

The Smiting Of The Image



ZION'S TOWER of the MORNING
PUBLICATIONS
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The Smiting Of The Image

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1959-2001

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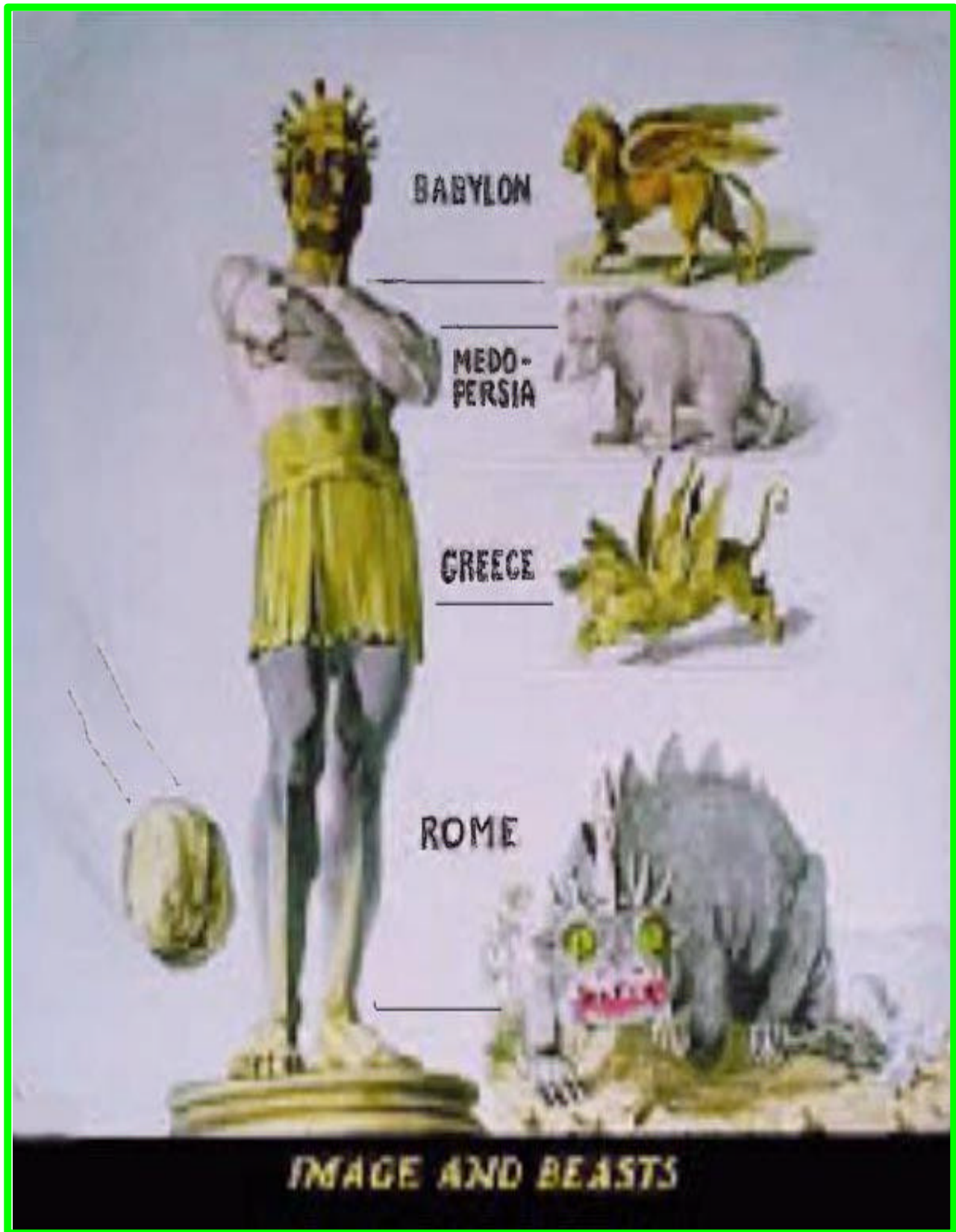
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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream from the Photo Drama of "Creation"

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FOREWORD

What we are now publishing in book form was *originally published in 1959* as *Zion's Tower of the Morning* (a newsletter considering important subjects for interested Bible Students). Although written almost twenty years ago, our viewpoint remains unchanged to date. Information for this subject has come from several sources: 1). Basically, from a study with a brother to which we have added some thoughts. 2). Citations by a brother who was editor of the Watch Tower under Pastor Russell in 1916. 3). And excerpts from a letter written by a brother in 1949 to such prominent Bible Student organizations as *The Dawn*, etc. In addition, we present excerpts from the book, *Deliverance*, by J. F. Rutherford of the present *Watchtower* and father of Jehovah's Witnesses' teachings. *It is he who should take the brunt of responsibility* for the confusion that exists among some Bible Students on this "smiting" issue, for it is his deliberate misapplication of this picture as we shall plainly see. Further, we offer some pertinent comments by Pastor Russell on this "Smiting of the Image" as they were written in his contributions to the *Overland Monthly* magazine back then and which have a specific, detailed, Scripture study on Daniel 2. These studies are disparaged by some as **unworthy news articles**; whereas in reality, from the Scripture standpoint they represent ***the truth on the matter***. Finally, some excellent "Questions and Answers" from Bro.Cecil Edney.

During the first World War, the Pastor regarded the Image in a somewhat **general** sense, expecting things to wind up *shortly*. He made references to that current (1914) situation. Nevertheless, his prevailing opinion -- from the earliest ("Volume" article) to the very latest article, was consistent with the thought that the stone, the **COMPLETED CHURCH**, cut out of the mountain with Christ and **GLORIFIED**, would do the smiting wreck upon that "great city". (Rev. 16) The resultant **Armageddon Crash** would come. (5854 ZWT Reprint, Feb. 15,1916) As concerns that article, we know of no other statement that he had written after this date "referring to ***the complete context*** of Daniel 2." We feel, therefore, that it is quite sufficient, and that it **IS** related to events which succeed the smiting of Jordan -- ***yet future***.

Contrary to ***the false*** claim that some have made, ***nowhere does the Pastor state that the stone which smote the Image was complete in 1881 AD*** No! ***Not until GLORIFIED*** could that stone be ***completely carved out of the mountains without hands*** -- out of the kingdoms of this world. An interesting antithesis to this is found in Dan. 8:25 which refers to the same breaking or smiting, ***but "without hand,"*** of the false or counterfeit Babylonish systems. ***It is retribution!*** (Rev. 13:15-17; 17:14; 6:11) As the last members of the Church were put to death (scriptures above), ***so shall they deal the destroying-blow to the systems*** and kingdoms of earth. (Rev. 2:26,27)

When ***complete, when entirely cut out***, it will smite and destroy the kingdoms of this world. Not the people, ***but the governments***, are symbolized by the Image, and these are to be destroyed that the people may be delivered. Our Lord Jesus came not to destroy men's lives, but

to save them. -- John 3:17. (The hand that smote will then turn to heal!) -- See *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 1*, p. 255.

We have endeavored in this study to bring before the minds of the brethren certain areas of these truths that have been *long neglected* and have not been considered. These pertain to a very important subject which is of a prophetic nature and for which we offer no apology to discuss at this time. We believe this *complete exposure* will benefit and bless **the sincere and honest-hearted**, giving them a better understanding of God's word on the subject. We have tried to bring as much scripturally-relevant material together as possible along with many ZWT Reprint references and other of the Pastor's citations from the earliest to the latest -- that it might show the *forcefulness* of the matter.

It is with the spirit of *the desire to be helpful* and also to share our understanding that we have approached the subject at all. We trust that it will be a blessing to you, the reader, and to others with whom you may come in contact in the troublesome days ahead.

Your fellow servant,
Charles L. Thornton, Editor
February 15, 1979

FORWARD 2

THE GREAT IMAGE OF DANIEL 2

The Image of Daniel 2 We believe a number of statements, which can be found in our study, *The Smiting of the Image*, that the image of Daniel 2, while having its beginning in 606 BC, is ***without a specific ending*** date insofar as its ***dissolution*** is concerned. ***Nubuchadnezzar's image*** pictured in Daniel 2 ***was not smitten in 1914*** or 1918 as is generally believed. There is ***no*** proper connection between Daniel 2 and Daniel 4. The two chapters are ***entirely*** separate!

The seven times mentioned in Daniel 4 are ***not*** 2520 years but ***apply only to*** the 7,000 years of sin's entrance and ***end*** with man's ***full recovery from sin***. Brother Russell correctly applies the tree scene (*Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 2*, pps. 93-98) to the 6,000 year period from the fall of Adam (4126 BC). However he does not take Daniel 4 to ***its full conclusion at the end of the seven times*** there which would be 2874 AD or "Seven Times" or 7,000 years complete. "***And at THE END OF THE DAYS*** (i.e., those 7 literal years – each year then representing 1,000 years) I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and ***mine understanding returned unto me***, and ***I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion***, and his kingdom ***is*** from generation to generation" (Dan. 4:34) The kingdom will be turned back to God ***at the immediate beginning*** of the 8th thousand year day.

The image of Daniel 2 illustrates **Gentile powers**. The **Gentile powers are still here and Satan is** still called the god of this world. The **last power** pictured in the image **is Rome**. Rome in its development *became* Rome Papal. As such **Rome exists among us today and can be seen by simple observation**. It is identified in Revelation 17:18 as “*that Great City*” (“*Babylon the Great*” – even now in size) where the woman sits upon **seven hills** or “mountains” which Rome has. The ruler or king of Rome **is Satan**. His representative on earth **is the Pope** who is a modern day “false Christ” and **king of Rome** – the Roman Pontiff. (See historical documents) Babylon has **not yet fallen** in destruction! (Rev. 18:16-21) “The ten toes” relative to the “ten horns” in Revelation 17:12-14 **are not yet fully developed** as it ascends from the pit of the “beast” -- 1929 to the present time. (Rev. 17:8)

There are several contingent factors in Daniel 2: The “stone,” representing God’s true Church, **must be fully cut out and raised to glory** as shown on the Chart of the ages. It was **not completed in 1881**. It is still here. (1) “The God of heaven” (Jehovah) **must set up** a kingdom **in its entirety**. The emphasis is **NOT** on the **setting up** of the kingdom but upon **being set up**. “**When complete, when entirely cut out, it will smite and destroy the kingdoms of this world.**” The **entire image**, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome **will be crushed at once by the stone** in “**the Armageddon crash**”– by the church in glory. (*Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 1, 254-256; ZWT Reprints, page 5854*) Recommended reading (since there is no room here for elaboration), for further details on Daniel 2, 4 and 7 see the booklet study, *The Smiting of the Image*, (1959), *Zion’s Tower of the Morning*, Publishers. That study along with this one on the Reign shall, in the near future, be published on our Web site below:

Rockland, New York

February 27, 2000

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THE SMITING OF THE IMAGE

"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 into pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the copper, the silver and the 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." -- Daniel 2:31-45.

Concerning the image of this vision we read, "the form thereof was terrible." It was a very *impressive* image and it was so beautiful *that it was terrifying*. In other words, the beauty was *awe-inspiring*. The whole thing pictures the kingdoms of men upon the earth - the successive *empires of MEN* upon the earth which were *viewed by man as GLORIOUS*. It, (these exploitations of man against man), is generally *viewed by man as something wonderful*.

1881 NOT COMPLETION OF STONE

If the stone has smitten the image, *we are forced to conclude that it is FULLY cut out* of the mountain. And further, if it is ground to powder, it is hard to think of a *PART of the stone* still in the mountain if it has *already* smitten (the image). In fact, that one line of reasoning alone is a sufficiency of evidence that the stone *has not smitten* the image. If it were true that stone smote the image in 1914 (the first world war), one would be forced by logic **to conclude that the saints were all selected**. Some will try to reason along the line that, in 1881, the general call ceased. There, numerically-speaking, if all those who were spirit-begotten in that day, and that each of them made their calling and election sure, **the 144,000 would have, at that date, been fully secured**. And so they take the view that just a few vacancies are being filled from that date to the present day. But that still does NOT answer the question here.

IF SMITTEN ALL STONE TAKEN OUT OF MOUNTAIN

If the image has been smitten, *ALL of the stone* must have been taken *out of the mountain*. It would be straining at an interpretation to view it from any other standpoint. In the first volume we read

pps. 254-256 that the stone cut out of the mountain without hands "which smites and scatters the Gentile powers, *represents the true church*, the kingdom of God" which, *when*

complete, when entirely cut out, *will smite and destroy the kingdoms* of this world."

Pastor Russell goes on further and says, "Call to mind now the promise by our Lord to the overcomers of the Christian Church, "To him that overcometh, will I grant to **sit with me in my throne**" (this, we have learned, can take place only when the marriage of the lamb **has come** - the time of the church's glorification, which Brother Russell many, many times referred to in Vol. I, and elsewhere). We quote again, "and he that overcometh and keepeth my words **unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, and as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers, etc."

The logic presented in the first volume is along the same line. It is when **complete**, when **ENTIRELY cut out**, it will smite. He then adds the second thought -- not only would it be **complete**, but that the church would be in a **glorified state** -- an **overcoming** state. The promise in Revelation "to him that overcometh" apply particularly to the one who has overcome **unto death**. In any event, it would mean **the complete church would be gathered when the smiting of this image takes place**.

SEEN AS A FUTURE EVENT EVEN AT THAT TIME

The pastor has, in some cases, linked the smiting with the first World War. Yet, we would like to show there are several instances, that could be cited, where he sees this as a future event - **even at THAT time**. And this latter view, seems to be the more Scripturally-sound interpretation. Refer to Reprints page 5575 in which we are told, "But **as soon as set up in power, this** kingdom will smite the 'great image' of earthly rulership. Col. 1, par.3, Nov. 15, 1914. This was written **after** the World War had commenced in Europe. **As soon as set up in POWER it will smite**. He said this **after the war** had commenced--and he puts that event yet future (the smiting).

A little later, R.5673, he continues this thought. In R.5632 Bro. Russell presents the other view that, "We see the kingdoms of this world being dashed to pieces and we are expecting to see the process continued until they are completely ground to powder." There, we can see he viewed, at that time, the nations as being dashed to pieces, and, in the process, being ground to powder.

But it is a *strange* thing, just two months later, a **few pages after** this we read: "This smiting, we believe, is **near at hand**; the present **war** of Europe being intended of the Lord **to weaken the nations and to prepare them for** the next stage of trouble, the great earthquake, which in symbol, signifies revolution." Now you see this is a different thought here and **it was stated two months later**. This view is more Scripturally sound and is more logical from many standpoints to be mentioned later. In the February article, he does say that he sees no objection to the church being in the flesh in connection with this dashing or smiting work. There are a few cases where he interprets the 149th Psalm and tries to show the possibility that this prophetic vision (149th Psalm) might have an application here at the extreme end of the age, and not, therefore, be just the church beyond the veil. Now, adapting that view to the stone smiting the image, he might have reasoned along this line: that the church could be this side the veil and smite the image, but, that of necessity, according to the vision, they must be **COMPLETE as far as character** is concerned. You see, they would be cut out of the mountain **COMPLETELY as**

a CLASS. In other words, the door is closed. It is just a matter of this class tarrying for a short time before their change, and thus they would be crystallized.

