

GODLY LIVING IN A GODLESS WORLD

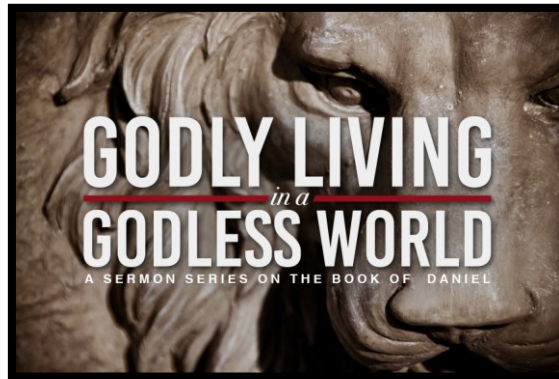
Expositional Study Of Daniel

Daniel 2:31-45

Written By

©Pastor Marty Baker

March 13, 2016



That's my dad, Al Baker. Boy, did he love the Dodgers. When I inherited his Browning High Power 9 mm after his death in 2008, I was not surprised when I opened up the case to find a ticket stub from the last time he saw the Dodgers play their rivals the Giants. If you cut my father, I'm sure he would have bled Dodger blue.



His passion for this baseball team is what makes my golf game in San Diego a few weeks ago most interesting. While playing on a course with my brother-in-law, Mark, I, who had forgotten to bring my glove and my trusty ball maker, couldn't believe it when, on the thirteen green I spotted a colorful ball marker on the edge of the green. Reaching down, I picked it up and just couldn't believe what it said. In bright blue letters it said, "LA Dodgers."

Since my father's last job with U.S. Customs was in San Diego and this *just happened* to be his baseball team, what do you think is the mathematical probability I found that particular ball marker of all the ball markers? It's off the charts, isn't it? Standing there with my putter in hand, I knew that in a small, yet highly profound fashion, God had given me revelation to let me know everything was just fine with my dad.

I mean think of the statistically probability I found an L.A. Dodger ball marker. I sent



that question to one of our math people, and we have many to choose from. Here's the answer I received:

- You would need to know how many ball markers have been manufactured to date; how many of those were for MLB teams; how many of those were L.A. Dodgers markers;
- You would need to know how many golf courses there are in the U.S.; how many of those are in San Diego.
- If you knew the manufacturing dates of the L. A. Dodgers markers, that would set the time boundary (from the start of manufacturing to tee time right before yours at that golf course)
- Then you would have to factor in which hole you found it on out of the 18 present (assuming the course is par 4 and only has 18 holes).
- Then you have to factor in the probability that someone would place that ball marker where they did on that hole, given all the possible places they could have placed that tiny ball marker on that hole.
- Then, you would have to determine the probability of you hitting your ball in the vicinity of that marker, given all the places you could have hit your ball on that hole.
- Lastly, you have to determine the probability you saw it (a coin flip, either you did or you didn't) and the probability that it was meaningful (another coin flip, either it is, or it isn't).
- So, if you could determine all of that, then you would multiple all those probabilities together to get your answer.

And I just wanted a simple answer. Right. What this all tells me is this: The number is so off-the-charts relating to me just happening to find this particular and meaningful ball marker it would take a super computer to crunch it (As they math minded person told me in closing). All of this leads to the real question. Who placed that ball marker there? Who caused it to wind up there for me? God. Why? God merely put a smile my face that day with a quick communique from His throne. In a second, He let me know my father was just fine and that I should enjoy the game of golf.

Ever had God get your attention like this? You know, when you know and walk with Him, He has his ways of giving you a word now and then. Sometimes that word is comforting, as in this case, at other times it's full of wisdom and knowledge. He can even call you to move away from a given sin in an unusual fashion.

When you do not know Him and walk with him, by faith, He, the lover of your soul will sometimes move in profound, unusual, uncanny situations and events to point you to the path leading to eternal forgiveness at the foot of the cross of His dear Son, Jesus. Ah, now you are shifting in your seat, now your ears are honed into these words because you are starting to figure out why you recently picked up that particular ball marker He sovereignly placed in your path. I trust your quest will lead you to radical, childlike faith in the God who created all things and who sent His Son to be our Savior (Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Peter 1:11).

