



Daniel's Kingdoms

In Daniel chapter 2 the king of Babylon receives a dream which scares him. No one can interpret the dream, which incidently King Nebuchadnezzar has forgotten. He knows it scared him and he knows it is important but the king cannot remember what happened in the dream.

God reveals the dream to Daniel and Daniel is taken before the King to reveal the mystery. In the dream God had showed the King the world's future, but it was in video or picture form.

God interprets His Word through His prophets. Nebuchadnezzar needed the prophet Daniel to reveal the meaning of the dream. God only reveals the message of the day through a vindicated prophet. Today we have the Bible, the Word of God, and thousands of different interpretations, groups and denominations so we too need God's prophet to interpret the Word. That is the Message brought to us by William Branham. But back to Daniel.

Daniel told the king that in his dream he had seen an enormous statue of a man. The statue had a head of gold, upper body of silver, a bronze lower body and iron legs. A small stone was supernaturally cut out of a mountain. The stone grew and smashed the statue to pieces. That stone then became a very large mountain filling the whole earth.

God explains to Daniel that the statue represents the four world kingdoms that will exist until the coming of Christ at Armageddon.

The King of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) is told his kingdom is the head of gold. A lesser kingdom will follow, one made of silver. The next empire is harder still, being brass but not as rich. It too falls to a fourth kingdom seen as legs of iron. This is the hardest material of all but as it continues down to the toes it compromises and mixes with clay so the toes are part iron and part clay.

Then a stone is taken from a mountain "without hands." In other words

this was not something done by a man. God did this.

That stone came and smashed the statue's feet, where the iron and clay were mixed together. The statue collapsed into small pieces and was blown away by the wind. The stone itself then grew to become a great mountain.

In short the dream says there will only ever be four kingdoms in the world and the Babylonian empire of which Nebuchadnezzar was king was the golden head of all of them. All four will be replaced by God's kingdom.

Daniel was famous for surviving being locked in a lions den and for interpreting the writing on the wall. But he also received a further dream about the four kingdoms, followed by a vision where an angel, called Gabriel, explained the dream. (A dream happens while a person is asleep, a vision is when the person is still awake.)

In Daniel chapter 7 the prophet sees four beasts come up from the sea. The first is like a lion with eagle's wings. The second was like a bear that devoured much. The third was like a leopard with four heads and birds wings. The fourth beast was very strong and had iron teeth and ten horns.

Both Daniel and the book of Revelation repeat the same events but from a different viewpoint. These beasts Daniel saw are the same four kingdoms



that Nebuchadnezzar saw, but here is a different description of those same powers.

In chapter 8 Daniel has a vision in which he sees three of the four kingdoms but again in a different form. There is a two horned ram that overcame other beasts and becomes great. However a he goat with one horn came at great speed at the ram and killed it, but its horn was broken. Four small horns grew up in their place. One of those horns grew greater than its brothers and became a new power.

Gabriel explains the vision. The ram is the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, hence the two horns. The he goat is Greece and the single horn its leader. Although Gabriel doesn't say this it seems obvious from history that this was Alexander the Great. But Alexander dies at a young age and four others take his place. From among them one creates a new power, one similar to the Greeks but far stronger.

Now we can list three of the four kingdoms. We know from Daniel's original explanation of king Nebuchadnezzar's dream the first kingdom was the Babylonian empire. Now we also know that the second was the Medes and Persians followed by the third kingdom of Greece. The fourth kingdom though remains a mystery but there are clues aplenty.

To start with the fourth kingdom is described as having 10 horns. Revelation 13 verse 1 describes such a beast. It comes out of the sea and has seven heads and ten horns. A further description in verse two adds that the beast was like a leopard, the Greek kingdom, it had the feet of a bear, the Medes and Persians, and his mouth was that of a lion, the Babylonian kingdom.

This description is of an empire that looks similar to the Greek. It also has to have a key ingredient of the Medes and Persian kingdom. The basis of their law was that it could not be changed. So for the fourth empire it will have a similar law that once a statement has been made as from the king it cannot be changed or altered. Once a teaching or doctrine has been expounded from the throne it cannot be recanted nor can it be wrong.

Finally this beast, or empire, has the mouth of the Babylonian kingdom but with iron teeth. It claims to be to be lord of all and will devour those who say otherwise.

Working on a purely historical basis the world empire that followed the Greeks was, of course, the Roman Empire. It was split into two sections, the East and the West. Until around 300 AD it had idolatrous worship of the emperor and many other gods and goddesses. Emperor Constantine changed all that offering freedom of religion but promoting the Christian faith throughout the empire. The church grew in strength and even when Rome itself was overcome the invading Germanic soldiers were Christian too and reverence was given to the Papal figure.

