



### WORLD HISTORY FORETOLD

What will happen next? That is the great question which all people are interested in, both in their own lives and in the events of the world. Today that question seems more important than ever as the world passes through one tense period after another. As each crisis seems to be worked out there is another to take its place. And this world tension has become a shadow that affects the individual life of nearly every living person.

As we leaf back through the pages of history, we find many times when certain men, nations, and groups of nations have tried to bring all other peoples under their jurisdiction. It was about one hundred fifty years ago that the ruler of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, was attempting to extend his rule over all of Europe and many at that time wondered if he might not attempt to go on from there and rule the world. But the power of Napoleon came to an end with the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. One hundred years after that, the leading nations of earth were again involved in a great war which we now refer to as World War I.

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king of Babylon. A large part of the population of Palestine was, according to the custom of the time, taken captive and removed to the land of the conqueror. Certain of the Jewish royal family were taken by the Babylonian king to train for positions of special service, and among these was Daniel, who became one of the special advisors of the king. Oriental kings of that time, and on through the centuries, relied a great deal on fortunetellers, magicians, etc. For the most part they were deceivers who were clever enough to make their predictions please the king and who were shrewd enough to usually give good advice on matters of national policy. Daniel and three other Hebrew youths were placed in this class although it was soon to be proved that they were far above the others in wisdom, for they relied on the eternal God in heaven.

*The King's Dream*

The second chapter of the book of Daniel begins by telling us of an unusual dream which the king had and which he believed had some special meaning. And so as usual he sent for his group of magicians, astrologers, etc. They requested that the king tell

Since that time we have seen Hitler and Mussolini start another world conflict which we now refer to as World War II. And at this writing the world is divided into two great camps known as the east and the west. Many Bible students feel that we can expect this tension to increase until the great Battle of Armageddon takes place. And the present division of the world is shaping up exactly as was prophesied in the 38th chapter of Ezekiel. Yet in spite of all the attempts to bring all the world under one ruler, none have succeeded. The attempts to bring world peace through the League of Nations or the United Nations have fallen far short of their goals. Students of Bible prophecy know and have been predicting for years that all these efforts at world rule would fail. How could they know? Is there a source of knowledge where this information is given? Yes! in the Word of God. And it is the purpose of this treatise to point out certain of these prophecies that pertain to past, present, and future world conditions.

For our study we turn to the book of the prophet Daniel. The first chapter of this book describes the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar the

them the dream and they felt they would have no trouble giving him a pleasing interpretation. But alas, the king had forgotten the dream and demanded that they tell both it, and the meaning. This they were unable to do, and as a result a decree was made to kill them all. It happened that Daniel and his Hebrew companions were not present when the others were called and condemned. When the information was brought to them that they were to be killed, they at once asked for an opportunity to be heard. This was granted and the four Hebrews at once began to pray that God would reveal the secret. In a night vision it was revealed to Daniel, who the following day appeared before the king and gave all the glory to God for the revelation. It is yet true that fortunetellers and astrologers have no supernatural powers, "But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets."

And now let us consider the dream as told by Daniel, to the king. "Thou, O king, sawest, and beheld 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. 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... became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Dan. 2:31-35).

*The Setting of the Dream*

Before considering the interpretation of the dream given by Daniel, let us notice the time when the dream was given and what had previously taken place in recorded history. The earliest definite records of history are of the land of Egypt. About a thousand years before the time of Daniel, the Israelites had gone down to Egypt and there became slaves of the Egyptians. After returning to Palestine, Israel had wars with the Assyrians as described in 2 Kings 6:24 and Isaiah 36. Assyria (or Syria) was the next powerful empire to arise as the splendor of Egypt declined. Babylon and Medo-

Persia conquered Assyria. Maps of ancient history which show Babylon at the time of Nebuchadnezzar, show it as a relatively small nation, with Medo-Persia to the east and north covering much more territory. But Babylon, although not a world empire in extent, and by no means the only empire in the world at that time, was nevertheless the richest and most powerful. Nebuchadnezzar was a grand monarch, world famous for the wonderful "hanging gardens" of Babylon. Now let us study the interpretation of the dream as revealed by the eternal God, to His servant Daniel.

