

Hymns: RHC 386 Be Thou My Vision 461 O Zion Haste 455 Go Ye into All the World

Daniel 2

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; 29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. 30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for *their* sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. 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. 32 This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 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. 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. 36 This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 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. 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. 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. 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 the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Mystery of the Great Image

OUTLINE

- (1) Transitory Nature Human Kingdoms (v27-43)
- (2) Permanency of Christ's Coming Kingdom (v34-35, 44-47)

INTRODUCTION

The great image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream was a most significant vision. God deemed fit at the fullness of time to reveal the future to mankind. The mystery of the great image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream was revealed to Daniel as an answer to prayer. Daniel desire mercies of the God of heaven. We serve a compassionate God. He is fully aware the affliction and suffering of His people and takes action to save them. This deliverance comes by way of God's special revelation. Indeed, The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day (Prov. 4:18). God's wisdom for the ages is fully revealed in His Word.

We left off our last devotion, "Going Through Trials with God" with encouragement for God's children to keep faith in the midst of trials through unceasing prayer. Daniel 2:16-23 was Daniel's testimony.

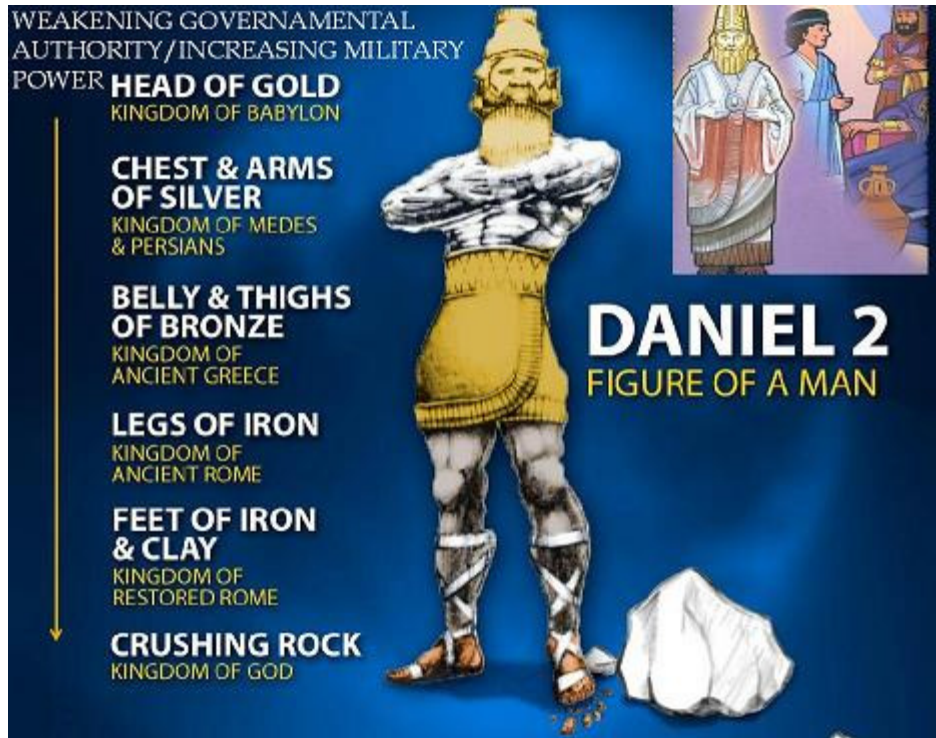
***Daniel 2:16-23** Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. **17** Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: **18** That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **19** Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **20** Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: **21** **And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:** he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: **22** He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. **23** I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.*

Two thoughts for us – **(1) Transitory Nature of Human Kingdoms (v27-43)**
(2) Permanency of Christ's Coming Kingdom (v34-35, 44-47).

(1) Transitory Nature of Human Kindgoms (v27-43)

Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue with the head of fine gold, the breast and arms are of silver, the belly and thighs are of copper or bronze, legs are of iron and the feet of part iron and part clay made with man's hands. Daniel with God's help told Nebuchadnezzar the dream and interpreted it. The head of gold is the Babylonian Empire, the breast and arms of silver is the Medo-Persian Empire to come. We know from history, the belly and thighs of brass refers to the Grecian Empire and the legs of iron refer to the Roman Empire. It was in the "leg" portion that Christ first came. The change of metals denotes deterioration

of the empire's source of power ("inferior", v39). And history tells us a study weakening of governmental power to a semblance of democracy.¹



We look at this interpretation from the proven facts of history.

