

STRAIGHTWAY

And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].

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End-time World Governments Part One

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“The powers that be are ordained of God” (Rom. 13:1). These are the words of the apostle Paul as he unfolded his burden on the authority of government in the earth. He designated government as “higher powers.” The Scriptures are definitively replete with the declaration of God’s divine appointment of governments that control people and nations. Men, families, cities, nations, kingdoms, and empires have always been found under some concept of government since the fall of man. God has ordained civil government both for restraining evil and for

promoting righteousness for the benefit of the people. With this intent God requires that men obey those powers that are over them (Rom. 13:1–7; 1 Pet. 2:13, 14). When there is no government, anarchy rules because of the sin and selfishness of fallen man. Therefore, the true role of government is to maintain peace and order in this wicked world, to punish evil, and to reward righteousness.

Man’s Laws versus God’s Laws

While God desires His people to obey civil government, there is a limit to the extent government

This edition includes two more articles

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Pastoral Thoughts Following the 2016 Presidential Election

can control the people and declare laws. When the government through its powers requires disobedience to God, then another principle must step forward. This principle is expressed in Acts 4:19, 20 as well as 5:29:

But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Also, in Daniel 6 when Darius' government established a law against prayer to God, note the actions of its highest president, Daniel:

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and

gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime (6:10).

God does not require obedience to man's laws if the Christian is forced to disobey the Scriptures, the law of God.

The Influences of God and the Devil

The continual influence of the spirit world has always accompanied the governmental powers of any age. History examples times when governmental powers promoted the good of its people; yet, at other times their powers were expressly evil, corrupt, and filled with godless leadership, terrorizing God's people and their desire to live righteously. Nevertheless, whatever the character of a government, their authority to rule was ordained by God.

Does God and His providence influence governments and their leaders through history? Yea, does the Devil and his demonic forces similarly effect influence? The answer to both questions is an unequivocal "yes." The Bible is replete with examples of kings and governmental leaders who were profoundly influenced by the powers of the spirit world.

Amidst the many narratives found in Scripture, one of the classic and insightful examples is the true story of Cyrus and his proclamation of the Jews' returning to Jerusalem. God had prophesied in Jeremiah chapters 25 through 29 that the Jews would be

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captives in Babylon for seventy years. At the end of these seventy years when Daniel was praying concerning this promised return, there was a twenty-one-day delay of answer to his prayer (Dan. 10:13). It was revealed that the Prince of Persia (Satan) battled to thwart Gabriel from bringing the answer to Daniel. Thus, God sent Michael to take up the battle while Gabriel brought the answer.

Similarly, as Satan tried to keep Cyrus from giving the command for the return, Michael came to draw Cyrus to do so.

The LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, the LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah (Ezra 1:1b, 2).

There are other times when governmental leaders are being directly influenced by the Devil and his angels. The presentation in Luke 4 of the wilderness temptation by Satan to Christ includes an important revelation. In one of the three temptations, the Devil took Christ to an exceeding high mountain and shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. Here the Devil states, "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me;

and to whomsoever I will I give it." How did Satan gain the power and the glory of these kingdoms of the earth? How can he give such power and glory to an individual? It is simply that proud men throughout history have given to Satan their allegiance to gain greater power and glory. Yet, it still must be declared that ultimately it is God that brings the rise and fall of men in history, and His permissive will must be present even in the workings of Satan.

America in the End-time Prophecy

It has often been acknowledged that the United States of America is not found in biblical prophecy. Though this observation seems to be true, yet perhaps indirectly our nation is found within the Scriptures in several contexts. First, John 3:16 still declares, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." America is certainly found in the phrase, "For God so loved the world" or "mankind." America is part of mankind; Christ died for the souls that would be identified with America. Second, in Genesis 12:3 the Lord tells Abraham, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Our country has been part of them that bless the Jews, and we believe this is one of the reasons

why God has blessed our nation. But if we curse the Jews, God will curse us. Third, in Matthew 28:18–20 we read of the Great Commission given to the Apostles that certainly has become an example to God’s people throughout history. As God sent His apostles into the world, we as a nation have sent more missionaries into the world than any other nation on earth. Fourth, Proverbs 14:34 declares, “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” America has been a nation that has promoted and uplifted righteousness in principle and living; God has exalted us for this. Although it is evident that Israel is warned by this verse, yet did God also have us in mind when these words were divinely inspired? Fifth, Psalm 33:12 reads, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.” America identified itself with the Lord in its history and thus, we have known His blessings. Sixth, Psalm 9:17 declares, “The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God.” Our nation has come to this prophecy. God is turning us into hell, hellish living, and we fear a hellish end. Seventh, the words of Revelation 13:7 declare, “And it was given unto him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints, and to overcome them, and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” God has permitted the Antichrist spirit to prevail over our national leaders, and we as a nation have been taken by the power of the

dragon. Eighth, our forefathers came from European nations, and such nations are in the Bible. And perhaps ninth, because there are saints in America, they receive the promises and prophecies given to all biblical saints.

The Prophecy in Daniel Two

Because we are living in an hour of revelatory prophecy, the Book of Daniel is a crucial key of insight for this hour of our nation and world history. This book is for the End Time to give us direction, guidance, and wisdom. We may ask, “Where are we as a nation in history, and more specifically as God’s remnant observing this time in history”; “how will this presidential election play a part in the coming days”; and, “what are we to expect in the future?”

