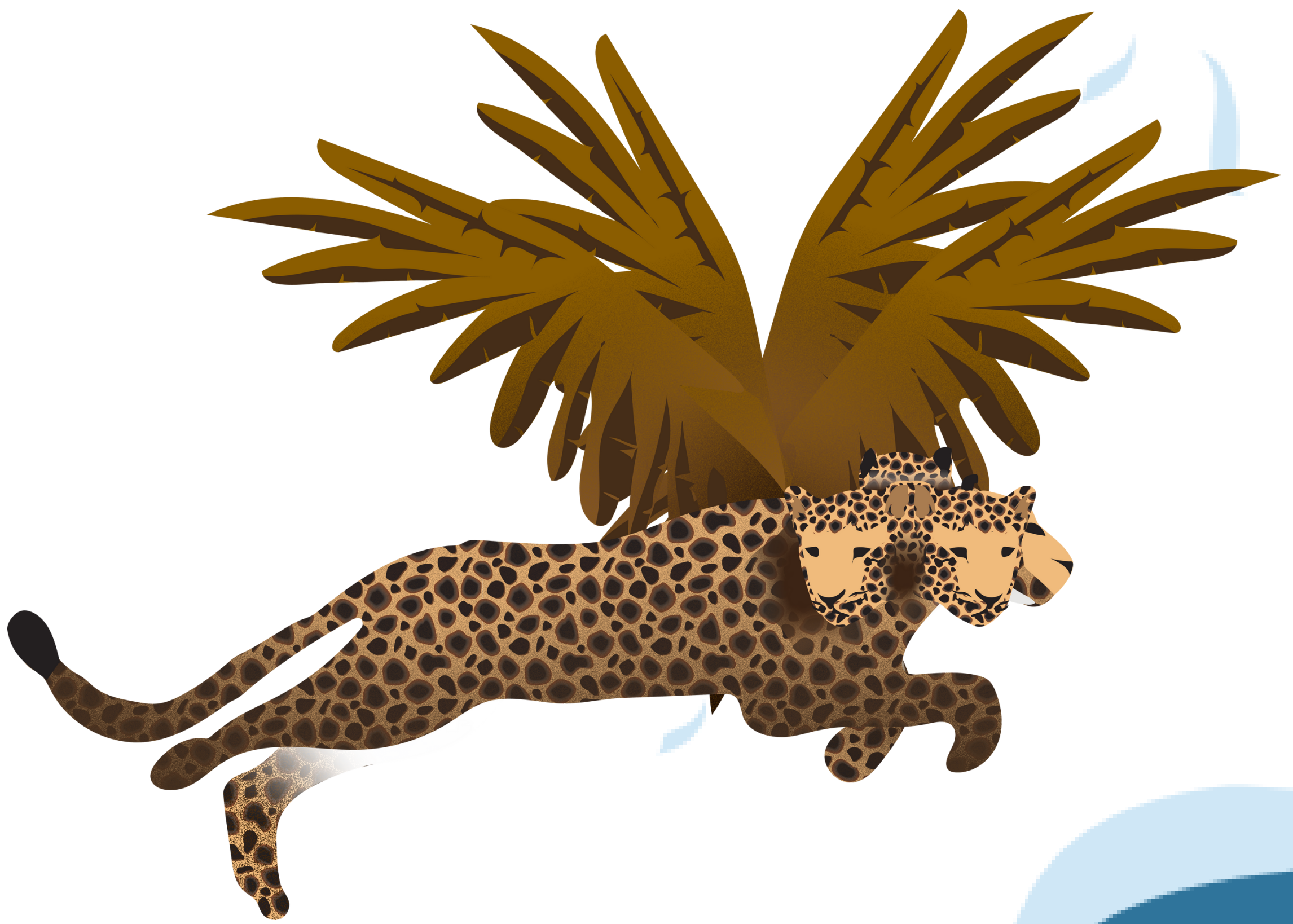


6. Describe the third beast. Daniel 7:6.

The third power arose, a leopard with four wings like a fowl and four heads. It would also have dominion over the world. This world kingdom to rise after Medo-Persia is compared with the brass belly in the image of Daniel 2. It was Greece, whose extremely rapid conquests under Alexander the Great were aptly denoted by the four wings. The four heads accurately portrayed the kingdom's division into four parts after Alexander's short reign and death. His four generals-Cassander, Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Seleucus-ruled these four divisions of the kingdom. Thus the great Macedonian empire was the third beast that Daniel identified in his vision.