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. 32 This image's head was of fine gold...37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 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.

The prophet Jeremiah has warned God's people in Judah earlier that Nebuchadnezzar would come and conquer Judah and would be granted sovereignty over the entire earth.

Jeremiah 27:6-7, 14 *And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. 7 And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him. 14 Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you.*

¹ Paul Lee Tan, A Pictorial Guide to Bible Prophecy, Bible Communications, 1992, 227.

² Adapted from <http://therightscoop.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Daniel-Ch.-2-Four-Kingdoms-Ten-Toes.jpg>

God would have granted Nebuchadnezzar to conquer the entire world, but it seemed he was stopped by God as a result of his sinful pride.³

This was the historical record written for this period in Time-Life Encyclopedia Series Great Ages of Man – Cradle of Civilization, “When, towards the end of the 7th century B.C., a young and hitherto little-known people – the Medes of the Iranian plateau – joined forces with the Chaldeans of Babylonia, they soon succeeded in toppling Assyria and laying waste Nineveh, Assur, and many other of its cities. The Assyrian giant was dead and gone and there was no one to shed a tear. For the next 75 years a line of Chaldean kings enthroned in Babylon held mastery over Mesopotamia. Under them Babylonia enjoyed a brilliant resurgence – a burst of power and glory reminiscent of the age of Hammurabi more than 1000 years earlier. The towering monarch of this so-called neo-Babylonian empire was Nebuchadnezzar II. In re-establishing Mesopotamian control over western territories lost in the debacle of Assyria’s collapse – Palestine, Syria and the rich trading cities of the Phoenician coast – he displayed almost as much ferocity as any Assyrian warlord. It was he who razed Jerusalem in 586 B.C. burned the Temple of Solomon and exiled the Jews to Babylonia. But it was also Nebuchadnezzar who beautified Babylonia. Dominating the renovated city was the fabulous Tower of Babel, a colossal ziggurat rising to a height of almost 300 feet;⁴ the city gates, palaces and temples glittered with brickwork in red, cream, blue and yellow; the artificial “hanging gardens” built by Nebuchadnezzar were so impressive that they were regarded as one of the wonders of the ancient world. Babylonia’s renaissance was as short-lived as it was splendid.” Fulfilled in Dan. 2:37-38.

On a March day in 1899, a German archaeologist named Robert Koldewey began excavating a cluster of mounds on the river Euphrates some 50 miles south of Baghdad. Working for more than a decade, he uncovered the 2,500-year-old ruins of King Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon, the mightiest city of antiquity. In its heyday, Babylon’s wealth and power had no equal in Mesopotamia. So impressive were its architectural splendours – imposing temples, soaring towers decorated with enamelled brick (showing a snarling lion’s head is part of the frieze of glazed brickwork taken from a wall in Babylon) – that the Greek historian Herodotus, wrote in the 5th century B.C., “In magnificence lay hidden under the desert, but today, working from the findings of archaeologist, scholars and artists are able to reconstruct most of the city’s finest buildings as they once stood.”⁵

39 *And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee,...*
The second kingdom was that of the Medes-Persians.

³ John C. Whitcomb, Daniel, Moody, 1985, 44.

⁴ The world’s tallest man-made structure is the 829.8 m (2,722 ft) tall [Buri Khalifa](#) in [Dubai, United Arab Emirates](#). The building gained the official title of “Tallest Building in the World” at its opening on January 4, 2010.

⁵ Samuel Noah Kramer, GREAT AGES OF MAN A history of the world’s Cultures - Cradle of Civilization, TIME-LIFE INTERNATIONAL, 1967, 147.