America is part of the Gentile nations that have been granted (by providence) the global ruling of history since the days of the Babylonian Captivity. Because we truly believe we are living in the End Time of the last days of these Gentile powers, Daniel 2 is more and more an important insight for our times. Though Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest of world rulers, dreamed the dream given by God, the exacting of his dream and its critical interpretation were given only by God’s prophet.

Before Daniel stands in the presence of the king, we are told of his humbling response when receiving

the interpretation of the dream from the Lord:

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he given wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things; He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him (2:20–22).

These words must accompany our hearts at this late hour in our own history, both in the understanding of God Himself and in the imminent details of history. Oh, how God would condescend to give this mortal, young prophet knowledge and understanding for his hour. We believe that God, through His Word, desires to do the same for us in our hour of history. Amidst our thanksgiving for many blessings from the Lord, we need to thank Him for granting the knowledge of understanding for our day, so that we would not be ignorant.

No doubt, the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had was prompted by his disturbing thoughts regarding the future of his kingdom beyond his own life. Having fallen to sleep that night, God graciously gave the dream in response to such thoughts.

As we carefully read through this chapter, it is important for us to see that though there is much prophecy revealed in this dream and in the

interpretation, the critical verse is 2:28:

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.

Note the last phrase “what shall be in the latter days.” In the light of this emphasis, this chapter and its interpretation of the dream reveal that the vast majority of this interpretation is primarily for the last days; these last days began with the first coming of Christ. Let us observe this important perspective:

2:37, 38 – given for Nebuchadnezzar.

2:39 – quickly speaks of two other kingdoms to come.

2:40–45 – deal with the last days.

Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is perhaps the most unique panorama of world history ever unveiled to the mind of man by the Omnipotent Creator. It is presented to us as Nebuchadnezzar perceived history, that is, through the mind of a man. Therefore, the unfolding of man’s history is as a great human colossus. Of course, many comprehensive outlines in prophecies concerning the nations are found in such books as Isaiah. We even read instructive prophetic details of the closing days of the End Time in the Book of Zechariah. Ezekiel foretells the religious and civil state of Israel during the millennium.

Nevertheless, the rise, growth,

course, decay, and final judgment of the Gentile powers are minutely unfolded in the prophecies of Daniel. This colossal image of chapter 2 gives the outward imposing greatness and magnificence of the Gentile world powers.

In contrast to man's perspective in Daniel 2 is heaven's perspective found in Daniel 7. In this chapter man's empires are presented not from man's perspective of human glory and greatness. God views man and his imagery from the inward reality of what he is—a fallen creature who has descended to living as *beasts*.

The Image

Nebuchadnezzar's image was a dream concerning the world powers of the Gentiles beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian empire. This image is the declaration of the Day of Man. Briefly, the world powers of the Gentiles before the latter days are given in this description. In 2:37, Nebuchadnezzar is declared by God as "a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory." Then with great brevity Daniel mentions that two kingdoms would rise after Nebuchadnezzar, which were the Media-Persian and Greco-Macedonian empires. Carefully observe the deterioration of preciousness of the metals: gold, then silver, and then brass. As the preciousness declines, the strength and power of the metals increase.

As for the parts of this image of man, the times of the Gentiles commenced with Nebuchadnezzar, who is declared to be the head of gold. (Often Babylon is called the golden city: Isaiah 14:4; Jeremiah 51:7.) The next kingdom is pictured as breasts and arms of silver, followed by a belly and thighs of brass. Descending this image, the fourth empire of an eventually divided Rome is marked with two legs of iron. It was during the Roman empire that God sent His Son into the world.

The final section of this manly image is marked by two feet with ten toes, "part of potters' clay, and part of iron." Nebuchadnezzar's image of man descends from gold to clay! The entire stately-looking colossus of a man stands on feet of weak clay. Man's glory is supported only by mud that tries to mix with the strength of iron. This image reveals that the world powers in history contain in themselves the elements of deterioration, devolution, decay, destruction, and death. They all stand on a foundation of clay. It reveals that the mighty metallic image lessens in specific gravity as it goes downward from the head of gold to the feet which are part clay trying to mix with iron.

We must view this image carefully in the light of another transition of presidency in our country. We are part of the latter days of the Gentile powers. The question may

be asked, "Where are we in this image of man?" We find ourselves near the end of the image, in the lowest part prior to the feet of clay. We are in the ankles, below the legs and just above the feet; we are in the joints of transition.

We must candidly acknowledge that the course of world history is a downward course, from gold to clay. The character of the world governments is bestial and senseless. We observe again that although Nebuchadnezzar saw the kingdoms as the image of a man (chapter 2), Daniel saw them as beasts (chapter 7). Beastliness is the true character of man's empires, and one day the final kingdom leader of the feet and toes will rise as the beast out of the sea of humanity.

Ultimately, what is the coming judgment crisis upon this image? This dream carefully reveals the answer. A stone uncut by hands will come out of a mountain and smite the image at its feet. The magnitude and force of this smiting will pulverize the entire image, causing it to fall and become as chaff that the wind drives away. Then, this stone will increase in size becoming a great mountain filling the entire earth. This stone is Christ Jesus and the kingdom of Christ that without the aid of man will be set up to rule the earth. Of this kingdom "there shall be no end."

This dream of Nebuchadnezzar became the medium through

which God revealed the history of governmental world rulership unto the millennial rule of Christ in His kingdom. This crisis judgment of the stone did not happen when Christ came at His first advent, because the fourth kingdom (Rome) was in existence; the Day of Man had not come to its full iniquity.

