

dom must come to pass and will be overthrown by another kingdom. From being master of all, Babylon must become the most humble servant. Babylon should be cut off. She would make a desperate effort to save herself by turning to her educators and wise men. When the trial came, there was nothing in all the realms of Babylon that could save her.

#### DESTINY OF NATIONS

Nations by their attitudes determines their own destiny. The strength of nations and of individuals is not found in their education or boasted greatness, but God alone determines their destinies. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, Babylon, lasted only until the reign of his grandson, when the second or inferior nation represented by the breast and arms of silver came upon the stage of action. Medo-Persia took the place of Babylon; Grecia followed the Medo-Persian kingdom, while Rome, the fourth kingdom, was to be broken into ten parts, which were to remain until the end of time. In the days of these kings the God of heaven would set up a kingdom which would never be destroyed nor conquered by any other people; it would break in pieces and consume all former kingdoms, and stand forever.

#### THE LAST KINGDOM

The image was a comprehensive outline of the world's history. Rome, the "glory of kingdoms" formed the head of gold, all following kingdoms deteriorated from it (Babylon) as shown by the grade of metals forming the image. First gold (Babylon), then silver (Medo Persia), brass (Greece), and iron (Rome). In the latter part of the world's history, a marked change was revealed by the iron being mixed with miry clay. There were to be no more universal kingdoms ruled by men when the power of the fourth kingdom was broken, it was to remain divided until the end. In place of one kingdom there would be ten kingdoms represented by ten toes.

The clay mixed with iron also denoted the union of church and state. This combination is peculiar to the latter part of the world's history, to the feet and toes of the image. Religion was the basis of government in the heathen nations; there could be no separation of the church and the state. When apostate Christianity united with the state, each remained in a sense distinct as the miry clay is separate from iron. This union continues until the stone smites the image upon the feet. The very fact that the "stone was cut out of the mountain without hands," shows that the last kingdoms on earth will not be

overthrown by any earthly power, but that the God of heaven will bring upon them final destruction by giving them to the burning flames.

The history of the city of Babylon is put on record because it is God's object lesson to the world today. The book of Revelation, which is the complement of the book of Daniel, frequently uses the name, applying it to the modern churches. The relation of the Jews to the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar is the same as that sustained by the remnant church, the true Israel, to the Babylon of today, the churches which, having known the truth, have rejected it. The sins of ancient Babylon are repeated today. Her educational system is the one now generally accepted; her government, with its excessive taxes, its exaltation of the rich and the oppression of the poor, its pride, arrogance, love of display, its choice of the artificial in place of the natural, and the exaltation of the god of science instead of the God of heaven, is the one toward which the world of today is hastening.

As God called Abraham out from the idolatry of Chaldea, and made him the father of the Hebrew nation; as he delivered to that people a form of government that would exalt God; as he gave them commandment so to teach their children that the Jews would become a teacher of nations and might be an everlasting kingdom, so today he calls forth a people from modern Babylon. He has entrusted to them principles of healthful living which will make them mentally and physically a wonder to the world. He has given them educational principles which, if followed, will make them the teachers of the world, and finally bring them into the kingdom of God. And to them he has delivered the principles of true government which recognize the equal rights of all men, and which in the church organization bind all together-one body in Christ Jesus, but only a few-four out of thousands-were true to these principles in the days of Daniel and so is it today.

*This is a 'must read' tract*

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**T**he history of Babylon is the story of the great controversy between Christ and Satan which began in heaven, continued on earth and will end only when the stone cut without hands from the mountain shall fill the whole earth.

### BABYLON A COUNTERFEIT

Satan accused God of being unjust and purported to establish a kingdom on earth which will excel and surpass the kingdom of God in heaven. The people whom God told to fill the whole earth were gathered into a city. Babylon grew, its mighty walls were 130 feet high and 87 feet thick. The whole city and its massive gates of brass were designed to imitate the strength of the city of God.

It was his design to counterfeit the plans of God. The earthly city was patterned after the heavenly. The Euphrates flowed through it as did the river of God through Paradise. The government was an absolute monarchy; a man occupied the throne, and as it grew, every knee of earth was caused to bow to its king. Tyranny took the place of love. This is always true when man is exalted above God. There was a close union of church and state, for no power was tolerated above that of the monarch. It was to such a kingdom that Nebuchadnezzar fell heir, and the beauty and power of the kingdom were increased by him in every possible way, until it was spoken of everywhere as "Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency" (Isa. 13:19).

Nebuchadnezzar favored education, and during his reign Babylon was the educational center of the world. Every art and science was taught in the schools of Babylon. The wisdom of the ancients was made known to the students who sat at the feet of her magicians and wise men. They revelled in the study of astronomy and the higher mathematics. There were linguists who could teach the language of every nation. The king himself was highly educated, for it was he who examined the students on the completion of their course, and granted their degrees. Babylon was proud of her educational system; she trusted to it for salvation, but it was the cause of her ruin. "Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath caused thee to turn away." (Isa. 47:10).

Nebuchadnezzar and his counselors, -the wise men, astrologers, and soothsayers, -on one side, represented the education of the world. Daniel, a Hebrew youth and slave, was chosen by God to confound the wisdom of the mighty. "Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (1 Cor. 1:20).

### A TEST OF FAITH

Daniel inquired from the captain of the king's guard why the decree from the king was so hasty. Arioch, the captain, made the thing known to Daniel. He (Daniel) asked the king for time and that he would shew the king the interpretation. (Dan. 2:15, 16). There are in the providence of God particular periods when we must rise in response to the call of God. Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, rose to the moment, they sought the God of heaven concerning this secret. "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven." (Dan. 2:19).

Although Daniel had been granted a diploma from the schools of Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar himself, and had been accounted ten times wiser than his fellow students, he had not as yet been classed with the astrologers and wise men of Chaldea. But God chooses the weak things of earth to confound the mighty (1 Cor. 1:27) because the foolishness of God is wiser than men (1 Cor. 1:25). Daniel's education had acquainted him with the voice of God. He was in the habit of seeing eternal things with the eye of faith. God showed Daniel the same things which he had revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, but which were hidden from him by the glamour of worldliness. The schools of Babylon developed pride, love of pleasure, haughtiness, and self-esteem. They fostered an aristocracy, and cultivated the spirit of oppression and slavery. Contrast with this the native simplicity, the courtesy, gentleness, and self-forgetfulness of the child of God as he enters the court and is introduced by Arioch. Years before this, when Egypt was the educational center of the world, God taught Egyptian senators by the mouth of Joseph, a boy no older than Daniel. When Babylon had outgrown the counsels of Heaven, another Hebrew meets the men of the schools. "Can not the wise men show the secret unto the king?"

### THE DREAM

"Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?" asked King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel answered, "The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 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

(Dan. 2:27, 28). "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a 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. 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." (Dan. 2:31-35).

### THE INTERPRETATION

"Thou art this head of gold"...And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth....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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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." (Dan. 2:31-45).

In one night God revealed the history of over twenty-five hundred years, and what the human historian requires volumes to explain is given in fifteen verses. The Scriptures explain themselves, and in divine records every word is well chosen and put in the proper setting. In this image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, the glory of the Babylonian kingdom is recognized by the Lord, and represented by the head of gold. But, this king-