This is a historical record - "The rulers who followed Nebuchadnezzar were weak and vacillating. Nabonidus, the last king of Babylonia, incurred the wrath of many of his compatriots by attempting to substitute another deity for the supreme god Marduk, and the religious dissension he stirred up helped to ease the way for a conqueror with a reputation for respecting traditions of those he subjected. That conqueror was Cyrus, King of the Persians, a people who had become the predominant power in Iran by the middle of the 6th century B.C. A brilliant warrior and an outstanding statesman, Cyrus had already carved out for himself an enormous realm that reached from India to Lydia on the Aegean coast of Asia Minor. In the autumn of 539 B.C. he took Babylon with hardly a fight, and the Cradle of Civilization, now time-worn and battered, became a part of the Persian empire."⁶ We shall study this in Daniel 5 that described the fall of Babylon under Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar.

39...and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth...

The third is the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great. This was the historical record of the rise of the third empire, "Within a year of his accession Alexander extended his dominion northwards to the River Danube and westwards to the Adriatic Sea...Alexander now took on a project that Philip had planned but never carried out: an invasion of Persia. Solid political reasons led him to this decision. For a century Persia had interfered increasingly in Greek affairs and had constantly oppressed the Greek cities in Asia Minor. There was always the dangerous possibility that, under a strong king, it might increase its trouble-making and once again actively take the offensive against Greece. Alexander had personal reasons for the invasion too. Avid for glory and for identification with Greece, the young King knew no better way to win both than by attacking Greece's ancient foe...Alexander, with his far stronger army, had good reason to believe that he could win. In 334 B.C. he crossed the Hellespont which Xerxes had crossed in the opposite direction nearly a century and a half before. Soon afterwards, he defeated the Persian forces gathered to meet him on the Asian side of River Granicus. From the spoils of this victory he sent 300 suits of Persian armour back to Athens...As the campaign progressed, Alexander's plan expanded. Originally his purpose had been simple to destroy the Persian army. Before long he had decided to take over the whole Persian Empire. And he went on to achieve this aim without losing a single battle. Of all the generals of the ancient world, Alexander was surely the greatest. He possessed an almost clairvoyant insight into strategy and was a consummately resourceful tactician. Like Napoleon, he believed in swiftness in movement, but he could be patient too, as he showed in his long siege of the formidable fortress of Tyre...In two major battles, at Issus in 333 B.C. and Gaugamela in 331 B.C., Darius fled the field. With these two victories Alexander broke the main Persian resistance and in the autumn of 331 B.C. he entered Babylon, the winter capital of the Persian kings. In December of the same year he entered the summer capital at Susa...Alexander burned the huge palace of the Great King for reasons that have never been clear. Possibly it was a whim, possibly he did it in a fit of drunken excitement, or possibly he did it to signify that the Persian invasion of Greece had at last been avenged. Alexander already

⁶ Ibid., 62.

considered himself King of Persia, but his right to the throne was in question as long as Darius was still at large. In the summer of 330 B.C., Alexander marched north in hot pursuit of him. He had almost caught up with his quarry when the Persian leader was suddenly slain by his own men, finally brought to rebellion of their long resentment of his mismanagement of the Persian defence. Alexander came upon Darius' body near Hecatompylos, and ordered it to be sent back to Persepolis for burial in the royal cemetery of the Achaemenid kings. Now, at last, Alexander was officially the Great King of Persia...On 13 June, 323. B.C. not yet 33 year old, he died." What was the aftermath of his empire? "Alexander multiplied the Greek world fourfold – and paradoxically made the earth a smappler. When his troops reached India, they effectively ended Persian control of the profitable trade routes to the Orient. Alexander put into circulation the gold hoard heaped up by Darius, and thus further stimulated international trade. He instituted a uniform coinage for his vast domain, thus freeing commences from ancient regional restrictions. The Greeks came from their tiny city-states to share in the new affluence. In the 300 years that followed Alexander's death in 323 B.C., they created a new era – the Hellenistic age – that extended the influence of that remarkable man for many more centuries."⁷ The rise and fall of Greece is detailed in Dan. 8:1-8.

32...his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay...

Iron is not as precious as the other metals but it is the strongest. Rome is distinguished for its strength in putting down all who rise against it though its rule is weakest, with imperialism mixed with democracy or democratic monarchy.⁸ "The city of Rome spread over seven small hills on the Tiber to encompass an Empire of several million square miles. In the wake of the Roman legions came governors and civil servants, architects and merchants. They remade the world in Rome's image; in the teeming cities of the Near East and the rough Germanic provinces, citizens from all corners of the Empire walked down Roman streets...Guidebooks listed 300 major roads throughout the Empire. In the words of a poet, Rome had "made one City, where once was a World". Rome took power by first the defeat of Pyrrhus for the control of the whole Italian peninsula.