Two thousand five hundred years ago, God grabbed King Nebuchadnezzar's spiritual attention through a foreboding, mysterious, unsettling dream of a massive image. When his best

sorcery advisors could not tell him the dream without his prompting, nor give the dream's interpretation, he eventually discovered, through some amazing events, that Daniel, a young Jewish captive and student in his divination school, had the ability to give him exactly what he desired: dream revelation and interpretation. The only catch couldn't be missed, though. Daniel's esoteric insight didn't come through his Babylonian training, but through a direct communication from the living God of heaven and earth. And this God, the true God, had one thing in mind: To wake the king up spiritually so he would serve and worship him, as opposed to the false gods of Babylon.

Just perhaps God is seeking to accomplish the same thing in your life. If so, then let's not waste any more time by getting to a detailed analysis of the main concept arising from Daniel 2:31-35:

God Will Go To Great Lengths To Grab Your Spiritual Attention (Daniel 2:31-45)

With this passage we sink our teeth in the precise prophetic Word of God. I cannot underscore enough how important this type of study is. Prophecy validates the Bible as the Word of God to those who erroneously think faith is devoid of reason. Prophecy gives us hope in hopeless times by underscoring the providence of God in carrying out His redemptive/kingdom plans. Prophecy, which verifies and introduces us to the living God, calls us, by definition, to holy living. As Peter reminds us,

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! (2 Peter 3).

Call it a worst-case-scenario supernova, or just the unleashed raw power of the God the who created all matter in the known cosmos, the day of judgment and His glorious return is on the imminent horizon (1 Corinthians 1:7; 4:5; 16:22; Philippians 3:20; 4:5; James 5:7-9).¹ This prophetic reality calls non-believers to become believers, and it challenges believers to live as such. Additionally, studying prophecy and discovering its intended meaning is the work of the Spirit of God, as Jesus said, "... and He (the Holy Spirit) will tell you things to come" (John 16:13). Lastly, to study prophecy is to study Jesus, as John informs us in Revelation, "And I fell at his feet (the angel) to worship him. And he said to me, 'Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy'" (Revelation 19:10). I'd say these are really sound reasons for digging into a prophecy like that of Daniel two, wouldn't you?

¹ For a fuller explanation of the doctrine of divine, messianic immanency see Renald Shower's *Maranatha, Our Lord, Come! A Definitive Study of the Rapture of the Church* (Bellmawr, New Jersey: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., 1995), 127-153.

As you study prophecy, in particular, expect God to get your attention, spiritually speaking. How will He do this?

He Will Supply A Revelation (Daniel 2:31-35)

No, I'm not speaking about an extra-biblical revelation. Now that the canon is closed, we have all the revelation God wants us to possess. What I'm talking about is a communication from God tied directly to a particular biblical prophecy. Sure, God can use a variety of means to get you to be cognizant of His existence, your need to worship Him, what He wants you to do in a given situation, and so forth. Sometime that word comes through a sermon, a timely Bible study, a train of shocking events, a concept you encountered through a worship song, and the like. Sometimes He speaks ever so softly through finding sometime as insignificant as a L.A. Dodger ball marker. At other times, as in Nebuchadnezzar's situation, God speaks profoundly and precisely through a biblical prophetic word. Look at how God does this in the verses before us:

Boldly and confidently Daniel gave the King the pure, unadulterated Word from the living God. We can, and should, do no less in our culture:

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.

Since the idolatrous statue King Nebuchadnezzar constructs in chapter three is nearly ninety feet tall, we can surmise the one of this dream had to be something akin to this colossal, imposing size. Looming above the King in his dream, he, who possessed "unlimited" power of as the world's major potentate, felt, all of a sudden, inferior and insignificant. The glistening metallic substance of the ominous structure also probably left him shielding his eyes as well. And he, a thinking man, couldn't help but realize how the metals deteriorated in worth and weight from the head to the toes and how they also increased in hardness from the top to the bottom. This had to leave him asking a whole series of probing questions: "What is the image? Who is the image? What do the various metals mean? Why do the metals change in their worth as you move down the statue? Why were the feet made of such a brittle substance?"