7. What terrible beast did Daniel now see? Daniel 7:7,8,20.

From the way Daniel described the fourth beast, there is obviously nothing like it in the natural world. He simply called it dreadful and terrible, with strong iron teeth. We can immediately see the parallel between this verse and the iron legs of the image of Daniel 2. The iron empire of Rome was represented here in its most hideous form-destructive, devouring, and stamping its enemies to the ground. The beast had ten horns, which correspond to the ten toes of the Daniel 2 image. These ten horns, like the ten toes, represent the ten European countries that occupy the territory formerly ruled by the Roman Empire.



8. What other power came on the scene? Daniel 7:8,20.

This little horn represented the beginning of the great spiritual empire of the Roman Catholic (Universal) Church, which arose from the ruins of political Rome. In the establishment of its power in Rome, the Roman bishop subdued three barbarian nations: the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths, thus fulfilling the plucking up of the three horns.

9. What do you think about the eyes in this little horn? What do they symbolize?

The eyes with which this little horn was endowed symbolized the cunning intelligence, insight, and foresight of this power. The main instruments of this supreme intelligence have always been the church's confessionals, from one end of the globe to the other, where high and low repeat their innermost thoughts and plans to Catholic priests.

10. What other things are ascribed to this little horn? Daniel 7:25.

The characteristic described here is applicable only to the Roman Catholic Church. By its own admission, it attempted to change God's law, omitting the second commandment in the catechism and splitting the tenth into two, claiming the power to substitute the Sunday rest for the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment.

11. How did this vision of Daniel end? Daniel 7:9-14,22,26,27.

The judgment is of the greatest importance, because, according to the vision, it is to take place in our time. The next event for this earth is the second return of Jesus Christ. Then there will be no more time to change our lives, thoughts, or actions. We must do this now, while there is still time. The judgment will result in the establishment of the kingdom that is everlasting. Christ will rule as the rightful conqueror of this world, and dominion will be given to the people of the saints of the Most High.

Think It Through

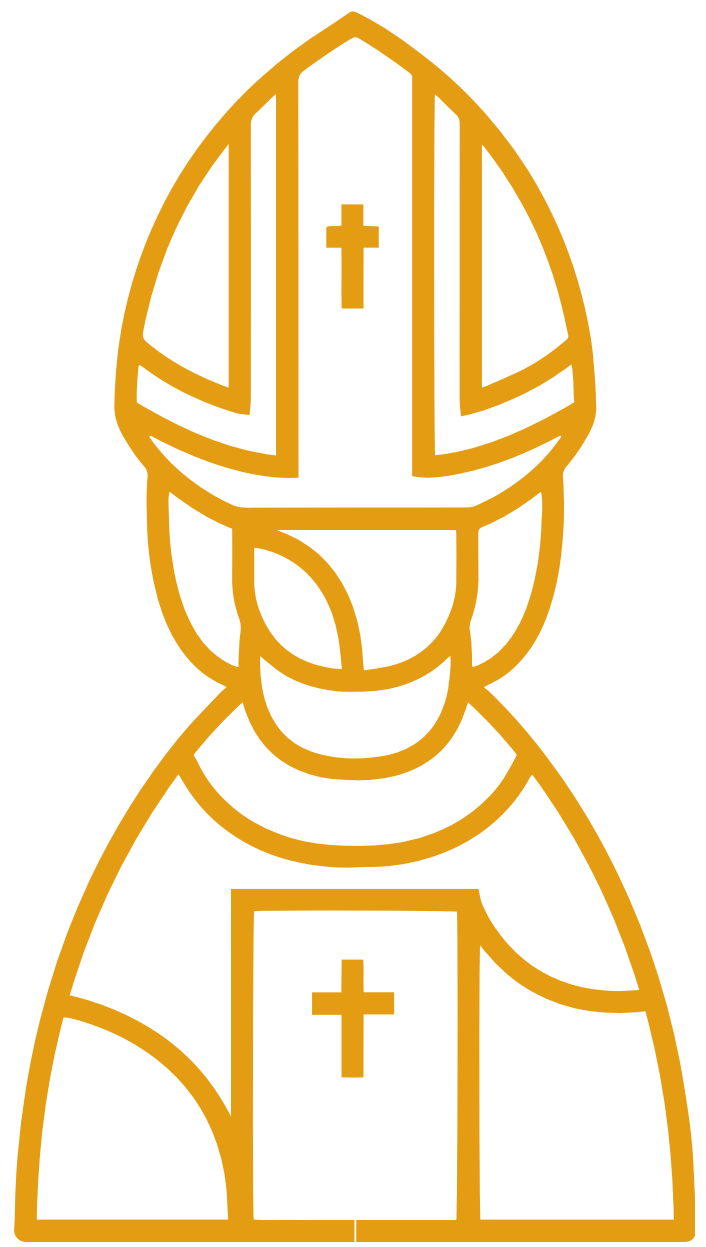
- 1. Can you see any difference between Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's vision?**

