

Clear Distinction Ministries

Study Notes

Night #10: “**Kingdoms of Bible Prophecy!**”

Prophecy—A Love Gift!

- Prophecy is an essential tool for victory in our warfare against the Dragon (the Devil). Without it God’s people perish and spoil...**Rev. 12:7-17, Rev. 19:10, 1 Tim. 1:18-19, Pr. 11:14, Pr. 29:18, Hos. 12:13**
- Prophecy is surer than an eyewitness account and as we take heed of it Christ will arise in our hearts...**2 Pet. 1:16-21**
- What is your attitude toward prophecy? The Bible teaches that we ought not to despise it but to prove all things from the Bible and hold fast to that which is good. **The fact that Satan has taken the time to counterfeit by false prophets is evidence that in these last days God would have true prophets.** We must test them by the Word of God. All true prophets speak only in harmony with the Bible...**1 Thess. 5:19-21, Is. 8:20, 1 Cor. 14:32**
- The prophetic book of Daniel is a book for the end times. Its prophecies are applicable to our times and are no longer sealed...**Dan. 12:4 & 8-10**
- This prophetic book will not be understood by everyone but only by “the wise.” Who are the wise? They are they that “fear God.” Remember, it was the everlasting gospel message of the 1st angel

that called a people to “fear God.” In other words, those who fear God, those who believe and teach the message of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd angel are “the wise” who will understand the prophecies of the book of Daniel...***Dan. 12:10, Pr. 9:10, Rev. 14:6-7***

- The book of revelation, which holds the key to unlocking Daniel’s prophecies is not a cursed or sealed book. It is **A REVELATION** to God’s servants in these last days, and a blessing is pronounced on those that read and keep its prophecies...***Rev. 1:1-3, Amos 3:7***
- Prophecy is a gift from Christ and the way we treat this gift testifies of our thoughts toward the Giver...***Eph. 4:7-8 & 11***
- Daniel was given these prophecies, we have been given these prophecies because God loves us. Therefore, prophecy is in fact a revelation of the love of Jesus...***Dan. 9:20-23***

King Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream:

- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream which left a deep impression on his mind and yet he could not remember what it was. God withheld the dream from the king’s remembrance and in so doing afforded the magicians and sorcerers and wise men of Babylon to demonstrate their knowledge in divine things. They were tested by the king and failed. In this, the wise men of Babylon prove that it is God alone who reigns in divine things and it is He alone that can unfold the future. Nebuchadnezzar was angry with the pretense of their work and commanded the immediate death of all these “wise men”...***Dan. 2:1-13***

- There was a man in Babylon, a Jewish captive, named Daniel. He feared God and was truly wise. He asked the king for time to petition the living God of heaven on this matter and was granted this opportunity. The Lord always reveals His secrets to His faithful servants (**Amos 3:7**) and this situation was no different. Daniel praised God alone for revealing the dream and its interpretation...**Dan. 2:14-18**
- Daniel reveals to the king the very dream that he had and the king is astonished at this. None but God could have revealed it because neither the king, nor any in Babylon knew/remembered what the dream was. God was making Himself known to Nebuchadnezzar because He desired all in Babylon to know Him as well. Salvation is always the motive of God's actions...**Dan. 2:19-35**
- What then? Are we left to guess as to what the dream means and to invent our own interpretations? No beloved! God reveals through Daniel the meaning of this most impressive dream...**Dan. 2:36-45**

“Although Daniel lived twenty-five hundred years ago, he is a latter-day prophet. His character should be studied, for its development reveals the secret of God’s preparation of those who will welcome Christ at his appearing. His prophecies should be understood, for in them is the key which unlocks history to the end of time! The Saviour Himself bore witness to this. When the disciples asked, “What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?” He said, “When ye see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet...whoso readeth, let him understand,” (Matt. 24:3-15). In this we have the divine

permission to read and understand the prophecies of Daniel. These prophecies are intended, therefore, to warn a people of the coming of Christ.”

(The Story of Daniel the Prophet pg. 13.1)

“In one night God revealed the history of over twenty-five hundred years, and what the human historian requires volumes to explain is given in fifteen verses. The Scriptures explain themselves, and in divine records every word is well chosen and put in the proper setting. In the image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, the glory of the Babylonian kingdom is recognized by the Lord and represented by the head of gold.

But while giving due credit to the present state of things, the spirit of prophecy with equal candor points out to the self-exalted king the weakness of the institutions in which he has placed his trust, and the inability of the Babylonian learning to save from impending destruction.”

