

Sunday 11th July 2010

The Kingdoms of This World

By Ann Herbert

1) *Re 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

(a) Briefly explain what you understand by this Scripture:

2) *Ge 10:8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel,*

(a) What region of the world is Nimrod's kingdom?

(b) What lineage is he from and what is the significance of it?

(c) Who is Nimrod a type of?

(d) What Scripture do we have to confirm this?

3) *Lu 21:24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

(a) The Times of the Gentiles began in 605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar took the captives of Judah to Babylon. The northern 10 tribes of Israel were taken into captivity much earlier in 722 BC by whom?

(b) As this was prior to 605 BC how is this connected to our study of the Kingdoms of this world?

4) *Da 2:21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding....28 "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.*

(a) What is significant about these verses?

5) *Da 2:31 ¶ "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32 "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.*

(a) How many different sections does the image have?

(b) Where was the image seen?

(c) Which of the sections of the image were identified in Daniel's interpretation in chapter 2?

(d) How or where can we identify the rest of the portions of the image?

(e) What is common to all 4 sections/kingdoms of the image?

(f) Fill in the blanks:

(i) Head of Gold = _____

(ii) Chest/Arms of Silver = _____

(iii) Belly/Thighs of Bronze = _____

(iv) Legs of Iron/Feet of Iron/Clay = _____

(g) Why do you think so much emphasis is placed on the 4th part of the image?

6) *Da 4:17 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'*

Mt 4:8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

(a) Explain the possible conflict between these 2 sets of scripture:

(b) Why is there no conflict between these 2 sets of scripture?

7) *Da 4:34 ¶ And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.*

(a) What has caused Nebuchadnezzar to praise and extol the Most High God?

(b) Why do you think his kingdom was represented by a tree in the vision as opposed to the image in chapter 2?

(c) How did the vision portray that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would not be completely destroyed but would be returned to him?

(d) Who are the watchers and holy ones in verse 17?

8) Da 7:2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4 "The first was **like a lion, and had eagle's wings**. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, **like a bear**. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' 6 "After this I looked, and there was another, **like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird**. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth**; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

(a) What do the 4 great beasts coming from the sea tell us?

(b) Fill in the blanks:

(i) Lion/eagle's wings = _____

(ii) Bear = _____

(iii) Leopard/4 wings = _____

(iv) Terrible Beast/iron teeth = _____

(c) What do horns in Scripture represent?

(d) What other Scriptures do we have showing the same beastly imagery?

9) Da 7:23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. 24 The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. 25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And

shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. 26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.

a) What is the 4th kingdom and in what way will it be similar and in what ways will it be different from the previous 3?

b) *And shall subdue three kings.* Any thoughts as to who the 3 kings might be?

c) Let's go to Daniel 8 for commentary:

Da 8:8 Therefore the male goat [the Grecian Kingdom] grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken [Alexander died], and in place of it four notable ones came up [Alexander's 4 generals] toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came a little horn [Anti-Christ] which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.

d) Do you see who the 3 kings might be now?

e) Out of which region of Alexander's kingdom, which was divided into 4 after his death, will Anti-Christ arise from?

f) How will he be able to '*devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces*'?

g) Who are the saints given into his hands and for how long?

10) *Da 2:34 "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*

a) How will Anti-Christ's kingdom eventually be destroyed?

b) Why are the previous 3 segments of the Babylonian Kingdom also mentioned in the destruction?

c) *Ps 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. "*

How might we now consider the *rod of iron* after our look at the kingdom of Anti-Christ?

11) Final comments and questions?