

*"In the days of these kings
shall the God of heaven
set up a kingdom."
Daniel 2:44.*

As the last part of our lesson makes clear, Christ's coming kingdom will soon erase political boundaries as we know them now.

As Christ was dying on the cross of Calvary, one incident brightened His hour of agony. The dying thief turned to Him for salvation. From the depths of his contrite heart, the criminal cried out, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Luke 23:42. Back came the promise of Christ that the thief *would* be with Him in His kingdom. If you would like to make the same request of Christ, check the square below.

"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Lessons 1, 2, and 3 are preparatory studies for the introduction of the announcement of the third angel in Lesson 4. Lesson 2 will take up the subject "The End of the World," answering such questions as, What has the Bible foretold will take place at the end of time as we now know it? How near are we to it?

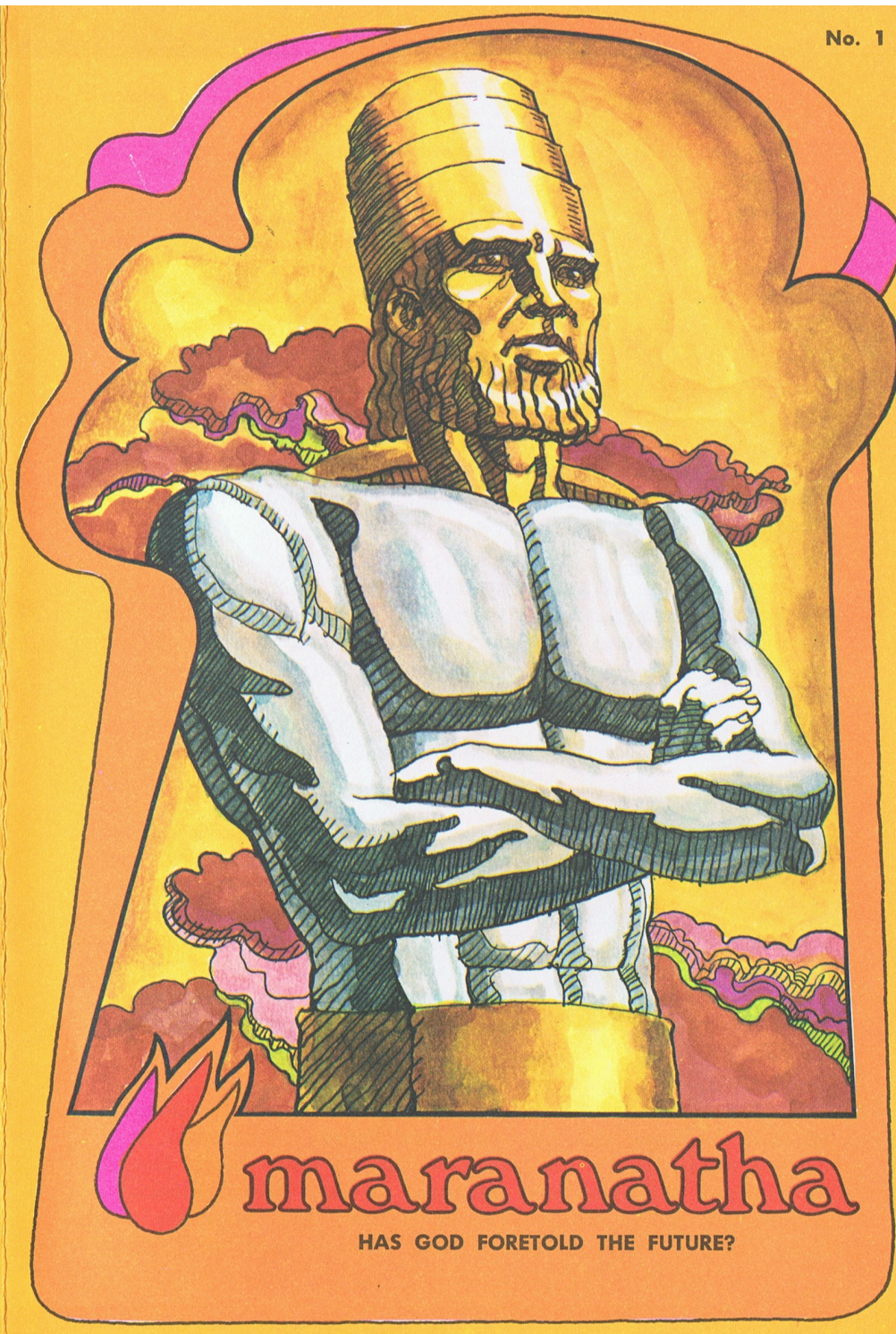
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SIGNS PRINT

No. 1



has God
foretold
the
future?

*"The God of heaven
[shall] set up a kingdom."
Daniel 2:44.*

that never again will a power such as Greece or pagan Rome politically dominate the world.

13. At the end of earth's history, what will God set up? Daniel 2:44, 45 (OT 697).

The Bible says: _____.

14. What event will mark the setting up of the kingdom? Matthew 25:31-34 (NT 27).

The Bible says: _____.

How could Daniel have known that after the fourth world empire the whole order of world governments would change? How did he know that all of mankind's attempts to reunite his world would be doomed to failure? Much depends on your answer.

*"A stone was cut out
without hands, which smote
the image upon his feet."
Daniel 2:34.*

its beautiful buildings. Indeed, it was the capital city of a golden kingdom.

