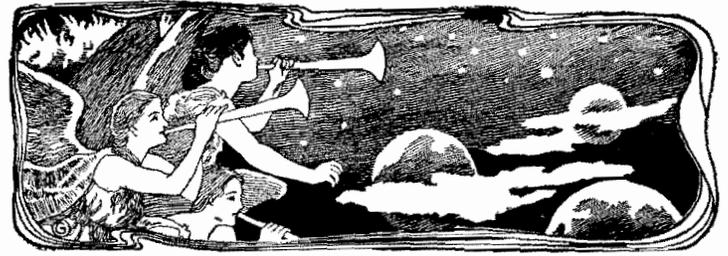


viour when he comes. Reader, remember that the book of Daniel has been specially prepared for your enlightenment. God has provided it, and preserved it until our day, and now a copy is within reach of all. While he says that the wicked will do wickedly, and none of the wicked shall understand, yet we have the assurance that the wise shall understand. Which class do you desire to be among?



CHAPTER VI.

The Prophetic History of the World

1. Who was Nebuchadnezzar?

King of Babylon. Dan. 1:1.

2. Who was Daniel?

Daniel was a Hebrew whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried, with many others, from Jerusalem to Babylon about the year 606 B. C. Dan. 1:3-6.

3. What special wisdom did God give Daniel?

"Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." Dan. 1:17.

4. What unusual experience did Nebuchadnezzar have in the second year of his reign?

"In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him." Dan. 2:1.

NOTE.—By reading the first eighteen verses of this second chapter, it will be seen that the king sought an explanation of his dream at the hand of the wise men of Babylon, who

claimed to be able to give such information. After saluting the king, the wise men asked the king to tell them his dream, promising him to show the interpretation. But this the king refused to do. He had either forgotten it, or else was so impressed with the importance of the dream and a proper interpretation, that he had determined to keep it secret, and demanded of the wise men that they not only show him the interpretation, but also tell the dream, taking their ability to show the dream as a guarantee that their interpretation was correct. If they were not able to do this, their professions were false, and he gave them to understand that but one decree awaited them, and that was death.

5. What answer did the wise men make the king?

"The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man on the earth that can show the king's matter; . . . there is none other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." Dan. 2: 10, 11.

NOTE.—This answer angered the king, and he at once gave the decree to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel and his three companions, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were counted among the wise men. It appears, however, that they had not been in before the king with the other wise men, and consequently knew nothing of what had happened. As soon as he was informed of the king's decree, Daniel went in unto the king, promising to show him the dream and its interpretation, providing he would give him time. To this the king consented, and Daniel returned to his home, and in company with his three companions earnestly sought God for a revelation of the secret.

6. What was the result?

"Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision." Verse 19.

7. As Daniel was brought in before the king, what answer did he make?

"Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king demanded, cannot the wise men . . . show unto the king; but there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days." Verses 27, 28.

8. What was the king thinking about when God gave him his dream?

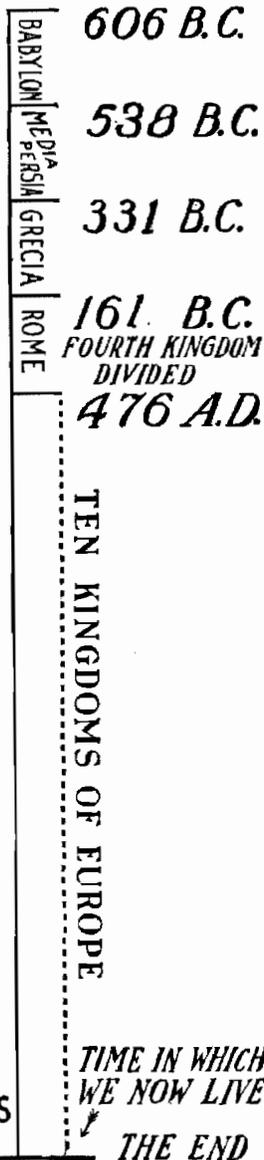
"As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter; and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass." Dan. 2: 29.

