

more excellent or highly esteemed among men than the Persian, the Persian than the Grecian, the Grecian than the Roman; and yet by virtue of increased numbers and a better knowledge of the art of war, each successive power overcame and subdued its predecessor. Like as when of late, the Federals and Confederates were at war, and the Federal force overcame, subdued, and entirely vanquished the Confederate forces; it was not because the Federals were any better in *quality* than the Confederates, but it was because the vast superiority in numbers, wealth, and the art and appliances of war were on the side of the Federals. Thus the silver overcame the gold, or the brass the silver, but we suppose really there was no difference among the combatants as to quality, because all were of the earth, earthly, and were similar to a part of the great image.

"After these," said Daniel to the King "shall arise another King inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron; for as much as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron breaketh all things, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes part of clay and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided, but there shall be in it 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 clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave to one 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," &c., &c., &c.

The kingdom of Babylon was an unmingled one—purely Assyrian—an absolute monarchy, and Nebuchadnezzar the mighty, ruled at the time of the dream. This was the golden head.

The kingdom of the Medes and the Persians was a compound—denoted by the breast and two arms. One arm signified Media and the other Persia, these being united to the breast constituted the one kingdom. And as the right arm is considered stronger and more useful than the left, so the right arm may represent Persia, the stronger, and the left represent Media the weaker power. These were united, however, under King Cyrus and he conquered Belshazzar and overthrew the Babylonian kingdom.

The kingdom of Greece was first single and then compound, represented by the belly and the thighs of the image. The belly denoting the undivided sovereignty of Alexander and the thighs, the two chief kingdoms of Syria and Egypt, into which his Empire was principally divided.

The legs and feet of iron and clay typify the Roman Empire. The two legs may be understood to represent its two great divisions, the eastern and the western.

The ten toes may represent the ten kingdoms into which the Roman Empire was subsequently divided, viz: 1. The Vandals; 2. The Suevi; 3. The Alans; 4. The Burgundians; 5. The Franks; 6. The Visigoths; 7. The Anglo-Saxons; 8. Herulo-Thuringi; 9. The Ostrogoths; 10. The Lombards. Some of iron firm and durable, others of clay liable to be broken. They would never cleave together so as to again form a fifth universal Empire.

Thus the completed image when viewed geographically, as a whole, is the Roman Empire in its utmost extent, including its own peculiar dominions in the West, and the dominions of the three preceding Empires in the East.

And it is observable that no universal Empire has existed since the Roman. There never will be another: our very sanguine President of the United States, as shown in his last inaugural address, to the contrary notwithstanding. The image was made complete by the succession of the Roman Empire. Nothing is to be added to it and nothing taken from it until the vision is fulfilled.

The Medo-Persian Empire was stronger than the Babylonian—the Grecian stronger than the Medo-Persian, and the Roman stronger than the Grecian. So that the Roman combined the strength of all the preceding Empires and of course was strongest of them all. The legs and feet of the image was therefore the strongest part of it and sustained all the other points. If the feet and legs are destroyed of course the image must fall and come to nothing.

A shrewd General, sometimes, it is said, in order to gain a victory attacks the weakest point of his adversary first, in order to gain advantage by degrees. But yet he may do this and yet through weakness and want of power get defeated in the end, when the stronger forces of the enemy are thrown against him. If in the beginning he had knowingly been wise enough and strong enough to vanquish his enemy he would have attacked him at the strongest point first, and after that was overcome the remainder of the conquest would have been easy.

God was both wise enough and strong enough to attack this image on its feet, the strongest part; and when they were beaten to pieces the remainder was destroyed, as a matter of course.

The stone cut out of the mountain without hands represents our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Stone represents his humanity or earthly nature. He was born of a woman to show his relationship to man; and by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost the virgin conceived, whereby he became the Son of the highest and

might well receive the throne of his father David, reign over the house of Jacob forever and have his kingdom established without end.

