

XIV.

Daniel.

LESSON CVII.

THE GREAT IMAGE, DANIEL 2.

I. Introduction—Object of Prophecy.

1. Prophecy is given for the benefit of man, and may be understood, and should therefore be studied carefully. Amos 3:7; Deut. 29:29; Matt. 24:15.

2. Prophecy serves as a light, revealing where we are living on the stream of time. 2 Peter 1:19; Matt. 24:15-20.

3. God uses similitudes or symbols in prophetic visions, which should be illustrated by charts. Hos. 12:10; Hab. 2:2.

II. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.

4. God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream things to come to pass in the future, by means of a great image, interpreted by Daniel. Dan. 2:28-31.

5. The king saw:

(a) A great image, with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, and sides of brass, legs of iron and feet of iron and clay. Dan. 2:31-33.

(b) A stone smote the image and broke it in pieces, after which it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Verses 34, 35.

III. Daniel's Interpretation.

6. Daniel interpreted the dream as follows:

(a) The head of gold was a symbol of the kingdom of Babylon. Dan. 2:32, 36-38.

(b) The silver was a symbol of the following kingdom, or Medo-Persia. Dan. 2:32, 39; 5:25-31; 8:20.

(c) The brass was a symbol of the third kingdom, or Grecia. Dan. 2: 32, 39; 8: 20, 21.

(d) The iron symbolized the fourth kingdom, or Rome. Dan. 2: 33, 40; Luke 2: 1.

(e) The fourth kingdom was to be divided. Dan. 2: 33, 41-43; 7: 23, 24.

(f) The stone was a symbol of the kingdom of God, to be established upon this earth some time after the division of the Roman kingdom. Dan. 2: 34, 35, 44, 45.

7. The prophecy is centered upon Christ's kingdom, which will be established upon the earth after the fall of all earthly kingdoms. Dan. 2: 44, 45; 2 Tim. 4: 1; Matt. 25: 31-34.

QUESTIONS.

1. For whose benefit is prophecy given?
2. What purpose does it serve?
3. What does God sometimes use as illustrations?
4. What was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar?
5. Of what was the different parts of the image composed?
6. What smote the image, and what did it become?
7. Who interpreted the dream?
8. Tell what the head of gold denoted.
9. What did the silver symbolize? The brass? The iron, and the mixture of iron and clay in the feet?
10. Of what was the stone a symbol?
11. When and where will God's kingdom be set up?
12. What is the central theme of this line of prophecy?

LESSON CVIII.

KINGDOM OF GLORY.

Note.—The plan to save man by grace was revealed to man immediately after the fall through Jesus Christ, who is priest and king upon his Father's throne. But this reign of grace will end when probation closes and then will begin the reign (the kingdom) of glory. See lesson LXVIII on the kingdom of grace.

1. That which is necessary to a kingdom is territory, subjects, law, ruler and his throne.