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STONE SMITES WHEN ENTIRELY CUT OUT

But the vision, as you meditate upon it, shows no smiting *until the stone is entirely cut out*. It does leave the possibility open that the time might come in the future, when the church might have been entirely cut out, but not have experienced its heavenly change and yet do a smiting work. There seems to **be some scriptures which indicate the church will give a message this side the veil** and that the *message will be one of reproof and of authority* and will have an effect in the earth and will cause repercussions that might be likened to a smiting. There is just that possibility.

The *smiting of the image will not take place with the church in the flesh*. There are many pictures which force this conclusion but are too lengthy to consider here. There will be a previous smiting as afore mentioned, and that **smiting of Jordan would be a work that would be analogous to a smiting message** prior to the earth's change and will have its effect. A smiting of Jordan takes place prior to Babylon's fall, and that fall is not pictured at all in the vision of Elijah. The chariot of fire which took Elijah home is *likened to the nominal church when it comes into power*, and will be the means or agency **that God will allow to convey God's faithful children home** - the persecutions that ensue at that time will be instrumental in so doing. In other words, the smiting of Jordan and the smiting of the Image cannot be the same event; **they do not synchronize**, but the one takes place **PRIOR** to the smiting of the Image.

To continue, we see there are some expressions where Brother Russell states it one way and then he states it another way in these same years. Now, if we were living at that time and believed the change of the church was imminent, we could see how he could view the present war, at times, as though it will be this war that will eventually effect changes that will soon see the church's change to the heavenly condition. A year later, as we continue further, **July 1915, R.5716** "The smiting of the image, which will grind it to powder will not come from the church in the flesh, with carnal weapons, but from the church in *kingdom glory, backed by divine power..*" (The church will not be in kingdom glory, nor have power over the nations to dash them to pieces

until the glorification takes place *at the marriage*). We can see by reading and meditating upon that point that he views the smiting *as being future*.

SMITTING IS ARMAGEDDON CRASH

Numerically speaking, it is *more times stated by Pastor Russell that the smiting is to be a future event*, and that this is the logical thought will be further shown. In Feb. 15, 1916, R.5854, we read this, "It is upon the feet of the Image that that the **Armageddon crash of God's kingdom** is pictured as falling - grinding the entire image to powder." He views the smiting of the image here and likens it to the **Armageddon crash upon the feet** of the image. Now, in those later years Brother Russell viewed the *Armageddon crash as a future event*. Occasionally, in **very rare** instances, he likened Armageddon as commencing with the first World War. But in many places following, **he denied this**. In fact, he gave reasoning and Scriptural logic to prove that it couldn't have taken place then and we feel that line of reasoning supercedes the few times when he generalized on the subject. It was his thought that the true church would be gone *before* Armageddon, i.e., Anarchy. (Ques. Book, 617; D 548 #1 Ques. Book, 580; 1915, Vol. 4 Forward, pg. xvi (1913).

Now we go into some of the details of the vision. We saw then in the great vision of Daniel, that the feet were comprised of clay and iron; and this clay and iron represents the division of church and state. The clay is *imitation* stone. When clay is mixed with water and hardens, it becomes stone-like, but it is not true as stone which is represented by the stone that smites the image. That is a Stone, and there is **no human-working** in connection with that. Clay is worked *by hand*, worked in with water, *manipulated by hand* and *becomes like* stone. But, it is **not** like the natural stone one finds in the earth – not formed with human hands. **That stone is God-made** and it is that which *pictures the church* – **God-made**, without human hands; but by the Holy Spirit of God and **not** of human origin.

SMEARED WITH CLAY A COUNTERFEIT OF STONE

The clay would represent a *religious element mixed in with the iron*, or in this case, with the civil element -- Rome, in its various divisions. We are given a little clue that this is true. The vision tells us (vs. 43), "And where as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave, even as iron is not mixed with clay." In the Bible, when the pronoun they is used, it is **usually in a derogatory sense**... The church is pictured by, we and us and the other class, who are *nominally* God's people, are spoken of as them and they. And so here, when it says that they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, it would indicate people professing to be Christians. They would, as God's people (in trying to better mankind's lot or condition), **feel a necessity to mix in with the civil element**, to try to **uplift** it, **to reform** it. And that is why many churches cannot understand why a Christian does not take part in the civil affairs of earth. The former ones feel it their duty to be the moral conscience of the people and of the State. However, God has said His kingdom **is not of this world**; that **friendship** of the world is enmity with God. He enjoins His people to be **separate** from the world and its spirit and **to cleave wholly to Him**. And it is by forgetting or ignoring this

that the church would become political -- it would mix in with the seed of man and **try to better mankind's** position. But it tells us that, fundamentally, even though they are not the real Christians, they are not wholly accepted by society. Rather, they are viewed upon with suspicion (this element) in spite of it (religion). It is because the political and the religious elements feel that by getting together, they can help strengthen society. But actually, each has his own ideas and preferences how society should be run.

It is **merely expediency** that has been the theme down through the ages that has allowed these two to mix together. But basically there is a weakness there because of their approaching this subject from two different realms of thought. And so it tells us in the vision; that while they mingle themselves with the seed of men, *it is not a thorough amalgamation*. They cannot be thoroughly homogenized but are separate one from another. There is a close union but there is also a weakness there. And then it tells us that this relation is partly strong and partly broken. (Some translations put it "partly weak"). The thought is that it has the strength of iron but it has the **WEAKNESS of the clay** -- clay crumbles. It has a tendency to crumble and SEPARATE as well. And that the clay represents an *inherent weakness* in relation to this picture of coordination in this vision. Therefore, that the clay represents the *professed* church of Christ, the **IMITATION** stone and not the true stone.

EVIDENCE OF WEAKNESS NOT PROOF OF DESTRUCTION

Some look about in the earth (from the standpoint of current events) and see the evidences of weaknesses in connection with the nominal church. These see the nominal church as in the decline -- deteriorating. And they **use this line of evidence as a proof that the church has been smitten**. They say these evidences of weakness show the church has been shorn of its power and that there is no hope of recovery. But it is interesting, in this vision, to note that the prophet tells us this relationship of part strength and part weakness exists *PRIOR to the impact of the stone* upon the feet of the image. He notes this condition as existing **PRIOR** and their proof, therefore, **CANNOT BE USED**. The evidences of weakness of the church throughout the earth **cannot** be used as **PROOFS** the church is in the decline and there is no possibility of its rise in the future.

CHURCH STATE STILL EXISTS

There is another line of evidence and that is *the common sense view*. If the stone smote the image, we would expect one of the first things that would happen would be the **severance of the clay** from the iron. This relationship would be broken asunder or apart. Now, what do we find? When we look upon the scene in the world today, we find just the opposite. We find that the *church-state relationship exists* throughout a great majority of the nations of the earth today - the so-called Christian nations. Take in **England**: The Church of England is still identified with its civil powers and prerogatives. The Queen, when she was coronated, laid claim to the title as head of the church as well as head of state. Take **Portugal**: there is a church-state relationship in Portugal. And in **Spain**: the same condition exists - *the schools are controlled by Catholicism*. In the Latin American countries, in South America, there are several countries that have this relationship. In your **Scandinavian** countries, you have this condition existing of the **Lutheran**

state-church in connection with the government. In **Greece** you have that same condition. In fact, in the last world war, following the routing of the **Germans**, there was a period of confusion and anarchy in Greece. And during that period of time, in order to stabilize the condition of the people of Greece, the Archbishop was made interim or *temporary head of the state of Greece*. His name was Archbishop Damaskinos. He was made the head of Greece and ruled the nation as its primate **until** the king came back. The king came back later and there was an orderly transfer. The clergy stepped aside and the old arrangement took over again. But it goes to show that **the Greek Orthodox Church is still strong in Greece**, even though this is several years after the first world war. In fact, many can attest, who live there, *of persecutions by the church in that country* -- brethren can attest to that fact.

Even in Russia itself, this relationship of church-state exists. It may be hard to see at first, but it does exist. During the last world war when millions of Russians were killed, the people felt reluctant to allow **the corpses to be buried without some sort of a religious ceremony**. They felt there might be something in it. And so Stalin was forced to recognize the acceptance of the Russian Orthodox Church even in this perfunctory fashion in connection with their burial. And the result was that allowing the last world war, there were several million dollars given to the Russian Orthodox Church to help build Russian churches (notably in Stalingrad). **The government furnished the money**, showing there is a relationship. And the Russian Orthodox Churches even today, when making pronouncements, very strongly backed the communist regime then; but they do exist as a religious body. Since 1989, Russia has embraced the Orthodox church there, has overthrown communism and has put out a law *banning certain other religious* groups that were objected to by that church. In 1984, Pope John Paul *called for church union* and since the nine major denominations have joined hands. Pope John Paul II has recently, in the year 2000, made overtures to the Russian Church and its Archbishop *with the intent of Church Unity*.

In 1917, when the communists came into power, they overthrew the church there, violently -- and, for a time, there were very few churches in existence because of what the communists did. They **cut open the statues and revealed, the paper mache' on the inside** and the people were so stirred at the repugnant sight and **with the false practices that these churches** became empty halls. In fact, they (people) desecrated many of the church buildings--the majority of them--and turned them into warehouses or pulled them down or used them for some other inferior purpose.

But now, today, we find the Russian Orthodox Church is **STRONGER**, without question, than it was in 1917. So it would be a hard thing to account for *the fact that the church is getting stronger, in the year 2001*, in that nation if it has been smitten! It would seem to be a very peculiar fact. And we find that the church-state relationship exists in these other nations as well. More detail could be gone into but we do not have the time.

(There is no Christian nation - so-called today that *does not have* a similar condition of church-state than was in existence **prior** to the year 1914.) This condition **exists** in all of these nations; it cannot be denied.) This relationship does exist today.

Now, we would feel that many have an erroneous thought: They believe the relationship or union has to be **powerful** in order to represent this clay-iron mixture; but that is **NOT** the thought. It is the *association* of the church and state. Whether it is weak or whether it is strong is designated in the Bible as *harlotry*. It is **NOT the strength** of the thing that is obnoxious in God's sight. It is the **FACT** of the union. So then, *it is immaterial about the power* of the union. That is

not what matters --or-- if the state used the church as its tool. Look at Russia, the state uses the church as its tool. And they are trying to appoint in Poland and other countries those who have their allegiance to Rome. (And they are trying to pick those in sympathy with their political thoughts. The present Pope John Paul II, is packing the house with those Cardinals who have his ideals). It doesn't matter one way or the other whether the church rules the state or the state uses the church as its tool. In **either** case, the picture is still designated (spiritually) as Harlotry as **MINGLING with the seed of men**. So **power has NOTHING** to do with the subject. And many are misled by that -- looking upon the **weakness of the power** as an evidence that it does not exist. But actually this relationship exists today. So, then, it would be a hard thing to understand that here this image has been smitten and not only broken in **pieces**, but **GROUND** to powder. How, then, is it that the clay-iron mixture is **still to be seen** if this has been done? We think that common sense and the facts that are about us give evidence that this **GREAT CRASH**, predicted in the Bible with its **devastating results**, **has not** taken place. And it (the church) is **growing stronger in this nation** than in the first world war.

COLLAPSE OF BABYLON TIED TO SMITING

Now, another strange thing. The collapse of Babylon is ultimately related with the smiting of the image. If the iron-clay mixture represents ecclesiasticism mixed in with the state, whatever happens with this image, in connection with its destruction, it is related to the **fall of Babylon**. In other words, when the image is smitten, Babylon would fall. Right? This **great devastating** blow upon the **feet** should mark the time. We look about us and what do we find? Is the church broken down? We still see plenty going to the church services. In fact, today, in many countries, more than before.

It would be a hard thing, even from just the natural standpoint, to say, "Well, that's dead; it's a corpse -- what we see is not a reality today." It is not the strength of the church; it is the **FACT of its existence** and the **relationship** that God does not like. He disapproves the church's **MINGLING** with the seed of men. That is basically the thing that is wrong.

If the image has been smitten and broken into pieces, how in the world are these pieces **coming together** for this lone hour of power in the reign of the beast at the rise of Babylon, which is pictured by the clay? How is it going to **come back into power?** The vision does **NOT** show it. It would be a strange thing to see this image being all ground to powder and, then, all of a sudden, see it **revivified**. We believe that this vision is trying to show the **devastating** destruction of the present order of society and its replacement by the Kingdom of God. For instance, it speaks of this clay as being **potter's** clay. And potter's clay, this miry clay, when it dries, is like a potter's vessel. When that is smitten, it flies into a million-piece shards (fragments) **SUDDENLY**. So the smashing of the feet which is of potter's clay is like **DASHING** them to pieces. **Dashing** them to pieces! It is not a **GRADUAL** work. Therefore, we believe that the breaking of the potter's vessel emphasizes two thoughts: (1) the **SUDDENNESS** of the destruction and (2) the **COMPLETENESS** of the destruction.

BABYLON'S EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION SHOWN

In order to emphasize, to impress upon the mind, that there is **no possibility** of this ever coming back into **POWER AGAIN**, -- to show that there is **NO CHANCE** of its ever coming back into power, it is **not only** SMITTEN into **PIECES**, but it **becomes like the chaff** of a summer threshing

floor and is *blown away* to show a **finality** of the vision. And yet some would say that it has been smitten but that it is going to *come back together for a little time*. When the picture is emphasizing the **FINALITY** of the destruction, they would say that it is going to *come back* into power. So, what has happened? Those who have viewed the image as already having been smitten -- those of that persuasion but who have a logical mind -- that segment of the brethren, are forced to conclude that the nominal church **CANNOT** come *back into power*. And they have openly expressed their views along this line. We are aware there are several who still feel that the church will come back into power (and yet believe the image *has* been smitten), but we feel they are not thoroughly impressed with the **INHARMONY** and with the incompatibility of holding these two views. They have not **awakened to the** fact of how one cannot hold these two views consistently. So we feel this pictures **SUDDEN destruction** and **FINAL, UTTER** destruction. **NO** possibility of its ever occurring again - this relationship.

This view harmonizes, too, with the book of Revelation when they are cast **ALIVE** into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Rev. 19:20) That pictures the condition of second death from which there is **NO POSSIBILITY** of a resurrection. They are cast **ALIVE** (the beast and the false prophet), showing that whatever might happen in the future (in the nature of a deception upon the people here upon the earth), it will **NOT** be of a religious nature. So Bro. Russell concludes that may be it is of a civil nature, this test way down at the end of the age (Rev. 20:3), that it will not be of a religious nature. The very fact that they are cast *alive* reaffirms the fact of the union between church and state because they both are actively working together hand in hand--the kings of the earth, the beast and the false prophet. Just as it is shown in the vision, they both are completely **destroyed together**.

COLLAPSE OF BABYLON EVIDENCE OF BINDING STRONG MAN?

