



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide #17
Based on sermon: “No Fear . . . of the Future”
Preached May 9, 2009

1. What about the future frightens you?
2. When talking with his disciples about the end times, Jesus described a time when “men’s hearts fail them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, . . .” (Luke 21:26). Do you see evidence of this fearfulness today? Share examples.
3. Read Luke 21:9, 28. According to Jesus, how should believers react to the fearful things happening on planet earth?
4. What’s the symbolism of Nebuchadnezzar’s actions in Daniel 1:2?
5. God always has a people. After Able was killed, Adam and Eve gave birth to Seth. In the perverse generation of the flood, God had faithful Noah. And now as Judah falls to Babylon, God has Daniel and his friends. And through this faithful remnant, God will demonstrate who He is and who is really in control. Discuss the role of God’s “remnant” today.
6. Read Daniel 2:1-3. Note that God gave dreams to a pagan king—not to Daniel (yet). What does this tell us about God?
7. Read Daniel 2:10, 11. Discuss the implications of what the magicians say here. Especially the phrase, “There is not a man on earth who can . . .” Compare this confession with that of Daniel in Verse 28, “There is a God in heaven . . .”
8. It’s been said that, “One of the most important contributions of the book of Daniel is its novel insistence on the linking of faith to understanding.” How does Daniel teach us that faith is not opposed to intelligence?
9. Read verses 12-14. Notice especially verse 14 and how Daniel responds to Arioch. Discuss this statement: “This is how Christians are to respond to the world—with ‘wisdom and tact.’ Use your mind and your manners not placards and protests!” Agree or disagree?
10. Read verses 17, 18 and discuss the role of prayer in facing the future with no fear.
11. In the night God reveals the mystery to Daniel. And Daniel’s response is to Praise God. Within the praise of Daniel are 8 reasons why you need not fear the future. Read verses 20-22 and try to identify the 8 reasons.
12. Read verses 26-28. Notice how Daniel affirms the confession of the astrologers in verses 10, 11. Discuss how Daniel’s testimony about God in the first part of verse 28 is the pinnacle of the chapter and the whole book.
13. The chief reason we need not fear the future is this: “There is a God in heaven.” Why does

this truth make a difference?

14. Read the dream in verses 31-35. Even before reading the interpretation, what can you deduce from it?

15. Who is the “we” Daniel refers to in verse 36?

16. How do verses 37 and 38 put Nebuchadnezzar in his place? Who is really in control of human affairs?

17. Read verses 39-45.

Gold = Babylon (605-538 BC)

Silver = Medo-Persia (538-331 BC)

Bronze = Greece (331-168 BC)

Iron = Rome (168 BC – AD 476)

Iron & Clay = Divided nations of Europe (AD 476 – Present)

18. Where are we on the statue? What’s the only thing yet to happen? (Verse 44)

19. More than 2,500 years in advance, God precisely outlined the rise of four kingdoms, Rome’s division, and attempts to unify Western Europe. He was correct on all points, and we can be certain that He is correct about the future. Because of this, we need not fear the future because God is there. Agree or disagree? What do you need to do to be ready for the coming kingdom?