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3-21-1982

## The Panorama of Empires: Babylon and the Medes and Persians, Part 2

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### Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "The Panorama of Empires: Babylon and the Medes and Persians, Part 2" (1982). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Daniel*. 4.

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A PANORAMA OF EMPIRES  
(Continued)

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL  
NUMBER 6  
DANIEL 2:31-33

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DANIEL 2:31-33 "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."

Once again we are to study the image of Daniel Chapter 2. We have already been studying verses 31 and 32.

DANIEL 2:31 "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." The king actually saw this vision. In reality, you don't see things with your eyes but with your mind. So although Nebuchadnezzar was asleep, he dreamed and as he dreamed he saw this amazing image. You actually see with your soul, therefore, even without a resurrection body you will be able to see with the eyes of the soul.

DANIEL 2:32-33 "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." We will be in the study of this image in the next two chapters. Last time we studied the head of gold which represented the Chaldean Empire.

DANIEL 2:38 "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. Thou art this head of gold." So we don't have to guess what this head of gold is. We know, for the Bible spells it out for us. We also studied the arms and the chest and this we saw was the Median-Persian Empire, or as it is called in history the Persian Empire. Verses 36-43 explain this.

"His belly and his thighs of brass." Many relics we have from the ancient world are in brass and many of them are from Greek civilization. The Greeks were made up of many kinds of people. In the far north were the Macedonians and they were the mountain people. Then we have the Achaean Greeks who are thought to have migrated from north of the Danube about 1300 B.C. To the south were the Spartans and also the Athenian Greeks. They were always fighting among themselves and therefore, they didn't seem to have much interest in conquering the whole world. Now the Macedonians had a king by the name of Philip, II and he was the creator of the Macedonian army. He was an organizational genius. The same time he started organizing his little army they discovered gold, and that gave them all the resources they needed. Then he did something else. He went over into Epirus and there he saw what he thought was the most beautiful redhead in all the world. She was so beautiful her father said she should have been a boy, so her father called her Olympias. Philip married her and they had a child and named him Alexander. Along with Julius Caesar he was a genius and helped lay the foundation for the coming of Christ to the world. Philip found out that his Macedonian people didn't know how to fight but the Thebans did. He went down and saw their drill and from it he developed the Macedonian phalanx. He realized that he would need good business procedure and he selected a treasurer. Then he got a teacher for Alexander named Aristotle. Alexander went through a strenuous health program and developed a fantastic body. Aristotle at first thought Alexander was dumb and reported that he was making D and C grades on his report card and really wasn't going to amount to much. But the trouble with that analysis of Alexander was that he had other things on his mind and he was far ahead of his time. Later on Aristotle discovered he had a genius on his hands and began to prepare Alexander for his worldwide work.

About this time the other sections of Greece realized Philip was preparing for conquest. So they all got together and organized a Pan-Hellenic army to stop Philip. However, Philip walked out of Macedonia with his well-trained army and defeated all of them. He went to Corinth and dictated a peace treaty. He told them that they must recognize him as the head of Greece and when they hesitated, he called in his army and they all signed the peace treaty quickly. So Philip became the head of Greece. His enemies began to plot how they would kill him and they did. They said they would much rather have his dumb son, Alexander, than to have Philip. That was the day they sealed their doom, for that day Alexander walked into that throne room and he began to show them things they had never seen before. He showed them many things that hadn't been put on that report card. He put together the finest army in the history of Greece. He went to Athens and Corinth and Thebes and asked each for a certain number of men for he told them, "I am going to conquer the world." But they told him they didn't want to fight anyone and they began to tear up their draft cards. So he walked in with his army and took over.

About this time Alexander found that in his army were men from all different sections of Greece and when he gave commands they didn't understand him. He realized he must design a language so definite and exact that when he gave a command they would know exactly what he meant. So he began to work on a common Greek language, and this language eventually became the language in which the New Testament was written. His Macedonians were mountain people, so they spoke a mountain dialect. The Spartans were fighters and they had a very crude language. The people at Athens were the intellectuals and they had a vocabulary that the other Greeks didn't understand. Alexander took this conglomeration of languages and built a new Greek for his army. This came to be the Koine Greek in which the New Testament was written. The Greeks took about 400 years to perfect this language, but it came to be the most exact language ever used by man.

Alexander called together 30,000 men and they moved out. With them he crossed the Hellespont. This is the land we call modern Turkey. This is what we call Asia Minor. At first the Persian Empire laughed at his little army of 30,000 men. But this was the last time they would laugh. This was in 334 B.C. and in the next few years Alexander fought three battles that changed world history.

The first was the Battle of Granicus and in this battle he conquered all of Asia Minor. Then he moved over into Palestine and on into Egypt and in the Battle of Issus he conquered Egypt and Northern Africa. Then finally he fought the Persians at the Battle of Arbella and after these three battles he had conquered the whole Persian Empire.

