

# The Deaf Messenger

An Inspirational Magazine for Deaf People



**“The head of the statue was made of pure gold. Its chest and arms were made of silver. Its stomach and thighs were bronze. Its legs were made out of iron. And its feet were partly iron and partly baked clay.”**

**Daniel 2:32-33, NIV**

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

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# Daniel Trusted God

by Arthur Griffith

How would you feel if a policeman came to you and took you to a prison cell and then told you that you and your friends must all die? If you are like me, you would pray earnestly to God for help. Then you would ask what you had done wrong.

That was what happened to Daniel, and that is what He did. The king had just lost his temper when his “wise men” could not tell him a dream he had forgotten. Daniel and his friends were called wise men, but they had not been asked by the king to help him. The ones that were called help the king were false prophets.

Daniel told the king’s officer that the other wise men really could not give the answer, and they should not be killed. He said that his God could give the answer, and asked to see the king. This was arranged for the next morning. Daniel and his friends spent the night in prayer, and God showed Daniel the dream that the king had forgotten. They all thanked God.

In the morning, Daniel ap-

peared before the king. First, he told the king that the wise men he had called truly could not give the answer, but his God could. Daniel humbly said it was not his own wisdom, but his God that had given him the same dream that the king had dreamed. The king’s dream was about the future.

King Nebuchadnezzar leaned forward, intensely (very much) interested, as Daniel told the dream. “Delighted”, he exclaimed, “That is it. Exactly what I dreamed. I remember now.” He was excited to hear what it meant.

The dream showed an image of a tall, strong man that looked much like King Nebuchadnezzar, but it was made of different metals. The head was made of gold. The breast and arms were silver. Down to the legs it was made of brass. The legs were made of iron, but the feet and toes were made of mixed clay and iron. While the king watched, a great stone came down from the sky. It hit the image on its feet, and the whole image turned to dust and blew away.

Daniel told the king that the head of gold meant him-the kingdom of Babylon. That pleased the king, but he was not so pleased with what came next. Another kingdom would rule. This next kingdom would not be so rich as Babylon, just as silver is worth less than gold. But after that, yet another kingdom represented by brass would win world power. Brass is cheaper than gold or silver but stronger than either one. Next would come the strongest and cheapest of all, it was to be like iron. Iron hammers smash and pound other things. Spears and swords of iron would be used by this nation's armies. No nation could stand against it.

But next a huge rock that men had nothing to do with making would come speeding down from the sky and destroy the whole image. There would be nothing left of the kingdoms which different parts of the image represented. The Rock that struck the image would fill the whole earth. That Rock meant Jesus and His kingdom. Jesus kingdom will last forever. The people in it will also live forever. I want to live in Jesus' kingdom! Do you?

Notice that the image parts match history. Babylon fell to the Persians under Cyrus. The Persians were beaten by the Greeks under Alexander the Great. The Romans won against the Greeks, but later fell and divided into ten smaller kingdoms, just as there are ten toes on the image and ten horns on the last beast of Daniel chapter 7.

After Daniel explained the dream to King Nebuchadnezzar, the king honored Daniel and his friends, and gave them high offices in his government.

Would you like to study deeper into the prophecies of Daniel? God will bless you richly as you do so. Ask for more information.

*Arthur Griffith is a retired deaf pastor from Centralia, Washington.*



# What Is Coming?



Is the world becoming worse all the time? When will wars end? Wonderful prophecies in the Bible give us the answer to these questions. The Bible tells us the second coming of Jesus is very near. “When these things begin to take place, stand up. Hold your head up with joy and hope. The time when you will be set free will be very close” (Luke 21:28). War and trouble are signs that Jesus is coming soon. Let us see what the Bible says.

## **What important questions did the disciples ask Jesus?**

“Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives. There the disciples came to him in private. ‘Tell us,’ they said. ‘When will this happen? And what will be the sign of your coming? What will be the sign of the end?’” (Matthew 24:3).

The followers of Jesus asked Him, “What will happen in the world just before You come back? How will we know

the end of the world is near?” You will find answers to these questions in the Bible. Jesus told us some signs of His second coming.