Daniel continues the revelatory insight with bold, courageous precision:

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. ³⁵ "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

All of a sudden, and without warning, the massive, powerful-looking statue is crushed to virtual powder by a massive, high velocity stone which struck its brittle base. In an instant, cracking and popping could be heard as the top heavy, compromised statute didn't just fall to the ground. It hit the ground and shattered into a million pieces of worthless shrapnel. Again, the revelation probably leaves King Nebuchadnezzar with unsettling questions he cannot answer, questions

like “Why did the image have such a weak foundation? Why create toes mixed with iron and clay? What was the sculptor thinking? Did the image mean that the king’s kingdom was weak somehow despite all the stats which said otherwise? And what is this stone that came from that unusual and massive mountain in the distance? What did it mean? What was and is its purpose? Did the stone represent an enemy the king was unaware of? What did the growth of the attacking stone to worldwide dimensions mean to him and his kingdom?”

When Daniel finished giving this revelatory word, the king knew that Daniel had heard from the living God. I’m sure his jaw rested firmly on the marbled floor, along with his braided Babylonian beard. Standing here before him was a young man who gave him a word of insight no man could know unless God had spoken directly to them. Interesting, for the first time in his life, King Nebuchadnezzar ran into someone who really did have a close, intimate connection with God. Perhaps that’s your story right now. A few moments ago you started connecting the dots of what God has been relaying to you, especially through this study, and now you, too, know there is a God in heaven who reaches out to you to get your attention for His lofty purposes. Will you listen, is the question.

For Christians, the word cannot be missed. You should not only know the prophetic Word, you should not only know the precise and powerful prophecies from the Old Testament and how they are literally and historically fulfilled, you should stand ready to disclose that inspired information to the non-believers in your own life. Of the four central methods of apologetics, this is the second, or evidentialist approach. It seeks to use viable proofs, like prophecy, to argue for and substantiate the veracity and reasonable nature of the faith. Alexander Keith’s *Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion Derived from the Literal Fulfillment of Prophecy* is an old stand-by you should own and know well. There’s also John Bloom’s insightful chapter “Truth Via Prophecy” in the helpful book *Evidence for Faith*. Josh McDowell’s *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* is yet another you should own, read, study, and memorize to position yourself to be a Daniel to your King Nebuchadnezzar.

Your goal as a Christian apologist is to use sound logic and biblical reason to help your Babylonians over the barriers keeping them from believing in the one, true God. You are there to provide the convincing evidences for the faith so these proofs can hopefully lead to spiritual belief and commitment to Christ. Your job is to show the lost who are enmeshed in false world views there is a door into the next world they might not have ever seen before, a world where God is. Quite often the best way to accomplish these pivotal goals is to zero in on a biblical prophecy like the one before us.

King Nebuchadnezzar waits to hear from you. Will you give him the Word? Will you trust that God will use you despite your age, personality limitations, educational status and so forth? Step out, speak up and watch the Spirit of God work in a moving, memorable fashion in the life of one who desperately needs to hear from the God who loves them.

And for the King Nebuchadnezzar’s among us I have a sneaking suspicion the living God has given you some insight you never had before just from this brief introduction to this prophetic Word. Continue listening and more light will be given to your darkened path.

