



End Time Chronology

The Old and New Testament prophets give us the order of events

Note: Scripture used in this Bible Study is from the New King James Version.

We've already established that the Word of God is infallible and that God is the only one who can foretell future events with 100% accuracy. Let's look first at some of the proof of this so that we may better appreciate the certainty of future events we're going to learn about.

The scene: Jerusalem, 740-700 BC, the prophet Isaiah wrote about a future king of Persia who would come to rule over Israel...

1. Isaiah 44:28 - What was prophesied that this future gentile king would do?

Isa 44:28 - Who says of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."

This future gentile king would permit Israel's temple to be rebuilt when it wasn't even destroyed yet...

2. Isaiah 45:1-4 - What did God have to say about this prophecy?

Isa 45:1-4 - "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held-- to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, **the LORD, who call you by your name**, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; **I have named you, though you have not known Me.**

God is sovereign and is in control of everything, He can make an event happen using people who don't even know Him. God even named him...

The scene: Jerusalem, prior to and during their fall to the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar, 626-586 BC. The prophet Jeremiah foretold how long Israel would be in captivity...

3. Jeremiah 29:10 - How long would it be before Judah (i.e. Israel) could return to Jerusalem?

Jer 29:10 - For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

Jeremiah prophesied that Israel would be captive in Babylon for seventy years.

4. 2 Kings 25:8-9 - Secular history from archeology tells us that Nebuchadnezzar became king of Babylon in 605 BC, so when did he destroy the temple and take Judah into captivity?

2 Kings 25:8-9 - And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.

If Nebuchadnezzar became king in 605 BC, subtracting 19 years from this means that he would destroy the temple in 586 BC. Remember this date...

When Cyrus, became king of Persia, he conquered Babylon in 539 BC and made the proclamation recorded in both Ezra 1:2 and 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 (Bible history books written about 400 BC).

5. How did Ezra 1:2 and 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 satisfy the prophecies about Cyrus in Isaiah and Jeremiah?

Ezra 1:2 - Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.

2 Chronicles 36:22-23 - Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!

Cyrus was the ruler who declared that the Jewish temple should be rebuilt in Jerusalem.

6. Secular archeological history tells us that Darius succeeded Cyrus as king of Persia in 522 BC who reinforced Cyrus' decree that the temple be rebuilt. Per Ezra 4:24, when did work resume to restore the second temple in Jerusalem?

Ezra 4:24 - Thus the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem ceased, and it was discontinued until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

If Darius became king of Persia in 522 BC, subtracting 2 years from this means that work to restore the temple resumed in 520 BC.

7. How does Ezra 6:15-16 fulfill the prophecy recorded in Jeremiah 29:10?

Ezra 6:15-16 - Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

Again, if Darius became king of Persia in 522 BC, subtracting 6 years from this date means that the temple was completed and dedicated in 516 BC. Let's see, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple in 586 BC and it was restored in 516 BC, the difference between these dates is 70 years! Are our Lord's prophecies accurate or what?

8. The temple in Jerusalem was one thing, the city itself was another (cities represented political power). Let's determine another key date. Secular history from archeology tells us Artaxerxes became king of Persia in 464 BC. From Nehemiah 2:1-8, when was Israel permitted to rebuild Jerusalem and the wall?

Nehemiah 2:1-8 - And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence. Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire? Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it. Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

If Artaxerxes became king of Persia in 464 BC, subtracting 20 years from this date means that Israel was permitted to rebuild Jerusalem and the wall in 444 BC. Remember this date...

Reference: Daniel 9:25-27 (written ~500 BC., before or during the rule of Cyrus)

25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

Note: The term "weeks" in these verses must mean weeks of years, it would make no sense otherwise. Also note that the Jewish calendar had 360 days/year.

9. Verse 25 - How many years are there between of "the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince" would come?

Adding 7 to 62 gives us 69 weeks of years between the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince would come. Converting this to years by multiplying 7 times 69 weeks of years we get 483 Jewish calendar years between the command to restore Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah.