2. Which of the four kingdoms is described most extensively in Daniel's vision?

3. Do you have any idea how we could identify the little horn today?

4. Was the law of God actually changed by the action of the papacy?






THE KINGDOM OF GOD

LESSON

13



"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say,
Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
Matthew 4:17.

"Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?' In earthly governments there was nothing that could serve for a similitude. No civil society could afford Him a symbol. ...

"The germ in the seed grows by the unfolding of the life principle which God has implanted. Its development depends upon no human power. So it is with the kingdom of Christ. It is a new creation. Its principles of development are the opposite of those that rule the kingdoms of this world. Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace." - *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp.76,77.

1. What was the message of John the Baptist? Matthew 3:2, 3; 4:17.

2. What gospel (meaning "good news") did Jesus preach? Mark 1:14, 15.



3. What did Jesus teach His disciples to pray? Matthew 6: 10.

"The disciples of Christ were looking for the immediate coming of the kingdom of His glory, but in giving them this prayer Jesus taught that the kingdom was not then to be established. They were to pray for its coming as an event yet future. But this petition was also an assurance to them. While they were not to behold the coming of the kingdom in their day, the fact that Jesus made them pray for it is evidence that in God's own time it will surely come.

"The kingdom of God's grace is now being established as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world...

"Before that coming, Jesus said, 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.' Matthew 24:14. His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. Hence, as we give ourselves to God, and win other souls to Him, we hasten the coming of His kingdom." -*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, pp. 107-109.

4. What did Jesus instruct His followers to do? Matthew 6:33.

"Jesus does not release us from the necessity of effort, but He teaches us that we are to make Him first and last and best in everything. We are to engage in no business, follow no pursuit, seek no pleasure, that would hinder the outworking of His righteousness in our character and life. Whatever we do is to be done heartily, as unto the Lord." - *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, p. 99.

5. Read Matthew 13 and list 6 things to which the kingdom of God is compared.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

6. Where did Christ say the kingdom is presently found? Luke 17: 20,21.

7. Four elements make up the kingdom. The first is the King, Christ. He is to be married to the bride, who is composed of the remaining three elements. What are they?

a. Revelation 21:9, 10

b. Ephesians 5:23

c. Isaiah 62:4

God's giving of the above 3 elements to Christ constitutes the marriage

8. There are three phases to the marriage, or the advent of Christ:

- a. He comes to judge the world (going to the marriage)**
- b. He comes as a thief (the marriage)**
- c. He comes to take His people to heaven (coming from the marriage)**

Match these three phases with the events surrounding Christ's coming:

_____ Close of probation (Revelation 22:11,12)

_____ Investigative judgment (Daniel 7:9,10,13, 14)

_____ Christ's second coming (Matthew 13:38-41)



"The coming of Christ as our High Priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.

"The coming of the bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage. The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom...

"In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage. Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14." - *The Great Controversy*, pp. 426, 428.

Think It Through

1. What differences are there between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the earth?

2. What will decide whether or not you are a citizen of God's kingdom?

3. Is the kingdom of God important to us today? Why?

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What is Prophecy? The Basics

"He has not left His church forsaken, but has traced in prophetic declarations what would occur, and that which His Spirit inspired the prophets to foretell has been brought about. All His purposes will be fulfilled. His law is linked with His throne, and no power of evil can destroy it. Truth is inspired and guarded by God; and it will triumph over all opposition." -Acts of Apostles, p. 12.