(The Story of Daniel the Prophet pg. 33.4-34.1)

“The image was a comprehensive outline of the world’s history. The “glory of kingdoms” formed the head of gold, all following kingdoms deteriorated from Babylon as shown by the grade of metals forming the image. First gold, then silver, brass, and iron. In the latter part of the world’s history, a marked change was revealed by the iron being mixed with miry clay. There were to be no more universal kingdoms ruled by men when the power of the fourth kingdom was broken, it was to

remain divided until the end. In place of one kingdom there would be several. The clay mixed with iron also denoted the union of church and state. This combination is peculiar to the latter part of the world's history, to the feet and toes of the image.”
(*The Story of Daniel the Prophet* pg. 35.3-4)

The Succession of Kingdoms:

- The head of gold, according to Daniel represents King Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom **Babylon (605-539 BC)...*Dan. 2:36-38***
- Daniel told the king that his kingdom, Babylon, would be conquered by an inferior kingdom, represented by the breasts and arms of silver. Which kingdom conquered Babylon? According to the Bible it was **Medo-Persia (539-331 BC)...*Dan. 2:39, Dan. 5:25-31***
- The Bible said that Medo-Persia would not last forever but would also lose its power to an inferior kingdom, represented by the inferior metal of brass. History shows us that it was in fact **the kingdom of Greece lead by Alexander the Great who accomplished this at The Battle of Gaugamela (in some places referred to as the battle of Arbela) when he defeated the armies of King Darius III of Persia (331-168 BC)...*Dan. 2:39***
- Note: It is important to recognize that each of these kingdoms persecuted God's people in their time and also each of these kingdoms was a universal dominion.

- Which kingdom, **represented by the iron legs**, conquered Greece and took its place as the universal dominion? History proves it to be **the Pagan Roman Empire (168-476 AD)...Dan. 2:40-42**

“Thus far in the application of this prophecy there is a general agreement among expositors. **That Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Grecia are represented respectively by the head of gold, the breast and arms of silver, and the sides of brass, is acknowledged by all.** But with just as little ground for a diversity of views, there is strangely a difference of opinion as to what kingdom is symbolized by the fourth division of the great image, — the legs of iron. On this point we have only to inquire, **What kingdom did succeed Grecia in the empire of the world? for the legs of iron denote the fourth kingdom in the series. The testimony of history is full and explicit on this point. One kingdom did this, and one only, and that was Rome. It conquered Grecia; it subdued all things; like iron, it broke in pieces and bruised.** Gibbon, following the symbolic imagery of Daniel, thus describes this empire: “The arms of the Republic, sometimes vanquished in battle, always victorious in war, advanced with rapid steps to the Euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine, and the ocean, **and the images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations or their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome.” ”**

(Daniel & the Revelation pg. 56.3-4)

- Following the Empire of Rome the Bible predicted a division of that power, **no more universal dominions to the close of time**. This too has proven to be accurate...***Dan. 2:41-42***
- The Bible predicts that the iron (symbolizing Rome) would try and mingle with the clay (His people according to ***Jer. 18:6***) and in this we find a union of church & state in these last days. This too is historically true: following Pagan Rome there was the emergence of Papal Rome which today is recognized as both a religious & civil kingdom (church & state union).
- And finally, we have the stone cut without hands, a kingdom that God alone builds. When was this kingdom to be set up literally? At the end of time (***Rev. 20-22***). Yet spiritually, in His people, this kingdom is established “in the days of those kings.” Where did that stone come from? It came from the mountain which symbolizes God’s people! In other words, from the days of Babylon unto the close of time God has always had a people, a remnant in the days of those kings. God is preparing a people...***Dan. 2:44-45, Luke 17:20-22, Dan. 9:20, Is. 56:7***



**My Holy Mountain
My House of Prayer
My People!**

“In the days of these kings!”

The Succession of Kingdoms:

Babylon (605-539 BC)	Dan. 2:36-38
Medo-Persia (539-331 BC)	Dan. 2:39, Dan. 5:25-31
Greece (331-168 BC)	Dan. 2:39
Pagan Rome (168-476 AD)	Dan. 2:40-42
Kingdoms Divided (476 AD-End of Time)	Dan 2:41-42
Church & State Union	Dan 2:43, Jer. 18:6
The Kingdom of God!	V. 44-45, Luke 17:20-22

Does the Bible Confirm This to Be True?