*The Interpretation of the Dream*

Before telling the dream, Daniel had told the king that the dream was symbolic and that its purpose was to reveal events to come. "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" (Dan. 2:29). The dream did not reveal the entire history of the world, but rather the history of events from the time of Nebuchadnezzar and on to the end. In the previous verse the great extent of the

dream is revealed when Daniel stated that the dream was to make known to the king "what shall be in the latter days..." And so, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar and his empire of Babylon, the dream was to reveal certain important facts about world history to the end of this age. Let us now note what facts it included.

*The Head of Gold*

In verses 37 and 38, Daniel speaks of the glory of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon. The king was a "king of kings," that is, he was greater than all others. His glory and power were above other kingdoms. Here again we wish to emphasize the fact which is often not known or brought out in an explanation of this prophecy. Babylon was not a world empire. It was not the only empire existing in its time. Egypt existed at the same time as an independent country. Medo-Persia was an empire much larger in territory than Babylon. But the fame and glory of Babylon far exceeded the other nations then existing. And so to Nebuchadnezzar Daniel said, "Thou art this head of gold."

*The Body of the Image*

Verses 39 and 40 very briefly bring

of Babylon. It was more materialistic, more useful even as brass is metal devoted more to useful things while silver and gold are more ornamental.

And now we note an added fact about this kingdom. It was the first "world empire." It was to bear rule over all the earth. Alexander the Great defeated the Persians three times—at Granicus, and at Issus, and after conquering the city of Tyre, and the lands of Palestine and Egypt, he gained the final complete victory over Persia at Arbela. He then extended his conquests to all the rest of the civilized world, far into India. The term earth as used here in verse 39 must refer to the civilized nations of earth, as Alexander by no means ruled over the entire globe. But in his time Greece was the one and only civilized, organized empire in the world.

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things... shall it break in pieces and bruise" (v. 40). The legs of the image were of iron and Daniel tells us that they represented the nation which would follow Greece. This nation would "subdue all things"—thus would be world-wide in extent. And it would

us the interpretation of the body of the great image. In verse 32 we read that the breast and arms were of silver, a metal always considered inferior to gold. This is interpreted in verse 39: "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee..." The Medo-Persian Empire which followed Babylon was much greater in territorial extent, but was inferior in majesty and glory. The Medes, at first the stronger part of the new empire, soon became the weaker and the empire was known simply as the Persian Empire. And again we must point out the fact that it was not a "world" empire. Persia failed in its great efforts to conquer Greece and it also did not rule over Egypt. But in its time it was the greatest empire in the world. It was the dominant empire.

Concerning the next part of the image, verse 32 says, "his belly and his thighs of brass..." And verse 39 interprets, "... and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." Persia failed to conquer Greece, and then with the rise of Alexander the Great as ruler of Greece, Persia was itself conquered. The Grecian empire did not possess the oriental glory of Medo-Persia, or

be a very strong and cruel empire. The Grecian empire was followed by that of Rome which fully meets the description of the iron kingdom.

#### A Fitting Symbol

In passing we may pause to observe that the image of a man was a most fitting symbol for the nations it represented. Babylon was a single empire and was not at any time divided. It was represented by the part of the body which is a single unit, the head. Medo-Persia was a dual kingdom—two parts which are well represented by the two arms united by the breast. But Medo-Persia was an eastern, oriental empire. Alexander brought in the West. He was the strong ruler, the source of all the strength of the empire, the belly, with the two thighs representing the eastern and western parts of the empire. Rome is represented by the two legs. The Roman Empire always had an eastern and western part and finally these two parts became entirely separated. The Western Roman Empire had its capital at Rome; the Eastern Roman Empire had its capital at Constantinople—two iron legs!

#### The Feet and Toes

Perhaps the most important part of the prophecy from our point of view is that which concerns the final division of the image—the feet and toes. What great empire was to conquer Rome and rule the world? Six hundred years before Christ, the king's dream as interpreted by Daniel foretold that no great empire would conquer Rome. It was not to be conquered, but to be divided. "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided..." (v. 41).

