

August 14 Answers

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great statue (Dan 2). It was made out of **four** different metals, and its appearance was **frightening**. As he watched, a stone came and struck the statue and shattered its feet. The entire statue collapsed into dust and blew away, but the stone became a huge mountain filling the earth. Daniel interpreted the dream for Nebuchadnezzar. He told the king that the four metals represented four different **empires** that would rule the known world, one after the other: Babylon, **Medo-Persia**, **Greece** and **Rome**. The stone that destroyed the statue represented **Christ** at His Second Coming. He would defeat the last phase of the Roman empire and establish His worldwide millennial Kingdom. This shows us that God has complete control over the future, and that Christ's Kingdom will one day fill the earth. While Daniel was serving God in Babylon, Jehoiakim was back in Jerusalem plotting **rebellion**. When Pharaoh Necho II defeated Nebuchadnezzar's forces at the Egyptian border in 601 BC, Jehoiakim took advantage of the situation and rebelled. Once again Judah would **lean** on the "broken reed" that was Egypt. Babylon's struggle with Egypt had cost it dearly, and Nebuchadnezzar was reduced to sending raiding parties against Judah while he strengthened his forces. This drove the **Rechabites** into Jerusalem where God used them as an illustration of a group of people who faithfully followed their father's commands. What a **contrast** to rebellious Judah! However, it wasn't long before Nebuchadnezzar returned. By that time, Jehoiakim was dead. Nebuchadnezzar exiled Jehoiachin (and Ezekiel) and made Zedekiah the new puppet king. Once again God's word had proved true (Jer 36:31).