NOTE.—Babylon, over which Nebuchadnezzar ruled, was then mistress of the world. The question of its continuity would naturally suggest itself to his mind. Would Babylon continue forever, or would it, like other nations, finally be overthrown? God revealed to the king what the future would bring, not only to Babylon, but to all other worldly kingdoms, by giving him this dream.

Daniel Reveals the King's Dream

9. What does Daniel say the king saw in his dream?

"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 threshing floors; 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 dream, and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king." Dan. 2:31-36.

NOTE.—You will notice that this image, composed of different metals, its subsequent destruction by the stone, revealed to the king "what should come to pass hereafter." Therefore, it must be prophetic in nature.

The Dream Interpreted

10. What does Daniel say is represented by this head of gold?

"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 thy hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold." Verses 37, 38.

11. What do the silver and brass represent?

"After thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee: and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." Verse 39.

NOTE.—This makes it plain that this image is prophetic in nature, and that each metal represents a kingdom. The head of gold represents the kingdom of Babylon, over which Nebuchadnezzar ruled. Babylon was a golden kingdom of a

golden age, and is fitly represented by the head of gold. But with all its grandeur, pomp, and power, God reveals to the king the fact that it must give way to an inferior kingdom, represented by "the breast and arms of silver." Bear in mind, reader, that we now have a starting point, and we will find ourselves rapidly carried down through the stream of time past the rise and fall of kingdoms, past the setting up and overthrow of nations, past our own time, past the destruction of all worldly kingdoms, over into the eternal state.

Babylon was conquered by the Medes and Persians on the night of Belshazzar's feast to a thousand of his lords, 538 B. C. See Dan. 5: 1-31. Thus the kingdom represented by the head of gold is past, and now begins the rule of an inferior kingdom, the Medo-Persian empire, which ruled the world from 538 to 331 B. C., when it, in turn, was overthrown by the third kingdom of brass, which was to bear rule over all the earth. This was the Grecian kingdom, under Alexander the Great. All who are acquainted with history will remember how Alexander, at the head of the Grecian army, overthrew the Persian kingdom, and conquered the world in an incredibly short time. The sovereignty of this empire, under its different heads, ruled the world, in the place of Medo-Persia, from 331 until 168 B. C., when it was overthrown by the iron kingdom of Rome.

12. What will be the nature of the fourth kingdom, represented by the legs of iron?

"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." Verse 40.

NOTE.—The fourth kingdom was to conquer all the territories and peoples ruled over by the three previous kingdoms. This was literally fulfilled in the Roman empire; so

completely did she break in pieces and bruise all other kingdoms, that she is known in history as "the iron monarchy." She had so far completed the conquest of the world that, in the year Christ was born, Cæsar Augustus could issue a decree "that all the world should be taxed." See Luke 2: 1. The supremacy of Rome properly begins with the overthrow of the Macedonian kingdom at the battle of Pydna, June 22, 168 B. C., at which time the last vestige of the once powerful kingdom of Alexander perished.

13. What is represented by the mixture of iron and clay in the feet?

"Whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided." Verse 41.

NOTE.—Rome ruled the world as one massive kingdom for over four hundred years, after which she began to be broken up, and was finally divided into the ten kingdoms of Europe, now represented by England, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, etc.

14. What will this mixture of iron and clay in the feet forever preclude in Europe?

"Whereas thou sawest the 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." Verse 43.