The Image: Excellent and Terrible

Another revelation is given by God to us in 2:31: "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible." Here are two descriptive words that complete the manifestation of the kingdoms of the world, or the powers of the Gentiles, from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to the coming of Christ with His saints. The unique manifestation of these kingdoms is a sight that both attracts and repels. Side by side with the appearance of "excellent" is the description of "terrible." History reveals this in the greatness of wealth, architecture, pomp, and glory of these illustrious kingdoms. Their existence of grandeur causes the heart to wonder at their excellence. But congruous with such excellence of appearance is the terrible, the wicked, the evil, the godless, the deception, and the satanic. Every kingdom has manifested both at the same time consistently in history. Although there may be the boast

of what has been magnificently accomplished, evil is found in the living, the heart, and in much of the ruling over men.

Conclusion

Where are we in this Day of Man leading to the revelation of the Man of Sin? We are in an hour when truth and error, right and wrong, are so intelligently mixed, bringing our country into the greatest confusion we have ever experienced. Does the satanic warfare against holy angels described in Daniel 10 regularly occur even in our day? Do spiritual powers wrestle in their attempts to influence world leaders for or against righteousness? Are we witnessing this battle today between deep, occult corruption and endeavors to return to some form of sanity in government? Only God knows what the truth of the matter is.

Christians still need to remember that conditions must get worse. The next and final stage of the image of global government will be a mixture of iron and clay. We have not entered the fullness and the absoluteness of the prophetic image's feet yet. We are somewhere in the ankle-period of history in which the secret rapture for God's Elect will take place. We await the imminent return of Christ for His people. Had Christ taken the earth's kingdoms at His first coming, He would have received them from Satan's hands (Luke 4), because past and present kingdoms

belong to Satan. When Satan and world rulers fill up man's measure of iniquity, Christ will descend from heaven, and, by the force of His own omnipotent arm, shall destroy all the governments of fallen man, setting up His own universal and unending kingdom.

For His secret coming, may the Lord make ready a people (scattered throughout the institutional, apostate church) while we witness the coming together of iron and clay, of excellence and terribleness, representing a final global government that is ultimately destroyed by the open coming of the King of Kings! [S]

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End-time World Governments

Part Two

Dr. H. T. Spence

In the previous article, the dream of Nebuchadnezzar revealed a panoramic history of the times of the Gentiles (the Day of Man) that began with Nebuchadnezzar. This rule of the Gentiles in the earth is to continue through the last attempt of world government under the man of sin, Antichrist. Although the times of the Gentiles began with Nebuchadnezzar, his dream was concerned more with the latter days. This history represented in Daniel 2's image is a perspective through the hopeful thoughts of man, believing that history would ascend into a utopia of continued greatness. However, God's revelation to Nebuchadnezzar revealed a downward course, a devolving, from gold to brittle clay, burnt potter's clay, the worst of clay. Only in Daniel 7 are we given the prophet's perspective where man's rule of the world is beastly and senseless. At the end of man's governmental history, a full judgment falls upon the entirety of Gentile governments: a stone out of heaven descends upon the image, smiting its feet, causing the image to implode, and pulverizing the image to powder.

Daniel 2 also revealed that the great image was one of *excellence*, brightness, and abundance. The greatness of wealth, architecture,

pomp, and glory could cause the heart to greatly admire these kingdoms. Though excellent in appearance, the image was also *terrible*. Each empire was marked with fear, wickedness, debauchery, accompanied with satanic terror. These governments are pictured devolving sequentially from gold to mud. This mud is a profound insight to the foundation of the entire image of the man. At the end of the history of man's kingdoms, iron will unsuccessfully attempt to mix with the clay of depraved man. In the Scriptures iron denotes the unyielding monarchist or imperialist rule, while clay represents the common element from which man came. These two elements cannot be blended together. The tremendous weight of imperial government is here seen to be resting on a base which is composed in part of potter's clay burnt and brittle, that which is uncertain, unstable, and insecure. It reveals the tottering governments of earth despite all their boasting of scientific and cultured civilization.

America and Its Republic

America is attempting to mix iron with clay. Providentially birthed late in human history, America has been a superlative nation among the greatest of nations. Its greatness was due

to God's own divine appointment in the light of the founding fathers' desired character for the nation. With reluctance, however, we must acknowledge that congruous with America's greatness, there were two major flaws evident from its beginning. (1) Although God is referenced with several titles, *God is never truly defined*. Several forefathers give their perspective of God in their private writings, yet within our founding documents the concept of God is never clarified. God is called benevolent, Divine Providence, and one who lives in heaven, but without elaboration. This created problems later, particularly during our contemporary. (2) Secondly, *our founding fathers did not consider the possibility of the apostasy of Christianity*. Though many of them knew of the apostasy of Roman Catholicism, and others were concerned as to the falling away of the Anglican Church, they never dealt with the possibility of Christianity becoming a "Neo" religion within itself. Today, we confront a public Christianity that is apostate, with all its neo's of belief. Having at one time sent forth the world's largest number of missionaries, America is now the innovator and promoter of global apostate Christianity. Because our founding fathers never imagined such a deformed Christianity, there was no language within the founding documents to confront the rise of global Christian apostasy and its contribution to the destruction of

Western civilization.

An equally sad reality of contemporary America is the fact that we have apostatized the kind of government our founding fathers gave us. They gave us a *republic*, the highest form of government conceived by man for man. A republic demands great care and maintenance from its people.