In addition to God arresting your attention through a simple and historical revelatory word, there is a second facet of His methodology to reach out to you:

He Will Supply An Interpretation (Daniel 2:36-45)

Yes, God will give you a flash of insight into spiritual things you never possessed before, and that flash will leave you with but one decision: Will you abandon your old way of thinking, will you dispose of your old paradigms of thinking, will you lay to rest your vacuous world views and hole-ridden philosophies and worship the living God by faith? This is exactly what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Having finished the revelatory part of the king's dream, Daniel wastes no time diving right into the interpretive meat of it all:

³⁶ “This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. ³⁷ “You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; ³⁸ and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

The plural “we” here probably speaks of God and Daniel. Daniel's friends don't seem to be contextually in sight, and the prophet did possess an admirable humility; therefore it is in character for him to speak in such a fashion. The precise interpretation he was about to disclose was a “we” thing. God showed him and now he would show the king. Again, Christian apologists and evangelists should take note. What God shows you, you disclose. It is a fire which burns in your soul. It is a word from God which must come out with clarity and compassion because so much is at stake.

Starting with the head of gold, Daniel quickly reveals this represents King Nebuchadnezzar and his wealthy, immense, and powerful empire. Interestingly enough, Daniel calls the godless king, “the king of kings,” underscoring his worldly status at the moment as the premier ruler on planet earth. Of course, there is only one King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus the Christ (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16). The wording here merely serves to showcase the divinely ordained preeminence of Nebuchadnezzar's political role. Surely, other kings and other kingdoms preceded him (viz., Sumerian, Akkadian, Assyrian, and Egyptian); however, God, from His divine vantage point concluded that Nebuchadnezzar, for all intents and purposes, represented the loftiest of them all.

King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was golden in every sense of the word (Jeremiah 51:7). His city formed a square of some 14 miles on each side. According to Herodotus, the wall of the city was 300 feet high and 25 feet thick. Some 250 tower, looming 450 high on the walls, guarded the city from attack. A deep, water-filled moat guarded the city from invasion. Hanging Gardens, which were fed by hydraulic pumps, served as one of the wonders of the ancient world. Over 100 massive brass gates helped protect the city. The ziggurat of Etemenanki loomed above the glistening city, 53 temples were sprinkled throughout the city, 180 altars to the deity Ishtar could be found within a short walk from any direction. A golden image of Baal and the Golden Table are purported to have weighed some 50,000 pounds of solid gold. Two massive eighteen feet high golden lions couldn't be missed either by anyone walking around town, and the King's palace was supposedly one of the most expensive and eye-popping buildings ever constructed on earth. Yes, King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was all about power, pomp, and priceless golden treasure. And God have sovereignly placed all of this in his hands. The question is, what was he doing with it? Further, how long would this joy ride of opulence last? Not long.

Nebuchadnezzar's empire, which reached the zenith of his power from 605-562 B.C., quickly diminished with his less ingenious and tactical royal leaders: Evil Merodach, 562-560, son of the king; Neriglissar, 560-556 B.C., son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar; Labashi-Marduk, May-June of 556; Nabonidus, 556-539 B.C., and Belshazzar, 553-539 B.C., the party-boy and son of Nabonidus, who lost the kingdom to the Persians under the leadership of King Cyrus. With this blitzkrieg invasion, the golden day/age of the Babylonian empire passed.

The second and third metallic images introduce us to the next two sequential earthly empires post-Babylonian:

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

Although the wording about these next two empires in world history is brief, at this juncture, we know from more extensive discussion and disclosure about them in Daniel 5:28, 8:20-21, and 11:2, they denote the Medo-Persian and Grecian Empires. Liberal biblical scholars who classify the kingdoms here as the Babylonian, the Median, the Persian, and the Grecian do so on the false premise the book is non-prophetic and written during the period of the Seleucids. They have to take this tenuous position to make the book non-prophetic to suit their anti-supernatural bias.

Such is unwarranted for a variety of reasons. As we stated in the introduction to this series, ample historical/textual evidence supports a sixth century date for the composition of this prophecy, and theologically is it not hard to assume that a God who lives is also quite capable of disclosing the future, as He says He does in books like Isaiah (Isaiah 41:26; 44:28; 45:1; 46:10). Additionally, the non-traditional, liberal view forces empires into molds which they do not fit. Only the traditional view, which sees the Medo-Persian and Grecian Empires as following the Babylonian empire successively, follows history more closely and reliably. We will get into this in more detail when we get to the chapters in question in Daniel.

