



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

An end to pathetic fumlings and blind floundering!

What we see developing before us here in this part of the world is, I believe, just what the Bible declares will take place in the end times.

I was struck in my daily reading today by the words: "But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days," Daniel 2:28.

What was impressed upon my heart was the fact that a heathen king with no knowledge of God or His Word was nevertheless able to understand the prophecy that the Lord was about to reveal and yet, so many of God's people today ignore this Bible topic, believing the devil's lie, that it is too difficult to understand!

From my far from perfect knowledge of God's Word, I believe that the developments that will take place in our part of the world (being on the western edge of the 'world' referred to in Scripture) are as follows:

- 1. The ancient territories occupied by the empires of Babylon, Medo/Persia, Greece and Rome, will once again rise to become a dominating political, commercial and religious power.**
- 2. The present EU is composed of some of the countries which were part of the territories which formed the four empires referred to already but many are not.**
- 3. Therefore, since God's Word will be fulfilled, we can expect to see a disintegrating of the present 'EU' structures and being replaced by an amalgam of nations which are within the territories of the old empires.** This territory of these empires was at its largest in the days of the 4th empire, the Roman Empire. It stretched from the eastern borders of Iran to the border between Scotland and England in the west.

Of all the countries that make up the UK, only England and Wales will be part of that future empire.

The present 'Brexit' debacle, with the very obvious unrest and agitation amongst the EU countries with



The territory of the old Roman Empire

The setting up of the Kingdom of God is a reference to the return of Christ and His establishing His Millennial Kingdom. It is to be noted that those 'kings' of the old empires will be very much alive when Christ returns, in the sense that the 'spirit' of the ancient depots who founded and led the four great empires mentioned in Daniel chapter 2 will be very much alive and active in 'Antichrist's' kingdom at the end of this age.

regards to the present EU leadership and direction, may well be the beginnings of the dissolution of the present EU 'state' in order, in God's time, for the formation of that future manifestation of the old Roman Empire.

Out of man's chaos the Lord is ever able to further His own purpose amongst the nations.

- 4. It is that empire which is revealed to be the empire over which the 'Antichrist' will rule.** It will be an empire of sin and depravity. An empire comprised of all the iniquities that marked the Babylonian, Medo/Persian, Grecian and Roman Empires. The 'spirit' of those previous regimes epitomised rebellion and sin and such will be very much alive again in the 'Antichrist's' empire. This fact is referred to in Daniel 2:44 where we read: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . ."



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5. The 'stone' mentioned in Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45. This passage states: "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 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. . . . 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."

Some, erroneously, claim that this incident has to do with the Saviour establishing His Gospel Kingdom following upon His first advent. That this cannot be is seen in that the 'stone' breaks the great empires into pieces and they became as "the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them. . ." This did not happen as a result of the Saviour's first advent. Indeed, the Roman Empire, the embodiment of the three empires which had gone before, continued on for hundreds of years afterwards. Nor has the 'Gospel Kingdom' 'filled the whole earth'. At best, it was always but a tiny minority amongst the nations of the earth!

No, Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45 refer to the return of Christ and His casting down and subduing all nations under Him. One quotation will suffice to show what I mean.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS," Revelation 19:11-16.

There will be no drawn-out, confused haggling, no 'toing and froing', no confusion or delay but rather: "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?" 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" God will end this age and "bring in everlasting righteousness"!

How wonderfully different are God's ways from man's pathetic fumbblings and blind floundering around in his efforts to build his 'utopia'!

Dear Christian, lift up your eyes and see in God's Word that "the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer," 1 Peter 4:7.

Ivan Foster.

17th October 2019.