### **What are some signs of the coming of Jesus?**

“Nation will fight against nation. Kingdom [country] will fight against kingdom” (Matthew 24:7).

Read Matthew chapter 24 very carefully. You should read it many times. This chapter is like a clock. It tells us in what time we are living and where in history. It is a clock of prophecy – telling us ahead of time what we will see in our lives today. Jesus tells us how we will know when His coming is near. He said, “Nation will fight against nation. Kingdom [country] will fight against kingdom.”

Luke chapter 21 tells the same story as Matthew chapter 24. Here are some verses from this chapter in Luke:

“Do not be afraid when you hear about wars and about fighting against rulers. . . . nation will fight against nation. Kingdom will fight against kingdom. . . . there will be mi-

raculous signs in the sun, moon and stars. The nations of the earth will be in terrible pain. They will be puzzled by the roaring and tossing of the sea. Terror will make people faint. They will be worried about what is happening in the world. The sun, moon and stars will be shaken from their places. At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud. He will come with power and great glory” (Luke 21:9-10, 25-27).

War and fighting; nations in trouble; terrorism, great fear of the future; strange things in the skies. These are all signs of the coming of Jesus. We see them today. Jesus told us more than 1,900 years ago that there would be trouble on the earth in the last days. Some people say that the world will get better. But the Bible tells us that there will be war and trouble that is worse



than ever before.

We hear about trouble in many parts of the world. We should say when we hear these things, “The second coming of Jesus is near!”

### **What about the nations just before Jesus comes again?**

“The nations were angry, and the time for your anger has come. The time has come to judge the dead. It is time to reward your servants . . . and those who honor you. There is a reward for all your people, both great and small. It is time to destroy those who destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18).

Today nations are angry. Little nations and big nations speak angry words. These are signs that we are living in the last days. God has told us these things before they happened.

### **What does the Apostle Paul tell us about the last days?**

“You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. People will be saying that everything is peaceful and safe. Then sud-

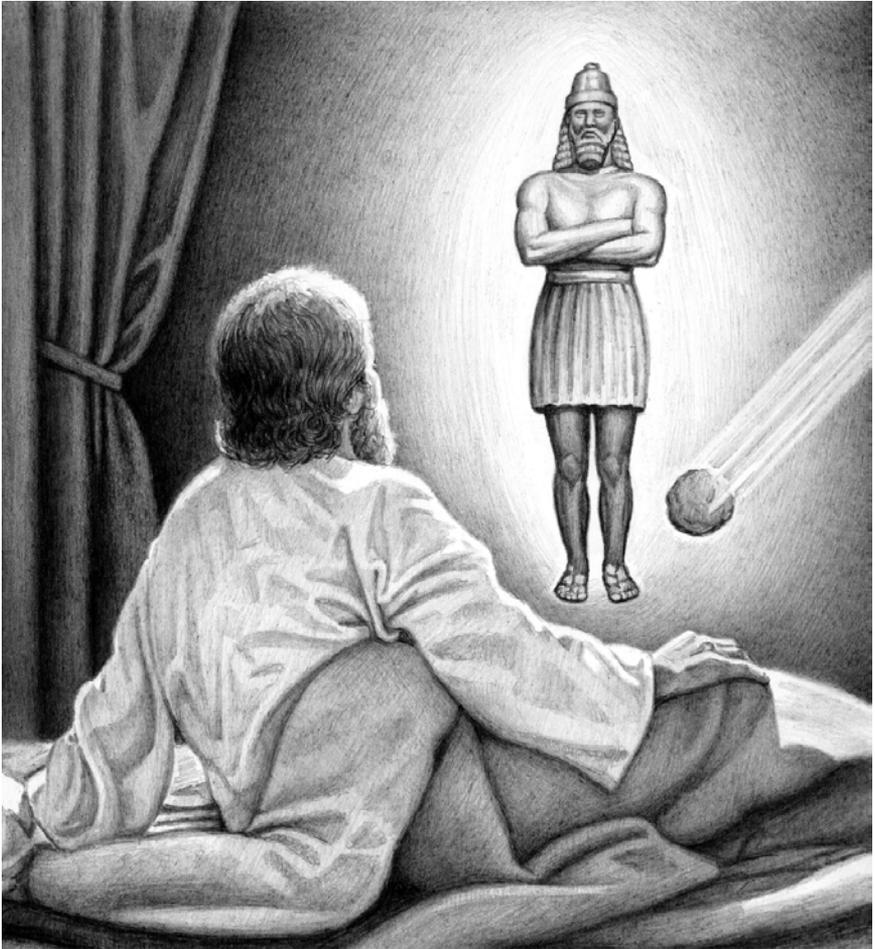
denly they will be destroyed. . . . None of the people will escape. Brothers and sisters, you are not in darkness. So that day should not surprise you as a thief would. . . . So let us not be like the others. They are asleep. Instead, let us be wide awake and in full control of ourselves” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-6).