Another difficulty, and there are many, is a picture in the New Testament about the strong man of the house. The strong man of the house must be bound before his goods can be spoiled. If you think upon that: are his goods being spoiled today? Many might say, "Yes! They are being spoiled." **Are they being spoiled?** Look at the television! Look at the newspaper: Look at the ads! Look at *the Internet and the videos!* The corrupt literature! Look at the injustices in government! The disease, sickness, etc.! **Satan's kingdom does not look as though it is broken into very much, does it?** We have to be really factual and show common sense! Is the condition of the earth any better than it was back there? We have a few inventions, we have a few pleasures, but there is no happiness with it, and there is more distrust, more misuse, more discontent **TODAY** than before. And there **is more EVIL** - child delinquency, etc. Has his kingdom been broken into? (Matt. 12:29) Well, it is a very poor breaking into, if it is! And here we are told that the "strongman" must first be bound **BEFORE** his house can be broken into. If the house has been **broken** into, then **the strongman must be bound**. Not partially bound (i.e., in the process) **BUT BOUND!** -- so that he cannot resist and stay the hand of the one who enters his house -- that one being our Lord. (Br. Russell, Ques. Book. pps. 625-627) In the quote there (1916) he says, "All the present institutions of the world are Satan's goods and arrangements. These will be spoiled in the great time of anarchy."

This statement is not saying that the strong man must be bound before the Lord comes - before the Lord's second presence, or at the moment of his second presence. But before this house (Babylon, etc.) is destroyed in any effectual way at all, **during this presence**, the **binding must be done**.

So what has happened? -- The scripture has been changed in recent years and given another thought than has been presented to us in the volumes. They change this scripture and it's meaning because basically they realize that this is another obstacle they must get out of the way to prove that the image has been smitten. So you see, while we are not impugning the motives, there are brethren who hold *opposite* views. And if they hold it with consistency, something has to give, in connection with the fabric of the prophetic delineations in scripture in other places, to match and support this new thought.

"The collapse of Babylon will indicate that Satan has been quite fully bound." -- Pastor Russell, Ques. Book, 626. When the house has been broken into **THEN** you know that the strong man **HAS BEEN bound** - when his house is broken into, when Babylon **COLLAPSES**. However, the **binding will not yet** have taken place according to the Pastor's comments in *Gems From the Mine* (Revelation 20:3 extensive comments) until **after the Great Company has been tried** and **onward into anarchy and Jacobs Trouble**. The Pastor writes, "As to the question **WHEN the great adversary's binding will be accomplished**, we believe that **it will NOT be** brought about **UNTIL the time that the 'great company' class IS COMPLETED**. It would not surprise us if Satan would make **a great commotion in the world all through the time of trouble**. It does not seem that the terrible trouble will come about **WITHOUT the adversary**. We think **he would enjoy being in the fray**, such as we expect it to be – **worldwide, when the kingdoms** of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ." (Rev. 11:15, 1910, R.4610)

"The church and state are getting pretty well **welded together**." These are Bro. Russell's words - 1916. If the iron and the clay have already been smitten, then this seems to be contradictory! "They depend upon each other, and will get **pretty closely united** in the time of need." So while we say there are two lines of evidence pro and con -- the bulk of it is that **this is a FUTURE EVENT**. But the common-sense viewpoint and the scriptural viewpoint do indicate and point to it as **YET** future. Otherwise, we are forced to conclude that the church **WILL NOT** come into power and that the **door IS** closed. To be logical, we would be forced to those conclusions.

We would now refer to Isaiah 66:7 in which we are told that **'before her pain came she of a manchild'** was delivered. And, in connection with the interpretation of this scripture, the Pastor likens **the woman** here as to nominal spiritual Zion and **that the church head and body** (but here **particularly the body** because the head is pictured as having been *previously* brought forth) or the manchild is born before the death of the mother - **nominal Zion before her DEATH pain**. This is based upon another picture in the old testament in connection with their birth of Joseph and Benjamin. The mother **died** with the birth **of the last son**. His name was **Benoni (son of the right hand)** and it was changed to Benjamin in her death pain or sorrow. That was a picture of the **great company** class. When Joseph was born there was no evidence of any abnormal pain. It was the **DEATH pain or pangs** that was referred to in Isaiah 66. (See Gen. 35:18)

The NATIONS still existed. And they are pictured in this image (Dan. 2:35) as existing way down here at the end of the age. What happens? Let's take, for consideration, these world powers. Babylon: Babylon would embrace, in Bro. Russell likens her death to the one in Isaiah 66 of the

woman there having her pain and death. (This is not the same as the manchild in Revelation, for here the manchild is born before the pain and in Rev. the false manchild is born **AFTER** the pain.) The **church will be gone** before Babylon's fall. Babylon's **FALL is RELATED to the smiting of this image.** When Babylon was pronounced *as fallen in 1878*, the fall was *from FAVOR* in God's sight. But there are two falls of Babylon. one (1) is the fall from FAVOR and the next (2) is the DESTRUCTION.

ALL NATIONS OF IMAGE TO GO DOWN IN ARMAGEDDON CRASH

Notice that this vision tells us something to this effect: "Then was the iron, the clay, the copper, the silver and the gold, ***broken into pieces together.***" Right? Now that presents another interesting fact. We **thought**, didn't we, that the gold was gone? (It says, "Thou, O King Nebuchadnezzar, art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom," etc. And yet when it comes to the smiting of the image, ***the gold is STILL THERE.*** And the silver ***is STILL*** there; it hasn't been destroyed. So this begins to raise another entirely new realm of thought. The fact that the stone smites the feet is to show the time element. This vision has a prophetic sequence down through the ages and it commences with the head (just as one would view a person). So in this vision, the head represented the first kingdom and so on in the successive worldly kingdoms. The toes are at the very extremity of the age. The fact that the stone **smites the feet shows that it will be in the latter days** that this smiting will take place. But in spite of the fact that it happens in the latter days, the other parts of the image are still in existence AT the time this smiting takes place.

The Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, etc. each ceased as a world power. It was this power of control that was destroyed by each successive government **but the NAT** ancient times, what we **would designate today as part of India, Arabia, Iran, Iraq and a part of Syria**, nations such as those. Then the next world power came along: Media-Persia (and Media-Persia, instead of being toward India, **modern Persia moved over toward Turkey**). And so the center of AUTHORITY began to move **to the LEFT**. Then it shifted a **little more to the west -- to Greece**. It is interesting to note how this power of control went from Babylon to Media-Persia (or Asia Minor) over to Greece **and then to Rome**.

And as far as that goes, we (America) are considered a part of Rome by virtue of **our indirect connection**. We are **not** recognized as a **world power** like the others were. There are only four world powers in that vision. There were other kingdoms, the Egyptian and others. But he is dating this vision from the time that the king had the dream.

Babylon, 200 years ago was an insignificant place. It was hardly different then than it is today. It is **only with the discovery of oil** that in recent years these nations even amounted to anything. They were in a feudal state for thousands of years and the same condition exist now as then. No change! Now, in fact today, they are a little stronger than they were in the first world war. Aren't they? If it has been smitten, **then how is it** that these **insignificant** kingdoms **are getting more POWER?** Look at Saddam Hussein (the rebuilder of Babylon) who seeks ways of biological warfare, sends missiles to Israel and **how he ridicules America**. Look at Iran (formerly Persia) in the 1960's celebrated 2,500 years of existance, whose main city was Persiaopolus and who were so strong as to hold **America hostage**.

This vision means that these nations EXIST but not with the power they formerly had. But when the stone smites the image, ***they will not exist.*** It will mean ***the OVERTHROW*** of ***GOVERNMENTS.*** The first world war shook the earth in some respects and other pictures in the Bible show it (which we will later refer to), ***but not in the sense as is pictured in Dan. 2:24.*** That is a different picture. That is a blow which is a **DEATH BLOW.** Some things which have happened since 1914~which we do not have time to go into now, were merely changes of forms of governments. Many of these nations were changed. **Persia was changed into Iran; and Babylon to Iraq.** Then there is Czechoslovakia (who recently had a name change). Hungary and divisions of some of those Balkin nations and other changes along that line. But no radical change to speak of as far as the kingdom is concerned. The **ARMAGEDDON CRASH (the smiting of the IMAGE) will be the dissolution of the governments of the EARTH.**

Babylon was insignificant in the first world war and the first world war had nothing to do with Arabia to speak of. What real damaging change took place in Arabia and those nations? Greece is more or less undisturbed. There may be changes of government, but these have taken place throughout world history. The vision tells us the nations that comprised the various world powers would be all related to this smiting. In other words, when this smiting takes place, Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Asia Minor, Turkey, Greece, Rome, the Balkins, Europe **are ALL** involved. This isn't just a war in EUROPE but it is a condition **that will entirely overthrow the governments** of THESE nations. ("Though I make an end of all nations.") See how this is related to anarchy, the Armageddon smash, and it says that ***these are broken to pieces together.*** It is a picture of **FINALITY AND DESTRUCTION** and the **church is NOT going** to come back into power after for, when this happens, ***it is through.***

As the clay and iron mixture represent the relationship of church and state, and as the collapse of Babylon is intimately related to the smiting of the Image, ***it would be difficult to understand that, if the Image has been already smitten*** upon the feet. Especially it would be difficult to see how the fragments of iron and clay are to come together again ***temporarily*** before their final dissolution, when the prophetic picture in Daniel **does NOT indicate such an occurrence subsequent to the crash.** Additionally, the events of our day show that the relationship and intimacy between church and state **still subsists.**

GLORIFICATION OF TRUE CHURCH PRECEDES BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION; BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION PRECEDES FALL OF KINGDOMS (IMAGE)

If the true Church is to be born in the first resurrection ***before nominal Zion's death pains*** (Isaiah 66:7) (Reprints 5574, Col. 2), then it appears that ***Babylon's collapse is yet future,*** otherwise, this **poses the embarrassing question how to account for our being this side the veil.** It is our thought that **upon the stone's impact, Babylon will have fallen and her death-pang already commenced,** since it is written that the ***fall of Babylon precedes the fall of the kingdoms.*** (Rev. 18:9,10, See *Zion's Watch Tower* Reprints 1355, Col. 2, #4)

"The Strong Man of the House must be bound before his goods can be spoiled (or his kingdoms destroyed) the collapse of Babylon will indicate that Satan has been quite fully bound the church and the state are getting pretty well welded together (but **if the iron and the clay**

have been already smitten, this would appear quite contradictory). They depend upon each other, and will get pretty closely united in the time of need.” -- Question Book pg. 626 year 1916

Consider briefly the situation in Spain and Portugal. ...Has the Stone Kingdom smitten these nations -- or **does the church nominal still exercise considerable influence in these priest-ridden nations?** Does not the church-state relationship exist in England? Did not former Prime-Minister Churchill appoint, and King Edward *install, the present Archbishop* of Canterbury to succeed the office of the late Archbishop Trent?

Was it not necessary that Princess Elizabeth's consort, Prince Phillip, formally renounce his affiliation with the Greek Orthodox Church, and **thus become inducted into the Episcopal Church**, the religion of the realm?

What shall we say of Italy? Does not the Catholic Church under the present constitution of the Republic still enjoy -- without change -- the prerogatives and privileges previously obtained in the Lateran Treaty Pact of the Victor Immanuel Dynasty (1929)? **Is not Papacy still the religion of State in Italy - established thus politically and financially?**

Did we not observe, in Greece, an example of the Orthodox Church's influence in the *appointment of Archbishop Damaskinos as interim Regent of Greece*? Do not conditions exist **in similar vein in the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, not to mention the growth of the Church's influence in the Americas?**

And last but not least - **does not this relationship exist even in Russia?** If the Image was smitten in 1914, how do we account for the resurgence of the Russian Orthodox Church which today enjoys greater privileges than formerly it did in the earlier days of the Communist-Socialist Revolution? **Even to the extent of receiving government funds in its work of rehabilitation?**

Nor can these aforementioned facts be explained away with **the mere assertion** that the nominal church today is but a mere skeleton of its former sacerdotal power. For it has **larger influence** in some nations than formerly it did, as well as less influence in others.

Be it observed, however, that *it is the association of Church and State* - whether weak or strong - and **NOT the power of the union** that is called to our attention in Nebuchadnezzar vision; **that it is the fact** rather than the degree or form of relationship to be noted. It matters not whether the State uses the Church as its tool, **or whether the Church uses the State as its tool**, the clay-iron admixture *is still spiritually designated harlotry*.

Are not they (the church nominal) *still mingling "themselves with the seed, of men"*(in the political affairs of men). (Dan. 2:43) Are they not still "partly strong and partly broken"(fragile)? (Dan.2:42) Note well that the former condition, as well as the evidence of internal weakness and deterioration, are both discernible **prior to the Stone's impact upon the feet of the Image**, and consequently are **not** infallible (proofs that *this event has a past fulfillment*). However, if our understanding be correct, when the image is smitten, this affiliation will have ceased to exist altogether - the destruction of the component parts being but next in order (Rev. 16:19) **The rending of the kingdoms of earth today, which commenced so noticeably in 1914, we believe corresponds more closely with THE WINDS OF WAR prefigured in Elijah's Vision (I Kings 19:11), while the smiting of the Stone Kingdom seems to be more closely identified with the SECOND phase of social explosion (earthquake) of the same vision.**

In summation, therefore, **our judgment is that the Stone is not yet entirely cut out;** that **the growth of the Stone is NOT indicative of increase of numbers in the glorified body of Christ,**

but rather denotes the gradual **increase** of governments' influence and peace throughout earth's entirety (Isa. 9:7; Ezek. 47:3-5), Reprints 4883, Col. 1#2 to Col. 2 top); that **the prophetic delineation of the stone's impact is likened unto the shattering of a dried potter's-vessel** which forcibly pictures, upon occurrence, *the sudden*, as well as the *utter, dissolution of all semblance* of law and order in earth; which, in turn, affords liberty to the **red hand of anarchy** and fire to do its work in completing the annihilation of civilization as we now know it. All things will then pass away and behold! -- "*He will make all things new.*" *Thank God!* "Those days will be shortened by the Elect, else, surely, no flesh would be saved."

"-- and he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; -- **as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers**, -- then will the hand that smote be turned to heal (the people), giving them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for heaviness." -- (Hos. 6:1; Ps. 1:9; Jer. 19:22; Rev. 2:26)

WINDS OF WAR WEAKENING OF NATIONS SINCE 1914

The rending (weakening) of the kingdoms of earth today, which has commenced since 1914, we believe, more closely corresponds with the winds of war prefigured in the vision of Elijah (I Kings 19:11); while the smiting is more closely identified with the social explosion earthquake of Rev. 16:19. Some are **inclined to make this phase of trouble look like a revolution**; as changing from a democratic form, to the socialist or communist form. But that is **NOT the revolution which Bro. Russell depicts** there. He explicitly **refers to it as VIOLENCE, as a GREAT SOCIAL EXPLOSION**. When F.D.R. came here (as U.S. President in 1933), we had quite a few changes; but **that was not the revolution of the Bible**. We have a more AUTOCRATIC rule in some of the nations than they ever had before. In Russia, that is not a weak rule. That is a strong rule. The same with France, Poland, Hungary, Spain and others. When this happens, there will not be the church-state relationship. But today, when we look about, we see it all over in these countries. Even with our government and the U.N. And while they do not have so much power, the relationship, nevertheless, **exists** and this is growing stronger as the years go by.

Now, there is one other point - the growth of the stone. It tells us that when the stone smites, the stone grows and becomes a great mountain and fills the entire earth. The **Society views** that the God of heaven **has SET UP his kingdom in the year 1914**. (Refer to one of their more recent works titled, "Our Incoming World Government--God's Kingdom"* (published 1977) Their view is that they are going to survive and GROW in the time of Armageddon. They are not going to diminish, but are going to **SURVIVE AND THRIVE** in the time of trouble then upon the world. (The base of this error has **originated in their confusion about the end of the Gentile Times**, marriage of church-state and the white-robed Rev. 7 class). They expect to **ultimately embrace the entire earth** and the capitol of the world is to be at Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York. The present view that the kingdom **was set up**, may be directly ascribed to the Society, for it is they who have fostered and perpetuated this view with their own version or modification.

