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The Prophetic History of the World

Lesson Forty-One

1. Among the captives taken at Jerusalem and carried to Babylon, who were the most prominent?

“Now among these were of the children of Judah, _____, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.” Daniel 1:6.

2. Who was Nebuchadnezzar?

“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, came Nebuchadnezzar _____ unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.” Daniel 1:1.

3. What caused sleep to depart from Nebuchadnezzar?

“And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar _____, wherewith _____ was _____, and his sleep brake from him.” Daniel 2:1.

4. When he appealed to his magicians for an interpretation of his dream, what did they say?

“The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king’s matter...And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except _____, whose dwelling is not _____.” Daniel 2:10, 11.

5. In his anger, what decree did the king make?

“For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and _____ to _____ of _____.” Daniel 2:12.

6. To avoid suffering the consequences of the decree, what did Daniel do?

“Then Daniel _____, and desired of the _____ that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation.” Daniel 2:16.

7. After he and his three companions had prayed to God about the matter, how was the interpretation made known?

“Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night _____.” Daniel 2:19.

8. Afterward, when Daniel was brought in before the king, what question was asked him?

“Art thou able to make known unto me the _____ which I have _____, and the _____?” Daniel 2:26.

9. What humble and impressive answer did Daniel return?

“_____, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.” Daniel 1:28.

10. What had the king seen in his dream?

“Thou, O king, sawest, and behold _____. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the _____.” Daniel 2:31.

11. Of what were the different parts of the image composed?

“This image’s head was of _____, his breast and his arms of _____, his belly and his thighs of _____, his legs of _____, his feet part of iron and part of clay.” Daniel. 2:32, 33.

12. What did the king see happen to the image?

“Thou sawest till that a _____ was cut out without hands, which _____ the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and _____ them to pieces.” Daniel 2:34.

13. What then took place?

“Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and gold, _____ together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors;...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” Daniel 2:35.

14. Having told the dream, how did Daniel proceed to explain the 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 thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. _____.” Daniel 2:37, 38.

Note: “Now opens one of the sublimest chapters of human history. Eight short verses of the inspired record tell the whole story; yet that story embraces the history of this world’s pomp and power. A few moments will suffice to commit it to memory; yet the period which it covers, commencing more than twenty-five centuries ago, reaches on from that far-distant point past the rise and fall of kingdoms, past the setting up and overthrow of empires, past cycles and ages, past our own day, over into the eternal state. It is so comprehensive that it embraces all this; yet it is so minute that it gives us all the great outlines of earthly kingdoms from that time to this.” Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, p. 43.

In the year 606 B.C., Jerusalem was taken by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, and the third year of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, The Babylonian kingdom. Therefore, comes at this point into the field of prophecy.

15. What was to be the nature of the next kingdom after Babylon?

“After thee shall arise another kingdom _____ to thee.” Daniel 2:39.

16. Who was the last Babylonian king?

“In that night was _____. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.” Daniel 5:30, 31; see verses 1, 2.

17. To whom was Belshazzar’s kingdom given?

“The kingdom is divided, and given to the _____.” Daniel 5:28.

Note: Cyaxares, king of the Medes, who is called Darius in Daniel 5:31, summoned to his aid his nephew Cyrus, of the Persian line, in his efforts against the Babylonians...Cyrus, resolved to accomplish by stratagem what he could not effect by force; and learning of the approach of an annual festival, in which the whole city would be given up to mirth and revelry, he fixed upon that day as the time to carry his purpose into execution. There was no entrance for him into that city except where the river Euphrates entered and emerged, passing under its walls. He resolved to make the channel of the river his own highway into the stronghold of his enemy. To do this, the water must be turned aside from its channel through the city...On the evening of the feast-day, he detailed three bodies of soldiers, the first, to turn the river at a given hour into a large artificial lake a short distance above the city; the second, to take their station at the point where the river entered the city; the third, to take a position fifteen miles below, where the river emerged from the city; and these two latter parties were instructed to enter the channel, just as soon as they found the river fordable, and in the darkness of the night explore their way beneath the walls, and press on to the palace of the king, where they were to meet, surprise and palace, slay the guards, and capture or slay the king...Darius the Median took the kingdom in B. C. 538.” Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 48-50.

18. By what symbol is the Medo-Persian Empire elsewhere represented?

“The _____ which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.” Daniel 8:20.

Note: This ram was first introduced in verses 2-4.

19. What beast was seen to come against him?

“An _____ came from the west on the face of the whole earth...And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.” Daniel 8:5, 6.

20. What was the result of this contest?

“And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns...Therefore the _____ waxed _____.” Daniel 8:7, 8.

21. What did the goat represent?

“And the rough goat _____.” Daniel 8:21.

Note: Grecia succeeded Medo-Persia.

22. By what is Grecia represented in the image?

“And another _____, which shall bear rule over all the earth.” Daniel 2:39.

Note: It is not necessary to the fulfillment of the prophecy that any one of these empires should have every class of people, and every isolated country under its absolute sway. Babylon never conquered Grecia or Rome. The idea of universality in the case of these kingdoms may be understood in this way: When one of them came to the front, it became the great and over towering object in the political world, and in this sense was spoken of as having universal power. All nations stood in awe of it, as was the case with the tribes in and around the Palestine when they heard of the successful passage of the Red Sea by the Israelites, and of their great victory over Pharaoh. Thus Rahab said to the spies of Israel: “I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.” Joshua 2:9. Such expressions are still common. We say of a custom, that is universal; but we do not mean that every person in the world adopts it: it has simply gained prominence enough to command respect everywhere without opposition. In this sense it carries a power that is universal. So with these prophetic empires. None could successfully withstand them; hence they were said to be universal.

23. What is said of the fourth kingdom?

“And the fourth kingdom _____: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, _____.” Daniel 2:40.

Note: If the first three kingdoms were universal, and the fourth stronger than all the others, that, too, must have been universal. Two universal empires cannot exist simultaneously; hence if we find a fourth universal empire, it must be the one denoted by the legs of iron.

24. Where is such a power brought to view?

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from _____, that all the world should be taxed.” Luke 2:1.

Note: The fact that the Roman emperor here mentioned had power to tax (enroll for taxation) the whole world, shows that his jurisdiction extended thus far.

25. What was indicated by the mixture of clay and iron in the feet and toes?

“And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter’s clay, and part of iron, _____.” Daniel 2:41.

Note: The presence of clay with the iron indicates the weakness that came into the empire through the growing luxury and effeminacy of its people. This made the kingdom an easy prey to the various tribes of barbarians who inhabited those vast regions lying north and

east of Western Rome. By these the Western empire of Rome was broken up into ten divisions.

The ten nations most instrumental in breaking up the Roman Empire are: The Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons, and Lombards. These names are still traceable to the names of several modern countries of Europe.

26. What is to take place in the days of these kings?

“And in the days of these kings shall the _____ set up a _____, which shall never be _____: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” Daniel 2:44.

Note: “This shows that at the time the kingdom of God is set up, there will be several kings existing at the same time. It cannot refer to the four preceding kingdoms; but the ten kingdoms. We know that God’s kingdom is still in the future, because the ten kingdoms are yet in existence; and this could not be if God’s kingdom here spoken of had been set up, or that is to destroy and take the place of the ten.” Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, p. 63.

27. Can there be any doubt regarding the fulfillment of this prophecy?

“The great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the _____ is certain, and the _____.” Daniel 2:45.

Note: History corroborates the predictions of this prophecy up to the very last specification, and we can readily believe that this, too, will be fulfilled as certainly as all others. How fully the inspiration of the Bible is vindicated, can be known only by the study of the prophetic word.