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THE STONE CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN WHICH SMOTE THE IMAGE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL
NUMBER 7
DANIEL 2:34-49

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In our last study we saw the Roman Empire and the relationship of that empire to Bible doctrine. It illustrates the principle of "The fulness of time" and also the principle of the influence of Bible doctrine on a nation and on the world.

There was a little article in the paper recently which was of great interest. The article told of a farmer who was plowing in Rome and he plowed up a solid gold image of Marcus Aurelius. This particular statue hasn't been evaluated yet, but it is probably worth a million dollars. People are very interested in how they made it and in what kind of gold it has in it. But the interesting thing is that the people of Rome knew immediately who the statue represented. They have many other statues of him. The farmer was wise enough to take it to the government and one day you will see it in the museum in Rome.

Now in our last study we studied the last part of the image. Legs of iron and feet and toes of iron and clay. There are several things of great importance in the study of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar, the greatest genius of the ancient world, formulated a plan in five years which was so fantastic it stabilized the empire for 500 years. His nephew, Octavius Augustus, finally came to the throne after several civil wars and we had the golden age of Augustus and it was during the reign of Augustus Caesar that Jesus Christ came into the world. This was the first great period of PAX ROMANA. Jesus Christ lived during the time of the Julian Caesars which ended up with Nero. Now during the time of the Antonine Caesars we have a most interesting time in the earth. By that time Bible doctrine had had great influence in the earth and as a result we had the greatest era of peace ever known in history with a maximum number living in perfect peace. This was 96 A.D. to 192 A.D. The Canon of Scripture had been completed. Then came Nerva and Trajan and Hardian to the throne. Then came Marcus Aurelius and his crazy son Commidus. This is a period of about 100 years, one of the greatest periods of world history. Monson, one of the greatest historians of all times says--"If an angel of the Lord were to strike a balance whether civilization or national prosperity, it makes no difference, generally have advanced or retrograded it is very doubtful whether the decision would be in favor of our present era." So he says that history favors the Roman period as the greatest in history. And Gibbon, whom many of you have read, believes that if man were to choose that period of history in which he would like to have lived he would be bound to choose that period of history under the Antonine Caesars. Now I know there are even historians who tried to prove that Christianity had something to do with the fall of the Roman Empire. But these two historians I have quoted said they would rather have lived in that period that was influenced by Bible doctrine. This is the one period in all history that stands out as the period influenced the most by Bible doctrine. It was a period of fantastic peace and prosperity and calm. You could walk into any city in the ancient world and find perfect peace. Everything had been influenced by Bible doctrine and the influence of Christianity carried the empire.

We terminated with the phrase "his feet, part of iron and part of clay". We saw that this was the revived Roman Empire and the iron represented the old nations within the revived empire, and the clay represented

something entirely different from Rome, and this is probably the U.S.A. and other nations. The clay represents something entirely out of the Roman Empire and had no contact with Rome.

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." This stone cut out of the mountain is none other than Jesus Christ.

DANIEL 2:35 "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." All of these former empires were destroyed at one time and this is the second coming of Jesus Christ. The stone became a great mountain. This is the 1,000 year reign of Christ. Now as we have moved from one empire to another in this study we have noted their connection and influence over the Jews. After the Jews returned from Babylon they had one golden age, when they were under maximum influence of Bible doctrine. This was 516 B.C. to 323 B.C. Then the world had another golden age under doctrine, 98 A.D. to 192 A.D. Pompey came in and took over the Jews for Rome in 63 B.C. and this occupation lasted until 70 A.D. when Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Jews were put under discipline. Now this is what Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. Now while the Jews are out under discipline, the Church age is going on. When the Church age ends, then the Tribulation will come, at the end of which Christ will return and smash the image. Nebuchadnezzar eventually became a believer. Cyrus was a believer. Now Alexander The Great was not a believer, but he favored the Jews and gave them places of leadership in his empire. Then when the Roman Empire came along Satan gained control and will continue in control until the Revived Roman Empire will be smashed. From 2 Thess. 2: 7-11 we know that Satan is being restrained by the Holy Spirit in the church age. During that time there will be international organizations and principles devised by Satan to improve man's environment, yet both are satanic in nature. The Holy Spirit, through the church age, is hindering the formation of the Revived Roman Empire and it will not be revived until the church is removed from the earth. "The one who hinders will continue to hinder" and that one is none other than the Holy Spirit. During all this time of the church age, Satan will foster many false systems. Now the Revived Roman Empire will not be constituted until the beginning of the Tribulation. It will be in the mill, in the process, but will not be a reality until the church is removed. 2 Thess. 2:8--This is the very same language we find in Daniel. He will smash the image at his feet, he will smash the Revived Roman Empire. This is the same as the stone without hands cut out of the mountain and smashing the image.