At the close of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was questioned as he left Independence Hall on the final day of deliberation. According to notes by Dr. James McHenry (one of Maryland's delegates to the convention), a lady asked Franklin, "Well, Doctor what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" Franklin replied, "A republic . . . if you can keep it." We dare not forget that the founders of our country intended at the national level to have a representative republic. It also must be noted that the word *democracy* is *not* mentioned in the Constitution. *Democracy* was a word and concept that most of the founding fathers distrusted with a passion.

A republic is a government in which elected representatives make laws; in a democracy the majority directly make laws. In the latter the majority has unlimited power, whereas in the former a written constitution limits the majority and provides safeguards for the individual. If a republic is neglected by the people,

it can deteriorate into a democracy where government is controlled by popular and manipulative feelings of the people. A democracy will eventually end in anarchy, a system in which each individual determines his own rules and standards of living. A republic can also devolve into an oligarchy where the government is run by a council or a group of elite individuals, as is Russia today. In a worse scenario, democracy could devolve into dictatorship, where one individual oppressively rules the country.

Unlike the stability of a republic, a democracy is susceptible to the whims and passions of immediacy. In these days of growing individualism (which is existentialism and its new cloak of Postmodernism), man lives by his passions of the moment. The founding fathers wanted to protect us from such instability in government. They wanted the laws to be made by elected representatives to prevent laws being made in the heat and passion of the moment. Sadly, this is the way laws are being passed today. The pressure of riots and revolution by certain segments of society manipulates the moment for their desired change. This was made evident in 1984 when the Supreme Court declared “public policy” as the interpreter of the law. The question may be asked, “What about those who are the representatives and what about the laws they pass? Suppose our elected representatives

fail?” Alexander Hamilton gave the answer to these questions in the Federalist 21, “The natural cure for an ill-administration, in a popular or representative constitution, is a change of men.” Yes, simply choose new men to represent the people.

Nevertheless, *democracy* is not the appropriate path for a government! Oh, the disinformation that is pandered by our contemporary government leaders, news media, and popular literary writers! Every day we read that America is a government of democracy; thus, we become accustomed to hearing of this form of government, even accepting the illusion that this was what our founding fathers gave to us. It is true that our forefathers discussed this form of government and had the opportunity to follow this path for our country. But they carefully chose not to take this road of government for the country. In fact, this was so clear in their decision that they warned us never to become a democracy. Let us read from their own writings.

John Adams observed in Vol. I, p. 83, from “An Essay on Man’s Lust for Power, with the Author’s Comment in 1807,” written on August 29, 1763 (first published by John Adams in 1807):

Democracy will soon degenerate into an anarchy; such an anarchy that every man will do what is right in his own eyes and no man’s life or property or reputation or

liberty will be secure, and every one of these will soon mould itself into a system of subordination of all the moral virtues and intellectual abilities, all the powers of wealth, beauty, wit, and science, to the wanton pleasures, the capricious will, and the execrable [abominable] cruelty of one or a very few.

James Madison, as one of the writers in *The Federalist on the New Constitution* in 1818, stated,

Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security, or the rights of property; and have, in general, been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.

John Adams, in *The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States*, stated,

Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.

Fisher Ames, in his *Works of Fisher Ames* in 1809, author of the House Language for the First Amendment, stated,

A democracy is a volcano which conceals the fiery materials of its own destruction. These will produce an eruption and carry desolation in their way.

Also in that same publication he stated,

The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness [excessive evil living] which the ambitious call, and the ignorant believe to be liberty.

Gouverneur Morris, Signer and Penman of the Constitution, stated in his *An Oration Delivered on Wednesday, June 29, 1814, at the Request of a Number of Citizens of New York, in Celebration of the Recent Deliverance of Europe from the Yoke of Military Despotism in 1814*,

We have seen the tumult of democracy terminate . . . as [it has] everywhere terminated, in despotism. . . . Democracy! savage and wild. Thou who wouldst bring down the virtuous and wise to thy level of folly and guilt.

John Quincy Adams stated on April 30, 1789, during the Jubilee on the Constitution in New York City,

The experience of all former ages had shown that of all human governments, democracy was the most unstable, fluctuating and short-lived.

Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration, stated in *The Letters of Benjamin Rush* in a letter to John Adams on July 21, 1789,

A simple democracy . . . is one of the greatest of evils.

The godly and revered "Father of American Education," Noah Webster, stated in 1801,

In democracy . . . there are commonly tumults and disorders. . . . Therefore a pure

democracy is generally a very bad government. It is often the most tyrannical government on earth.

John Witherspoon, Signer of the Declaration, stated in *The Works of John Witherspoon* in 1815,

Pure democracy cannot subsist long nor be carried far into the departments of state; it is very subject to caprice and the madness of popular rage.

Zephaniah Swift, Author of *America's First Legal Text, in A System of the Laws of the State of Connecticut* in 1795, stated,

It may generally be remarked that the more a government resembles a pure democracy the more they abound with disorder and confusion.

The writings against the rule of democracy are replete from the pen of these founding fathers. It must now be sadly acknowledged that America has become the worst democracy in history. Providence will deem it a final contribution to the bringing of the world governments together. Yes, prophetically we are in the prelude of the feet of iron (strength of monarchy) and clay (weakness) trying to mix in democracy, socialism, and anarchy. The prophecies of Daniel reveal that constitutional unity in government will continue to decline in Gentile governments until it finally devolves into anarchy. Anarchy is futile man trying to stem the tide of his own evil pride. We are approaching the

hour in our country of democratic licentiousness and anarchy. We have witnessed this in the reaction of many to the outcome of the recent presidential election with riots, burnings, killings, and destruction of property. Yes, this is the result of "democracy."

