

Elpis Israel

for Young People

Nebuchadnezzar's Image – Daniel 2

Elpis Israel pages 321-328

Class 41

The Light of Prophecy:

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While a Christian would take no part in the armed mêlée, he is convinced that nothing but violence in the beginning, in order to punish and crush the tyrants, can prepare the way for the amelioration [to make something better] of society. This is the order, as I shall show, which God has ordained as preliminary to the setting up of His kingdom. But the conductors of the press do not understand this. It is not more corrupt and vicious than it is blind to the scriptural philosophy of the things of which it treats. It cannot see afar off, and the objects which are near, it cannot comprehend.

How applicable to its scribes is the exclamation of the Lord, “O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but how is it ye cannot discern the signs of the times!”—signs, which are announcing to the nations with a voice of thunder that Jehovah hath aroused Himself in His holy habitation; that the time hath at length come when He will be still and refrain Himself no longer; but that He will make bare His holy arm, and “destroy them that destroy the earth”,^a or oppress mankind.

But, though the Lord hath a long time held His peace, He hath not been unmindful of His people, nor heedless of human affairs. The great incidents of history which have given rise to successive kingdoms and dominions, from the overturning of the kingdom and throne of God, and of David, His anointed, in Judea, by the Chaldeans, to the present time, are but events predetermined and arranged in the purpose of God, and revealed in the “sure word of prophecy”.

Not a kingdom has been established, nor a king dethroned, but it has formed a move, which has contributed to the maturity of the present crisis, which will ultimate in the introduction of the kingdom of God. This truth is beautifully expressed in the words of the prophet, saying, “Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are his; and he changeth the times and the seasons; HE REMOVETH KINGS AND SETTETH UP KINGS: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: he revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the fight dwelleth with him.”^a It is He to whom all things are subjected; “for he ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men”.^b

This is the reason why men and women with so little wisdom, or rather possessed of so much positive folly and imbecility, are able to rule the nations without “setting on fire the course of nature”. When their wickedness and

^a a. Rev. 11:18.

^a a. Dan. 2:20–22.

^b b. Dan. 4:17.

stupidity become obstacles to His purpose, He removes them out of the way, and introduces other actors upon the stage. In this way, He controls and regulates the world's affairs; but in every interference He shapes the course of events towards the consummation predetermined from the foundation of the world.

*In ages past, God has had among the nations a people of His own. These are wise in the wisdom of God, and venerate His word above all things. Though not His counsellors, He has graciously condescended to inform them what He intends to do before it comes to pass. Hence, it is testified by the prophet that "the Lord God will surely do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets".^c This revelation is made that His people's faith may be confirmed and enlarged, and that in **every generation they may know the times and seasons to which they stand related**. Knowing the signs, they are enabled to discern the times; and while consternation and dismay cause men's hearts to fail they are courageous, and rejoice in perceiving the approach of the Kingdom of God.*

Young people – you have been inducted into the ranks of those who, "though not his counselors, He has graciously condescended to inform what he intends to come to pass"

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

- There is no parallel "society" into which you can be inducted
 - The freemasons
 - The knights templar
 - The CIA
 - The KGB
 - The MOSSAD
 - The Jesuits
 - There is no secret society in the world – can parallel the privilege that God has given to each of you
 - He is sharing with you his secret plan by which he is going to transform the world into his Kingdom

Hence:

2 Peter 1:19-21

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, **until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:[Ie. until Christ comes in his kingdom]** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

^c c. Amos 3:7.

Our Duty:

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From these premises we may conclude that, as the Lord has also revealed what is to come to pass in these latter days, it is both our duty and privilege to make ourselves acquainted with it, that our faith may grow and be strengthened; that our affections be detached from the fleeting present, and set more firmly on things to come; that our minds may be fortified against error; and that we may be prepared to meet the Lord as those who have kept their garments, and shall not be put to shame.^b

It is our own fault if we are not “light in the Lord”. He has plainly set before us what is happening in our day, and what is yet to occur. Hence, while the Priests of the State Church are drowsily exclaiming, while war and political murders abound, “Give peace in our time, O Lord!”—and while peace-societies are with infidel voices crying “Peace and safety”, they who take heed to the prophetic word “know before” that the hour of God’s judgment is come, and that destruction is at the door.

In pursuance, then, of the work before us, namely, that of unfolding the train of events which are to ultimate in the setting up of the kingdom of God, I shall proceed to show the things represented in NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S IMAGE.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Image

The Dream:

Daniel 2:31-35

Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

This is the GRAND VISION – BIG PICTURE

- This is the SKELETON on which all of prophecy fits into
- It is the FRAMEWORK
 - Everything in Daniel & Revelation fits into this framework
 - It begins with the Babylon – the First oppressor of the land in the Kingdom of Men – and ends with the kingdom of God

^b b. Rev. 16:15.

The Interpretation:

Daniel 2:36-38 *This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. **Thou art this head of gold.***

Head of Gold Babylon: Founded by Nebuchadnezzar

- First to tread down the Kingdom of God:

2 Chron 36:5-7 *Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. **Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.** Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.*

2 Chron 36:9-10 *Jehoiachin was eight years old [eighteen] when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD. **And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.***

2 Chron 36:11-13 *Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.*

2 Chron 36:14-21 *Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. **Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to***

Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

This is the king who took Daniel Captive:

Daniel 1:1-2 *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.*

- It ends in Daniel 5 with the “writing on the wall”

Medo-Persia

The next Kingdom:

Daniel 2:39 *And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee....*

We are told who the kingdom is in Daniel 5:

Daniel 5:25-28 *And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*

Daniel 5:30-31 *In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.*

- This is the time period of Daniel and the Lion’s Den (he’s about 87 years old)

Daniel 6:28 *So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

It is also the period of Ezra and Nehemiah:

2 Chron 36:22-23 *Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the **LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.*

Time of the prophet Zechariah

Zechariah 1:1-3 *In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying, The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers. Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Greece:

Daniel 2:39 *another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.*

The transition between Medo-Perisa and Greece is described in great detail in chapter 8:

Daniel 8:20-21 *The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.*

This is the time period included in the 70 Weeks prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27

Rome:

Daniel 2:40 *And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.*

The Great Empire

- Would take over all the geographical areas of the nations before it – as iron that breaketh all these – it shall break in pieces and bruise

The Time of Christ:

- It was BC 30 that the Roman Empire replace the Greek Empire
- Under Julius Caesar – who finished off the last of the Greek rulers of Egypt – the Ptolemaic queen Cleopatra (who fell in love with Mark Antony).
- They were defeated by General Octavian – who was to become Caesar Augustus:

Luke 2:1-3 *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out **a decree from Caesar Augustus**, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.*

Rome:

- Would crucify Christ
- Would destroy Jerusalem in AD70
- Would persecute and destroy many of the Apostles and disciples
- Would establish the APOSTASY in the heavens (Revelation 12) with Constantine....

The Feet:

Daniel 2:41-43 *And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.*

The Division of the Roman Empire under the Barbarians – some weak, some strong (clay/iron)

- Visigoths – France/German/Spain
- Burgundians (Germany)
- Gepidae (Holland)
- Franks (France)
- Suevi (Spain -> Portugal)
- Alans (Spain and France)
- Barvarians (Germany)
- Vandals (Germany -> Spain - North Africa)
- Lombards (Italy)
- Huns (Hungary/Germany)

The Kingdom of God

Daniel 2:34-35 *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, **broken to pieces together**, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and **the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.***

Daniel 2:44-45 *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but **it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and **the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.***

The Rest of Prophecy is the details that fill in this dream!

Connection Instructions

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