

THE HISTORY OF NATIONS FORETOLD

1. When did Daniel have the vision recorded in this chapter? Repeat Dan. 7:1. Note 1.
2. Repeat verse 2. What two symbols are used in this verse?
3. In prophecy what do winds symbolize? Isa. 21 :1, 2.; Jer. 25 :32, 33.
4. What are symbolized by the sea or waters? Isa. 8 :7; Rev. 17:15; Isa. 17:12, 13; Jer. 51 :42.
5. What did Daniel behold, as the result of strife and commotion among the nations and peoples of earth? Repeat Dan. 7:3.
6. What was symbolized by these four great beasts? Repeat verse 17.
7. Repeat verse 4. What was this first kingdom? Note 2.
8. How does the lion compare with the other beasts of prey? Prov. 30:30. How does Babylon compare with other nations? Isa. 13:19. What other characteristic of Babylon

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was symbolized by "eagle's wings"? Deut. 28:49; 2 Sam. 1:23. What change did the prophet see come over this symbol? What change in the kingdom of Babylon was thus indicated? Jer. 51:30; Isa. 21:3, 4. Note 3.

9. Repeat verse 5. What two kingdoms united in the conquest and overthrow of Babylon? Isa. 21:2. (Elam is but another name for Persia.) What was symbolized by the bear raising itself up on one side? See marginal reading, verse 5. Note 4. What by the three ribs in the mouth of the bear? Note 5.

10. Repeat verse 6. What special characteristic does the leopard possess? What, then, would be symbolized by four wings added to this swift-footed beast? Note 6. What is symbolized by the four heads upon the leopard? Note 7.

11. Repeat verse 7. What is symbolized by this fourth beast? Verses 23 and 24, first part. Here, as in the second chapter, the symbol designates Rome, the mighty power that followed Grecia. Note 8.

12. Repeat verse 8. Concerning what did Daniel specially desire further information? Verses 19, 20. What information did he receive? Verse 24.

13. What did Daniel behold on the part of the power symbolized by this little horn? Verse 21.

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14. How long was the oppression of this power to be felt by the saints? Verse 22.

15. Then what will certainly follow the kingdoms represented by these four beasts? Verses 26, 27.

NOTES

1. Belshazzar reigned conjointly with his father, Nabonadius, during the last three years of the Babylonian Empire, and it was at the close of this three years' reign when, as the sacred historian records, "in that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain, and Darius the Median took the kingdom." Dan. 5.30, 31. This being true, and that kingdom coming to its end in B. C. 538, it follows that this vision must have been about B. C. 541.

2. Inasmuch as in this vision four universal kingdoms span the history from Daniel's day to the end, just as in the dream of Daniel 2, the first beast here brought to view must symbolize the same power that was represented by the head of gold in the great image, - Babylon.

3. The kingdom of Babylon, as noticed in this prophecy, continued less than seventy years. More than half of that time the kingdom was ruled by Nebuchadnezzar. It was during his reign that the kingdom made all of its mighty conquests. His successors, each in turn, became less bold

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and aggressive, until the weak and pusillanimous Belshazzar, who possessed none of the brave and noble qualities of Nebuchadnezzar.

4. The marginal reading of verse 5 says, "raised up one dominion." Darius, the Mede, and Cyrus, the Persian, were associated together in the conquest and overthrow of Babylon. As an act of courtesy on the part of Cyrus, the rulership of the newly-formed kingdom was given to his uncle, Darius. But in a short time the Persians became the ruling element in the kingdom. Thus the dual kingdom, represented by the bear, is said to have exalted one branch above the other.

5. The bear is a bloodthirsty animal, and that bloodthirsty disposition of the Medes and Persians is supposed to have been further stimulated by the overthrow of the three provinces of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt.

6. The two wings added to the lion fitly represented the rapidity of the conquests of that empire under Nebuchadnezzar. Upon this leopard beast are not only wings, which are unnatural to a beast, but also an unnatural number of wings. This most fittingly represents the unparalleled rapidity and celerity of the movements of the Grecians under the reign of the intrepid Alexander the Great, who, after conquering the then known world, died at the age of thirty-two years.

7. The four heads of this beast undoubtedly symbolize the

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four divisions of Alexander's kingdom among his four leading generals about twenty years after his death.

8. In the breaking up of the Roman dominion by the incursion of tribes from the northward, ten kingdoms were established upon the ruins within the boundaries of the old empire.