DANIEL 2:32 "This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass," So here in verse 32 we go from the arms and the breast of silver to the belly and thighs of brass. Alexander the Great had arrived. He didn't live too much longer, but before he died he moved his conquest all the way to India and he conquered Northern India. He moved against the Tartar tribes and he forced the passes of the Hindu Kush, and conquered the mountain people of Afghanistan. It never has been done since.

Then Alexander became bored with life. He went on a great march and outwalked most of his army. He made generals out of all those who were able to stay up with him. At one stop in India he had to wait for his army, for they were scattered over a distance of 300 miles. Alexander the Great was an amazing personal fighter and one of the world's greatest generals. He got bored and began to drink heavily and this was the cause of his untimely death at the age of 32. Alexander went back to Babylon to drink. Babylon couldn't conquer anything at that time but it conquered Alexander the Great and in 323 B.C. he died. His liver couldn't take the heavy drinking. On his death bed someone asked him who was going to inherit the empire and he replied, "To the strongest."

Four generals of Alexander sat down and divided the empire.

1. Seleucus took Syria. This included all of Syria to the borders of India.
2. Ptolemy took all of Egypt and ruled from 323 until the death of Cleopatra who was the last of the line of the Ptolemies. This family ruled the longest of all the four.
3. Cassander took his home land and all of Macedonia and Greece.
4. Lycinius took Asia Minor.

So this ended the empire that was built by Philip and Alexander the Great.

DANIEL 2:33 "His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay." Next, notice the legs of iron. The first Roman Empire reached out and took over all that had been the empire of Alexander the Great. This happened about 200 B.C. The Romans began to move. Some shepherds had formed a little colony on the banks of the Tiber and it soon became a city state. Then they reached out and took in southern and northern Italy and then they moved out and took in the whole world. From that village of shepherds it grew to be the great world empire. By 200 B.C. Rome was one of the five great nations in the Mediterranean world. The battle for supremacy in the Mediterranean world actually began about 264 B.C. and ended about 166 B.C. In the west there were two nations--Rome and Carthage and in the east there were three nations--Syria, Greece and Egypt. These five great empires struggled until one became dominant. All of these empires finally came to be under Rome and this is the empire in the statue called "The legs of iron."

Rome eliminated Carthage in the three Punic wars. Then they eliminated Macedonia. They then destroyed Greece and then took Egypt. So the Romans made the Mediterranean a Roman empire and it included all we call modern Europe clear up to the Danube and Rhine. The Adriatic Sea divided the Roman empire. All on the western side became Latin and on the eastern side it became Greek culture. So here are two great cultures standing side by side. Then you have the struggle of these two cultures and finally the combining of the two. Rome discovered Greek culture and reached out and embraced it, brought it in and gave it laws and a system of morality to go with the laws. Rome gave them a love for law and discipline and in a great many ways Greek culture took over the Romans and that's where all the trouble came from. This brought on almost 100 years of civil wars from about 146 to 49 B.C. they had civil wars. During that period many reformers arose. One group would get in power and kill the others out and it went back and forth that way for a long time. In the midst of all these civil wars, Rome was about to be destroyed and then three people came on the scene.

1. Pompey the Great who conquered Jerusalem in 63 B.C.
2. Crassus who was the richest man in the world.
3. Julius Caesar the greatest genius ever produced by the Roman Empire.

Julius Caesar eliminated the other two and took over the empire and in five years he established principles that caused the empire to last for almost 500 years. The work of this man paved the way for the fulfillment of those words "In the fullness of time Christ came." Twice Rome brought perfect peace to all the world, something that had not happened for many centuries. Those two periods of peace came during the lifetime of Christ and during the beginning of the Church Age.

1. Through decadence and civil war, Rome was on the verge of collapse and Julius Caesar came upon the scene and just in the right moment prevented that collapse.
2. Julius Caesar became a great benefactor, saved the empire and prepared the world for the coming of Christ.
3. This does not imply that a dictatorship is right, but at that particular time in history it proved to be the force that saved the day.

4. In a democracy, a democracy depends upon a number of very strong people. In a monarchy or a dictatorship the success of it depends on the genius of the dictator. When you have a decadent nation like Rome was at that time, it can't depend on the people for they were too far gone. The people had simply fallen apart. The rich had become richer, the poor had become poorer, and they had lost their middle class. Right at that moment Julius Caesar moved onto the scene and designed the system that saved the empire for centuries. All the evils that finally did destroy the empire 500 years later were there when Julius Caesar stepped in. Ruin was eminent in 49 B.C. and in five years he had set in motion forces that saved the empire.