Christians who study the Bible should not be surprised about war and trouble in the last days. The Bible warns us about these things. Christians do not look for a long time of peace in this world. This world will be finished soon. A new world is coming. The troubles that we see today tell us that the end of this old world of sin is near.

When you give your heart to God, you do not need to be afraid. Let Jesus make your heart and life ready for His second coming. When Jesus comes His people will be taken from this world of sadness and death. Let us watch for His coming.

*Adapted from the “God’s Way” Bible lessons.*

# Daniel's Prophecy About the Nations



Today, there is trouble all over the world. Many people ask, "What does all this trouble tell us? Is something going to happen?" Nations are angry at each other. There is trouble among the nations of the Middle East.

There is trouble in Europe. There is trouble everywhere. People ask, "Does the Bible say anything about these troubles?"

What about terrorism, wars and fighting? Do they mean anything? War is a bad

thing. It always has been bad. Today women and children suffer when war comes. Everyone suffers. No one wants war and fighting. There is more trouble today than ever before.

What did God show to King Nebuchadnezzar, the strong king of Babylon?

“But there is a God in heaven who can explain mysteries. Nebuchadnezzar, he has shown you what is going to happen” (Daniel 2:28).

God showed this king a dream many years ago that tells us what will happen in the last days like today. Study this prophecy well. It has a special message for us.

### **What did King Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream?**

“King Nebuchadnezzar, you looked up and saw a large statue standing in front of you. It was huge. It shone brightly. And it terrified you. The head of the statue was made out of pure gold. Its chest and arms were made of silver. Its stomach and

thighs were bronze [brass]. Its legs were made out of iron. And its feet were partly iron and partly baked clay” (Daniel 2:31-33).

Nebuchadnezzar, the king, saw a large statue. It was made of five different things: gold, silver, bronze or brass, iron, and clay.

### **What was to happen to the statue in the last days?**

“While you were watching, a rock was cut out. But human hands didn’t do it. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay. It smashed them. Then the iron and clay were broken to pieces. . . . The wind blew them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain. It filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:34, 35).

A great stone hit the feet of the statue. This stone destroyed the statue. The stone then filled the earth. What do the statue and the stone mean? God used Daniel to tell Nebuchadnezzar. Let us read what Daniel says about the statue.

### **What did Daniel say about the head of the statue?**

“Nebuchadnezzar, you are the greatest king of all. The God of heaven has given you authority and power. He has given you might and glory. . . you are that head of gold” (Daniel 2:37, 38).

The statue looked like a man. It was divided into different parts. Each part of the statue was for a kingdom or nation. The head of gold was for the kingdom of Babylon. Babylon was a rich and strong nation. It ruled over much of the world. Babylon was in what we know today as the Middle East or Iraq.

### **What other kingdoms followed Babylon?**

“After you, another kingdom will take over. It won’t [will not] be as powerful as yours. Next, a third kingdom will rule over the whole earth. The bronze [brass] part of the statue stands for that kingdom” (Daniel 2:39).