This victory gained Rome the status of a first-class power – and, inevitably, brought it into conflict with Carthage, the mistress of the western Mediterranean. Ultimately Rome would also have to deal with the three great Hellenistic kingdoms carved out of the world empire of Alexander the Great – the Seleucid Empire in Syria, the Ptolemaic Empire in Egypt and Alexander's original Macedonian Empire. Rome found it impossible to live in a world of equals; it thought of the other four great empires as threats, and sent the next centuries to neutralize them...The years during which Rome expanded from a provincial town to a world power were also a period of ambitious empire building elsewhere, far beyond Rome's reach. In China, the short-lived but

⁷ C.M. Bowra, GREAT AGES OF MAN A History of the World's Cultures – Classical Greece, TIME-LIFE INTERNATIONAL, 1965, 163-165.

⁸ Paul Lee Tan, A Pictorial Guide to Bible Prophecy, Bible Communications, 1992, 227.

aggressive Ch'in dynasty triumphed over neighbouring states and formed the first Chinese Empire, covering a substantial portion of the modern nation. To consolidate his new territories and erect a bulwark against the marauding Huns of North Central Asia, the Ch'in ruler, Shih Huang Ti, himself a relentless cruel autocrat, extended the Great Wall into a single fortified line stretching the north-west frontier to the sea some 1,400 miles to the east. After his death, his dynasty gave way to the Han rules who added further to their Empire. In India, after the incasion of Alexander, brought a brief contact with the West, the Maurya emperors began in 322 B.C. to found a powerful kingdom. It reached to the midde of the third century B.C. under King Asoka..."⁹

"The influence of Rome, whether seen in the practice of a courtroom or the fascade of a church, in the style of a poem or the structure of a State, remains as a vital force, shaping the ideas and the material works of man. The world is a differenct place because Rome was once there. The Roman legacy has penetrated regions that Romans never ruled and continents they never dreamed of reaching...Although Jesus preached for less than 3 years, in remote Palestine, His disciples were many, and they were soon travelling Roman roads to distant cities and provinces. In time, the whole Empire became a seed-bed of the new religion. Roman authorities used the Christians as political scapegoats for three centuries – until the reign of Constantine, who was converted in A.D. 337. From then on, Roman forms of government, legal tenets and architectural styles were increasing reflection in the Church's administration, laws and buildings, and the city of Rome assumed a dual role – as seat of the Empire and centure of the Church...From Constantine's time onwards, Christianity was the official religion of Rome. By A.D. 385, only 80 years after the last great wave of persecution of Christians, the Church itself was beginning to execute heretics, and its clerics were wielding power almost equivalent to that of the Emperors...As Church and State grew closer, basilicas, the old public buildings of Rome, were turned into churches; ecclesiastical and civil courts exchanged cases; bishops took a hand in municipal matters; and the State supervised internal affairs of the church. When at last the political power of the emperors collapsed, the Church endured – and, in the dark ages that followed, helped to preserve the Roman heritage."¹⁰

| World Empires at a Glance | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|
| Babylon | Medo-Persian | Greece | Rome | Revived Roman Empire | God's Kingdom (Christ's Millennia Rule) |
| 612-539 B.C. | 539-331 B.C. | 331-63 B.C. | 63 B.C. - ? | | |
| Gold | Silver | Brass | Iron | Iron/Clay | Diamond |
| Head | Chest and Arms | Belly and Thighs | Legs | Feet - Ten Toes | Stone Breaks Image and fills the earth |
| Dan. 2:38 | Dan. 2:39 | Dan. 2:39 | Dan. 2:40 | Dan. 2:42-43 | Dan. 2:44-45 |
| 2-Winged Lion | Bear with 3 ribs in mouth | Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads | Fierce Beast | 10 Horn Beast/Little Horn | |
| Dan. 7:4 | Dan. 7:5 | Dan. 7:6 | Dan. 7:7 | Dan. 7:8 | Dan. 7:9 |

(2) Permanency of Christ's Coming Kingdom (v34-35, 44-47)

Today, we have not entered into the part-iron and part-clay feet, which is the Revived Rome Empire that will bring forth the Antichrist. Daniel 2:34-35 gives

⁹ Moses Hadas, GREAT AGES OF MAN A History of the World's Cultures – Imperial Rome, TIME-LIFE INTERNATIONAL, 1965, 175.