NOTE.—Thus the iron and clay in the feet introduce an element which forever precludes the possibility of another universal kingdom of Europe or the Eastern world. Here is a wonderful test of the prophecy. Beginning with Babylon, the prophetic image indicated four universal kingdoms, represented by four metals. The fourth kingdom was to be divided,

which would mark the end of universal kingdoms in this present world. It is a well-known fact that history usually repeats itself. This was so with the first four kingdoms. One universal kingdom immediately arose on the ruins of another. But when we come to the overthrow of Rome, this rule fails. Rome was divided into the European nations over twelve hundred years ago, and has remained in this divided state ever since. Thus the prophecy has been literally fulfilled, in saying, "They shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." Time and again have great kings arisen and endeavored to again unite the nations of Europe under one head, but every time the scheme has failed. Napoleon Bonaparte was the last to make the attempt, a little over one hundred years ago. He, having failed to accomplish his purpose by force of arms, introduced another scheme, which is noticed in the prophecy; namely, that of intermarriage. The prophecy says, "They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they shall not cleave one to another." This work of intermarriage among the crowned heads of Europe has steadily progressed during the last few years, until to-day every royal family in Europe is related to the others by the ties of marriage. The obvious purpose of this is again to bring the rule of Europe under the head of one royal family. But God's word declares, "They shall not cleave one to another," and just so it is; for with all their royal relation, they still remain separate and distinct as ever.

The Kingdoms of this World to be Destroyed in Our Day

15. What does God say will take place in the days of these kings who are attempting to consolidate Europe under the rule of one royal family, by intermarriage?

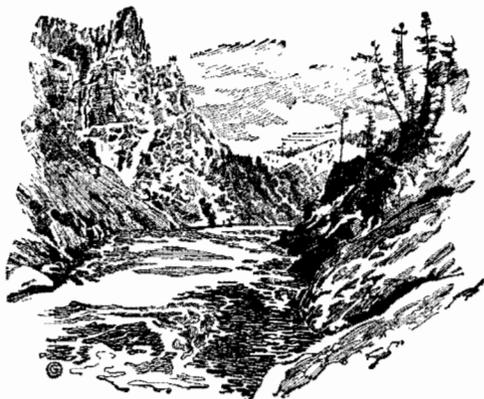
"In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; . . . but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in 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." Verses 44, 45.

NOTE.—In this text the note of doom is sounded to all worldly kingdoms. The day comes on apace when sin and sinners shall have an end. The judgments of an avenging God are soon to be visited upon the nations of earth, who are fast filling up the cup of their iniquity; and so terrible will be the visitations of that day that all worldly kingdoms will be ground to powder, and so completely destroyed that no place shall be found for them.

Since the day when the prophet of God stood before the king, and by the dictation of the Holy Spirit gave the assurance that the dream was certain and the interpretation thereof sure, not one word of this prophecy has failed; by this we can rest assured that the remaining portion will as surely be fulfilled.

In the study of this prophecy we have passed rapidly over the history of this world, beginning with the days of Babylon, past the rise and fall of the first four kingdoms, past the division of the fourth, down to the very toes of the image, where we now find these fragments of the fourth kingdom indulging, with one consent, in a vain attempt to unify themselves by intermarrying. But God has decreed that in the days of these kings the end of all worldly kingdoms will come. Christ's coming is right upon us. Soon, yes, very soon, the day of God's wrath will burst upon this wicked world in all its fury. Soon the stone, which the builders have rejected, will

fall upon the nations of this wicked world, and grind them to powder, and he "whose right it is" will reign, "and of his kingdom there shall be no end." To this all who are loyal to Christ, and who are praying for his kingdom to come, will say, "Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus."



CHAPTER VII.

Rise and Work of the Papacy

The Vision

1. What king was reigning on the throne of Babylon when the vision contained in the seventh chapter of Daniel was given?

"In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed." Dan. 7: 1.

2. In this vision, what first attracted Daniel's attention?

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." Verse 2.

3. What was seen coming up out of the sea as a result of this striving of the winds?

"And four great beasts came up out of the sea, diverse one from another." Verse 3.

4. What was the first beast like?

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings." Verse 4.

5. What was the second beast like?

"And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear." Verse 5.