Babylon was a very strong kingdom. The king of Babylon thought it would last for

ever. But Daniel, the prophet of God said, “After you, another kingdom will take over. It won’t be as powerful as yours.” and, more than five hundred years before Christ was born, Medo-Persia fought against Babylon and won. Medo-Persia is shown by the silver chest and arms.

Then Medo-Persia was beaten. The kingdom of Greece fought Medo-Persia and won, 331 years before Christ. Medo-Persia had many soldiers. There were twenty Medo-Persian soldiers for every one in the armies of Greece. But God did say that Greece would win the fight. A young man called Alexander The Great was the king of Greece. His soldiers were very brave and they won the fight. The bronze (or brass) is Greece. The soldiers of Greece ruled much of the world. They were a strong nation.

### **What does the Bible say about Rome, the last kingdom?**

“Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom. It will be as strong as iron. Iron breaks and

smashes everything to pieces. And the fourth kingdom will crush and break all of the others” (Daniel 2:40).

The Romans beat the Greeks in 168 B.C. (before Christ). The Romans were strong and cruel. Rome was ruling the world when Jesus was born. It was a king appointed by Rome that tried to kill the baby Jesus. Soldiers of the Roman kingdom nailed Jesus to the cross. Rome was like iron - strong and hard. But it did not last for ever.

“You saw that the feet and toes were made out of iron and baked clay. And the fourth kingdom will be divided up” (Daniel 2:41).

The four nations ruling the world were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. After Rome, that part of the world was divided into small nations. Some of these nations are in Europe today, such as France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Britain.

**Will these different nations be joined together again?**

“You saw the iron mixed

with baked clay. And the fourth kingdom will be made up of all kinds of people. They won’t [will not] hold [stick] together any more than iron mixes with clay” (Daniel 2:43).

The Bible says these nations will not be joined together again. There will not be a strong nation ruling all the world. God said they would not stick together. You cannot mix iron and clay. The nations are like that. They will not join together into one nation. Some are strong like iron. Some are weak like clay. They will be separate countries until Jesus comes again.

Strong kings and rulers have tried to make one nation like Rome. They have tried and are still trying to make the nations of Europe into one large nation. They have tried to join all the nations of the world together. They have fought against the prophecy of the Bible. But the Bible is true. No man can fight against its word.

**What will happen in the days of the many nations of Europe?**

“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom. It will never be destroyed. And no other nation will ever take it over. It will crush all of those other kingdoms. It will bring them to an end. But it will last forever” (Daniel 2:44).

The kingdom of God is like the great stone. God’s kingdom will destroy all the nations. Jesus will come as King of kings. He will rule forever.

The statue marks off the history of the world. We are living in the time of the feet and toes (iron & clay). Europe was divided when Rome was beaten. The world is still divided. Europe is still in many parts. While Europe is in many parts, God will set up His kingdom. Jesus will come to rule as King. Wars and troubles in the world tell us Jesus is coming back soon. Yes! Jesus will come soon! When Jesus comes there will be one kingdom. This will be the kingdom of God.

**What does the Bible say about other nations who do not believe in God just before the end?**

“Why do the nations plan evil together? Why do they make useless plans?” (Psalm 2:1).

“Announce this among the nations. Tell them to prepare for battle. Nations, get your soldiers ready! Bring all of your fighting men together and march out to attack. Hammer your plows into swords. Hammer your pruning tools into spears. Let those who are weak say, ‘We are soldiers!’ Come quickly, all of you surrounding nations. Gather together in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Lord, send your soldiers down from heaven! The Lord says, ‘Stir up the nations into action! Let them march into the valley where I will judge them. I will take my seat in court. I will judge all of the surrounding nations. My soldiers, swing your sickles. The nations are ripe for harvest. . . . The nations have committed far too many sins!’ Huge numbers of soldiers are gathered in the valley where the Lord will hand down his sentence” (Joel 3:9-14).

This is a wonderful prophecy from the Bible. Heathen (non-Christian) nations that

do not know about Jesus will wake up and become strong. This is a sign that Jesus is coming. India, China, and Japan are awake. Other heathen nations like Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Korea and Iraq are waking up. Weak nations say they are strong. Small nations talk like strong nations. This is another sign of the coming of Jesus.