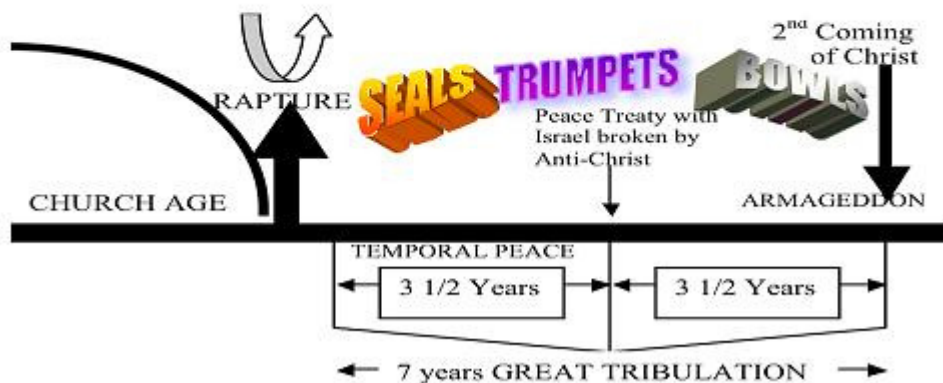
¹⁰ Ibid.

the framework of the picture of Christ's Kingdom, "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. 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."

Finally, the stone, not made with man's hands, Jesus's diamond kingdom destroyed the statue at Christ's second coming in 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."

This final empire of God's rule is detailed for us in Revelation chapters 19:11-22 with Christ's second coming to establish His millennia rule on earth (Isa. 11) and the eternal state after the millennium. The millennia kingdom of Christ will end all the kingdoms of man forever as revealed in Daniel's dream. We learn from the book of Revelation that Christ's 1000 year rule on earth will be the last the final rule on this present earth (Rev. 20). Thereafter this heaven and earth will be destroyed forever and replaced by a new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21-22).

Mystery of Great Image Daniel 2 Revived Roman Empire



The king was overwhelmed by the answer out of Daniel's mouth. He fell upon his face and worshipped Daniel. Daniel was careful to give God all the glory. Indeed, his God must increase and he must decrease. Indeed, Nebuchadnezzar found in Daniel a trusted servant for he appointed him ruler over the whole province of Babylon.

The Revived Roman Empire – 10 toes, part iron and part clay. Clay suggests dilution of strength, as it does not mix with iron. Just as man is made from dust and will return to dust. The Antichrist will arise after the 10 kings (Daniel 7:24)

after he vanquishes 3 kings. The bible describes him as very intelligent ("eyes"), arrogant and boastful (Daniel 7:11), will persecute the saints (Daniel 7:25 cf. Matthew 24:8), subjugate and control Israel and will be judged by God (Revelation 19:19-20).¹¹

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.*

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.*

The kingdoms of this world will be destroyed when God's kingdom would come to rule.

Isaiah 11:1-10 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

The key message for all mankind and for us today is that the greatest prophesy in the history of mankind is about to be fulfilled – the Second Coming of Christ! Jesus will come to take away the church and this is the event that the bible tells us will come.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the*

¹¹ Paul Lee Tan, A Pictorial Guide to Bible Prophecy, Bible Communications, 1992, 243.

dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

All who will believe in Jesus Christ will experience what is called the rapture. The days before the Second Coming of Christ will be like the days of Noah before the global flood - Matthew 24:37-42 *"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."*

CONCLUSION

The signs are before us of Christ's coming (Matt. 24). The message is that we should not be caught unaware. We should not be surprised! The saints shall rule with Christ on earth in His millennia kingdom - **Revelation 5:10** *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Revelation 20:6* *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. May we be ready!*