The key thing to remember is that according to the interpretation of the dream there will only ever be four World controlling kingdoms. The Babylonian, Medes and Persians, and the Greeks had all passed away but the the Roman kingdom, administered from two centres, Constantinople in the east and Ravenna in the west was very much alive.

The fourth kingdom or empire will only end end when Christ, the rock, destroys the world's kingdoms and takes over the world.

The issue with this understanding is that for many Christians is that there is no Roman Empire.

Or is there?

Since the fall of the Roman Empire in the 400's AD there have been many empires, Ghengis Khan, The Muslim Empire, French, Ottoman, British and today the USA. But these are not what the Bible looks at.

The Bible said there will only ever be four world wide kingdoms. So what's going on?

Did the last kingdom, Rome, survive after all?

Information about "The End Times" is on lots of places throughout the Bible. The Book of Revelation concentrates on this. It is also a book of



Symbols. It, like Daniel, deals with the last days. The last days are the time when the stone that was set at naught by the builders comes to destroy the world's kingdoms. It then grows to become the Mountain of God.

But let's go back first to Daniel and learn a little more.

Daniel 7 from verse 3 where Daniel sees four beasts come out of the sea. (We know from Revelation 17 v15 seas are people and we also understand that a beast is a power. So this is a power that covers the world.

We also know that this beast or power will be a mystery to many. Here we have a beast (power) that used to exist, no longer exists and yet still is. It was, seems to be destroyed and then, in its later unidentified state, it exists. It still functions. This beast has come from the bottomless pit. One interesting thing here is that only those whose names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life will recognise this beast. Others, who are not listed will not.

The beast that was, isn't yet is, has to be the Roman Empire. It didn't finish in 476 as Gibbon said, Constantinople and the eastern part of the empire carried on in various forms until 1453 when the Turks captured the city. But actually, under the growing power of the Pope, Rome controlled many nations, appointed and deposed kings and dabbled in politics up to and including today.

Revelation 17 v 1- 18 describes the judgement of the great whore that sits on many waters. A woman represents a church. There is the Bride of Christ signified as a pure virgin without spot or wrinkle. She will only accept seed from her husband, and according to Matthew 13 the seed is the Word of God. But there is also the great whore and mother of harlots. She is that church which has rejected God's Word and uses man's theology (man's seed) . She is the mother of other churches and they follow the same road as their mother accepting seed from any man. Such churches like to play politics and enter into power play between countries. They also do not like individual groups or people who follow Christ without being a member of their church. They believe they have the right and authority to bring such people into line with their doctrine, kept under their authority and

controlled by their rules.

So, there has to be a church that gets its strength and authority from the fourth power, the Roman Empire.

Is there a church that acts politically world wide?

Where is it based? Rome

Does Rome have seven hills?

Yes but surely there are many towns or cities built on seven hills.

There are. Fifty nine towns or cities are built on seven hills. They include, Armagh in Ireland, Athens in Greece, Bath in England, Brussels in Belgium, Dunedin in New Zealand, Edinburgh in Scotland, Kampala in Uganda, Jerusalem in Israel, Kiev and Moscow in Russia, Melbourne in Australia and so on.

But there are only a few cities that are commonly referred to as cities of seven hills. They are Bergen in Norway, Iasi in Romania, Istanbul in Turkey, Jerusalem in Israel, Moscow in Russia, and Rome in Italy.

Of these only two were centres for the Roman empire, Rome and Istanbul or, as it was called way back then, Constantinople.

Rome and Constantinople were the two competing centres of the Roman Empire, one ruled the east and the other ruled the west. The two legs of the statue.

But of these only one is also a church. And is also its own state. It is the only one that has Ambassadors to other countries throughout the world. It is also the only one bringing together all other religions to make an image to itself.

So, the Fourth kingdom Rome, still exists and a church rides that power. She is however a harlot whom God will destroy and all those who are with her. She is Babylon the Great, and in helping form the World Council of



Churches she has helped create an image to the beast.

There were seven churches in Asisa and John the prophet was told to write to the angel of each church. He did this in revelation chapters 2 and 3. Those letters were prophetic, they described church history from around 54 AD to the return of Christ as seven church ages. In those letters Jesus encouraged and corrected the believers but by the end of the process the seventh age the church was in a Laodicean state.

Isaiah 4 verse 1 has a strange prophecy. "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach. "

Put in simple terms: The seven churches take hold of Christ and say we will eat our own doctrine and supply our own covering only let us be called Christian. No wonder in the seventh church age Jesus is outside the church knocking to get in but only individuals will respond.

These, and many others are all things that should be revealed at the end time. Revelation 10 v7 say that in the days of the voice of the seventh angel the mystery of God should be finished.

It takes a prophet to reveal the truth, and the prophet's message can be summarised by Revelation 18v1-4, "Come out of her my people."

This takes courage, individuality. But if you are spiritual you cannot help but respond.