8. How would the second kingdom, Medo-Persia, compare with Babylon? Daniel 2:39 (OT 697).

The Bible says: -----

Note: God, through the prophet Daniel, told Belshazzar that the Medo-Persians would succeed the Babylonians. (Daniel 5:25-31.)

9. What part of the metal man represented the third kingdom of Greece? Daniel 2:32, 39 (OT 697).

The Bible says: -----

Note: "The battles of Granicus, B.C. 334, Issus in the following year, and Arbela in B.C. 331 settled the fate of the Persian Empire, and established the wide dominion of the Greeks."—H. Grattan Guinness, *The Divine Programme of the World's History*, p. 308.

10. What part of the image stood for the fourth world empire, Rome? Daniel 2:33, 40 (OT 697).

The Bible says: -----

Note: "The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome."—Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Chapter 38, General Observations at end of chapter, par. 1.

11. As the feet, partly iron and partly clay, signified a divided condition, what would happen to the iron kingdom of Rome? Daniel 2:41 (OT 697).

The Bible says: -----

Note: Between A.D. 351 and 476 a series of invasions by barbaric tribes from Europe completely overran the Western Roman Empire and brought it to its end. The tribes included the Saxons (English), the Franks (French), the Alemanni (Germans), the Burgundians (Swiss), the Lombards (Italians), the Visigoths (Spanish), the Suevi (Portuguese), the Vandals, the Ostrogoths, and the Heruli.

12. What statement of seven words shows that the Old World powers would never again merge into one great kingdom? Daniel 2:43 (OT 697).

The Bible says: "They shall not -----"

Note: The simple statement, "They shall not cleave one to another," has stood for fifteen hundred years, from Rome's fall to today, as a constant witness to the truth and reliability of God's Word. During the centuries many men have attempted to unite Europe politically. Such leaders as Charlemagne, Charles V, Louis XIV, Napoleon, and Hitler have had such a dream and failed. Daniel's seven words assure

Maranatha began in 1968 with a group of students in a high school near Orlando, Florida. To the teen-agers it seemed that their world had to a great extent lost all meaning and purpose. The death of former classmates in a controversial war appeared useless. To them it looked as if history's greatest lesson was that men had always used the best of their resources of mind and material to develop better ways to destroy themselves.

Would killing never come to an end? Were all youth imprisoned on a planet where most of the inhabitants would always live in grinding poverty, where overpopulation would bring death by famine to hundreds of millions of people, where pollution would eventually blot out the beauty of their heritage?

In their search for meaning the Orlando students turned to the Bible. Was it possible, they wondered, that the ancient Book had foretold the future and held the only key to hope for man? They knew that no other book in history had caused the controversy it had. For thousands of years men had pondered, argued, and many times fought over what it said. No other book made the claims it did with such authority. Turning to the Bible, the Florida teen-agers read its challenge to modern man: "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.

Those young adults accepted the challenge and determined to decide for themselves if God spoke through the Bible to the space age. Their study centered in the messages of the three angels of Revelation 14:6-12. But what did the symbols in the passage mean? Who or what was "Babylon"? What were "the beast" and the "mark of the beast"?

In the following twelve lessons you will study these same messages for yourself. Please understand that at no time during the twelve studies will anyone pressure you or even ask you to join a church. Maranatha's purpose is twofold: (1) to give you the opportunity of deciding for yourself if the Bible is relevant to today's problems, (2) to give you the opportunity to study from the Bible alone the last message we believe God will give this planet. Work on these lesson guides at your own pace. We do suggest that you finish one lesson a week, and it is best to set aside a definite time to do them.

The first three study guides will give an overview of what the Bible predicts about the end of the world as background for the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. From there we go directly into the third

angel's message in Lesson 4, the warning about the "mark of the beast" in Revelation 14:9-12. The first angel's message, Revelation 14:6, 7, and the second angel's message, Revelation 14:8, will follow.

Has God foretold the future?

THE BIBLE SAYS

1. What has God promised to aid us in understanding truth? John 16:13 (NT 99).

The Bible says: "Howbeit when he, _____, he will guide you into all truth."

Note: We suggest you begin this study and each succeeding one with prayer for this Spirit.

2. What has God given man to guide him in this age? 2 Peter 1:19 (NT 206).

The Bible says: _____.

3. Through what agents does God communicate His secrets to mankind? Amos 3:7 (OT 719).

The Bible says: _____.

Please read the entire chapter of Daniel 2. In a dream God outlines the future to an ancient king. (Daniel 2:29.) Notice how God used Daniel.

4. Why should the dream have special significance for us? Daniel 2:28 (OT 696).

The Bible says: "God . . . maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be _____."

5. Who revealed the dream to Daniel? Daniel 2:27, 28 (OT 696).

The Bible says: _____.

6. What had the king seen in his dream? Daniel 2:31-35 (OT 697).

The Bible says: "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold _____."

Note: In the dream God outlined world history from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to its end. By the symbolism of different metals in the image, He revealed that four world empires would eventually arise. History reveals that they were Babylon (head of gold), Medo-Persia (chest and arms of silver), Greece (thighs of brass), and Rome (legs of iron). The image revealed that the fourth world empire would be divided, represented by the feet composed of iron and clay.

7. What did the head of gold represent? Daniel 2:37, 38 (OT 697).

The Bible says: _____.

Note: The city of Babylon, with its magnificent display of wealth, was one of the wonders of the ancient world. Luxuriant gardens surrounded

Babylon

Medo-Persia

Greece

Rome