After Julius Caesar was eliminated, Octavius came on the scene and picked up the system and with the help of Agricola and Herod the Great, Augustus Caesar came to have great power and in the midst of his rule Jesus Christ was born at exactly the right time. "The fullness of time." All the streams of ancient history flow into the lake called Rome, and all the streams of modern history flow out of Rome. So this is called the golden age. And even though very sorry people like Tiberias and Nero followed in the system, they couldn't destroy the system. The system brought the "PAX ROMANA", the Roman peace. Jesus Christ was able to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world and be resurrected and ascend and the Church Age began--all this took place under "Pax Romana." In spite of these incompetent men, the system carried on. Then in 64 A.D. to 70 A.D. the flurry came because God was placing the Jews under the fifth cycle of discipline, and in 70 A.D. Jerusalem was destroyed. The conqueror of Jerusalem became the head of the Roman Empire and the era of the Flavian Caesars began. Then came Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian. Domitian was a great persecutor of Christians and he is the one who threw John into exile on the Isle of Patmos. When he died the Bible was being completed and then the world moved into a second period of worldwide peace. A new set of Caesars came to the throne known as the Antonine Caesars from 96 A.D. to 192 A.D. and that was the second period of worldwide peace.

1. The golden age for Judah came from 516 B.C. to 323 B.C.
2. Another age of peace was under Augustus and Tiberias.
3. Then after the Bible was completed, another age of peace.

Other Caesars were Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonius Pius, and Marcus Aurelius.

There was no fighting anywhere except on the far rim of the empire, like on the Danube and Rhine and the Euphrates, but they were very little wars. The soldiers were all out on the borders. This last great period of peace was based on Bible doctrine. They went out and tried to conquer some tribes on the far rim of the empire. Now the explanation of this peace is quite simple. From 32 A.D. to 96 A.D. we had maximum evangelism and it resulted in a generation of believers and as the result of Bible Doctrine, the world had an era of peace. The impact of Bible Doctrine brought 100 years of peace and fantastic development.

Only twice during the "legs of iron" did the world have peace. One came with the birth and life of Christ and the result of his gospel. The second came when the Bible was completed and there was maximum evangelism and Bible doctrine saved the day.

Then the world lost interest in Bible doctrine and started looking for the second blessing, for some kind of a thrill, for tongues and concepts of Coliseum-type of entertainment. They began to emphasize emotion and then God hit them with a series of emperors like Diocletian all the way down to Constantine. And in 312 under Constantine there was a resurgence of doctrine. The "legs of iron" were about to go down when Theodosius came along and conquered the Goths. Then the empire was divided.

Theodosius had two sons and one ruled in Rome and one ruled in Constantinople. This is why the iron image had two legs--the Eastern and Western Empires. Then believers lost interest again in Bible doctrine. Then came the Germans, made up of the Goths and Vandals and Franks and Saxons. Then came the Mongolians and in 476 A.D. Odovacar conquered Rome. The Roman emperor at that time was just a boy named Romulus Augustus the Little. He was the last emperor of the Roman Empire and this ends the legs of Iron.

DANIEL 2:33 "His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay." Now we have come to the feet, part of iron and part of clay and this is the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation. The Roman Empire went underground. Then later came the Holy Roman Empire and it went out and now we live in that part of history when the Roman Empire is broken up. But eventually it will come back again and come together. Ten nations will combine in a power block and in the Tribulation we have the feet of iron and clay when Christ will return he will destroy this revived Roman Empire. Rome is in opposition to Christianity both politically and religiously.

DANIEL 2:34 "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." Christ is the stone cut out of the mountain without hands--and this stone will destroy the revived Roman Empire. Rome is going to lose in the Second Advent.

We are going to see the rise and fall of empires in Daniel. Now where is the United States in all this? We simply do not find the United States in prophesy. We might be a part of this revived Roman Empire. We might be part of the feet of iron and clay, and we might be the clay. One thing is obvious - the clay is subservient to the iron. If the clay is the United States, then we would be subject to Rome. All born again believers will be gone. Some things are now happening that may indicate the Rapture of the Church is near.

The United States is mentally and culturally under the influence of Western Europe. We are under the influence of 17th Century rationalism and 19th Century German Rationalism. Millions of Americans worship at the shrine of Spinoza and Kant and the French Revolution. Though hundreds of thousands flow to Europe every summer to worship at the shrine of their decadence, remember no freedom was there. **MENTALLY, WE ARE ENSLAVED BY WESTERN EUROPE.**

1. We are ready for the Tribulation for we worship at the shrine of Western Europe
2. Millions of Americans recognize a man in Rome as the highest authority in the world--The Pope. Their allegiance is to a man seated on the Papal throne in Rome. Some of them are born again in spite of this, but he comes first with them.
3. Financially we are giving money to them in a fantastic way. Draining away their gold was the downfall of the Roman Empire in the first time around and it may be our downfall.
4. We are tied into their military machine. We are tied into Nato and in with Western Europe.

So in many ways we are controlled by Europe. We are the slaves of Europe. They take billions from us and then they slap us in the face. I believe we are the clay here in this statue. We don't look very good here. I love the idea, if we are the clay. Clay is nothing until it is in the hands of the potter. This tells us we are helpless without him. Clay is a perfect illustration of grace. We still have millions of born again people and the day we say goodbye to the Word of God, we are gone.