### **THE FINAL WAR**

#### **What does the Bible tell us about the last war?**

“The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates. Its water dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. . . . They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs. They go out to gather the kings of the whole world for battle. That battle will take place on the great day of the God who rules over all. . . . Then the evil spirits gathered the kings together. The place where the kings met is called Armageddon in the Hebrew language” (Revelation 16:12-16).

Armageddon is the final war. Nations will fight each

other. They will fight against God and His people. The whole world will be in this battle. It will happen at the time of the second coming of Jesus. Jesus comes while the nations are fighting. His coming will end this final war.

#### **What does Jesus tell us to do?**

“So you also must be ready. The Son of Man will come at an hour when you don’t [do not] expect him” (Matthew 24:44).

The second coming of Christ finishes all war and sorrow. Soon Jesus will come. He told us about many signs that are coming true today. Jesus says to us, “Be ready.” Before Jesus comes, is the time to get ready. Give your heart to Jesus now. He will help you to be ready.

*Adapted from the “God’s Way” Bible lessons.*

# The Katrina Hurricane: What Does It Mean in Bible Prophecy

*Do the terrible hurricanes that hit the American Gulf Coast last August and September show that worse things will come?*

by Marvin Moore



We all watched with horror and deep sadness the terrible happening that hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005. Katrina wiped out many towns along a 150-mile stretch of the American Gulf Coast. And, to make it worse, Hurricane Rita came less than a month later, but luckily Rita was less cruel.

Katrina was the second terrible happening that the world

has suffered in less than a year. The first was the Asian tsunami (huge ocean wave) on December 26, 2004. Luckily, many nation of the world were able to give help to those terrible happenings in a short time. More than two hundred thousand people lost their lives in the tsunami. And a thousand or so died in the hurricane. But many more lives

were saved by the quick help to both happenings.

But suppose our planet (earth) were to be hit by a dozen or more terrible happenings in a year. For example, in one week terrorists explode nuclear “dirty” bombs in London and New York. Then in a few months hurricanes destroy Miami and Manila. Killer earthquakes flatten Los Angeles, Tokyo, and Paris. And a big volcano destroys the Indonesian island of Java. At the same time, a new kind of Asian flu spreads around the world in six months, causing a worldwide spread of disease.

Clearly, the world would not be able to help that many terrible happenings. Millions would die, because they would not be able to get help. There

would not be enough help all around the world.

Sounds unreal? Do you think such terrible things could really happen? What we see in the Bible suggests that it could happen.

### **Daniel’s “time of terrible suffering”**

The old-time prophet Daniel foretold that just before Jesus comes the second time, the world will see “a time of terrible suffering” (Nlrv) that has not happened since the beginning of history. The Bible clearly shows that this will happen before Jesus’ Second Coming. “But at that time of suffering your people will be saved. Their names are written in the Book of Life. Huge



numbers [many] of people who lie dead in their graves will wake up. Some will rise up to life that will never end. Others will rise up to shame that will never end” (Daniel 12:1,2, NlRV).

Daniel made an interesting point in verse 1 that is full of meaning. He said that “there will be a time of terrible suffering. Things will be worse than at any time since nations began.” Genesis 10 shows the nations that rose up in the world after the Flood of Noah. Daniel meant, then, that the “time of terrible suffering” that happens just before the second coming of Jesus will be the worst happening the world has experienced since the Flood. That is pretty bad!

Shortly before Jesus was crucified, His disciples asked Him about some signs that would show how soon His second coming would be. Several times in Jesus’ answer He pointed to Daniel’s prophecies. This includes the one we just read. It is fairly clear that Jesus was using Daniel’s prophecy about the coming time of trouble: “There will be terrible suffering in those days. It will be worse than any other

from the beginning of the world until now. And there will never be anything like it again” (Matthew 24:21, NlRV).