Suffice it to say at this point, Daniel shows King Nebuchadnezzar's not just the fact that his empire will soon fade from world history by God's design, but it will be replaced by empires of an ever increasing inferior nature. This does not mean the empires in question wouldn't exercise authority over large swaths of the earth; however, what the decreasing metals do illustrate is that worldly empires will become weaker as time progresses. So much for the evolutionary view of history. God, as usual, gives us the true word. All earthly kingdoms will trend toward inferiority until the eschatological end of time.

Can you not see this, even in your lifetime, as you look at the empires around us ... even our own country? Why do nations fall and rise? Why do countries become weak, fragile, and anemic? While it is not my purpose to address such a complicated and detailed answer, I think we can offer a few salient answers:

- Scientific proof replaces biblical truth.
- Military might replaces divine might.
- Divine truth is replaced by relativistic truth.
- Immorality replaces morality.
- One true religion is many religions.
- Lawlessness by political leaders replaces lawfulness.

- Fiscally conservative spending is replaced by spending like there is no tomorrow.
- Respect for law and order is replaced by a respect for unlawful behavior and societal disorder.
- Truth is replaced by feelings.
- Governmental checks and balances are replaced by political power moves for the sake of godless ideology.
- People united by common beliefs and culture are replaced by various people groups who will never share their collective belief and will by no means embrace their culture ... why, they typically hate the given culture of the target nation.
- Voices of truth and logic are vilified and prosecuted so the false mantras of the day can dupe the masses without hindrance.

I could go on, but I'm sure you get the point. Daniel was/ is right: As mankind has moved through the prophetic image, the nations have fulfilled God's word to the letter. Each new kingdom has been more inferior to the one preceding it, and the ever hardening of the metals probably illustrates their weaknesses would be compensated by their ever growing militaries. From what we know of the rest of prophecy, one day these militaries will be unleashed in a final quest to destroy Israel and even God himself when he appears (Revelation 19). And you thought the Bible was not practical, nor powerful. Think again.

The last kingdom, the one of iron, for all intents and purposes has to be Rome. All the other empires followed the each other in a successive, chronological fashion, so we should logically assume the iron nature of the last one denotes the Roman. Here is how Daniel describes this ruthless, brutal kingdom:

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.

If anything, Rome was known for its iron-like ability in crushing its foes. To study their expansionistic ways is to see the pulverizing method of their heartless military. Daniel's prophetic word can't be missed: The Roman Empire would obliterate the vestiges of all the preceding empires as it sought to establish world power, and such is just what occurred in history. For a more detailed discussion of Roman history, I would direct you to Moses Hadas' *Imperial Rome* in the Time-Life Books series. It is short, yet informative. His analysis easily verifies the iron heel methodology of Rome, as prophesied by Daniel.

Since the movement of the vision is chronological, Daniel's next prophetic words are most intriguing:

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.

Timewise, this reflects the latter Roman period. Rome lasted for some 500 years; however, eventually, for all the reasons articulated in Edward Gibbon's *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Rome collapsed. Other nations would do well to pay attention to the causation of her ruin. While there are hundreds of reasons Rome came to look like an amalgamation between iron and clay, the History channel lists eight real reasons:

- Invasion by barbarian tribes.
- Economic troubles and the overreliance on slave labor.
- The division of the empire into an Eastern and Western version.
- Overexpansion and military overspending.
- Government corruption and political instability.
- The arrival of the Huns and the migration of barbarian tribes.
- Christianity and the loss of traditional values. [A view which is highly criticized, for obvious reasons.]
- Weakening of the Roman legions.²

Everyone in Rome thought it too big to fail, but they thought wrong. God had decreed their fall hundreds of years before their rise to power. The mere precision of Daniel's prophecy is what makes this an utterly powerful as an apologetic tool for establishing the reasonability and veracity of the Scriptures and the faith.