The stone is a spiritual one - **not a Jonadab class**. And **it is the church in GLORY** - not the church here on earth and its influence (in that sense) which will do the smiting. This shows that the governmental INFLUENCE of Messiah's kingdom will RAPIDLY increase FOLLOWING the dissolution of the present empires of earth

It will expand **until it embraces the entire earth**. (Psalms 72 says, "He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.") This shows a picture of **entirety-universality**. The stone represents the **glorified church growing** as it says in the John

*Publication mentioned is an update. Previously cited was the Society's publication of 1958, "Your Will Be Done."

(the Baptist) picture: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30) And so we find the *Elijah class* this side the veil *must be diminishing* as we would go further **toward time of trouble**. And on the *OTHER side of the veil, the stone is growing*. That is **NOT true down here**. So, the stone represents gradual yet rapid increase of Messiah's **INFLUENCE and GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL** over the nations of the earth *following* the FALL of the nations. Its *real marked growth will commence with the destruction of the hosts of Gog and Magog with the ESTABLISHMENT of Israel*. And it is from there that the stone begins to grow.

STONE CLASS CUT OUT OF BABYLON

The cutting out of the mountain. Let us take another angle. There are many. Let us take the cutting-out angle. What does it mean for **the stone to be CUT OUT of the mountain?** What is the mountain? The mountain is the **kingdom of EARTH**. This is *the mountain DOWN HERE*. It is down here that the church is being prepared. Now, to be cut out of the mountain in this particular prophecy, we believe, has the significance of **BEING CHANGED** to the SPIRITUAL state. The stone pictures, not individuals, but rather the church as a CLASS being quarried out of the earth (like a beautiful gem as the diamond). And **as they are FULLY cut out** or sculpted out, it will mean the CHANGE of the church. In other words, it says, (Isa. 53:8) "He was cut off out of the land of the living." This has reference to Messiah. The word found in Daniel for "cut out" is of Chaldean origin, but has the Hebrew equivalent; for **the three consonants are the same as they are in the language of the Chaldeans**. In the Bible, it speaks of the cutting off of the wicked -- that *they are being cut off in death*. And with the Messiah, it is pictured as being "cut off out of the land of the living." So also, the prophecy of Hab. 3:17, where Bro. Russell has only one article on the latter part of this chapter entitled, "A Prophecy Nearing Fulfillment" (1914, R.5383)

This thought is conveyed. There he speaks of the church as being *cut off from the fold* - the CHANGE from the earthly **to** the SPIRITUAL condition of the church. They are changed from the earthly fold to the spiritual. They are CUT OUT of this condition to the other. The **herd in the stalls** represent the *opposite movement* of the Ancient Worthies -- they would be **installed INTO the earth** and into their positions of authority. This thought of being CUT Off or OUT OF, has the meaning of **DEATH and not merely of selection**.

It is the *complete separation from the mountain that is pictured*, the complete SPIRITUAL change from the earthly to the spiritual condition. In the antitype, it is *the spiritual cutting out and not just a separation* from the world. Cut out has the thought of *cut off in death* and out of the land of the living, in that sense. And that would take place *shortly PRIOR to the smiting of the image* (the church's completion). It will be the complete, glorified church, backed by divine power, which will do this smiting and, it will be the class **"OVERCOMES to the END"** that **will have the privilege of "dashing the nations to pieces as a potter's vessel."** (Rev. 2:26,27) See Reprints 5854, Feb. 15, 1916 – "Our Fair Land" to End, Col. 31A; Also *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume. 3, Foreword*.

--- October, 1959

EXCERPTS from a 1910 Commentary THE OVERIAND MONTHLY by C. T. Russell

“Without human hands,” **without human authority or power.** That *stone is the Church of which Jesus is the Head and the Apostles and all the saints of this age of every denomination are members.* The cutting of it (out) *will soon be completed.* That Stone represents *Messiah on the larger plane.* Jesus the Head *and the Church,* His Body; for we are all members in particular of the body of Christ, which is the Church. Not until the **Church shall have been completed,** not until *the last member shall have been changed* from earthly to heavenly conditions; **not until the glorified Christ shall have taken unto Himself His great power to reign;** and not until the end of the Gentile Times, will this heavenly power be hurled against the image. It will not strike the image in its head or breast or loins or legs; for these have passed long ago. It will smite the image **on its feet, its present development,** -- Christendom, so-called. That **impact** is prominently noted throughout the Scriptures as **"a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation."** The Scriptures give vivid pictures of the Gentile Governments in the world. Then "the gold, the silver, the brass, the iron and the clay became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away and no place was found for them. (Dan. 2:35)"

"Such is the graphic **description given us of the end of Gentile governments,** in which today many of us take such pride, and which have their good intentions and good qualities. But these also, be it remembered, were recognized and authorized by God to occupy the seat of Government and to hold in check human affairs --“*until he comes whose right the Kingdom is,*” and **to whom it will be given - The Christ -- the Head and the Elect Church his members;** the Kingdom for which we pray, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven"---the Millennial Kingdom, which is to bless all the families of the earth **through the channel or medium of Israel, God's chosen people.** (Ezekiel 21)"

GREAT RAVENOUS BEASTS

“We have intimated that Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great image represented autocracy and world sovereignty from the viewpoint of grandeur. We now come to examine the same governments **as seen from the divine viewpoint.** How different! Now, instead of appearing great, noble and wise, these are **pictured as ravenous wild beasts,** which tread down and devour the earth. In this picture, which was given to Daniel for himself and for all of God's people, the symbolisms are these:”

Symbolisms:”

“Babylonia, the head of the Image, is symbolized by a *Lion;*

Medo-Persia, the breast and arms of the Image, symbolized by a *bear*;

Greece, the belly and thighs of brass,* symbolized by a *leopard*;

Rome, the iron legs of the image, is here pictured as a *great and terrible beast*, for which no name could be found, and the like of which had never been known in the earth before. "It brake in pieces and devoured" everything. Nothing could withstand its power. How wonderful a figure, illustrative of the ferocity which has marked the kings and governments and wars of these Gentile times!

The feet and toes of the image, representing the Papacy and the co-mingling of State and Church domination, we find pictured in the ten horns of the *terrible beast*."

"These beasts are to rule the world until the end of the "Gentile Times" of world domination, Oct. 1914, which will also be the end of the "Jewish times of Divine disfavor." Then the **dominion will pass from these beasts, and their bodies or organizations as Governments will be given to the burning flame--turned over to destruction**. The Prophet pictures the end of Gentile times and the manifestation of the Ancient of Days, whose throne was like a **fiery flame** and who caused the judgment to **sit**. It was **at that time** that the words of the last beast **came into judgment**-the great words uttered by the horn that had eyes and a mouth and that spake great, swelling words, claimed by nearly all expositors of the past to represent Papacy **and its boast of infallibility**, etc. **Then the beast was slain** -- the great and terrible beast, **and his body was given to the burning flames**. This is **still future** and therefore prophetic, and we may not too positively declare how it will be fulfilled. Apparently it signified **the overturn of the civil and religious systems** of our day, especially of Europe. It seems to symbolize **the destruction of all earthly government** and authority. This would mean **anarchy**, the most terrible curse upon society imaginable."

"Then it was, that Daniel was given a vision of the Son of Man in glory, receiving the authority of the dominion of earth. "And there was given him dominion and glory and a kingdom that all people, nations and languages should serve Him; His dominion which shall not be destroyed." (Dan. 7:14) -- *Overland Monthly* pp 82, 83

*Babylonia: *gold*, Medo-Persia: *silver*, Greece brass (*copper*) Rome: Iron (with feet of part *iron and clay*).

Overland Monthly pp. 82, 83

As concerns this article from the Overland Monthly (magazine) **it is *very important to note*** that the vision of the beast of the 7th chapter of Daniel and the dream of Nebuchadnezzar about the Image ***are comparable***. It should be noted by the reader that the commentary from the Overland Monthly presents both of these matters as being in the time of the judgment and destruction of Babylon. In the first, ***as concerns the Roman Beast***, --- IT IS FUTURE and IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE BURNING FLAMES OF ANARCHY (*Armageddon*). In the second case, the stone will smite **only** when the ***church is completed and is in glory***, when **even the last member** is there. The prophecies are in agreement and are harmonious. **Lastly, note** that the reference to "**until he come whose right it is**" -- the kingdom right, and to whom it will be given, is "**The Christ--the Head and the Elect Church**, his members." This helps to clarify the Ezekiel 21:25-27 reference which also harmonizes with Psa. 2:8: "Ask of me and I will give thee the nations -- ". The work will be done with Christ and his Church **together**. See references to the same thing in *Harvest Gleanings I* (1978) p675; *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 3* Foreword, iv, v. Compare Rev. 2:26, 27. -- Editors note.

Thus **the SMITING of the IMAGE** ***represents the end of all government*** and authority as defined by this article. This is accomplished by the **ARMAGEDDON CRASH ALONE** and by the GLORIFIED, **THE Christ, whose right it is**. Then and **only** then will the STONE KINGDOM grow in the earth.

Dragon of Daniel 7, The 10 Horns and Revelation 17

SMITING OF THE IMAGE
SUPPLEMENT

**"THE ROMAN DRAGON OF DANIEL 7"
THE 10 HORNS AND REVELATION 17**

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly, and it brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it; it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots; and, behold, in this horn there were eyes, like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things." Daniel 7:7,8.

*"And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman (*papacy) sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is [becomes] the eighth [head]* and is of the seven [heads],* and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast (*temporal power of Papacy)." Rev 17:9-12. (*"Revelation," The Finished Mystery, 1917 – Br. C. J. Woodworth properly held correct views differing from Pastor as to return of Papal temporal power regarding Rev. 17. [Compare Vol.4, p.38, Rev.17:16.] Not yet cast off by Kings of the earth .)*

While applying the "ten horns" to Papal development, they also correspond to Daniel 2, and there represent the ten *divisions of power*. These horns correspond to the ten horns of Revelation 17, who *have no kingdom as yet*; but who, *as the ten toes* which are the *last stage of development* of the Image of Nebuchadnezzar, would be the *last* or bottom (toes of the feet). In other words, they would be the *last* or the very *last or the extremity or the end* of the Gentile *POWER* in the earth -- which have extended well beyond 1914. As the head is the beginning, so the feet, and particularly the toes are the *extremity or the END* of the person. In this case, it would be the **telos or final END** of that **Roman power in the earth**.

**WHY TEN CHANGED TO
SEVEN OR EIGHT HORNS**

The scene in Daniel changes from the ten horns (divisions) to become seven horns (or *heads* -- *successive forms of government*) and also the *eighth horn* (or head). The matter is presented in a very encapsulated form here, in Daniel 7. The great horn (vs. 7,8) PUSHED up and removed the three

previous Roman empires; the (2) Heruli, (3) the Eastern Exarchate and (4) the Ostrogothic (Eastern Goths or Arians who as the (4th) was defeated by the Emperor Justinian at Ravenna, their capital, in Italy in the year 539 AD. These were three "heads", which succeeded

the (1) First head which was Catholic Christian Emperor Constantine. These heads/horns one, two, three and four all correspond to heads one, two, three and four of Revelation 13 and 17. Since the purpose in Daniel was detailed to show the arrival in point of time (the 8th) of a particular head, viz. Papacy (also the 5th), the three removed *are included in the remaining seven horns*. Thus was established horn (five) Papacy, the Great Horn which ruled for 1260 years, which in the *FUTURE* is to *be the eighth*. In other words, to identify the number seven -- three were subtracted from ten, leaving seven. However adding the Great Papal horn (in place 5) *there were in reality eight*. The *eighth horn/head* began to form in 1929 under Benito Mussolini and Lateran treaty creating the Papal *temporal State* of the Vatican Nation. In this brief account of Daniel 7, it shows that it was *not* among the original ten. It came *in among* the ten displacing horns/heads two, three and four which were the three just *before it*. Vol. 1, p. 258. Papacy did not displace *horn one*, for that was Constantine (or the Manchild, Rev. 12) who *agreed* with it -- which, Papacy later, after the following three *in the way*, became the *Man of Sin -- Papacy*.

As mentioned, what was in reality the eighth *pushed* up in or as the 5th in the 1260 year place or horn/head -- (successive form of government). It came in *AFTER* the 4th (it cast out horns two to four) and occupied horn/head *five*. In *actuality* it was the *eighth of the future*, also. Since there were originally ten (10) and three (3) were removed, that left seven (7) to remain. Then came the eighth horn/head in number 7+1=8. The *eighth* horn/head first enters the scene at the *fifth* horn/head position. Thus *agrees* the word of God. Its helps to show, also, that the *eighth is a head and not a headless* (republican peoples) condition or a coalition rulership. The eighth was *exactly the same* as is shown in Revelation 17 -- is one of the seven. The eighth (head) is one of the seven (heads). It was Papacy like it was in the dark ages and just as vicious. It was Herodius and not Salome who duped her daughter Protestants to kill the John the Baptist (Elijah) class.

TEN HORNS, TEN TOES ARE THE TEN KINGS

Four kingdoms are shown in the entire image of Daniel. Of Babylon, it was said of King Nebuchadnezzar -- "Thou O King, art a king of kings." "Thou art this head of gold," In the fourth world empire -- clay/iron part, (not the fifth, Christ's Kingdom. Interestingly, five plays an important role in the plan of Jehovah God. There are, for example, Five Ages in the plan of God from the fall to man's recovery.), Rome/Papal has the Pope as the head of his ten divisions with their rulers and claims the title "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" and also wears the triple crown -- king of heaven and king of earth (**temporal**). The four universal empires and the *ten divisions* continued on until in the *final form or extremity as ten toes* -- under the headship of the pope. By those particular toes would the death of the remaining saints, who would be "set up" (entirely cut out as the kingdom of God), be carried out. Then, they (the saints) will, as that great stone, be lifted up (Rev. 17:14) and smite the entire image on its (clay smeared-over-iron) feet and, lastly, *--the toes* -- in the Armageddon crash, ending this system of things in **point of time** -- the final *extremity* of man's rule.

