



PROPHECY EXPO

What Will Cause Civilization to End?¹

I. There are many “prophetic” voices announcing the end of civilization

- A. Many people worry that the United States’ current downturn in economy will bring an end of U.S. dominance and the end of the world
- B. Some see in the cyclical patterns of global warming an end of, or a drastically reduced, civilization
- C. Others look to the long-standing threat of a nuclear holocaust, made even more real by the suicidal Islamic Jihadists, as a possible causation of the end of life on the world
- D. A final group, who envision the end of the world as connected with a cataclysmic battle with the forces of evil (their identity changes with time; past candidates have included Turkey, Russia, and Islamic powers)

II. When Jesus spoke of the end of time, He suggested that the prophet Daniel would provide key evidence for looking to the future

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through **Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand). . . ."
(Mathew 24:14-15, emphasis supplied; NASB 21; SP961)

So, if Jesus is our Master, should not we look to the book of Daniel, when we want to know about the future?

III. The book of Daniel and the end of the world

- A. Since it is Jesus who suggests we look to the book of Daniel for understanding about the end of the world, I think we should look to Daniel as the starting place for understanding the end of time.

B. In the prophecy for this evening Daniel says:

"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."
(Daniel 2:44; NASB630; SP868)

IV. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, which when he awoke, he could not remember. It was a troubling dream that kept him from being able to sleep

"Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him."
(Daniel 2:1; NASB628; SP866)

A. His heathen royal counselors could not help him recall the dream

"The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has *ever* asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean."
(Dan 2:10; NASB629; SP866)

B. The king was so angry that he ordered his soldiers to execute all his wise men

"So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill *them*."
(Dan 2:13; NASB629; SP866)

C. After prayer God revealed the dream to Daniel. He then went to the king, to reveal the dream and his God

"As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians *nor* diviners are able to declare *it* to the king.
²⁸ "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days."
(Dan 2:27-28; NASB629; SP867)

V. In his dream King Nebuchadnezzar saw an image made of five separate minerals

³¹ "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

³² "The head of that statue was *made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

³⁴ "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them."
(Daniel 2:31-34; NASB629; SP867)

The image had a **Head of gold**
Breast and arms of silver
Belly and thighs of bronze
Legs of iron
Feet of a mixture of iron and clay

A stone was cut without human hands which crushed the image

VI. The interpretation prophesied that there would be four successive kingdoms, which would eventually be broken into smaller, independent kingdoms



“ . . . You are the **head of gold**.

³⁹ "After you there will arise **another kingdom inferior** to you, then **another third kingdom of bronze**, which will rule over all the earth.

⁴⁰ "Then there will be a **fourth kingdom** as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

⁴¹ "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

⁴² "As the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle.

⁴³ "And in that you saw **the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another**, even as iron does not combine with pottery."
(Daniel 2:38-43, emphasis supplied; NASB629-630; SP867-868)

VII. History reveals that starting with Babylon there were four biblical world empires (Babylon, , Greece, and Rome). At the end of the Roman Empire, it was broken into many smaller, petty kingdoms that have never been put together again. Those who have tried to reunite the Roman Empire have included Charlemagne, Hitler, and the Common Market of Europe. To this time no one has and, according to the Bible (Daniel 2) no one will. The next world empire will be a heavenly one

VIII. The most exciting part of this dream was the stone untouched by human hands that would come and crush all other kingdoms

"In the days of those kings [the Europeans] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."
(Daniel 2:44; NASB630; SP868)

A. This is the same event prophesied by Jesus

"And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

³¹ "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."
(Matthew 24:30-31; NASB21; SP961)

"BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
(Revelation 1:7-8; NASB189; SP1210)

B. We don't have to worry about economic collapse, global warming, nuclear holocaust, fanatical Islamic terrorists, or any other threat ending this world. It is Jesus who will destroy this old world and set up His own kingdom that will never be destroyed

C. When will this final, end-of-world event take place, no one knows, but Jesus said it will be soon!

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."
(Revelation 22:12; NASB201; SP1227)

¹ Dr. Merling uses the New American Standard Bible translation of the Bible in the Prophecy Expo presentations. The King James Version is also a good translation for those who still prefer King James English. For most people, however, a modern English version makes understanding the Bible easier. On the other hand, no translation is perfect. All translations are interpretations.