The feet and toes of the image represent the history of the world from the fall of the Roman Empire until the second advent of Christ. No single great power conquered Rome, but its various provinces were taken over by different barbarian tribes. Eventually these areas became nations or parts of other nations. The land taken over by the barbarian Franks, became France. The Angles and Saxons invaded the Roman province of Britain, and it eventually became England (Angleland). The Lombards occupied land in northern Italy, but they did not become a separate nation. When Italy

became a united nation, the northern part, called Lombardy, was included. And so, gradually, the old Roman Empire became many new nations, none as large or as powerful as Rome. Some of these nations were strong, some weak. Much of the time they were at war with each other. This is the iron and clay condition of the feet and toes, a divided and disunited world.

Since the time of Rome various attempts have been made to unite the nations under a single ruler. Charlemagne was proclaimed Roman Emperor in 800 A.D., but he lacked a great deal of ruling all that had been ancient Rome. In the Middle Ages Charles V ruled much of Europe for a time, but had great trouble holding the various parts of his domain together and even before his death it had fallen apart. Napoleon tried to conquer Europe and eventually he had yet greater aspirations for he gave his son the title of "King of Rome." But Waterloo shattered his dream of empire and the son got no more of Rome than the empty title.

The Kaiser tried to gain control of Europe by force of arms in World War I. What he failed to do was then attempted by peaceful means in the League of Nations. But the iron-and-

clay condition persisted. The nations would not hold together and the league is now but a memory. Hitler made great boasts about Germany being the nation destined to rule, but he, too, was mistaken. And no matter what attempts are made to unite the nations in any kind of permanent world federation, it is bound to fail according to this great image prophecy. Let us see why this is true.

#### *The End of the Image*

In verse 43 the development of the various nations by the mingling of the peoples is described. The peoples would mingle, mix, and spread abroad, and nations would rise and fall, and yet other nations arise. This well describes the confused state of Europe and the civilized world during the Middle Ages. It also includes the great migrations from Europe to the New World and the modern attempts at stability and world co-operation. But the nations have been and continue to be like the iron and clay—partly strong and partly weak and never able to hold together. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed..." (v. 44). Yes, while the world is yet in the same



divided condition the kingdom of God is to be set up. No fifth world kingdom or league or federation is to again unite the nations.

And now let us note just how the end comes to these nations. In the last part of the dream Daniel declared, "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...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Vs. 34, 35. The end comes very suddenly like a great stone striking a statue. The Kingdom of Christ is described as a stone which suddenly destroys the iron and the clay of the feet and toes and with that event the entire history represented by the image comes to an end. But God does not leave this world desolate. The stone which strikes the image immediately begins to grow until it fills the earth. "...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" (v. 44).

The fifth great empire upon this earth will be a universal empire established by the God of heaven, the

eternal Creator. It will be set up upon this earth while the nations represented by the ten toes are in existence. It will bring an end to those divided nations and establish a single rule, a divine rule for the earth.

#### *A Key Prophecy*

In many ways this prophecy of Daniel 2 is a key to the understanding of all Bible prophecy. It is given in symbols and then those symbols are clearly interpreted for us. We need not guess at their meaning. The pages of history fully bear out the predictions of the prophecy and now in our own day we are seeing the fulfillment of the last part and soon may see the final end. The little stone striking the image evidently refers to the coming of Christ, for it is then that His kingdom is to be established upon the earth. In simple language the past history of the great nations of earth is here outlined for us and three great and important predictions of future events are given. Those predictions are that no great world kingdom will be established on the earth by men, and, second, that Christ will come to earth during the time while the nations are yet in the divided state, and, third,

that Christ's kingdom will be established here upon this earth immediately upon His return to this earth. With these points established we are ready to study deeper into prophecy and to consider the prophecy of the seventh chapter of Daniel.

*The Prophecy of Daniel Seven*

The book of Daniel from the second to the seventh chapters is taken up with a history of events in Babylon. Chapter three tells of the fiery furnace and the three Hebrews; chapter four describes the dream of Nebuchadnezzar concerning his own life, and then describes the fulfillment of that dream; chapter five brings us the story of Belshazzar and the handwriting on the wall; and chapter six is the story of Daniel and the den of lions. But when we come to chapter seven we again have a symbolic prophecy, this time revealed to Daniel in a vision or dream.