The toes are the final extremity of Gentile power *finally developed* -- the ten kings of Revelation 17 in the *final hour* and in the *fury of the eighth head* or form of government which will perform the same vicious acts as did the *fifth head* in the past. All four world empires and

especially Catholic Papacy in its final Roman form (the eighth head) which is also pictured in the clay-smeared iron toes, shall *go down together* in the *Armageddon crash* or explosive "impact" (once) of the stone (Church in glory). In the 7th Chapter of Daniel, Armageddon is shown by the Roman (Dragon) Beast with the final *eight* horns (the *fifth and eighth* being the Great Horn), whose body was given to the burning *flame(s) of anarchy, future* -- not in 1799. OV p. 83 There, *future*, the Beast and the False Prophet were everlastingly destroyed *as systems (not in 1914 -- they still exist!)* in the "lake of fire" -second death or eternal destruction never to return again. We are not talking about Divine right of kings here. We are talking *systems*. It was *not* the Divine right of kings that was to go down in Armageddon--it was the *beast*. *Note that term is "The Beast." It is not a new Beast. It is the same old "Beast." And, that is the one that Christ and the Church will take out forever. And, it is "the smoke of the torments" of that system, Papacy, which will ascend forever from that future point in time -- not from 1914 as is erroneously held to this day.* Once we have had something burned into memory, it becomes very difficult to think at all. The Pastor well said it, "Errors and superstitions *die hard!*"

COUNTERFEIT CLAY-SMEARED IRON TOES DESTROYED FUTURE

The clay-smeared iron feet and finally toes, of that counterfeit (of the true stone of) Christ's kingdom now fraudulently ruling, are to be destroyed forever in the *time of trouble which is yet future and represented in Anarchy*. OV. p. 83. It will be in one impact "like an atomic bomb" and the following dust cloud. Violently destroyed -- *together -- all the image -- forever*. "And, shall be found no more at all." Rev. 18. "Every island fled away and the mountains were not found." Rev. 16:19,20. This can only take place when the church *is complete and fully set up as "the stone" to do the crushing work. They must be complete and glorified together at the marriage* which will be during the first half of the "hour of power with the beast" and Protestant collaborators. *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 3*, Foreward iii, par. 4; iv, top par. (1916) and Rev. 17 and 16. And, they will be backed by the Divine power possessed. R.5716., c2, top. Only *BY THAT TIME WILL THEY ALL* have been carved out of the mountain by the work of God's Holy Spirit. *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 1*, p.255, par 2. This was not in 1914 or anytime prior when some were previously raised in 1878. We certainly agree that all have not yet been found -- not to speak of being glorified together. There is *no mention in Daniel 2 of a grinding to powder*. This is man's concocted idea. The expression "grind him to powder" is found only in the Christian Greek Scriptures and are the words of our Lord *applying to his Millennial kingdom judgment* by himself. The stone which strikes -- strikes but only once and is not lifted again and again for a very long period of time as some have taught. Since the stone represents *the entire* stone class (Christ and *the church*), the striking will take place when *ALL* are on the other side of the veil.

IMAGE NOT STRUCK IN 1914!

A recent 1991 statement, in an East Coast Newsletter and a Midwest Newsletter (and 1992 BS Texas TV program) that the stone struck the image of *church and state* (TX TV

SONG OF FAITH

By

Elizabeth Hopper

*The dawn has come,
the Sun will soon be rising;
The time is near
when shadows flee away.*

*Our King is here,
the signs are all around us;
But, first, **the dark night**
must precede the day.*

O Lord our God,
**When foes are gathered 'round us,
We will not bow
to Satan's beastly power**

*Nor wear the mark
they would impose upon us;
**Their plans will fail,
will only last an hour.***

*Though nations rage
and kings conspire against us,
We'd lose our life
to gain it, Lord, with Thee.*

*For Thou hast trod
this path of faith before us,
To succor us
in prayer on bended knee.*

*For Thou hast trod
this path of faith before us,
To succor us
in prayer on bended knee.*

*We sing this song
with joyous expectation
Of promises fulfilled
beyond the veil;*

*We see by faith
the glorious consummation,
**The Bridegroom with
his bride shall ere prevail.***

--- **Sr. Elizabeth Hopper, 1990**

“The Keys of Revelation,” p. 573

Identification Statement

Zion's Tower of the Morning. Issue No.61, April, 1996. Quarterly. P.O. Box 3261, Southfield, MI 48037-3261.

The Gentile Times And The 2520 Years

The Times of the Gentiles and the 2520 Years

"There shall be great distress in the land and wrath upon the people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." -- Luke 21:23, 24.

The purpose of this discussion is to show from the Scriptures that that the "times of the Gentiles" ending is *not a future event*. Secondly, that the "times of the Gentiles" came to a precise *end* in the year 1914 A.D. with the beginning of World War 1. Third, there also, certain transactions took place on behalf of *the Jewish* people and the Kingdom of Great Britain, which came into possession of the Land of Palestine at that time. Fourthly, it is a mistaken view, that the "times of the Gentiles" apply primarily to the precise point of their exited dominion. While 1914 marks the *beginning of* the end of Gentile world rulership, and that their existence is somewhat in demise as evidenced by the prophetic war "wind" *1, followed by war "wind" #2, putting cracks in the rocks (1 Kings 19), it is but a preparatory effect making ready for the eventual toppling of the "system of things -- both governmental and religious. This will occur in the "great time of trouble" of the revolution and its finality "anarchy" both of which are included in the term "Armageddon." (Rev. 16; Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24)

Finally, the correct perspective of the momentous occurrence ending the "times of the Gentiles" at the conclusion of the 2520 years was with regard to the dominion over Israel in the sense that: 1). they were made a subject nation to the Gentiles who ruled over them *from day one* -- ancient Babylon. 2). This *continued* against the Jew even from the burning and destruction of their capital city, Jerusalem,

A.D. 70 on to its finality, A.D. 73 and the taking away of the last vestige of hope as a nation in 135 A.D. *From that time forward* was the **scattering** in which condition they remained *until* the ending of this 2520 year period of previously determined punishment. Thus, this period of 2520 years *applies primarily to the Jewish people or Israel* and pinpoints the time **beginning the restoration of their nation, Israel.**

We also intend to show that Leviticus 26: 18, 21, 24 and 28 are given a *distorted translation* in the Leeser translation as well as by James Strong in his Exhaustive Concordance in the use of the Hebrew word "*paam*" which he describes in his number 6471 as meaning "stroke" or "beat." While this word does apply in other instances, it **does not** apply here at all. It would be

destructive to the sense in which God intended to show the extension of this period of the judgment **upon natural Israel** -- the 2520 years.

Further, while we cannot go into the **intricacies of Daniel 4** as to the explanation (some of which was covered in this "Smiting of the Image" book), yet it is important to show briefly that *primary and only application of those "seven times"* therein described, is to the third postulation of the Pastor C. T. Russell in Volume 3. That application was to the *creative week* from the time of the fall of Adam. We believe that to be the **only** application of that "seven times," but additionally, they did not find fulfillment in the beginning of restoration which was thought to begin at the close of 2520 years but rather at its exact end, viz., *mankind having finished his trial* and God having received them to sonship as "his people." In other words, **each "time"** of the Daniel 4 "seven times" is 1000 *years in length*. This makes a grand total of 7000 *years* or "seven times" -- the full creative day from the fall into sin to complete restoration to righteousness with all the "wicked" having been destroyed in "second death." We would here remark, that there is **no justification whatsoever** to connect the "*tree*" and the "*seven times*" of Daniel 4 **with the "Image dream"** of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2. They are two separate visions speaking of *two separate things*, i.e., Gentile "powers" and "the fall and complete restoration of man."

Taking this mistaken application, of combining Dan. 2 with Dan. 4, has led to wrong conclusions in "the winding up of the system of things." In other words, while the image had a marked beginning with Nebuchadnezzar in the kingdom of Babylon at 606 B.C. (not B.C.E.), the **ending** of the Roman kingdom rule (or commonly referred to as "Gentile powers" or *the kingdoms of this world*) is **not at all** clearly defined with an explicit date as generally believed to be 1914 A.D. But, **that final end** or Image's **full extremity**, is marked by being relegated to the time of the "combined" church with state or the *bodily extremity of "ten toes"* when in "**union**" -- **yet future** (Rev. 17:11,12). At that time, as the Pastor correctly put it, the atomic-like impact or "**crash**" of *the "stone"* causing *Armageddon* was to fall, completely obliterating, together the **entire composite** (*Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome*) Image of Gentile Kingdom "**power**" or rule -- "the kingdom" **of this world** (Satan's kingdom -- with the Papal "Christ," as head, having willingly received from him "all these kingdoms") of this world which will then become "the Kingdom" of Jehovah God and of His "the Christ" (Gk. *'ho Christos*'). See Revelation 11:15 (Diaglott)

Divine Right Only A Theory

"Divine right" is *only* a *theory* and is not a government. We mention this because this teaching of *obligatory* Bible student "traditions" is **fastened** upon those "seven times" of Daniel 4 and the way they relate them to a smitten Image of Daniel 2. There is **no basis** or relevance for such conclusions and it beclouds the *existence* of both the governments and the religions (which some say no longer exist) which are as powerful as they ever were and will soon exact *greater* rigors upon humanity --- - especially the remnant true church. Properly understanding this subject gives greater clarity and meaning to our true position in the scheme of things.

Having said that, we now respond to the comment in regard to the "continuation" of the "times of the gentiles." It is **not our view that "the times of the gentiles" are any longer continuing** on toward the destruction of *the "system of things."* But, rather, we fully believe that "the times of the gentiles" had **ceased** in the year 1914 A.D. for the following reasons:

We believe the *Bible "chronology"* as shown in Volumes 2, 3 and 6 of "*Studies in the Scriptures*" is indeed correct. The exception is with the viewing of the date 1914 A.D. itself as *being the final end* -- this view was corrected in the Forewords. Unfortunately, **the tie-in** with the "Image" and "*seven times*" of the "*Great Tree*" **was not**. Charles F. Redeker's and Frank Shallieu's writings on the matter of chronology, are convictions of its accuracy. Br. Shallieu's "Bible Chronology" written in year by year detail (similar to, but more accurate than, Joseph Bullinger's chronology as listed in the Companion Bible as there are wide differences with his computations) adequately compares the dates. Br. Redeker's writings on "*True Bible Chronology, -- A confirmation of Pastor Russell's Chronology*", "*The Biblical Prophetic Year*" and "*The Seventy years Desolation*" with regard to 1914 and the beginning and ending of the 7 times or 2520 years, likewise confirms the dates. These writings answer attacks by brethren, Jehovah's Witnesses and outsiders, against chronology in general and emphatically support Pastor Russell's and Bowen's chronology. We believe that those writings are *undeniably correct!*

The Times of the Gentiles Vs. The Great Tree

We do, however, take **exception** to the interpretation of "the great tree" with regard to the "seven times" as found in Daniel 4:13,20,22,29. This, as explained, in *no way connects to* the "image" scene in Daniel 2. This, we believe, is a *mistake* the Pastor made in making Daniel 2 and Daniel 4 connected together because of the expression "seven times" found in Daniel 4. This would drastically change **the ending dates** for both Daniel 2 and 4. As explained in this booklet, "The Smiting of the Image." The Pastor's *third* explanation that the "**tree vision**" represented the time from the fall of Adam to the "times of restitution *7,000 years of the seventh creative day*" (as given in Volume 2, Study IV, pps. 93-102) is the **only correct view** of that chapter. Those "seven times" or years (360 days each) **are not** to be looked at as 360 years each but rather each year would be viewed as seven *multiples* of one thousand or 7,000 years. This is clearly defined by the context. This is the broader scale of calculation. The context from which it is taken is simply this: 1). The Adamic tree was *cut down* in Eden because of willful transgression. Rom. 5:12-14. 2) . The finality of the scenario is that Adam and mankind under the "second Adam" (I Cor. 15) were fully tried, tested, and with a **restored dominion**, found "praising the God of heaven." "Let the people praise thee, O God, let All the people praise thee." Psa. 67:5,7

We now come to the point, why it is that we do believe "the times of the gentiles" (Luke 26:18) **have ended** in the marked time ("chronos" -- Gk., exact appointed time) of 1914 A.D. We do not, by this, have any reference to Daniel, chapter 4. We have reference to:

Leviticus Chapter 26 **And the Times of the Gentiles *OVER* Israel**

Jehovah God said to Israel, at the giving of His righteous "Law" Covenant, "If you will not listen to me and keep all of my commands ...I will punish you seven times more (James Strong wrongfully inserts the word, Hebrew "*paam*" -- stroke, beat -- in his #6471. We will present the more correct view later) for your sins." God repeats this **four times** in all in verses 18, 21, 24,

28. The "seven times" period began in 606 B.C. We, like as unto the Pastor, relate the "seven times" **in Leviticus 26** to the period of Israel's punishment beginning from that date. We would thus conclude (see his "Extended Bible Comments"), as there were "seven" **literal years** given in Daniel 4 to Nebuchadnezzar AND as it was in Daniel 4 and Leviticus 26 cases **repeated four times**, there is a similarity and yet a distinction. The similarity is in **four times** repeated and in the use of seven "**times.**" We may thus see the correct definition of the *Leviticus* period to be "**seven years**" of 360 days each and therefore prophetic of 2520 years (7 x 360) .

There is a correlation between Daniel 4:25 as to Nebuchadnezzar's "seven literal years" in *expungement of sin* (a picture of mankind in seven thousand years) and the seven **times** to Israel in its expungement of sin and **restoration** to a NATIONAL polity **beginning** in the year 1914. This restoration we have pointed out in the Foreword to C.T. Russell's, "God's Chosen People and the Divine Purpose." Note Jesus reference to and use of the term "*the times of the Gentiles.*" **Luke 26:18.**

The "**double,**" (another subject) was fulfilled in 1878 A.D. relative to 1). the 1845 Jacob favor period, 2). the rejection by Christ, midpoint 33 A.D. and, 3). the conclusion of the corresponding 1845 period of disfavor (3690 years total) at the "Berlin Congress of Nations." At that time, the only Jewish Prime Minister, Lord Beaconsfield (Disraeli) of Great Britain was ruling, who, by the agreement, allowed for land *ownership* in "Palestine." That land was then ruled by the non-Arab Turks. Yet this 1845 year period is **entirely different from the "times of the gentiles"** period. The former began 1206 years earlier from the favor standpoint and from the disfavor, 639 years later, from the Nebuchadnezzar captivity **beginning** the "times of the gentiles." The later ended 36 years *after* the former's end of 1878 A.D. The emphasis on the "double" ("for all Israel's sins") of disfavor was called a "warfare" and was **related to the rejection of Christ.**

It was there, in 1878 A.D., that "seasons of refreshing from *the face of Jehovah*" when Christ was sent and present ("The time to favor Zion is come." Psa. 102) had **early beginnings of return** as well as was related to the "times of restitution" -- "return every man unto his possession." We have even seen this liberty aspect as well in the early stages from Black slavery emancipation or liberation on to both that of great and small nations - "all the trees"-- particularly from Israel's birth, 1948 A.D. The period of "the double of disfavor" serves **concurrently** within the larger 2520 year period of the "seven times." Phase I of the punishment was that of "national *subservience.*" Phase II had to do with the rejection of Jesus and **marked their national decline**, 70 A.D. to the total **NATIONAL removal** 135 A.D. and scattering as a "people" to gentile lands. They were "without prophet, without priest and *without a temple.*" All three of these will be restored from the *Ancients* to the *Zadoc priesthood* to the "*Third Temple*" at the timewhen the promised kingdom reign, shall have begun on earth. Restoration is a gradual thing. The Scriptures are undeniably clear!