2 THESS. 2:9 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders," The one who is coming is the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire. These signs and miracles and lying wonders are miracles and tongues. The Roman Empire fell the first time in 476 A.D. when Romulus Augustus was emperor. Odevakar, the German, took over and put an end to the Roman Empire. But the Roman Empire comes up in mystery form and it appears as a religious organization--so in history we have the Holy Roman Empire. But this is a mystery form and it appeared at certain times and it appeared

that it would conquer everything but there was always a restraining power, always a hindrance. It never succeeded in establishing the old boundaries. (Even Mussolini attempted to do this and the maps are still up on the walls near the coliseum, showing how he thought he might do this. He didn't quite make it.) The mystery form was the Holy Roman Empire and this was religion--and today we see religion doing the very same thing. This Revived Roman Empire will be a political unit made up of ten nations, as described in Daniel 10. It will have a religious aspect to it, and we will study tonight the ecumenical religion of the Tribulation, but it will be restrained, it will be held back until the church is taken away.

2 THESS. 2:10 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." They are built on lying and deceit. The love of the truth refers to Bible doctrine.

2 THESS. 2:11 "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie;" For this reason God will send them strong delusion. This is the perpetuation of negative volition which causes them to accept this false system.

DANIEL 2: 35 "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." The stone that smote the image is The Lord Jesus Christ. It became a great mountain and this is the 1,000 year reign. Christ will personally rule on this earth. There will be no religion on the earth at that time. Satan will be bound for a thousand years. Christ will be personally present. Every believer will be filled with the Spirit. Discipline to the Jews will be over and they will be back in the land. Swords will be beaten into plow shares. The earth will be filled with doctrine. Isaiah 11:9. Everyone will live by the love of doctrine. There will be a radical change in nature. Creation will be relieved from the bondage of sin. This curse came on nature in the Garden of Eden when man sinned, and that curse will be removed. Animals will lose their fierce nature. There will be perfect prosperity. Now we are going to move into that section of Daniel and see how Daniel gives an interpretation to the image.

DANIEL 2:36 "This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king." This is the dream. The word "We" is an editorial we. He simply means he is an instrument of the Lord and the instrument is actually Bible doctrine. Nebuchadnezzar could not understand the image for at that time he was not a believer. This is doctrine interpreting the course of history. This is the panorama of nations. You will not study it this way in history classes. History today is interpreted by the liberals. So many of our historians today are in favor of socialism and have stated their philosophy "the greatest good for the greatest number". History today has come to be propaganda for liberal philosophy and socialism. But here in Daniel we get a divine interpretation of history.

DANIEL 2:37 "Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory." The King of Kings in the Greek New Testament refers to Christ but here in the Hebrew it is an idiom meaning "You are an unusual king". It means he is a king who is going to be saved. Please notice that the Bible says God gave Nebuchadnezzar this empire. He didn't work himself up and take it on his own. Power here refers to military and political power. Strength means personal ability. Glory means personal glamour. Nebuchadnezzar was a God-raised up man to do a certain task in history.

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." This is the domination of Nebuchadnezzar. He was over men, beasts and fowl. "Thou art the head of gold". So once again we go back to the image and we know we are on solid ground. We are not guessing here. We know the head of Gold is C.E., and not Christian Endeavor but Chaldean Empire. Sometimes this is called the Neo-Babylonian Empire. He is the head of gold and we will see later how he will accept Christ as Saviour. This is in chapter 4. Nebuchadnezzar is going to become a believer as the result of the testimony of Daniel. They put a prayer on his tomb when he died and I will read for you a translation of the hieroglyphics from the prayer of Nebuchadnezzar--"Thou hast created me. Set thou the fear of thy divine power in my heart. (He wanted to be guided by Jesus Christ). Give me what seemeth to be good unto thee since thou dost maintain my life (He sought guidance in his prayer)."

DANIEL 2:39 "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." This is Persia and we have studied it and the next one is Greece and we have studied this one also.

DANIEL 2:40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise." This fourth one is Rome. The Roman Empire dominated the Mediterranean World for almost 500 years.

The Doctrine of The Great Parenthesis

The Old Testament Scriptures speak of certain things prophetically. In the Old Testament there is prophesy concerning Jesus--his life, his death, his resurrection, his ascension and his being seated at God's right hand. But then the Old Testament Scriptures become silent and there is not one word in the Old Testament about the church or the Church Age. Nothing in the Old Testament about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the rapture of the church, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of Christ. Nothing about the completed Canon of Scripture. In the Old Testament we have much about the Tribulation, about the second coming of Christ, and about the millennial reign of Christ. And this is what we call THE GREAT PARENTHESIS. This is the gap, this is an intercalation.

Between verses 40 and 41 we have this parenthesis and in verse 41 we have come down to the Tribulation. Between verses 40 and 41 the Church Age takes place, but it is never mentioned. We know from three passages that we have no mention of the Church Age in the Old Testament. Ephesians 3:1-6 Colossians 1:25-26 and Romans 16:25-26. The word

"mystery" is used. The church age had been hidden from them, but now revealed. Now the Old Testament reveals things about the church age and the 5th cycle of discipline to the Jews which leads up to the church age. But in the Old Testament there is no doctrine of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and positional truth.