In the Days of These Kings

Daniel 2 resolves human governments in verse 44:

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.

These kings mentioned here (the ten toes on the two feet) arise after the rapture of the saints (at the end of the ankle period of the image) and just before or during the apocalypse of the Antichrist. The earth at that time is ruled by ten dictators with Antichrist ultimately at the head. It seems that these ten toes (or ten horns, Dan. 7:7), or ten kings, arise from the world governments identified with the old Roman Empire. All the nations of the world will ultimately come under these ten in two great divisions (the two feet). Amidst any kingdom's satanic influences, there will continue among its leaders great pride, jealousy, and envy, making unity emphatically difficult. Note Revelation 17:12:

And the ten horns [the ten toes of Dan. 2] which thou sawest are ten kings,

which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

Then note Daniel 2:41:

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.

Amidst the metals representing strong monarchies, the clay of these feet represents democratic rule by the people. This is where we are in America. Democratic rule by the people not only has become the governmental philosophy of our society but also is becoming accepted by the world. Out of democracy arises socialism and anarchism, its closely-related proclivity; both are fast becoming the warp and woof of our society. We are also witnessing all the nations of the earth in gross disharmony within themselves and among themselves. Without God's peace within the heart, and without God's Word controlling the will of man, there can be no stable global unity.

The details of how the times of the Gentiles will reach its apex are not known. Some believed years ago the European Common Market would have been the fulfillment of this prophecy; however, the number of nations has gone beyond ten, yea, even beyond twelve (like the woman of Rev. 12 with her crown of twelve stars). The upheaval in this prophecy

of Daniel 2:43 may come quickly, but we do not believe it will happen until after the rapture.

Daniel declares in 2:43b, "They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." One part of great anarchy leading up to this prophetic time is the breaking down of racial barriers. Governmental powers will try to alleviate racial problems through mixing of the seed, the races. Even kings will mingle or mix with and marry peasants; races will be intermixing, intermingling, and intermarrying. This statement also may include the context of sodomy to further integrate a God-forsaking society to greater proportions. In the light of end-time sodomy, Daniel 11:37 speaks of Antichrist: "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all." Antichrist may be a sodomite.

Daniel 2:43b also states, "But they shall not cleave one to another." Eventually all policies of mixing will fail to resolve the perplexities of the End Time, and the world will witness the final absolute collapse of all global government. The United Nations will utterly fail; the world courts, world currency, world conferences to bring about peace all will fail. Everything that man will endeavor to implement will fail to sustain and maintain humanity. Thus,

universally the world of humanity will come to absolute collapse.

Conclusion: The Coming Stone

When the course of this global governmental image is complete, the world will be in utter anarchy. It is then that God will step onto the scene in order to save humanity from being absolutely destroyed. Note Daniel 2:45:

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.

This stone is the Lord Jesus Christ, coming from heaven, from the mountain of heaven, the kingdom from above. He will be the stone cut out without hands because no man can contribute to His Kingdom. The remedy for the total failure of humanity to govern itself can only come supernaturally from the God of heaven. Man can contribute nothing! God's remedy will change the whole course of human history. God's stone will not simply push man's image aside and create its own place. God will not transform or regenerate man's mighty image. Away with such suggestions!

This Stone will forcefully smite the image amidst its final attempt of rule, crushing, destroying, and grinding it to powder. When the Stone has fulfilled this destructive, judgmental work there will be nothing left to see but the Stone Itself; the wind will

sweep away as chaff the very memory of man's government. Daniel 2:35 states that no place was found for all these world powers.

This stone then becomes a great mountain. Originally coming from the mountain of heaven, this stone will fill the whole earth. The very presence of heaven will come to earth. Only the Kingdom of Christ can powerfully and peacefully fill the whole earth. Whatever man has attempted, it has failed; whatever man has attempted, Christ will fulfill. And of His Kingdom there shall be no end. Though He reigns on earth for a thousand years, to consummate the history of *this* earth His Kingdom will continue in the renewed heaven and earth which has often been called the Eternal Golden Age.

Daniel concludes in 2:45, "And the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." In these days when America is in the throes of national suicide, we as Christians must get ready for what is ahead. We believe that in this ankle period Christ will return to take His waiting people home to heaven.

The Bible speaks of the Gentiles in two contexts. (1) One is Luke 21:24, where Christ referred to the "times of the Gentiles" as being fulfilled. (2) The second is Romans 11:25: "That blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." This latter passage is referring to the

Gentile church, with which Western civilization of nearly two thousand years has been identified. Now Western civilization is turning away from Christianity; it is evident that the Gentile church is coming to its end, having entered global apostasy. The rapture will resolve this “fulness of the Gentiles.”

The former context in Luke regarding the “times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” has yet to see the consummation of the image in the Antichrist kingdom, the two feet and ten toes. Only the Battle of Armageddon will bring the consummation of this

“times of the Gentiles” of political and governmental power.

Our only hope as God’s Elect is the Blessed Hope! We pray for Christ to come for His saints and bear us to heaven, while we also pray for His Kingdom to come.