How do we convert 483 Jewish calendar years to our current calendar?

Over this period of time, we'll need to convert to our current 365-day calendar. To determine the equivalent for the Gregorian Calendar, first convert to days:

$$483 \text{ years} \times 360 \text{ days/year} = 173,880 \text{ days}$$

Then convert to the Gregorian Calendar:

$$173,880 \text{ days} / 365 \text{ days/year} = 476 \text{ years}$$

10. We know when "the command to restore and build Jerusalem" was given from Nehemiah 2:1-8 (question 8). So when would "Messiah the Prince" come?

We learned earlier that the command to restore and build Jerusalem was made in 444 BC. Subtracting 476 years from 444 BC means that Messiah officially presented Himself to Israel as their king in 33 AD (accounting for 1 BC. to 1 AD. as one year).

What happened in 33 AD. ?

Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, a few days before He was crucified...

Luke 19:37-38 - Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: " `Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

I understand that this math works out to the very day that Bible scholars have determined that Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Note: the "troublesome times" that the wall was built also came to pass as recorded in Nehemiah 6. The Jews built the wall in 52 days because people near them felt threatened by this and they needed it for protection.

11. Verse 26 - What does it mean "the Messiah is cut off"?

The people did not accept Messiah Jesus as King and crucified Him...

Luke 19:41-42 - Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

12. Verse 26 - What was to happen after "the Messiah is cut off"?

The city of Jerusalem and the temple shall be destroyed as Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24. It is a matter of historical record that this happened in 70 AD.

13. Verse 26 - What does the "it" in "the end of it" refer to?

The "it" is a veiled reference to the church age, that period of time we are now in between the end of the 69 weeks and the beginning of the 70th week (verse 27).

14. Verse 26 - How did Daniel describe the time leading up to the 70th week?

Daniel prophesied that the end of the church age would come with a flood, in other words, it would overwhelm people rapidly. Also that the time leading up to Christ's

return would be a war opposing Him and there would be desolations, events causing people to be devoid of people and hope. These serious calamities serve as wake-up calls to draw people to God reminding them to trust in Him rather than in themselves, their bank accounts, their governments, etc.

What kind of wake-up calls have we had?

Both world wars were wake-up calls because they effected the whole world. The gulf war was another one which involved the whole world and it demonstrated the potency of a unified world power. I also believe the 9-11-01 terrorist attacks on the U.S. was a world-shaking event because it was not just an attack on the U.S., it was an attack on Western values. All the world has rallied around the idea that we need to work together to stamp out terrorism.

What kind of war is Daniel 9:26 referring to?

My first reaction here is that this is talking about Armageddon but verse 27 describes the 70th week which is the tribulation. The book of Revelation makes it clear that the war at Armageddon occurs at the end of the tribulation. So I believe this is talking about spiritual warfare against the church...

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

15. Verse 27 - What happens during the 70th week?

The prince who is to come will confirm a covenant, bring an end to sacrifice and offering, and make people desolate which means devoid of hope.

When does the prince bring an end to the sacrifice?

The prince who is to come brings an end to the sacrifice at the middle of the seven-year period of the 70th week, 3 1/2 years after he confirms a covenant with many.

Who is this prince and what else happens along with the end of the sacrifice?

This prince is the Antichrist per the reference Jesus made to the "abomination of desolation" in Matthew 24:15 since Jesus was speaking about the tribulation and Revelation tells us about the beast who will receive worship representing himself as God. Daniel also described this event in other places:

Dan 11:31 - "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation."

What sacrifice is Daniel 9:27 referring to here?

The Jewish sacrifices as ordained by the Mosaic Law.

What must there be for the sacrifice to be ended?

The sacrifices must have first started.

What is needed for Israel to have sacrifices?

The sacrifices must be done at the temple.

When was the last time Israel had sacrifices?

The sacrifices in Israel ended with the destruction of Herod's temple in 70 AD.

So when did this 70th week occur?

The 70th Week of Daniel hasn't happened yet and can not until there is a temple and the sacrifices begin.

Why will Israel rebuild the temple and resume the sacrifices?