Leading to the conclusion of part one, we would say the "times of the gentiles" (Jesus' term) **are times over** the Jewish peoples or Israel. Jesus correctly stated that "Jerusalem (Israel's national/political or polity) shall be *trampled upon* by the gentiles UNTIL **the times of the gentiles [OVER ISRAEL] be fulfilled.**" Luke 26:18 At **no other time** was that NATION ruled OVER than from 606 B.C. to 1914 A.D.! There, the British government, on the basis of previous request of 1914/1915 and directly to him, Prime Minister Lloyd George **guaranteed**

the right of the Jewish people to have an independent NATION -- "a Jewish NATIONAL homeland" -- among the nations of this modern world. This was fully realized on *May 14, 1948*, after the 30 years mandate or **transfer period** had expired. We make this point very strongly! IT IS A GREAT MISTAKE to say that "the times of the gentiles" (especially from the "smitten image" wrongful standpoint) refers to **the nations themselves** GIVING WAY to God's kingdom.

The Phrase "Times of the Gentiles" Refers To The Dominion OVER Israel ALONE!

Once we see **this**, as Jesus had explained, "**Jerusalem** (the nation -- "Extended Bible Comments") shall be **trampled** upon (C.T.R.s translation) by the gentiles, **until** the times of the gentiles BE FULFILLED." Luke 26:18, then the matter becomes very clear. This, of course, is not to be confused with the "fullness of the gentiles" mentioned by the Apostle Paul in Rom. 11:25 The "fullness of the gentiles" is the full *number taken* out from the gentiles and is speaking of the **completed** church.

Further, we feel that the expression that "the times of the Gentiles have ended and **their eviction proceedings have begun**" is an *accommodating term* and is used to buttress the thought of a *gradual* bombardment of the "Image" by the "stone" of Daniel 2. The better expression would be that the "**fixed times**" of the Gentiles over Israel have ended and *the preparation* (weakening -- cracks in the rocks -- mountains, kingdoms) for their overthrow is now in progress. Firstly, smiting the Image **is not a bombarding** action. Secondly, "eviction proceedings" is *inadequate* terminology and *should be discarded* in that it links Daniel 2 and 4 as teaching the same time period. Their eviction time will be in the time of Armageddon. **Daniel 2 has no defined time limit.** Daniel 4 does, viz. 7000 years.

The "seven times" are correlated with those seven years or "times" of 360 days each as is mentioned **in Leviticus 26 only**. This is the **only** application of the 2520 years. This time period was set aside specifically for their *punishment for disobedience*. It is referred there as "seven times **more**" from the standpoint that from the time that the Law of God which was instituted with "typical" Israel. In their continuation of, and during their approximate 1000 year kingdom rule (1575 BC to 606 BC) certain afflictions or punishments came upon them for failure to keep that covenant of contracture. The "**more**" *times* started promptly at 606 or 607 BC. Israel from that date forward suffered the affliction or chastening by Jehovah God's allowance for the "**fixed times**" (Gk. *kairos* -- **Jesus' term**) of 2520 years.

Now, from another standpoint, we know the beginning time. That is an established fact even if we had no other information. The beginning time of the "times of the Gentiles" was from 606 BC. From that time forward, Israel was **ruled over**. Israel then and there became a "**subject nation**." "The times of the Gentiles" came into progression. The times of the Gentiles did not, as some teach begin at the casting off by Jesus and the scattering. Why? Because they are *fixed times* -- of 2520 years -- "the (fixed) times of the Gentiles." However, Jerusalem (the nation) was not yet "trampled upon." This did not occur until **after** Jesus pronouncement. From that time forward, Israel then ceased to have "**self-rule**" and **phase II of being without a nation was about to begin and continue until 1914 AD**. There and there alone those 7 x 360 years or 2520 years of Leviticus 26 ended giving us the naturally defined ending of those "**seven times more**."

Therefore, historically we have both the beginning and ending times even if we had not the time stated!

The NATION of Israel shall **never again** "be pulled up" or **ruled over**. (Amos 9:15) Yes, there surely will be an attempt by those "hateful" and "Satan inspired" Gentiles. But, that "holy" "remnant" shall be brought through Jacob's trouble *unscathed* by reason of deliverance by God's miraculous destructive power to "Haman the hangman" -- those opposing "*hate filled*" Gentile nations -- clearing the slate of "crimes against humanity" against the Jew (future judgment to be on an individual basis), not settled at Nuremburg or WWII, of whom God said "I will curse them that curse thee!" (Ezek. 39:11) That "Holy Remnant" with the "Ancients" in the ascendancy, shall go forth AND BEGIN God's Kingdom on earth.

When complete, the Saints rule with Christ when "the (Satan's) Kingdom of this world having been fully subdued and thus is *become the Kingdom of Jehovah and of his "the Christ!"* Satan's rulership being at an end, Christ's rule then begins with the rulership of earth for they are the ones over whom **he rules**. This thought is explicit in the Scripture that the kingdom is set up complete, the opposition eliminated and then the rulership begins in earth. **Christ's kingdom begins with the "newborn nation of Israel."** (Isaiah 4:3-6) The prophet Isaiah says, "They shall take them captives, WHOSE CAPTIVES THEY WERE." (Isa. 14:2) And, those Gentiles "shall bow themselves down *to the soles of your feet.*" (Isa. 60:14) But, both Gentiles (outsiders of the Law) and Jews "shall be willing in the day of thy power." (Psa. 110:3)

We have no doubt as to the "seven times." It is marked off in the Word of Jehovah God -- "a fixed time." As to whom it is applied is quite a different matter. We are convinced that Pastor Russell's chronology is still correct despite assailing from many quarters. 1914 A.D. is still a very good date and one so remarkable that it is chiseled in stone historically! It is a *proven* date -- one, whose accuracy amazed dumbfounded Christendom -- so much so, that the Magazine section of the "New York World Telegram and Sun's (1914) Headline declared, "25 Year Prophecy of Pastor Russell Fulfilled!" World War I marked the *first* of three "winds of War, weakening the nations in the *preparation* for Armageddon. (1Kings 19:11,12) The final conflict will be **lapped upon** by the "great earthquake" revolution, or "social explosion" (Vo1.4, p. xiii, par. 1; Rev.16:18,19) and finally "the fire" -- these last two portions of which are "Armageddon;" in the which the Image is *then hit* by the stone in one giant impact --thereby dissolving "the system of things." (2Pet. 3:10,13) The World War I of 1914 set Israel, (Jerusalem) the nation, free from *be "trampled upon"* any longer by the Gentile nations.

The 2520 years, the "seven times more" or "marked time" of Leviticus 26 *was fulfilled*. The "healing of the stroke of their wound" in a limited way was to some extent and in a **very** "secondary way," fulfilled as indicated by the "establishment process" resulting in the nation of Israel. (Isa. 30:26) Israel had received, at the Lord's hand, the *allotted time of punishment* for "all your sins" -- **sins against the Law Covenant** -- "seven times fulfilled." It was required of God to have this very large period of time to square the account in judgment against them. However, in the primary application concerning Israel, "the healing of the stroke of their wound" will be accomplished when the "Ancients" and the Holy Remnant are in place after Jacob's trouble. (Jer. 30:7)

Belshazzar's feast and the judgment written. It was Daniel who was called in by the king to explain the meaning of Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. Daniel's explanation was, "You are

weighed in the balances and found wanting." "The God of heaven has numbered your kingdom."

(Daniel 5:25-28) Some have interpreted the value of Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin to be 2520 years. But, because the numbered items do *represent that year* which would end in 1914 AD, *it did not mean* that antitypical Babylon would be *immediately*, in 1914 AD, *removed* as shown by this scene. The central pertinence to the ending of Babylon meant the **liberation of Daniel's people** from their captivity. They were free to return to their land to rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem. The prioritized subject, once again in this case, is Israel, that Daniel had before inquired about.

Therefore, in the end-time, this "gentile power" and ruler *over Israel* was foretold to have an *end of oppression over the nation*. It would further indicate that the **very end** of this "system of things" **could not come about until the end of 2520 years** which were the years of obligatory punishment upon Israel for her sins against God's covenant. They were fixed times. We find that *exactly on time*, from that time, 1914 A.D., forward, the preparatory groundwork for the demise of the kingdoms of this world began to take place. That was, as before mentioned, "the wind" of World War I and War II, that put *cracks in the rock* foundations of the kingdoms of this world. They were **preparatory** steps (and not the result of a reign) to the final overthrow in "Armageddon" when the image is smitten.

Temple Vessels and 1600 Furlongs of Blood

There is another responsibility as to the vessels taken and defiling of the truth of God's Word. This is shown in two different ways 1). In the numbering of the vessels Ezra 1. 2). In Revelation 14 as the "blood" coming up "to the horse bridles" to the extent of 1600 furlongs (1600 + 314 A.D. = 1914 A.D.). In other words, *the vessels of truth were defiled* by Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlot daughters in this intoxicated festive occasion. *A judgment was pronounced* and the writing of a man's hand appeared on the wall bespeaking that judgment **to come. The time was delineated as a marked-off point when the judgment could come at any time after but not before that date. By that time the accumulative of sins was sufficient for a judgment. Babylon has still not been judged for her sins.** Babylon was **not** judged in 1914. The "Divine Right" question has led to *many wrong conclusions* -- such as: *Babylon no longer exists*. Quite clearly, Babylon is to be judged in Armageddon after the **entire church has gone!** (Rev. 14, 16, 17, 18)

Let us now take up the case of Revelation, Chapter 14, verse 20. Here we are told that the winepress was trodden without the city, and that *"the blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horses bridles, by the space of a thousand six hundred furlongs."* Our understanding is that, in the scenes of Revelation that have to do with the "dragon" (civil powers) and the "beast" (Papacy), the beginning time period, from the "manchild" through the "Man of Sin," for this 1600 furlongs or years is 314 A.D. which began with Emperor Constantine. Taking the same extension from that date to its conclusion **was the year 1914 A.D.** This text in Revelation thus tells us that by that date that there was *more than enough* of sin's practicing by that *evil* system to *warrant a judgment from God at any time from that date forward*. As *with Belshazzar's feast, that judgment has not yet come! Armageddon, not yet but soon!*

In all this, then, is the pertinence of the 2520 years to Israel relative to its judgment time for all

its sins against the Law Covenant of Jehovah God to which they were committed. We have seen that in each and every one of time periods *in all* of the Scriptures considered, there is no question that the 2520 years or "*times of the Gentiles*" have indeed **ended**. The term, "the eviction proceedings have begun," does *not* apply. Rather, it should be considered, that from 1914 a "**weakening**" of the rocks or kingdoms has continued. It is clearly a part of the "day of Jehovah's *preparation*" for the overthrow of the system of things in the "battle of Armageddon" or "*Day of Vengeance*" to come. That is the part that is future -- not the ending of the times of the Gentiles as some might conclude.

We would **not** like to take some "hymnbook theology." In the original *Hymns of Millennial Dawn*, Hymn 171, the phrase in the beginning read, "The Gentile times *are ending*, for their kings have had their day. And with them sin and sorrow will forever pass away." In later publication of *Hymns of Dawn*, the phrase was changed to conform to an existing viewpoint. "The Gentile times **have ended**," *for the kings have had their day*, etc. This reflects an incorrect thought. **THE KING'S HAVE NOT YET HAD THEIR DAY!** And WITH THEM, THEORETICALLY, **SIN AND SORROW HAS NOT YET PASSED!** It is not a truism. For if it were, the kingdom would have been established in 1914 -- which was the expectation of that hymn. Let us not deceive ourselves. Satan's Kings, Presidents and Dictators **still rule!** This is still Satan's kingdom and will be so until Israel's enemies will *be* put down and *Christ's reign on earth begun!* We long for that time and the full deliverance of God's chosen people when "sin and sorrow will **forever** pass away." []

Gentile Times

*The Times of the Gentiles have now ended,
Seven chas'nings of Israel are complete;
Jerusalem (the nation) no longer is trampled
And submitting Gentile nations must greet.*

*No, for now she's a "new born" nation,
Under care of God's directing hand.
Having thus returned to her own station
In that blessed promised land!*

*Yes, praise God, she has His blessing
And thus we see her fruitage grow,
Nineteen forty-eight her new birthing;
Nineteen fourteen, God's new beginnings show.*

*This, now, day of Jehovah's preparation
Soon brings awaited end of all earth's woe
No longer nations will in derogation
Cast out God; His Son will come to know.*

*Rulers and kings of earth have had their day
When the Armageddon stone doth smite,
Crashing judgment on the nations, and they
See God's kingdom end earth's weary night!*

--C. L. Thornton

Zion's Tower of the Morning. Issue No.69, April, 1998. Quarterly. P.O. Box 3261, Southfield, MI 48037-3261.

REVELATION'S CORROBORATION, THE GREAT TREE OF DANIEL 4 AND CONCLUDING THOUGHTS ON THE SMITING OF THE IMAGE

-- by Charles L. Thornton

The view on the smiting of the Image currently held by many Bible Students associated with *The Dawn, Divine Plan, Layman Home Missionary Movement* (Johnson), as well as *Jehovah's Witnesses* and even others (though they may not know it), **is based upon** the erroneous teachings of **Joseph F. Rutherford**. And so are several other teachings. We refer to his book, *Deliverance* (1926-29) pps. 242-253, where he clearly shows that ***the kingdoms of this world were, in 1914, smitten by that stone***. This **corresponds exactly** with the ***view currently held: that 1914 AD was the time when the Image was smitten***, and the date is so entrenched in their minds that under no circumstances **would they ever give it up**. Rutherford states **from that time forward the Kingdom was born as Zion**. We submit *copies of pages from that book* as evidence of the fact -- *see Appendix at the end of these studies*.

In one of the most current publications by *Jehovah's Witnesses* titled, "*How God's Kingdom Becomes a World Government*" (*Watchtower Bible & Tract Society*, 1977, pps. 65-68) a modified line of reasoning is continued on the smiting subject. Instead of preserving the thought of **J.F. Rutherford** that the Image **was smitten** (see *Deliverance*), and instead of the stone being cut out in 1881 AD, as others say, the modern-day *Watchtower* say! (confirming the Rutherford, Revelation 12 picture), "---in 1914 Jehovah God ***brought to birth in the heavens his promised Messianic Kingdom***. ... This is how the stone ... was cut out of the mountain without the aid of human hands." While they now *discern the smiting as future*, **in no way**, by our understanding, was the stone cut out **in 1881**, or as the *Witnesses* believe, **in 1914**.

The stone (as they **now** teach) is the Messianic Kingdom cut out **by God's universal Sovereignty!** (We might ask, would not that be more of a "cut **by**" than "cut out" of His sovereignty?) In other words, the stone **is NOT the kingdom**, under the Church, head and body, and its exalted-to-power influence (*yet future*). (*Christ alone*, exalted, is apparently **the only one in this work** according to the *Witnesses*, in their forgetting how Christ felt about His Bride!) To them, the Church *seems to have a*

part *only in the blessings* -- later! (The preaching, which is not the smiting of the stone, perhaps, has been confused by them for the **Smiting of Jordan work** done this side the veil, and also is future!)

FEET SHOW “FALSE AUTHORITY” AS GOD'S KINGDOM IN EARTH

One great evidence that the smiting of the image is yet future, is that the picture of the stone is *smearred or mixed with clay*. It therefore presents a picture of a **counterfeit or exact IMITATION** of the true ruling stone or kingdom class, i.e, Christ and His Church, exalted to kingdom powr. The clay-covered feet *looked as real as* the true stone itself. It was *just like stone*. The feet and toes, standing as the base of the image would, therefore, depict that this clay-counterfeit of the true stone, has its authority implanted in the earth. The fact that it is **standing** represents its claim to have its authority of the Kingdom of God and His Christ in all the earth. The Society refuses to accept a church-state admixture. The iron, continuing through the feet and toes, indicate that it is still the fourth universal empire, *and not a fifth, sixth or seventh*, that the Lord is concerned with (from the smiting point). It is the Roman. The principal in the matter, the Roman Catholic Church (elsewhere styled, Babylon and also called Papacy), *rules from Rome to this day* and even America has its relationship with Europe and Mother and Protestant daughters. Rev. 17:5.