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the

wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns." Dan. 7:2-7.

Let us study this part of the vision first and then proceed with the remainder. In studying any chapter of prophecy we should always look at the entire chapter to see if at some place there is an explanation of the preceding part. And so searching on through the chapter we discover that the explanation begins with verse 17.

"These great beasts, which are four,

are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth."

We remember that verse 2, which is the verse just before the beginning of the description of the beasts, tells of the four winds of heaven striving upon the sea, and the result was the coming up of the beasts, each in turn. Now we understand that the beasts represent *kings*, or as pointed out in the first part of verse 23, *kingdoms*. Since the rise of different kingdoms on earth is nearly always the result of war we might conclude that the winds striving on the sea would symbolize war. This explanation is not given in this chapter, but a study of the symbolic use of the words *wind* and *sea* in other parts of the Scripture shows that our conclusion is correct. Jeremiah 25:32 shows wind denoting war. Rev. 17:15 shows that waters, or the sea, refer to people and nations. Thus Daniel saw in this vision that there would be wars among the nations and as a result four kings or kingdoms would arise, each in turn. We at once notice that this is the same general theme as we studied in Daniel two. And as we study on we will find that here we have a repetition of that

same prophecy, but with greater detail and additional information.

#### The Lion.

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings... the wings thereof were plucked... a man's heart was given to it" (v. 4). In the vision of chapter two, the gold, anciently considered most precious of metals, symbolized Babylon. Here the Lion, king of the beasts, represents the first kingdom. It has the wings of the most exalted birds, perhaps showing that this king was lifted up above all others in his glory. But the wings were plucked and it was brought down. This agrees very well with the description of what happened to Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 4.

#### The Bear

"And behold another beast... a bear... raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it" (verse 5).

From our study of chapter two and from history we know that the kingdom which followed Babylon as the greatest empire on earth was Medo-Persia, later called the Persian Empire. This empire was of far greater extent than Babylon, ruling all the civilized

world except Greece. But in its huge size it was bulky and clumsy, the bear being a fitting symbol. It arose on one side—Media was the strongest part to begin with and the first king was Darius the Mede. It had three ribs in its mouth, evidently symbolizing three kingdoms which it conquered, crushed and swallowed. In its far-reaching conquests Medo-Persia conquered Babylon, Lybia and Egypt. It truly devoured *much* flesh, but not all; as the bulky, clumsy bear-kingdom failed to conquer Greece.

#### The Leopard

As we study these symbols of the four great empires, we may observe how well the various parts of the symbols fit the nations described. If exact and detailed descriptions of nations in the past are given, we may look for those things yet future to be fulfilled in the same precise manner. The next kingdom is symbolized by a leopard, a graceful, swift, cunning beast. It has wings—not the exalted wings of the soaring eagle, but the wings of swift flight, wings of a fowl. Anyone who has ever seen frightened prairie chickens or pheasants fly can appreciate this symbol of swift forward flight.

And this beast had four wings—double speed. Under Alexander the Great, the Grecian Empire swiftly conquered the bulky empire of Persia. With an army of three hundred thousand Alexander easily defeated successive Persian armies, the largest of which numbered a million men. Dominion—world dominion—was given to this kingdom, and it also had four heads. After his swift conquest of the Persian Empire, Alexander died and his empire was divided among his four leading generals. Cassander took Greece and Macedonia; Lysimachus had Asia Minor; Seleucus had Syria; and Ptolemy had the land of Egypt. Two of these four divisions lasted only a short time, but there were at first the full number of four which fulfill the prophetic symbols.

#### The Terrible Beast

The description of the first three beasts is brief in this chapter, but now we come to the fourth in connection with which we are given information of vital interest to us today. So great and terrible did it appear that Daniel found no beast of earth with which it could be compared. And truly the Roman Empire was different than any

empire before or since its time. We remember that in chapter two it is symbolized by the legs of iron. Here in both verse 7 and verse 19 it is mentioned that it had *iron* teeth. Daniel mentions his special desire to "know the truth of the fourth beast... which devoured, brake in pieces and stamped the residue with his feet." Rome not only conquered peoples and nations, but it divided them into different provinces and broke down all resistance. Millions of conquered people were made slaves.