Though we have seen this prophetic, End-time perspective from the standpoint of man, in our next issue of *Straightway*, we must perceive this prophetic perspective from the standpoint of heaven. How does God view the past, the present, and the future of the history of man and this planet called earth? S

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Pastoral Thoughts Following the 2016 Presidential Election

(Written the Day After the Elections)

Dr. H. T. Spence

The election of our forty-fifth President of the United States has brought our country to what has been called “a miracle in political history.” Only God knows what is ahead for our country as this new president enters the responsibilities of the Oval Office. Although he has been privy to classified information concerning our country (as all candidates running for president are), in January of 2017 he will more fully understand what has really taken place during these preceding years concerning our country. Additionally, it may not be for several years until this president-elect comes to realize the far-reaching problems, complexities, and destructive perplexities that have been planted deep within our governmental system to only surface at an appointed time for intentional destruction. The deliberate national woundings and the systematically injected, deadly poison of anti-Americanism and ungodliness that have been forced into the very veins of our country’s existence and life by the previous administration have truly caused permanent and irreparable damage that will never permit our country to return to any semblance of moral health and sincere consciousness of the true God of the Bible. Many laws

passed in this present administration are now irreversible. They remain oppressively with us to the end of our national history.

This President-elect Donald Trump had never run for any political office before. In fact, few if any former presidents entered this office without some political or military experience. The polls were deceptively against him; the Republican Party was often maliciously against him; the President of our country was antagonistically against him; his opponents were vehemently against him; and the media were connivingly against him. Nevertheless, God brought this crude, unpolished underdog, and his somewhat rebellious voice of present-day conservatism, from the bottom of the pack of possibilities to the top of national leadership.

About three o’clock Wednesday morning, this man came down the stairs of an auditorium in New York City, just a few blocks from his opponent, to accept his presidential win before an audience of loyal family members and friends. His manner before the waiting audience seemed to have been one of humility as he received a standing ovation. His speech over these months of his

campaign has been with limited poise and elocution. It was evident that his life was now entering an arena he has never known before. To many he may not have the finesse and the political suaveness of some previous presidents, but he seems to be a man that what you see is what he is. For his victory address early Wednesday morning, he stood with his family. Though married three times, Mr. Trump is a man obsessively married to the passion of his life—business. And any woman who would consider marriage to him must know this; some women could never live in such a second-place position. Yet he seems to believe in the family with a wife and children. Respectfully, his children have invested their lives in a positive, natural way, being successful in their own right without turning to the debauchery of this world. Surprisingly rare especially in politics, Mr. Trump is a man who does not smoke or drink (unlike the Clintons).

Mr. Trump has been a man who, in spite of bankruptcy a few times, has risen in the natural world to be a global financier. He is a man who has made his fortune himself. Yet he is a man given to *pragmatism* in order to succeed; he does not hide the fact. He never campaigned to be a church pastor; he campaigned to be the president of a country fallen into the powers of deep sin. In these days of expediency among politicians, we cannot expect a godly man to even be running a campaign for presidency in

this country. And those who profess to be a Christian are part of the Neo-Christian crowd.

While other men in this race over these many months were politically known, this man had no political past exemplifying what he is for or against. Though he knows the game of business, he was thrown into a world of nasty, filthy, dirty politics. Can a man live in such a context and not be affected? Amidst the political correctness that swells the mouths of many politicians, at times it was refreshing to hear his plain speech.

Now in Washington, what will Mr. Trump have to become to do what he believes must be done to fulfill his dream of making America great again? He was a man that mainly ran his campaign on what was wrong with America. No other candidate, even among the Republicans, was willing to openly and candidly acknowledge that our country was no longer great. No other candidate took the strong stand against radical Muslims invading our country bringing their raw potential terrorism. No other candidate has ever on national television dared attack the New World Order and the diabolical men and women who are part of the conspiracy to overthrow America, its economy, and its independence. The integral relationship of the Rockefellers, Rothschilds, Clintons, and Bushes to the Bilderberger Group's New World Order has never been confronted by

a national candidate. But this crude, nonpolitical man did it with clarity and poignantly. He also dared attack, without finesse, the illegal immigrant nightmare that distresses our country, boldly giving a remedy for it. He defiantly confronted Hillary Clinton and declared she should be imprisoned. Yes, this seventy-year-old man, like an old junkyard dog, has barked against the invaders into this junkyard nation. And he dares to believe he is not only able to keep the invaders out but also able to clean up the junkyard.

What were the hopes and dreams he expressed for America in his early-morning acceptance speech?

1. His initial hope is that after this brutal, bloody, nasty campaign, America will be able to bind its wounds of division. (We, as Christians see the importance of this.)
2. He pleads for the factions evident in these months to come together as one people.
3. His desires to be a president to all of America, for as he said, "This is important to me." (We have not had a president to support our privilege of serving God with liberty in this country without being openly attacked by the nation's leadership. Yes, this is important in a pluralistic society that America has become.)
4. He wants to reach out and unify the country.

5. He believes what he was part of was not so much a campaign but a movement made up of millions of men and women who wanted a better country for themselves and the future of their families.
6. He wants to return to a government that serves the people; and, as he said, "The people we will serve."
7. He wants to renew America and rebuild the American dream.
8. He wants to rebuild the infrastructure of America, its cities, roads, bridges, and the heart of America.
9. He wants to take care of our veterans. He stated, "The time spent with them over these many months of travel was one of my greatest honors." (Yes, this has been a forgotten group in our country for these past eight years.)
10. He wants to call upon the best and the greatest of talents among us to make America great again. (It has been evident that the worst among men have been placed in charge of America over these past recent years.)
11. He states that he has a great economic plan that will bring the greatest economic growth, making us the strongest economy in the world.
12. We will get along with all the nations who are willing to get along with us.

13. His belief is that “no dream is too big, no challenge is too great, nothing that we want is beyond our reach. America will never settle for anything less than the best.”