Then Jesus made this clearer with some words of His own. He said, “If the time had not been cut short, **no one would live**. But because of God’s chosen people, it will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22, NlRV). Please pay careful attention to the words in bold letters in that quote: If God did not put a stop to the terrible happening, “*no one would live*.” In other words, the human race (people) would become the next group to be wiped out! Terrible happenings do not get any worse than that!

### **Revelation’s winds**

There is more in Revelation. Chapter 7 tells of four angels who are “holding back the four winds of the earth. This kept the winds from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree” (NlRV). Many students of prophecy agree the verse is describing conditions at the end of time. God commands the angels to hold back these winds from blowing “until we put a seal on the



foreheads of the servants of our God.” Clearly, when these “servants of our God” (144,000 of them) are sealed, the angels will let go of the winds, and they will harm the land and the sea and the trees. (See Revelation 7:1-4.)

Stop and think a moment: Land, sea, and trees. These are the very areas that scientists are worried about. In other words, at the very end of time, God will allow terrible things to happen to living things on earth. Revelation is explaining some details about Daniel’s “time of terrible suffering.”

Finally, Jesus made a prophecy that shortly before He comes again to the earth, the “nations will be in anguish [suffering] and perplexity [puzzlement] at the roaring

and tossing of the sea,” and “men will faint [weaken] from terror, apprehensive of [worried about] what is coming on the world” (Luke 21:25-26, NIV). Roaring and tossing of the sea caused much of Katrina’s terrible results. And see how the world looks upon them: Anguish and perplexity. Anguish means “this hurts terribly.” And perplexity means “what do we do now?” Anguish and perplexity is what the people in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast felt about Katrina’s terrible results! But Jesus went further than a local event. He said that “nations”—that is the whole world—will be in anguish and perplexity at the end of time. It is no surprise that Jesus went on to say that the human race will “faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world”!

### **When will it happen?**

Putting these pieces of Bible truth together, it seems clear that terrible natural happenings will come upon our planet (earth) at some time in the future. The important question is not **IF** these things will

happen, but **WHEN**. Will they come upon the world in our day?

Jesus said that no one knows the day or the hour of His coming (see Matthew 24:36). So, we also do not know when the world's final "time of terrible suffering" will happen. But, Signs of the Times magazine has been preaching for more than a hundred years that the coming of Jesus is near. And we still believe that. So, the "time of terrible suffering" that Daniel and others foretold is even closer. This is because these events will happen before Christ's return.

I believe that when the "time of terrible suffering" finally comes to the world, most human beings will blame God and curse Him. (See Revelation 16:9.) But, God's people will be happy. This is because Jesus said, "When these



things begin to take place, stand up. Hold your head up with joy and hope. The time when you will be set free will be very close" (Luke 21:28, NIV).

So these events will cause the wicked to curse God. But the same events will encourage God's people to praise Him! The question is, Which group will you and I be in?

*Marvin Moore is the editor of Signs of the Times magazine. Adapted with permission.*

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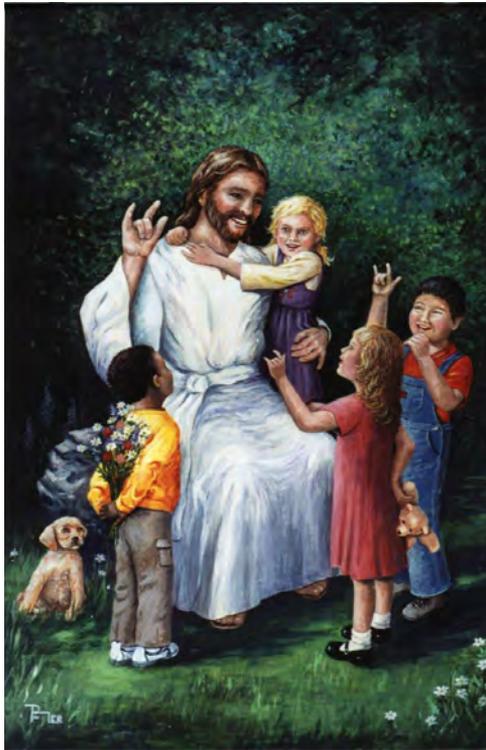
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