This conception was supernatural, that is, above nature—without and beyond the course of ordinary generation. It was miraculous and Divine. He grew up to manhood, gathered his disciples around him, delivered to them the principles of his gospel kingdom—assumed the sins of his people—bore them in his own body on the tree—laid himself down on the sacrificial altar—shed his blood for them—died for them and rose for them—ascended on high for them, leading captivity captive and receiving gifts for men.

In seven times seven days thereafter he descended in Spirit on his disciples, who were assembled together in one place in the City of Jerusalem, and then and there he fully set up his visible kingdom on earth in the form of the gospel Church.

This handful of men were not to be still and wait the approach of the enemy, but were to take up their cross and go boldly forth to war offensively against the kingdom of Iron.

It was at the zenith of Roman glory and magnificence when Christ was born in Bethlehem, Judah. The wisdom, strength, learning, greatness and grandeur of the world were absorbed and exhibited by her. It was the Augustan age. Men had climbed the hill of science until they thought they had reached the top. Heathen Rome, the mistress of the world, monopolized all its wealth, glory and magnificence, and all nations lay prostrate at her feet. Who then could measure arms with her? who could overthrow her? "In the days of these Kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom."

The stone cut out of the mountain did not roll from the image, but against it, and attacked it in its strongest part, *even its feet*, that were of iron and clay and broke them to pieces. "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the Summer threshing-floors; 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." As though God had winked at the ignorance of fallen man for 4,000 years and stood by to see what he would do. Man was clamoring for "a chance," and God gave him a good long chance to find out God and save himself. But the longer and better was his *chance*, the still poorer use he made of it, and the farther he seemed to get away from God. In the setting of the first one of these great kingdoms, by Nimrod, the rebel, (as his name signifies) about 2,325 years before Christ, infidelity was the characteristic trial. A tower was to be built, whose top should reach into heaven, not to get to God, but to get away from him, and save themselves in defiance of him and of

all the deluges that he might thereafter send on the earth. And toward the end of the great Chaldean kingdom, when Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar were the reigning monarch, we find their astrologers, magicians, sooth-sayers, philosophers and wise men generally, leading the people into all manner of idolatry, vice and immorality; instead of directing them to a knowledge or the worship of the one true and living God.

The magic of the East, during the existence of the second kingdom, only lead the Medes and Persians further into idolatry and multiplication of idols.

The wise men of Greece, with Socrates and Plato at their head, with Xenophon, Demosthenes, Homer and Aristides following in the train, did not lead the people to God under the third universal kingdom; but lead them further from him if possible, and steeped them deeper and deeper into idolatry, and the mystic as well the open vices.

The Sages, the Statesmen, the Emperors, orators and poets of Rome did not lead the people under the fourth universal kingdom any nearer to God than did their predecessors; but of all her predecessors, she appeared the most corrupt, voluptuous and debauched—swimming in vice and immorality of the deepest dye.—She multiplied idols beyond all other nations, and when christianity was set up within her bounds, made use of the most unheard of means and measures to uproot it, so as to leave neither root or branch of it alive.

Now will some one inform us what advantage it was to the people under all these reigns, to have a good chance, a great chance, and a long chance to find out God and a way of salvation? Did one of them find him out, go to him, love him, fall down and worship him from the flood to the coming of Christ? Unless God first revealed himself to him, was there any knowledge of God, under heaven, by mortal man during all that period? We are compelled to answer—No! Then is "chance" worth anything to man in the matter of his salvation? We are bound to answer—No!

The true God and the light of divine truth was with his people from the calling of Abraham to Moses, and from Moses to Christ; but did the surrounding nations care for it? With all the good *chances* they had, did they come to this little nation and learn the truth? Did they seek it at all? Did they come to these holy fires and be warmed? Nay verily, but they derided this handful of men. They harassed them, they fought them, they despised their religion, they sought to destroy them root and branch and banish their religion from the earth. That is the use they made of a *good chance*,

Just the same use are wicked men making of a *good chance now*, just the same on the revival of letters, and just the same will they make of it in