14. He stated, “We must reclaim our nation, our destiny, and dream big. We want to dream big and bold and daring. We have to do that. We are going to dream beautiful things and successful things once again.”

After eight long, dark, despairing, immoral, perverted years, these words truly are refreshing to hear from a national leader.

Once again we were impressed by his careful desire to thank many people such as his departed parents and their investment in his life, his sisters and brothers, his immediate family present. He also took care to thank his staff, the two hundred generals who cast in their lot of support to him, and several Congressional Medal of Honor individuals. He clearly acknowledged his respect for the United States Secret Service and their loyalty to him, as well as the law enforcement of New York whom he declared has been under-appreciated. Yes, these words of acknowledgment have gone unexpressed over these many years. Members of the Secret Service have been called pigs by both Presidents Obama and Clinton, by their wives and their children. There has been no respect shown to

those who continue to serve them. Also, the deplorable immorality of Presidents Clinton and then Obama has contributed to several Secret Service officers’ descent into immoral lifestyles. Yes, it was most honorable to hear words of respect from this president-elect for those who serve our leaders and nation.

Bringing his speech to a close, his final words, marked with a most expressive tone were, “I love this country.” We must admit, we were moved in heart to see this “miracle” in our country considering the past several years. What person could inherit such a White House of debauchery, immorality, Islamic religion, and God-condemning, sinful leadership? Yes, we were moved in heart to hear these words of hope to pull our country out of the sheer embarrassment we have become in the world and to the world. When leadership is debauched over a period of time, the people of a country will naturally tend to slide into low-living, with no respect for appearance and life. Such leadership breeds hostility, violence, hatred, disrespect, self-centeredness, and anarchy. Sad to say, this is the kind of filth this president must face when he enters office. We pray that he and his family will restore dignity to the presidential office.

However, amidst the noble words of aspiration for our country, we vainly waited to hear from this president-elect any acknowledgment

of God concerning this shocking political upset. We did hear Vice President-elect Mike Pence clearly declare, “We are grateful to God for His amazing grace.” Also, Mr. Priebus, when called to the podium, declared, “Thank God.” But conspicuously absent was any acknowledgment of or gratitude to God uttered from Mr. Trump’s lips.

Does Mr. Trump believe that his savvy for business has been his intellect and power alone? Does he believe that he can make America great again simply by his experience in business with humanistic wisdom and talent? What is his definition of greatness? Is it a nation prospering with jobs for everyone and coming to economic prosperity while still without God? Is America to become a product of recovery by means of the powers of corporate reason, talent, and money? Will there be any acknowledgment of God, when God has been thrown out of schools, courts, government, and the morals of this nation? As long as sodomy has free rein in this country (which will make its voice more strongly known now with this president-elect), as long as the attacks against the God-given law of marriage are permitted to have free course among the nation, and the legalization of abortion is freely and forcefully committed in this country, this nation will still be doomed and damned by the God of heaven.

The Bible is very clear about the

blessings of God upon a nation. “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Righteousness, natural righteousness by its leaders and rising as the law of the land, is the only way God will ever permit us to rise again. We must remember that Sodom, according to Ezekiel 16:49, was iniquitously filled with “pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness . . . neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” Such powers have already been embedded in the fabric of our country; and the LGBT movement and lifestyle is so woven now into the warp and woof of America that it will not be oppressed or hindered. Mr. Trump acknowledges that though he is for the family and that marriage is defined as the joining of a man and woman, the same-gender marriage has been passed into law and we simply need to move on.

One cannot bring America back to greatness with this vast, threaded network of diabolical living pervading school books and curricula, as well as mandatory training sessions of corporations and businesses. Churches and ministers dealing with these issues are still liable before the courts in the context of “hate speech.” The First Amendment is still on the executioner’s scaffold; its lever could be pulled during this coming presidency. This transgender perversion is what the governor’s race in North Carolina was basically pivoting on. Our

incumbent Governor Pat McCrory has remained true in refusing to permit this perversion in the state while Roy Cooper forwards it. As of this writing, vote tallies have not been resolved.

Having entered this unique period for our nation, we have reflected upon the exhortation of Paul in First Timothy 2:1–4 concerning prayer:

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Amidst the laws that have already been placed in the infrastructure of American society through the demonic sway of present leadership, we must now pray that God will move upon Mr. Trump to maintain our religious liberties as God-fearing people, and that future laws passed will not infringe on our constitutional rights to believe according to the dictates of our conscience as we view the Scriptures to declare. And amidst the complications of a pluralistic society, we pray that Mr. Trump will be *our* president as well.

We must pray that God will keep this president-elect from the powers that boldly and confidently control the world governments of our time. These men are those who

control global money. It has now been revealed that Mr. Trump was approached Monday before the elections by representatives of the global elitists, promising him that they would guarantee he would win the presidential election if he gave some concessions to them when he became president. Quite evidently, these men were now turning away from the manipulative support of Trump's opponent. Trump refused the offer and told them he would let the populace vote play out. Did God honor him in this profound matter? Consequently, now he is a marked man by the global elitists. Amidst the heavy Secret Service (or even the potential of insider betrayal), may God be His security.

We must pray that he will be a humble man acknowledging the need of God. The warning to national leaders is found in the history of Nebuchadnezzar who was admonished in a dream about his pride (Daniel 4). Observe this leader's heart twelve months later:

He walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said. Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee (vv. 29–31).