But more is going on here than meets the eye as you continue to consider Daniel's words in Daniel 7:7, a parallel passage where the successive empires are likened until ravenous, bloodthirsty animals:

⁷After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts (Daniel 7).

Here we discover that the fourth beast, which represents the fourth metal of Daniel's image in chapter 2, has ten horns, which are similar to the ten toes. The distinction, however, is unique. From these ten horns, which represent ten confederate kings, arises one seemingly unassuming horn, or leader, who quickly obliterates three other major horns, i.e., world powers, on his way to becoming THE world power/leader. Revelation 17:12 references Daniel 7:7-8 and identifies this leader with non-other than the Anti-Christ, the ultimate Roman dictator, who will oppose God and God's people in a fashion unseen before in human history.

² <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/8-reasons-why-rome-fell>.

Based on these additional prophecies, which give further illumination regarding the meaning of the ten brittle toes, I think it is theologically and textually reasonable to conclude there is a secondary meaning to this prophecy. Secondarily, it denotes the demise of the fourth empire, Rome; however, primarily, it demonstrates how the essence of this godless, ruthless, and brutal empire will *re-emerge* during the tribulational period.

Some, however, believe these words describe the fall of Rome with the death and resurrection of Christ and the advance of the Church, but this view does not fit the prophetic texts very well. Christianity, ipso facto, did not completely destroy the Roman Empire. To say it occurred in stages over hundreds of years is to miss the import of Daniel's prophecy. Further, at no time in history was Rome ever comprised of a ten nation confederacy. Also, Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation does not appear to show a comingling of Satan's inspired kingdoms and that of Christ. Lastly, as the first four kingdoms were literal, why would we say the final kingdom of Christ was first figurative and spiritual and then literal?

As we see in verses 44 through 45, there will be a future time when the final world system, which will be Roman in nature, will be definitively and instantaneously eradicated by God Almighty. And it will happen when there is a weak ten nation confederacy bent on securing world domination (probably for the sake of peace, for what we see right now). Regarding this, Daniel states in graphic terms:

⁴⁴ "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. ⁴⁵ "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

All of this is so interesting.

How will Rome rise to new power in the future? We cannot say with specificity; however, with the rise of radical Islam, the infiltration of Europe (and America) of ISIS warriors, the expansionistic ways of the Russians, the sabre rattling of the Chinese military, the penchant for mayhem by the nuclear armed North Koreans, coupled with the radicalized religious hatred of the now nuclear Iran, yeah, I'd say things could implode quickly, leaving the world grasping for a more brutal power to engage brutal barbarians. Enter Rome number 2 with the Anti-christ as the new Emperor.

What will happen to this final empire? Jesus will personally decimate it, as Daniel prophesies. He is the stone that smashes the image of godless world rulership. Revelation 19:15 speaks of how he will personally strike down the nations when he appears with a militaristic fervor. Psalm 2:6-9 says, by way of prophecy, that the Messiah will rule with a rod of iron when He comes, while Zechariah 14 pictures His victory as the ultimate warrior over evil when He suddenly appears. And who can forget that more than once in the Bible Jesus is clearly referred to as the Stone of God (Psalm 118:22; Ephesians 2:20; Matthew 21:33-45; 1 Peter 2:4-8).

The point should not be missed: Since the first four kingdoms rose and fell as prophesied, you can bank on the fact that the final form of world power will fall and it will be literally replaced by the eternal kingdom of the Messiah, Jesus. Our world is positioning itself

for the final ten nation confederacy and the rise of the most evil ruler the world has ever known. But his rule will be short-lived because THE King is coming.

Will you be with him when He appears? He waits, now, to make you a part of his spiritual kingdom by the simple statement of faith in him as your Savior and Lord. I can't think of any viable reasons as to why you would want to prolong that decision. After all, the statistical facts are quite solid. How could Daniel have known all this exact information about the rise and fall of worldly empires and the erection of God's empire if God had not told him? I hope God has your attention. More importantly, I hope will waste now time moving toward Him in trusting faith in His redemptive work for you on Calvary.