WAR OF REVEIATION 17 -- A FUTURE EVENT

It was only when the **church was completed and glorified, that it becomes the stone**, and is exalted to heaven. This would, therefore, show that this condition would not obtain while here in the flesh, *even though "sealed" in the forehead* (Rev. 7:3), but that the church must be ENTIRELY cut *out in death* - not to a NUMBER completed in 1881 A.D. - but in DEATH. Only thus would both stone and church (or the church **as** the stone) be ENTIRELY cut out, completed, - "called, chosen and faithful" *unto death*. Rev. 17:14 *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 3, Thy Kingdom Come*, p. 210. What does this statement mean in Vol. 3? It would mean that the very basis for this war with the lamb (and even *the uniting* of the 10 kingdoms) are relevant to the completion of the true church in death - at the war with the Lamb before THEY (*the church then exalted*) could overcome them in the battle of the great day. It would further mean that the **subsequent defeat described there**, is the *result* of the battle of the called, chosen and faithful with the Lamb. The result is victorious for the Christ. This action, however, is contingent upon the death of ALL of the remaining members of the Church Class. It is therefore only when the stone is **completely cut out**, that it would have the ability to come *crashing down* in the destruction of the counterfeit "kingdom of God!"

SMEARED WITH CLAY - COUNTERFEIT STONE

We believe the true stone is the solid or real stone, whereas, the false or stone-appearing imitation was "*smearred with clay*" (See *Harvest Gleanings I*, 1978-Chicago Bible Students Book Repub. Comm., pp 675,676, as well as other Reprint ZWT articles) or mixed with clay so that the surface of it looked **JUST LIKE REAL STONE** - God's true kingdom. But **it was not**. *It was an imitation*,

and underneath was the **same iron as were the legs** - the Roman Empire, only with a new **face-lift of the false church**. Brethren, we see today that the imitation is still very real

and **with us everywhere**. Thus the true church **is still** cast down. It is the breaking or destroying of the false system (*of human manufacture*) to any profession or claim which shall bring to a complete end this sham -- i.e. their profession of being "human" shall be exposed and destroyed. It will be in "*the day of revealing in flaming fire*" when those false religious systems shall be judged in Armageddon. It will not be a judgment of the people of the nations, as some would have us believe. And, this is made very clear to us in the foreword to *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 4, "The Battle of Armageddon*. No, they will be judged when the Kingdom, which *will then have come to earth*, begins to grow and fills the whole earth. All human or **man-made organizations will be removed** in Armageddon. Let us make no mistake about the matter. The overthrow of the religious and social order elsewhere styled the "*heavens and the earth which now are*" (2 Pet. 3:7) is shown in Rev. 11: 16-19.

REVELATION 16-19 CORROBORATE ARMAGEDDON SMITING OF THE IMAGE

The true church would have the **ability to execute "the judgments written"** (Psa. 149), as that completed class, in the destruction of Babylon where the city is pictured as being divided in three parts *at the time of the wreck of Armageddon*. (Rev. 16:18,19) It is only after **being cut out or off in death**, at the *time when Babylon has fully ascended out of the bottomless pit to the fullness of her strength with the 10 kings* (which have power *one hour with the beast* and who *make war* against the Lamb -- and the Lamb's associates or joint heirs or anointed Psa. 2:2), that **the smiting or utter destruction of the counterfeit would follow**. (Rev. 17:14) But **at that war**, they are **not** put to *death in the flesh*, for they are now glorified and empowered or **invested with the Divine Nature and power**.

Those who will share with the Lord the coming glory must be **not only called and accepted**, but also FAITHFUL, even unto death. (Rev. 17:14; Vol. 3, p.210) This same class, raised after fiery ordeal as a completed class to glory, will then join with their Lord, and as one and all shall **"overcome"** this wicked ruler to bring about its destruction -- the judgment of "*the great whore that sitteth upon many waters*." Her rule over the multitude of people (many waters) came to an end as they **destroyed her in Anarchy**. (Rev. 17:1). Not only is **her flesh or organizational appearance destroyed, but she is COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY FIRE - utter destruction, not in part - but complete**. (Rev. 17:15,16)

TEN KINGS ARE THE TEN TOES OF THE IMAGE

In Rev. 17, verse 12, reference is made to the "ten horns" (or ten powers of Christendom). It says that these are "ten kings" which have received **no kingdom as yet**; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." These kingdoms will be **similar to the fifth or papal stage** when she had the backing of military might of the kings of the earth just prior to the sixth or Napoleonic head or government. The ten toes have reference to the ten divisions of the iron Roman empire. This was smeared with the clay appearance, even though the **viciousness of the iron that shown through it was controlled by the mother system, Papacy**. The ten toes, therefore, represent the **same ten kings** who are the affiliates

or paramours of the Papacy. They have a *short-lived hour of power with the beast* (Rev. 13:15-17) for she directs the ten powers (which represent the

rulers of earth in her domain) to regain her high-handed activities, to do her will and to bring to an end *by death* the feet members **or remnant church - the anointed**. (Psa. 2:2) Thus will her destruction come when **the Lamb and the completed church with him** overcome them. This is **the smiting by the true stone** and the utter destruction of the counterfeit as it is shown in Rev. 17. The people, which support her, will at that time, **burn her with fire (complete destruction) in Anarchy.**

SMITING PICTURED IN BABYLON AS A GREAT MILLSTONE

Chapters 18 and 19 agree with the Pastor's thought of **the Armageddon smiting** of the Image. Rev. 18:21 speaks of Babylon as a great millstone that is raised up to great height. The stone which smote the image was also raised up to great height. The difference is that of being fully empowered to do the work at hand. In the case of Babylon, it is her *hour of power* as shown in Rev. 13:15-17 and 17:8-14. It is comparable with the time of *revelry of ancient Babylon* which was shortly thereafter destroyed. There, too, the vessels or church were defiled at the time of that so-called joyous occasion (as the church was taken out of the way. In this picture of Revelation, the Great Mill stone **which ground out poor spiritual food** was afterward cast into the sea - the **ANARCHISTIC MASSES -- the people upon which** Babylon sat. (Compare Psa. 46:2-6) Verse 21 continues, "Thus with violence shall that Great Babylon be thrown down, and shall be **found no more at all.**" This is the Armageddon smiting of the image as found in Rev. 18. The violence is *comparable with Jezebel* who was also thrown down and who was a type of the Papacy. (Rev. 2:20) By her own weight did she sink - that organization - in the wickedness of her teachings, and shall be found no more at all. (Compare Rev. 20:10) There were no more musicians, the great choruses and classical works, *the world's finest*; or the great organists or *the craftsmen* who built the beautiful temple churches and who painted such beautiful frescos and murals, such as Michaelangelo. Not even *the voice* of the bride and of the bridegroom - for **she had been smitten by utter destruction. She was completely destroyed in the Armageddon crash of the image.**

BEAST AND KINGS OF THE EARTH SLAIN IN SMITING

The 19th chapter of Revelation carries out the same picture *of final destruction*. In verse 11 it says, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called faithful and true, and in **righteousness doth he judge** and make war." Here we are told that **the Christ**, whose basic responsibility **the judgment was**, makes war. Rev. 17:13,14 says, "These have one mind (are **in agreement** on the matter) and give **their strength and power** unto the beast. These kings, **by their military strength**, support the beast (Papacy) -- who is *the real culprit* -- by carrying out and doing *the beast's will*. (Rev. 17:17) "These shall make **war with the lamb.**" How can we reconcile the two? The answer is simple. The beast and the kings of the earth make war with the lamb **in the sense of Psa. 2:2**, and also is described as such in Rev. 12:17 as "**making war with the remnant of her seed...**" (the remnant of the Church: **by the killing of the seed** even as the seed of the woman

was bruised at the heel **to death** -- so also with the feet members. **In turn of consequence comes the smiting of the Armageddon Crash** as he would here tread " the winepress **of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**" (vs. 15). Christ and

the victorious overcomers (faithful unto death) are again described as "*Him that sat on the horse*" and "**His army**" as **that Great Stone**. (vs. 19 & 14). **These have the power** to "**dash the nations to pieces**" (Rev. 2:26,27) in the smiting of the Image, for he is "*King of Kings and Lord of lords*" (vs.16) Compare with Rev. 11:15,17 where it says in fact that as to the final stage of inauguration of the kingdom, the kingdoms of this world (*styled Christendom*) come to a **complete and abrupt end** and **from that time forward Christ becomes "King of the World."** Vol. 3 Foreword iii. Even though the beast and the kings of the earth gather to make war against him who sat upon the horse (vs. 19) as is also pictured in Rev. 16:13,14, yet "**the beast was taken and with him the false prophet (Protestantism)** that wrought miracles before him, and deceived them that had **received the mark of the beast** -- all the nations of Christendom by enforced cooperation) Rev. 13: 12-17 These were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone (utter destruction) and the **Armageddon smiting of the Image** which would include *the remnant that were slain* (vs. 21, 18). All the **fowls were filled with their flesh**. The **outward governmental identities** were completely and **forever destroyed** as is pictured in 2 Peter 3:7 "But the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men." -- **are destroyed in that fire of anarchy.**

When Christ wields *the two-edged sword*, that **with it he should smite the nations**, the work of **judgment – of smiting -- begins**, for it is part and parcel of the "treading of the winepress **of the fierceness of the wrath** of the Almighty God". (Vs. 15) (See also, comparison with the enemies of Israel restored, Ezek. 38:18, where it is said, "**MY FURY SHALL COME UP IN MY FACE**") It speaks of the anger of God which they have brought upon themselves for their action **against the ANNOINTED** (Psa. 2:2) **as well as the blood of the saints of the past**. "*How long, O Lord, holy and true, doest thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*" (Rev. 6:10) The Armageddon blood-bath begins! But, only **with** the completed church **GLORIFIED** as is represented in "His army" "which followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, vs. 19,14. Verse 8 tells us what this fine linen is, beginning with verse 7, "the marriage of the Lamb has come and his wife **hath made herself ready**" (the stone, or Christ and his Church is completed **and cut out in death** and brought unto the marriage). And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for white linen IS THE **righteousness of the Saints**. Yes, they will **ALL** be there, **every one. Not one lacking.**

The 19th verse clearly delineates the **two** opposing sides. The making of war here is the same as that of Rev. 17:14 where it reads, "**these shall make war with the lamb.**" We read, "and I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, **and their armies**, gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse and **his ARMY (singular)** which followed him upon white horses".(Compare Rev. 16:13-16 which says the unclean spirits (*doctrines*) of the Dragon, the beast and false prophet are gathered to **the battle of the great day of God Almighty**) Verse 20 tells us that "the beast was taken and with him the false prophet *which wrought miracles* before him, "which **deceived them** that had **received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image**". They were **not slain with the sharp sword** that proceeded "out of his mouth" that with it he should smite the nations, and "rule them with the

rod of iron", Vs. 15, No! They (beast and false prophet) were *NOT slain*. Vs. 20 continues, "They *were both cast ALIVE (not dead and beleaguered but STRONG TO THE END) into a lake of fire that burneth with brimstone*". Not

only would they be **destroyed** in the fire of **anarchy** but their destruction would be pictured as *forever, as second death* and with *added brimstone to intensify the everlastingness* of it Thus

When the **marriage supper** is called for *the entire church* (primary little flock and secondary greatcompany), it will be a joyous occasion. Such **will not be the case** for all opposers in the battle. That is called the *"supper of the great God."* (Vs. 17, 18) The "sharp sword" used to *"smite the nations"* (and then rule them with a rod of iron) is not, as mentioned, used against the beast or false prophet; but would be **used to slay the remnant (kings, mighty men, captains, horses and them that sat on them and all men both free and bond, small and great)**. THEY ALONE "were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse (and His army) which sword proceeded out of his mouth" – the judgment was executed. vs. 21. "And all the fowls were filled with their flesh." And **semblance of governmental organization was completely (devoured) done away with** -- thus *fulfilling the call to gather to the supper of the great God*. The fowls are called, and, as vultures rise up and destroy the final remains or remnants of the Great Babylon with the *crushing blow* of the great stone of Daniel 2.

THE BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY

In the 14th Chapter of Revelation, the destruction is pictured as the partaking of *"the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation"*. (vs. 7-10). This is followed by the *treading of the winepress* mentioned in vs. 18-20. When the earth was reaped of its harvest of the true church (gathered into the barn or glorified state, and as being cut off in death in faithfulness unto God) *then the clusters of "the vine of the earth"* are gathered, and this vine of the earth (the imitation vine) was *'cast into the winepress of the wrath of God, and the winepress was trodden without the city.'* This, again, is another picture of **the same Armageddon smiting**.

JEHOVAH'S SLAUGHTER IN BOZRAH

In the final analysis of these chapters of Revelation, we will here give brief consideration as to the destruction of these systems of Babylon pictured by the **COUNTERFEIT STONE or IMITATION FEET** falsely representing legitimized authority of the kingdoms of this world in the earth. For this, we turn to Rev. 16:14 where it is called **the battle of the great day of God Almighty**. It is Jehovah's battle. It is also the battle against the Lamb and him who sat upon the white horse.

"Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye peoples: **let the earth hear**, and the fulness thereof; the world, and all things that come forth from it. For **Jehovah hath indignation against all the nations, and wrath against all their host**: he hath utterly destroyed them, *he hath delivered them to the slaughter*. Their slain also shall be cast out, and the stench of their dead bodies shall come up; and the *mountains shall be melted with their blood*. And all *the host of heaven shall be dissolved*, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll; and *all their host shall fade away*, as

the leaf fadeth from off the vine, and as a fading [leaf] from the fig-tree. For my sword hath drunk its fill in heaven: **behold, it shall come down upon Edom**, and upon the people of my curse, **to judgment**. The sword of Jehovah is filled with blood, it is made fat with

fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams; for **Jehovah hath a sacrifice in Bozrah**, and **a great slaughter in the land of Edom**. And the wild-oxen shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls: **and their land shall be drunken with blood**, and their dust made fat with fatness. For **Jehovah hath a day of vengeance**, a year of recompense *for the cause of Zion.*" (Isa. 34:1-8 NEW KJV)

He was called King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:11,16) **and who overcomes them.** (Rev. 17:14) The **unclean spirits** come together out of the two-third segment of that Great City, **Beast and False Prophet (Catholic and Protestant)** -- which are **doctrines of demons** (see *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 4* Foreword), and also from the kings of the earth -- *the same 10 kings who receive power one hour with the beast*. They are *gathered in a place in the Hebrew tongue called Harmageddon* - the mount of Mageddo. (Rev.16) The mount of Mageddo was the mount where the battles that were fought that were **decisive on behalf of Israel under God**.