As Mr. Trump comes with his

intentions as a leader to make America great, his pride could become his downfall. We need to pray that he will learn to pray for guidance, counsel, and discernment from God when so many are now out to destroy him and that which he professes to represent.

Though we pray for Mr. Trump to become a Christian, our concern in this immediate hour is that he will be a national leader who will simply acknowledge God, His providence, His benevolence, and be a president given to thanksgiving to the God of heaven. This is also the warning of Romans 1:21, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Mr. Trump may have dreams and goals for this country; he may have a genuine burning vision for the betterment of this nation, which he says he loves. Yet we pray that in the White House he will come to see the need of God for his administration. Our nation has become acclimatized to secularism. This is the belief of "the arm of the flesh," the times of the Gentiles, the Day of Man. Secularism has been the ruling god of the White House as well as of the legislative and judicial branches of our government; it tyrannously rules the educational system of America, the government agencies, and the business corporations. In order for this president-elect to overcome the

pervading political correctness that he has attacked, God must be on his side.

This newly chosen president of the people will face the debris and the mire of a nation that has been taught for nearly a decade the subculture of life in every aspect. The God-given honor of being a man or a woman has fallen to indignity in our country. The respect for life, liberty, and property of others has been brought to utter disdain. The ethnic races of people found in our country have been intentionally stirred up to hatred, disrespect for one another, disunity, violence, confusion of living, and obsessions for a dishonorable self-preservation without regard of others. Law and order are abhorred, and our society has been taught to bring to naught all law and those who are honorably appointed to protect the rights of others. This president must face the logic of absolutes being exchanged for the "crazy," the "bizarre," and the "insane." In decades past such insanity was despised by society. For example, the killing spree of the Charles Manson clan was a rare incident that rocked our nation's conscience for weeks. Now the violence throughout our country (and much of it is suppressed by the media) depicted in such criminally-bizarre cases seems so common an event, and even the news media take the side of the guilty rather than the victims. Yes, we must pray for this

president-elect and what he must face in the utter folly of life and criminality in our country.

We must pray for Mr. Trump as he faces the Muslim world that has a deliberate, satanic plan to overthrow this country from within. Their purpose and intent does not change with a new president. No doubt the “pay-to-play” scheme of the Clintons would have brought an unrestrained dimension to Islam if Mr. Trump’s opponent had won; it would have been swift and sure in the coming months. But whatever this president-elect has said about radical Islamic terrorist attacks in this country, and Islam’s motivation of hatred and oppression, the religion will press on with revitalized hope of taking over the country. They are well entrenched, and a massive number of Islamic immigrants have been strategically planted in cell form around our country. They await the day of their full manifestation as the money continues to pour in by the hundreds of millions of dollars for the building of mosques and educational facilities throughout America.

We have expected and perhaps still expect some retaliation or delay concerning Mr. Trump’s inauguration. Nevertheless, the present leadership seems to be content at what it has accomplished even without the need of Hillary to further it. President Obama stated that he promised a smooth transition to President-elect

Trump, calling on Americans to stand behind their new leader and cheer for his success.

Yes, we must pray for this president-elect. We prayed for the removal of one, and for the defeat of a Jezebel president-elect. But we are trusting that Mr. Trump is God’s will for this hour in our country. He seems to be better than what we have; he seems to be better than what we could have received; but only God knows what he really is, and what he will be once he enters the powers of the Oval Office.

If we feel better about this president-elect, we dare not breathe a sigh of relief that the storm is past and a season of peace is ahead. We may well witness a lull and calm for a short time; but it may be the prelude before the final storm for this country. We must remember that enemies are still deeply entrenched in the government; they will be unrelenting despite the president-elect. We are in a time of the shaking of all nations, including America, that will only increase the world’s transitioning into the Tribulation Period.

It is still true that we are in the prophetic time of the ankles of the Image of Man’s Day, the times of the Gentiles. The two divisions of the world are yet ahead in the feet and the appearance of the world rulers found in the ten toes. And a man called the Antichrist will endeavor to

rule them, though the iron cannot be mixed with the miry clay. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, "God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

Eventually, all governments, including the government of the United States, must collapse. For man can only go so far in his governing; his number is *six*; he will never rise to *seven*, the number of perfection. The corrupt policies of our government will not be diminished, even for Mr. Trump. And no doubt, this president-elect will continue to be a man of pragmatism. But let us pray for him, that he perhaps will be somewhat of a restrainer of evil and an encourager of good.

Yes, we must pray for this president-elect as riots against his election have already broken out in the cities. Liberalism, both politically and religiously, breeds anarchy in government and life. We have a nation of sinfully spoiled and pampered inhabitants who will throw their tantrums if they do not get their way. This is contemporary America, reaching the inevitable end of democracy. Yes, we must pray for Mr. Trump as he enters a chaotic country on the eve of its own implosion. Vice President-elect Mike Pence seems to be a man of integrity and character, a man who makes a public identification as a Christian; perhaps he may

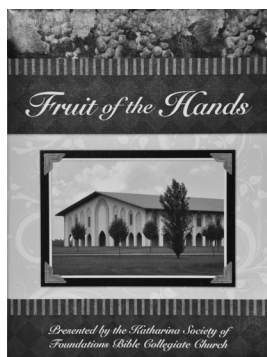
make an honorable contribution to this president-elect. But whatever unfolds in the providence of God, our hope and trust is not in a man or his abilities: God's prophecies have already sealed the future. We look to God in heaven, and for the coming of His Son. This is *our* Blessed Hope.

Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight. Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men.
Selah. (Psalms 9:19, 20). [S]

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