

The Four Kingdoms

Lk 21:24 — “Times of Gentiles fulfilled.”

Rom 11:25 — “Fullness of Gentiles” is not the same thing.

“Time of the Gentiles” represented by the statue of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel.

The Degeneration of world kingdoms is seen in the diminishing value of metals used. Silver is worth less than gold, bronze less than silver, iron less than bronze, and iron and clay less than iron.

The specific gravity or weight of the metals in the image declines:

Gold — 19.5

Silver — 10.47

Brass — 8

Iron — 5

Clay — 1.93

The statue is top-heavy. The four metals represent four worldwide empires that were to arise in succession from 606 BC when Babylon began to dominate Israel. The devil ruled over God’s kingdom through Babylon.

Rom 13 — Luther stumbled here. Chapter 13 is not a new idea, but a continuation of chapter 12. Romans was written before the persecution. Paul was saying be submissive as long as the word of God permits.

Luther said in effect, “Submit to Hitler.” God’s people love authority. All authority is from God.

Dan 2:37-40 — God gave Nebuchadnezzar the kingdom because Israel was not fit to rule.

Verse 44 — Not after the days of those kings, but *in* the days of those kings.

Four great empires succeeded each other in the governing of the world. The whole world lies under the power of the evil one. The governments of the world are not good, and can’t tell us what to do. Only four succeed from Nebuchadnezzar until the Kingdom of God will be set up on the Earth. This is the fifth and final kingdom (Dan 2:44).

Dan 7:22 — The saints took possession of the kingdom. Judgement is given to the saints of the most high. Presently, there is no world dominion by the fourth kingdom.

The Fifth and Final Kingdom

Rev 20:4 — Thrones mean *kingdoms*, not literal chairs.

First resurrection – martyrs, pure and holy. Not ancestors, but descendants who take their character and nature from our Master Yahshua. We are in the generation that will not see death before all things are fulfilled. Mt

24:32 — They will see it begin and end.

- a. Babylonian — Dan 2:37-40, head of gold;
- b. Medio/Persian — Silver breast;
- c. Greek — Brass or bronze belly;
- d. Roman – Iron legs.

These are four great monarchies. The fourth kingdom did something that was unique which the others didn’t do — they crucified the Messiah, then became Christian under the devil and will rise again in the last days for judgment, as the ten nations of the EEC under a federal head will persecute believers.

Babylon — Dan 2:38, First kingdom (head of gold);

Medio/Persian — Dan 5:30-31;

Greek — Dan 8:20-21;

Roman — Dan 7:15-20.

The character of the metals composing the statue is the cause of its deterioration. The governments degenerate in character and quality from the first to the fourth, but the fifth is entirely of another source altogether, not made by human hands but by the God of heaven, working in humans, cut out by Messiah himself (Dan 2:44-45). They are His very own character and image, descendants of the progenitor by the Spirit given to those who obey the

Lamb, who are made into His likeness.

The foundation of Messiah is a rock foundation. It is an eternally stable structure, a city with foundations built by God. Every stone is quarried out of same rock. So, your own character hasn't been brought into correspondence with the character of Messiah. How then can we have any hope in its construction?

Isa 51:1; Mt 16:18 — How can we build with substandard materials? A stone with another quality other than the foundation won't stand the strain of the load imposed upon it. Our attempts to build will only result in breakdown. Therefore we must see to it that no one misses the grace of God. We don't have time to do anything but build, as in the days of Nehemiah, not looking out for ourselves. Many problems in our work arise from a radical defect in the lives of God's servants, and calls for radical correction.

Some of us got off on a fundamentally, constitutionally rotten foundational error, like Baptists. The Lamb refashioned Peter until his character conformed with his name. Therefore, beware how you name your children. We see how the first church degenerated into the Roman Catholic Church — a marvelous model of degeneration. We'll be the only people obedient to the Old Testament standard of child training. Gen 18:19 — God chose Abraham that he might command his children. Everyone down throughout history has been negligent in this! But the church in the last generation won't be negligent. This is how the posterity of Abraham will live. This is the preserving of his seed. This is righteousness and justice. This is the prophecy to Abraham, which cannot come about apart from the faithfulness of God's people. You can see the grace a person has by how he trains his children.

Every daughter of the fallen church of Rome is a daughter of the harlot, and takes her character from the harlot. The seven hills of Rome is the center of Christian world.

Mal 3:1 — "Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me. And the lord who you seek will suddenly come to his temple." The character of the king/head will be ingrained into the last church. There will be proper footing (motives), foundation (rock), and superstructure.

Resisting or repressing — if we just ~~repress~~ our sins they will come up at a later date. We must deny the pleasure of self, bosom sins.

If knowing we have eternal security causes us to grow dull and to fall away, then we don't have it. There is no grace without eternal security. We must distinguish between a doctrine of eternal security that the Baptists adhere to regardless of life, and eternal security as a reality.

1 Cor 14:1 — Especially that you prophesy. Pursue love and that you especially would prophesy. If pure prophecy doesn't come forth, then we are in serious trouble.

Eph 4:11-16 — The very work of Messiah himself. The kingdom is made without human hands or human motivation. Mal 3:1 is the same thing.

The power of the first kingdom was absolute monarchy — Babylon/Gold. Dan 5:9 — There is nothing like that going on today.

The second kingdom is silver — inferior. It was a hereditary aristocracy, a monarchy dependant on support of a hereditary aristocracy. The king couldn't do as he willed. Dan 6:12-16 — Darius couldn't save Daniel or Esther (Esther 8:3-10). This was the Persian empire.

The third kingdom is bronze — Alexander the Great. It was a monarchy supported by a military aristocracy, weak as the ambition of its leaders.

The fourth kingdom shows greater depreciation. Caesar, elected by people in name only. No real form of government in the pure sense of the word. It was an autocratic democracy, worse than a democracy. Caesars were first called the "Magistrates of the State." They wore no diadem, but only a laurel crown of a successful commander general. Supposedly had the Senate control and counsel them. This empire remained metallic and coherent. Iron is more perishable than brass and so forth. It becomes corroded and rusts, but is able to cut through other metals.

Gold is malleable;

Silver — less so;

Brass — even less;

Iron — rigid, an inflexible, insensitive beast. Rome had an iron rule. The great statue grew weaker and weaker

until the feet and toes become iron and clay. The government degenerates from an absolute monarchy to an autocratic, dictatorial democracy, where people largely have a say so, at least through public opinion. A democracy crucified Messiah. Democracy is the result of the degenerative character of lawlessness. It teaches man to rebel.

Babylon — 606 BC;

Medes and Persians — 538 BC;

Greece — 330 BC;

Rome — 30 BC.

e. BC — Israel, the northern kingdom, taken by Assyria.

606 BC — Judah, the southern kingdom, taken by Babylon. Judah returned after 70 (or 56 years). A fair but few representation of Israel returned (Jms 1:1; Gal 6:14 —the church is the Israel of God).

There are three classes of people on the earth according to the scriptures:

f. Jews;

g. Gentiles;

h. The Church (made of both Jews and Gentiles).