Two lines of prophetic symbols have been given us, one in Daniel two and the other in chapter seven in order that we might be certain of the nations represented and be able to understand and correctly interpret the additional prophecy which follows. While Daniel was observing this fourth beast with its ten horns, another horn grew up among them. It is this horn, a little horn, which we wish now to understand.

#### The Little Horn

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the

roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" (verse 8).

In this verse there is but little clue as to the meaning of the little horn. Before attempting to explain, let us read the explanation given later in the chapter. We go to verse 20.

"Of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them... And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings" (verses 20, 21, 24).

Thus far it is clearly explained that the ten horns are ten kingdoms to arise after the fall of the great beast kingdom. The ten horns are not great powers or nations, but rulers who were strong for a time. They are the barbarian tribes which overran Rome. The ten outstanding tribes may be listed as the: Huns, West Goths, East Goths, Suevi, Vandals, Lombards, Heruli,

Burgundians, Angles and Saxons. From the barbarian tribes came the nations of Europe which continue in a divided condition. This fact has been developed in two prophetic chapters in order that we may correctly identify the added feature here mentioned—the little horn. He also is a king—but diverse or different from the others. As he arises, three of the ten are at once overthrown. This evidently must take place while the ten barbaric kingdoms are known as such, or in other words, very shortly after the fall of the Roman Empire.

Every student of history knows that there is just one new and different power which arose as the Roman Empire fell and that power was the Papacy. It had been developing during the later years of the Empire. Christendom, so-called, had been ruled by five bishops—the bishop of Jerusalem, the bishop of Antioch, the bishop of Alexandria and the bishop of Rome. As the Empire fell before the attacks of the barbarians and when the last emperor was driven from Rome in 476 A. D., the bishop of Rome was the only authority left in that city. The world looked to Rome as the leading city and

so the power of its bishop grew very rapidly. The barbarian invaders overran Italy, but with the rise of papal power three of these were driven out. They were the Heruli, the Ostrogoths, and Vandals. "...and he shall subdue three kings." Verse 24.

Any interpretation of prophetic symbols must fit not only one part but all parts of the prophecy. And so we notice verse 25 which gives additional description of the little-horn power.

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

Four very definite prophecies are here given. First, this power was to speak great words against the most High. Verse 8 of this chapter says simply that this power would have a "mouth speaking great things." From a Catholic point of view the Papacy has not spoken against God, but from a truly scriptural point of view the pope's claims are blasphemy. He speaks great swelling words and claims powers which the Bible ascribes to God alone. Claiming to be the supreme

leader of the people of God and yet teaching traditions which are contrary to the Bible is surely speaking *against* God.

Secondly, this power was to "wear out the saints of the most high." If Romans Catholics of the Middle Ages were the "saints" then this description would not fit the pope. But if the thousands of devout men and women who refused to recognize the authority of the pope and who were persecuted even to death because of their refusal were the saints, we find the description most fitting. Yes, for centuries when the Papacy was in absolute power in Europe, the true saints of God were literally "worn out," until they could exist only by hiding and worshipping in secret.

The next point is more specific: "...think to change times and laws..." Evidently this must refer to times and laws established by the Creator, the God of heaven. No power has tried to change the laws and times established by God as the pope has. The ecclesiastical laws of the Catholic church are put above the laws of God as given in the Bible. The day according to Bible teaching is from sundown:

to sundown, "even until even." Lev. 23:32. But the Papacy recognizes the day as being from midnight to midnight. The year originally began in the spring, but the "Gregorian" calendar designed by pope Gregory set the beginning in midwinter. The Ten-Commandment law of God declares that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath; the papacy teaches that the first day of the week should be observed as a sabbath. This is the most outstanding example of an attempt to change a God-given law. Although the Roman emperor Constantine legalized the "venerable day of the sun" as a day of rest, it was the Roman Catholic power and its supreme control of Europe during the dark and middle ages, which perpetrated the observance of Sunday as a day of worship. The Roman church has a large number of so-called "canon-laws" which it substitutes for the few clear and simple precepts found in the Word of God. The Bible is written for all the world and the Roman church is the only universally known power which has attempted to establish the observance of times and laws among the people of the world.