There are other passages like this in Daniel 7:23 and 24. There is a gap there also. We will see a gap in Daniel 11:35 and 36 and in Hosea 3:4 and 5 and in Isaiah 61:1 and 2. All these have a gap. The Revived Roman Empire will begin to form before The Tribulation--but it will not take over until the Tribulation begins. It will be consolidated into a ten nation federation and ecumenical religion during the Tribulation.

DANIEL 2:41 "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay." The old Roman Empire plus the U.S.A. and other nations of our hemisphere. This is the ten nation federation.

DANIEL 2:42 "And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken." Toes of the feet, and there are ten of them. The kingdom will be partly strong and partly weak. The indication here is that the weak broken part is the U.S.A. and the Western hemisphere. I can't review all I said last time about the U.S.A. but the U.S.A. will be subservient to the Roman Empire. This is already demonstrated culturally. From Descarte and Spinoza right down to the present time we worship at the shrine of Europe. This is the thing our forefathers left Europe for, but we go right back and fall at their feet. We bow at their shrine and their food and styles and customs dictate to us. We bow ten times and say "Allah" and they have us totally enslaved. Many admire the decadence of Western Europe but if there were no U.S.A. there wouldn't be any Western Europe today. Who liberated France in the Second World War? We did! But almost every waiter in France who is truly French will insult you every time. They will take your money and spit in your face and they will make you love it and lap it up. If England says "Don't send troops in there" we bow to what they say. These people will take us down the drain if they can. Thank God we won't be here when the Tribulation comes. I advise you to accept Christ tonight and avoid these times. (What we did to the Indians, they are doing to us. Only we now shoot arrows with rubber tips. Congress has outlawed the other kind of arrows for they are dangerous. It is a tragedy but it is coming.)

DANIEL 2:43 "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, and this is religion. The Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation and the old Roman Empire in all her glory. (By this time some of you look like you have seen a ghost. But I have an ace trump and I must play it here. Turn to Revelation 17)

REVELATION 17:1 "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:" The judgment of the great whore. This is the thundering diction of the King James version. Let us call her the great prostitute, and this is religion. When the church goes out the Holy Spirit leaves and the great prostitute, religion, takes over. The prostitute gets a home and it is the ten nation federation. This is what the language "settles on many waters" means.

REVELATION 17:2 "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with wine of her fornication." The nations have accepted ecumenical religion, and this will include Israel, which was called Judah.

REVELATION 17:3 "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." The scarlet colored beast. The color of the Romans was scarlet. It had seven heads and ten horns. The seven heads connect us with the old Roman Empire. These are all the nations that dominated the Jews. Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Macedonia, Rome--and the Revived Roman Empire. This Revived Roman Empire is going to be made up of ten nations, including us of the Western Hemisphere.

REVELATION 17:4 "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:" Woman arrayed in purple and red--this is the Revived Roman Empire.

REVELATION 17:5 "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." This is religious internationalism.

REVELATION 17:6 "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." They will really go after Christians. It says, "And I was greatly shocked."

REVELATION 17:7 "And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns." He now gets ready to describe her.

REVELATION 17:8 "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." "Was" and this is imperfect tense, indicating the past. This was the Roman Empire from time of Julius Caesar until 476 A.D. Rome of the past. "And is not" and this was prophetic from the time that John wrote. Rome was destroyed in 476 A.D. Then it ascends out of the bottomless pit and this refers to the time of the Tribulation. And shall go into perdition and that is Christ arising out of the mountain and smashing the image at its toes. "And yet is" and that is the Revived Roman Empire.

REVELATION 17:9 "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth." The seven heads are the seven mountains on which the woman sitteth. Rome is made up of seven empires.

REVELATION 17:10 "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space." Seven kingdoms--96 A.D. Five are already fallen. Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Macedonia. They were already gone. One is, and that was Rome of that time. The other is not yet come, and that is the Revived Roman Empire. It will continue for a short space. The 7 years of the Tribulation.

REVELATION 17:11 "And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition." The beast is the dictator of the Revived Empire. A brief struggle for domination.

REVELATION 17:12 "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." They do not exist as yet. Now back to Daniel 2:44

DANIEL 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: 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 for ever." They are removed by the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

DANIEL 2:45 "Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." This is Christ the stone. The interpretation is doctrine. Doctrine is the interpretation of history.

DANIEL 2:46 "Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him." Nebuchadnezzar worshipped Daniel. He should have worshipped God.

DANIEL 2:47 "The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret." God is the God of Gods.

DANIEL 2:48 "Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon." Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel a great leader. But Nebuchadnezzar is going to get fat-headed when he learns that he is the head of gold.

DANIEL 2:49 "Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king." Daniel was made chief of the supreme court.