Besides the fact that God says it will happen, it is part of Israel's heritage as a people. They will do this in their zeal to please God and bring the Messiah. Certainly there is a desire for this to happen as any one who has visited the Temple Institute in Jerusalem can attest. They already have most of the instruments they need to resume the sacrifices, all they need is the temple. There is also a building anticipation for the Messiah to come. They are beginning to realize that only the Messiah can bring them peace.

Does it seem likely that Israel will have a temple in Jerusalem any time soon?

No, it seems impossible today but the Lord loves to demonstrate His sovereignty over impossible situations. I wasn't yet living at the time but I understand that it seemed impossible for Israel to re-establish itself as a nation in the land prior to 1948.

Verse 27 - What does it mean the prince will "CONFIRM a covenant with many"?

I believe this means that there is already a peace agreement with multiple parties in place, the prince just reinforces it.

Where in the world do we see this scenario being set up today?

The so-called "peace process" between Israel and their Arab enemies surrounding them. The power of the Revived Roman Empire, which is the Western Confederation of nations, will guarantee the treaty with Israel. This is what give them the security to proceed with building a temple. It however is a false security that only lasts 3 1/2 years.

Jeremiah 6:14 - They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.

1Thessalonians 5:3 - For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Where did Jesus speak of the 70th week of Daniel?

Recall that Jesus spoke of the 70th week of Daniel in His Olivet Discourse...

Matthew 24:15-22 - "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

Look at John's vision of this event...

Reference: Revelation 12:1-6

- 1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.
- 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.
- 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.
- 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.
- 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.
- 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

17. Verses 1-5 - Who is represented by the woman, Child, and dragon in these verses?

- The woman is Israel since the 12 stars represents the 12 tribes of Israel. Recall Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9 where the 12 tribes of Israel are symbolized as stars.
- The Child is Christ who was born of Israel and was caught up to God and His throne.
- The dragon is Satan, a fallen angel who took with him other angels who became demons.

Why did God give us the book of Revelation using symbolic language? Why didn't He just speak directly about these matters?

For the same reason Jesus told parables when He was on the earth, so that His children would hear and understand but others would be confounded...

Matt 13:10-16

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive;

15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

18. Verse 6 - What is the significance of the 1,260 days?

- The 1,260 days divided by 360 days/year is 3.5 years.
- This is the time Israel has to hide from the Antichrist after they flee from him at the abomination of desolation. God divinely protects Israel's remnant during this time using "sheep" nations (Matthew 25). Many Bible scholars believe Israel will flee to Petra in Jordan - an easily defensible mountain canyon with enough caves to house a million people.

19. This 3.5 year period is called out other places in Scripture. Explain how we know the following verses refer to the same period of time and describe what happens: Revelation 11:2, 12:14, 13:5; Daniel 7:25, 12:7

Revelation 11:2 - "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months."

What is the significance or the "forty-two months"?

- The 42 months divided by 12 months/year is 3.5 years. The Gentiles will be in control of Jerusalem for the 3.5 years...
- The courtyard outside the temple has been given to the Gentiles. This may be the compromise that is worked out in the treaty the Antichrist confirms that enables the Jews to build a temple in Jerusalem.

Revelation 12:14 - But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

How long is "time and times and half a time"?

- Here again, years is the only unit that makes sense... a time is 1 plus multiple times is 2 plus a half a time is 1/2 which equals 3.5 years.
- This is another reference to divine protection of Israel from Satan and his minions during the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 13:5 - And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

- The Antichrist will be a great speaker and God will allow him to exercise power during this time.

Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

- The Antichrist will be blasphemous, he will kill Jewish & Gentile Christians, and try to change the course of history that God has already laid out.
- The Antichrist will also be a historical revisionist... the spirit of Antichrist is denying the Christian roots of the U.S.A. and representing evolution as the truth.

Daniel 12:7 - Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

- Israel will be completely powerless within themselves and realize in Whom their salvation depends (Jesus Christ).