*The Time of Supreme Power*

Perhaps the greatest proof of prophecy is its exact prediction of the time to be occupied by those things it describes. The last part of Dan. 7:23 tells us, "... and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

The pronoun "they" might refer to the saints or to the time and laws, or to both. Since so many things have pointed to the papacy as the power fulfilling this prophecy, a study of its history would perhaps make this time-prophecy clear. After the fall of the Roman Empire in the West in 476 A. D. the papacy had a rather difficult time maintaining itself in the face of barbarian invasions. Those which caused the most trouble were the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths. During the reign of the Eastern Roman Emperor, Justinian, these three were overcome and driven out. The Bishop of Rome had appealed to Justinian, and thus it was through the Bishop of Rome that these three "horns" were plucked up. Justinian not only did this, but he also recognized the Bishop of Rome as the supreme head of all Christians. These events took place between the

years 533 and 554 A. D. Before that time the popes had made great claims, but bishops in other cities shared in the power and often contested the claims of the pope. But after Justinian gave secular approval to the pope as the world leader of religion, the power of the popes was established and continued to increase.

From that time on no one dared to openly condemn the pope or to deny the papal power in world affairs until the time of that ambitious ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte. The pope condemned Napoleon, but Napoleon not only refused to recognize the authority of the pope, but through a series of events he greatly weakened the Papal power.

In 1804, in the presence of the then ruling pope, Napoleon crowned himself as emperor. By this act he showed that the power to crown kings was no longer to be in the hands of the pope.

In his continued conquests, Napoleon destroyed the Holy Roman Empire and brought it all under his own rule. The reign of Napoleon ended in 1814, but after that the papacy no longer was the ruling power in Europe. The three barbarian kingdoms had been overthrown from 533 to 554 A. D. The end of papal supremacy came from



1793 to 1814, or after a rule of 1260 years.

Anciently the year was considered to have 360 days. The Hebrew year is of that length, an extra month being added at certain intervals to make up for the shortness of the year. Dividing 1260 by 360 we find the result to be 3½. And now we again look at the prophecy to see if there may be any connection to these figures. Daniel 7:25 states that power would be given into the hands of the king described, for a "time, and times and the dividing of time." We at once observe that if a time stands for one year, times for two years and dividing of time for half a year, we have the exact time of papal supremacy.

Further evidence that our interpretation of the time is correct is to be found in a parallel prophecy in Revelation 13:5, where the same time is represented as "forty and two months." And in Rev. 12:14 the true church of God is represented as being in seclusion during this same period, here described as a "time, and times, and half a time."

### *The Judgment Time*

After describing the rise of the vari-

ous world powers, followed by the Papal power, the inspired prophet writes that God's judgment shall sit "and they shall take away his dominion to consume and destroy it unto the end." Since this describes a gradual destruction of this power it follows that the judgment referred to is not the great final day of judgment, but rather the judgment of God which is always against that which is evil. God's judgment had been against Nebuchadnezzar and caused him to be driven from among men for seven years. Belshazzar was said to be "weighed in the balances and found wanting." Isaiah declares, "...when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness" (Isaiah 26:9). God's judgments are against the wicked powers of earth and especially against that power which makes such great claims in the name of religion. It is still a power and may yet have a very important part to play in the final ending up of world history. But his power will surely be consumed and the end of this age will see its ultimate destruction. The kingdoms of this world, the dominion over its lands and peoples, the exalted positions which have been

held by wicked men of all ages will at last come into truly righteous hands for we read:

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:27).

The following verse concludes the story by saying, "Hitherto is the end of the matter." Yes, when the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ is established on this earth it will bring a final end to all the powers which have been permitted to exist here in previous time. And even as the Word of God has correctly foretold all the history of the world this far, so we may be sure that events yet to come will follow the Bible outline. God help us to believe His Word and to follow all of its teachings and be ready to meet the great King of kings when He shall come in His glory.

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