20. What do the time periods given in Daniel 12:11-13 refer to?

Daniel 12:11-13 - "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

We have already established from other verses that the period of time from the Abomination of Desolation to the second coming of Jesus is three and a half years or 1260 days. This passage speaks of two other periods, 1290 and 1335 days that are 30 and 45 more days after His coming. It is speculation what happens during this time but one possible explanation is that the war of Armageddon between Satan, his demons and the nations with Christ and His

armies takes 30 days (Rev 19:11-16). The next 45-day period may be the judgment of the nations (Matt 25:31-46).

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Now let's take a look at a key passage where the prophet Daniel not only interpreted king Nebuchadnezzar's dream but told him what it was. Nebuchadnezzar didn't tell what his dream was as a test so he would know if the interpretation was true. While they were anxious to give an interpretation, none of the Chaldean magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, or "wise men" could also tell the king the dream. They said, *"It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."* (Daniel 2:11)

This dream is important because it maps out the significant world governments from the captivity of Israel to the return of Christ...

Daniel 2:31-44

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

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

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

34 "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

37 "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

38 "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all-- you are this head of gold.

39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the

strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

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

21. Verses 31-33 - How would you describe the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

It was a statue with a head made of gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

22. Verses 31-33 - What is the significance of the materials of the image?

They are of decreasing value which indicates an order of succession.

23. Verses 34-35 - What happened to the image in the dream?

A stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and disappeared.

24. Verses 34-35 - How is the stone contrasted to the materials that make up the image?

- The stone is not man-made while metals (and the clay which is a reference to ceramic) are all hand crafted.
- The stone was not cut with hands, it was different the metals which were worked by human hands, it was the work of God.

25. Verse 34 - What is the significance of where the stone struck the image?

The stone represents Christ who will put an end to the world governments of man. Note that the stone strikes the last man-made material that is of least value, the iron mixed with clay. The last world government of man will see the coming of Christ.

26. Verses 34-35 - What is to become of the stone and what is its significance?

- After the stone struck the image, it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth...
- The stone represents the coming of Jesus Christ in glory to crush the last world government of man and set up a government ruled by Christ.

27. Verses 36-38 - What does the gold head in the image represent?

The head of gold represented the human king that was ruling the world at the time of the prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar.

What was king Nebuchadnezzar given reign over?

Nebuchadnezzar ruled the whole world: wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, he was to be ruler over them all (verse 38).

How did Nebuchadnezzar reach this lofty position in life? Did he earn it?

No, Nebuchadnezzar did nothing to earn his authority, God give them into his hand...

Romans 13:1 - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

28. Verse 39 - What is the commonality between all the statue's materials?

All the man-made materials represent governments that like Nebuchadnezzar rule over the whole earth.

What governments have we had in history that have ruled over the civilized world? If Gold corresponds to the Babylonians, what do the other materials represent?

- **Egyptians** - existed before the time of the dream but worth noting - they were used by God to demonstrate His deliverance to Israel
- **Gold - Babylonians** - in power 605 to 539 BC, took Israel into captivity as God's judgment for turning away from Him
- **Silver - Medeo-Persians** - in power 539 to 330 BC, allowed Israel to rebuild the Temple and return to Jerusalem
- **Bronze - Greeks** - Alexander the Great came in power 330 to ~250 BC, provided a common language to conduct trade and share ideas.
- **Iron - Romans** - added Israel to its empire in 68 BC, they built roads to improve transportation, communication, and trade ("command & control"). The Roman empire broke into nations between 450 to 900 AD.

Has there been any world governments since the Romans?

There have been no world governments since the Romans, many have tried but it hasn't happened since then. One might say the Roman empire continued to rule the world until WWII through the European colonial system. In 1945 at Yalta, Stalin & Roosevelt decided to break up the colonial system and these empires further fragmented into nations.

So what does this tell us about the government represented by the mix of ceramic clay and iron?

The iron and clay world government is yet to come if not here already. The iron is there in the Roman system of democratic and republic governing, all that is needed is the clay that binds the separate fragments of local governments together.

What about the Indians in North America and the aborigines on other continents, they weren't ruled over by the Babylonians, Medeo-Persians, Greeks, how then could these governments be considered world governments?

These people could have been ruled over had the world governments want to and if it was part of God's plan. Note the use of the qualifier "civilized". If the other people managed to record their histories, God did not allow it to be preserved to the degree that it was in the "civilized world". These other indigenous people were simply irrelevant when it comes to significantly impacting world history.

29. Verses 41-43 - What are the characteristics of the last world government?

- The last human world government will be divided; as the two dissimilar materials represent, possibly a mix of dictatorship and a democratic/republic.
- The last human world government will be partly strong and partly fragile, a shaky coalition of nations speaking different languages.
- The last human world government will have the strength of Roman government that preceded it.
- The continuity of the iron represents the similarity to the Roman government that preceded it. This is where Bible prophecy students get the term, "revived Roman Empire."

Ceramic is a lot closer to stone in its properties than metal, do you think there is any significance in that?

It is interesting to note that ceramic has some similar properties to stone yet is man-made... I think it represents man's attempt to replace God with his own religion...

Revelation 13:11-12 - Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast,

Is there any significance in the two arms, two legs, and ten toes?

- Probably, I believe the two arms represents the combined Medeo and Persian empires...
- The two legs represent the eastern and western divisions of the Roman empire.
- The ten toes represent the ten governmental powers that will comprise the core of the revived Roman Empire...

A study of another vision that Daniel had about the fourth beast with 10 horns in chapter 7 will reveal more details about this last world empire of man. Further insight about the 10-horned beast may also be found in the Revelation...

Revelation 17:12 - The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Verse 43 – Who is they who "will mingle with the seed of men"?

This answer is one I wouldn't want to be dogmatic about but here's something to think about...

Genesis 6:1-2 & 4 - Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.... ...There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

The only other reference to "sons of God" in the Old Testament is in Job where this term is used for angels, specifically fallen angels...

Job 1:6 - Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

The Greek myths about the gods could have been based on some truth. The "sons of God" were certainly mighty men of old and men of renown.

The genetic contamination of humankind might have been a plot by Satan and his minions to thwart God's plan to give us the Messiah. But God's plans can not be thwarted. He purged the earth with a flood preserving only Noah and his family...

Genesis 6:9 - Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Noah was righteous in God's eyes and had a relationship with God. He was also genetically uncontaminated ("perfect in his generations").

This episode in history where fallen angels mixed it up with humankind on earth is reinforced in the New Testament...

Jude 1:6 - And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

The biggest problem I have with the idea that fallen angels were on earth procreating with women is what Jesus said about angels...

Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

Nonetheless, Scripture is clear that fallen angels once left their abode in heaven and mixed it up with mankind in an attempt to thwart God's plan. So, "*as in the days of Noah*" (Matthew 24) when fallen angels once attempted to thwart God's plan to bring forth the Messiah, the tribulation will be a time when fallen angels will directly assist in the government of the Antichrist.

30. Verse 44 - What is God doing during the time of the world governments in the dream?

God has not been idle, He has been busy setting up a kingdom which shall:

- (1) never be destroyed
- (2) not be left to other people
- (3) be used by God to destroy the kingdoms of the dream
- (4) it will stand forever.

God used these world government to set things up to bring us our Savior and bring judgment to the earth...

- The Babylonians were used to dispense God's judgment on the nation Israel and turn them back to Him.
- The Medeo-Persians were used to bring the remnant of Israel back to the land.
- The Greeks provided a common language to improve the dissemination of God's Word in preparation for the revelation of the Gospel (a.k.a. New Covenant).
- The Romans built roads to improve transportation to deliver the gospel through missionary journeys.

It was all part of God's plan...

Galatians 4:4 - when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son

Likewise God is using the Revived Roman Empire to set the stage for His return...

- Germany's persecution of the Jews convinced them that they needed to return to their homeland.
- WWI and WWII convinced the world that we needed a world government.
- English has become the common language of commerce thus serving to unite the world.