This is similar to the valley of Jehoshaphat. "Let the nations bestir themselves, and come up to the valley of **Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the nations round about.**" (Joel 3:12) It is the same as saying, "**The judgment of the great whore.**" (Rev. 17:1) It is the same as saying that "**as a millstone, in one hour, is her judgment come.**" It is the **smiting of the nations**, (Rev. 19:15) and **the destruction** which follows.

ONLY THEN IS BABYLON DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS -- SEPARATED

As concerns Rev. 16, it was GREAT Babylon that was divided into three parts as the earthquake came **when the resounding atomic force of the stone smote the image of Dan. 2** and fell upon Christendom -- **Church and State. (Rev. 16:18)** It was completely and forever dissolved so that "every island fled away **and the mountains were not found.**" (vs. 19,20) "The great earthquake such as was not since men were upon the earth, **so mighty an earthquake and so great,**" (Rev. 16:18) which was a great *social explosion* (of earth or society), -- thus destroying that great city. This is the **Armageddon Crash** portrayed in the several chapters of Revelation and **it is incomprehensible how that any comparison could be made to the year 1914 AD.**

SAINTS NOT ON BOTH SIDES OF VAIL AT SMITING OF JORDAN

As presented in the study of the smiting of the Image, the Pastor made some general applications during those war years when he thought that the church would be **sharing a kingdom work this side of the vail** and that things would **shortly end**.

"**Psalm 149:7 Execute vengeance** -- This would seem to imply that there would be something for the saints on this side of the veil to do **in connection with the execution of the judgments upon the nations.** (R5632: 1)" We now see that such **was not** the case. It did **not SHORTLY end nor was**

the church at that time **COMPLETED**, or the door closed to “suffer with him so as the reign with him” in 1914 or 1918! For **there is but one call** of this age -- **to heaven**. The world will have its turn when the kingdom of this *world (Satan’s kingdom)* becomes the kingdom of **Jehovah and of His The Christ** after Armageddon. “And the seventh angel sounded; and there followed great voices in heaven, and they said, The kingdom of the world is become [the kingdom] of our LORD [Jehovah], and of His [the] Christ: and He shall reign for ever and ever.” (Rev. 11:15 *Diaglott*)

Realizing that this is true, we are thus able to see the strength in the original application of *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 1*, p.252-256 (1886), **of the smiting of the image picture** which remained constant to the end (1916). We have seen much take place with regard to the churches. Yet this does not mean that GREAT BABYLON was cast into the sea, *never to be found anymore!* There are **many scriptures yet** to receive prophetic fulfillment: Herod, Herodius, Salome and John the Baptist, Elijah and Elisha – to name a few. Before the fall of Babylon occurs, the *rise of Church Federation or Council*, (Psa. 2:2) with the Kings of the earth (Rev. 17:12-14) having power to put **restraint upon the preaching of the truth and to put to death** (under the guise of *treason*) the remaining members of the Church **who would speak the truth concerning the judgment to come** “And it was given [unto him] to give breath [life] to it, [even] to the image to the breast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause **that as many as should not worship the image of the beast should be killed**. And he causeth all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them *a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead*; and that **no man should be able to buy or to sell**, save he that hath the mark, [even] the name of the beast **or the number of his name.**” (Rev.13:15-17) The speaking of the truth **at that time** would be **the smiting of Jordan**. (2Kings 2:8)

“And it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that Jehovah had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that **the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold on him**, saying, **Thou shalt surely die**. Why hast thou prophesied in the name of Jehovah, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and **this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?** And all the people were gathered unto Jeremiah in the house of Jehovah. And when the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house unto the house of Jehovah; and they sat in the entry of the new gate of Jehovah’s [house]. Then **spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy of death; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears**. Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, **Jehovah sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard**. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of Jehovah your God; and Jehovah will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you. But as for me, behold, I am in your hand: do with me as is good and right in your eyes. Only know ye for certain that, **if ye put me to death, ye will bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof**; for of a truth Jehovah hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.” (Jer. 26:8-15 NEW KJV) While Priests and Prophets spared his life at this time, **it clearly indicated that they did not like his message** concerning **the destruction of Jerusalem** at all and would like to have done something about it – such as **putting him to death**. Later Jeremiah was cast into a grotto called “Jeremiah’s grotto” which would be likened unto a prison into which John the baptist was cast and **which led to his death** at the hands of Herodius.

A similar message to this was given to the Church-State of corrupt Israel Nominal **before the Babylonian overthrow** by three of God's prophets. The getting together of the beast, the image of the beast and the dragon (kings of the earth) **will bring an end to the remaining members of**

the true church. Another event, yet future, as mentioned, is **the great earthquake (social upheaval -- explosion of stable society,** as well as **including that great city** --. Church and state). Again, we say, this is the Armageddon Crash of the stone upon the counterfeit stone feet of the image, bringing to an end the kingdoms of this world. (ZWT 5854). This is the retribution of God, through the completed and glorified church, for the "blood of the saints and the martyrs which cry out from under the altar" **Revelation 6:10** "and they cried with a great voice, saying, How long, O Master, the holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And the response: **"until their fellow servants and also their brethren should be killed as they were" should be fulfilled.** Rev. 6:10,11. Compare Rev. 13:15-17.

These scriptures have **not yet been fulfilled** -- but they are sure of fulfillment! Again, this will be the same time period (ARMAGEDDON), at the conclusion of which, when His FURY shall come up in His face. (Ezek. 38:18) The same principles applied to Israel will apply to the slaying of the saints at the hands of the coalition of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet -- Christendom alligned; and **thus their doom is imminent.** (Rev. 2:26,27) The **entire** Church share in this work of the destruction of Babylon -- "to him that overcometh **will I give power** over the nations to dash them.." thus completing the vengeance and wrath of Jehovah God **once and forever** so that system **will never rise again.**

Another system, with powers of spiritual control, will arise, but **at the close** of the Millennial age, when it nears completion. You will have Kings of the earth and a spiritual rulership, but it will be **under the direction of Satan** and may well involve those peoples which have been opposed to fleshly Israel in the past, and who oppose their right to authority as God's Ancients. They opposed the "seed of the woman" -- Israel after the flesh, as well as Israel after the Spirit. (Rom. 4:16) And there will be an **attempt to depose Israel but especially the Ancients,** which may result in the latter's death. (Rev. 20:7-10). The enmity of God shall be ended for ever and "thou (the seed) shalt bruise his head" in everlasting destruction (Gen. 3:15) **and all who would participate** with that enemy. []

THE GREAT TREE OF DANIEL CHAPTER 4

We hold that the great tree of Daniel, Chapter 4, concerning a dream that Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, had and to whom Daniel provided the interpretation, is **OBVIOUSLY a separate picture** and has *nothing whatsoever to do* with the picture of the Image of Daniel 2. They are two separate pictures and describe two separate things. They can *no more be mixed than* could we take an illustration from the Tabernacle of Moses and apply it to something in Revelation. To do so would only **add** to confusion.

Concerning the Great Tree of Daniel, the Pastor makes three applications in Volume 2. The first, as *literal*, as given in the narration, of the Scripture text and applying to Nebuchadnezzar in changing from man to beast *for seven literal years* until he got the lesson of his experience, lost his pride and got his reason back. Thus he recognized that the most high ruleth over men. The second, (application) to man from the time of Adam, who had his dominion over the beasts of the field and of the fowl of the air and *when it was lost in Eden*. And, to the time of physical restitution when his reason (*mankind's*) *would be restored*. (Which, according to his expectation, would have begun at the end of that time, viz., 1914 AD (or a period of approximately 7,000 years).) (see p. 93,97) And the third application was that of Seven Symbolic times or 2520 years of his (man's) beastly rule until 1914 AD, known as the Times of the Gentiles. (See page 97 top) Comparison is there made with the same seven times of Israel which would end in 1914 AD. Continuing along this same line on page 98, par. 1, in speaking of the close of the seven times, we read: "Neither Israel nor the world **WILL BE TRODDEN DOWN** and misruled by beastly gentile powers. The kingdom of God will then be established in the earth, and Israel and the world be blessed under His rightful and righteous authority. Then the root of promise and hope planted first in Eden (Gen. 3:15) and borne across the flood and transplanted with Israel, the typical people (Gen. 12: 1-3) will sprout and bloom again."

We note here that here, too, (p. 98, par. 2) reference is made to *reason being "restored"* and that man would be brought back to the original likeness and that *"then" (1914)*, he would be brought back to his senses. *This we have not seen!* To the contrary, man has become worse. But what we did see there was *the end of the times of the gentiles as that rule had been over Israel*. We saw also the fig tree beginning to bud as a nation in that very year. *My People*, Abba Eban, 1968, pp. 355, 356, 357). Could it be then, that the beastly rule over Israel, God's Chosen People, was prefigured also in the 2520 years of *the times of the Gentiles OVER Israel?*, and the first work of restitution after that point *was with THAT nation*; for it was then that the times of the Gentiles expired (Vol. 2 Foreword). In no way did this define the end – completed -- but the seven times MARKED the end of the times of the Gentiles ruling over Israel. (Luke 21:24. See previous remarks under *"The Times of the Gentiles and the 2520 Years."*)

TREE DOES NOT DEFINE TIME LIMIT OF DANIEL 2

The dream of the Great Tree *does not in any way place a time limitation on Daniel 2* as concerns the Image. There is *no SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT* given as concerns the **endurance** of the Image. The only time limit is given in Dan. 4 and it is that of seven times, which, when taken prophetically as a day for a year, if applied in this fashion, would come to the sum of 2520 years in that a time is 360 days or one full year. However, we *do not believe that to be the correct application!* The time factor can ONLY be applied to the GREAT TREE! -- and that is seven years. Considered from its widest standpoint, one year would equal a thousand. “But forget not this one thing, beloved, that *one day is with the Lord as a thousand years*, and a thousand years as one day.” (2Peter 3:8) In **Genesis 2:4**, it reads “These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, *in the day* that Jehovah God made earth and heaven.” (NEW KJV) In the Genesis, it is mentioned as seven days. Based upon the last day (of 7,000 years) we know the full length of the other days as described in *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 6* – 7,000 years for each Genesis “day” or 49,000 years total. Therefore, we may properly conclude that the *seven* times or *years* of Nebuchadnezzar’s beastial appearance could represent *1,000 years for each year*. Because *the tree* was mentioned, under which were all the animals and in which the birds dwelled, by the Pastor’s reasoning, **transporting us back to Eden**; but taking us **to the beginning (1914)** of what he believed was restitution due to begin. The “**seven years**” or “**seven times**” concluding **is not** a picture of the final end as we understand it, and even as the Pastor gave to the meaning of the “Final End” to come in Armageddon, which was *beyond 1914!*

The *weakening* of the Gentile governments and nations (Harvest Gleanings, p. 675) as **was shown** in **the wind** of 1Kings 19:11,12, and as Brother Russell described as *"the winds of war weakening the nations" for their final overthrow*, does not in any way preclude the destruction of the nations. It is, as he said, **“preparing for the WRECK” -- the Armageddon Crash. No one** has the-authority to use the great struggle of the nations (in 1914 when the gentile times ended) to **TAKE AWAY FROM THE FORCEFULNESS OF THE DESTRUCTION** of Christendom for which the great lesson **was intended!** It would certainly be *a very poor judgment (at that time)* if church and state were.(then) smitten! No, dear friends, we understand that the true smiting is YET to come and we do look forward to it with the **same desire and expectation** which God had when he foretold the FALL of BABYLON. The system may not be as strong, but they have always been here, and will continue to so be UNTIL THAT DAY when the antitypical *Noah? class shall have ENTERED THE ARK - every one of them!* (i.e., the church completed and glorified)

What a blessing it will be, when the hand that once smote these institutions and agencies shall be turned to healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2) God’s ways, *though they seem harsh*, are loving, and behind the dark clouds **which lie ahead** (Isa. 21:11,12) is the *wondrous smiling face* of the Father. (Acts 3:19-21)

Consider Isa. 49:9,10. This scripture has been **wrongfully** used as comparable to Rev. 7 and the great multitude there (according to J.F. Rutherford.). These **do not** refer to the same class but to the earthly class alone.

What JOY shall then be, **when those who were prisoners of that system**, the masterpiece of the Adversary, are *told to "Go forth"...* "They shall feed in the ways and their pastures shall be in

the high (ly favored) places." They shall not hunger (for the Divine Word) for the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth then) nor thirst (like the great multitude, *which is a spiritual* and not an earthly class), so shall he feed (Christ and the Church--*out of your belly shall flow living waters*) and satisfy the thirst of this once disobedient *and persecuting class*, whose home *is the earth*. Neither shall the heat nor the sun smite them, for He shall have mercy on them (even as the principals of Christendom knew better in doing what they had done, and felt the heat of their wrong-doing, yet God shall have mercy upon that class of earth *who were once a part of Christendom* and dealt wrongfully with Israel after the spirit and Israel after the flesh -- *in the time of His kingdom*. *He that hath mercy shall lead them*, even by the springs of water--to *drink of the water of life freely* -- Isa. 49:9,10; Rev. 22:17, ZWT 633 par. 11-18. []

APPENDIX A

(Interesting references and commentary)

Citations from an early letter, written in 1949, to no avail by Br. Frank Shallieu in reply to an individual associated with a prominent Dawn Bible Students organization:

“In reply to the inquiry where Pastor Russell made the statement that the Image (Daniel 2:31-45) would *not be smitten until the Church was beyond the veil*:

"The stone cut out of the mountain without bands, which smites and scatters the Gentile powers, represents the true Church, the Kingdom of God *when complete, when entirely cut out*, it will smite and destroy the kingdoms of this world ...”

"Call to mind now the promise by our Lord to the overcomers of the Christian Church ‘To him that overcometh, will I grant to sit with me in my throne’ -- and *he that overcometh* and keepeth my works **unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations**, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as *the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers*, etc." -- Volume 1 pgs. 254-256

Although the Pastor has, in some cases, linked the smiting with World War 1, yet in the below cited instances *he looks for this as a future event*, and this latter view in our humble **Judgment seems more scripturally-sound**. We do not say that those who think differently are wrong, however.

"This stone kingdom is *quarried out of the 'earth' by the Lord*. It is at first insignificant in size, and it seems to the world as powerless. But **as soon as set up in power, this kingdom will smite** the “great image” of earthly rulership and shall grind it...” -- Reprints 5575, Col.1, par. 3 Nov. 15, 1914.

"Messiah's kingdom is pictured as '**a stone cut out of the mountain without hands**', without human power; and it, in the days of these kings represented by the toes of the image, *is to smite the image and grind it to powder*; and the stone is to become the great mountain, or kingdom, of the Lord in all the earth. This smiting, we believe, is **near at hand**, the *present war of Europe being intended* of the Lord to **weaken the nations** and *to prepare them for the next stage of trouble.*"
-Reprints 5673 April 15, 1915

"The smiting of the image, which will grind it to powder, will not come from the church in the flesh, with carnal weapons, but **from the church in glory**, backed by divine power."

-Reprints 5716 Col. 2#1 July 1, 1915

"It is upon the feet of this image that the Armageddon crash of God's Kingdom is pictured as falling -- grinding *the entire image to powder.*"

-Reprints 5854 Feb. 15, 1916

ARMAGEDDON CRASH YET FUTURE

Elsewhere the Pastor informs us that it is his thought that the true Church will be gone **before** this Armageddon experience; i.e. **Anarchy** -- the final phase of the time of trouble.

"There is one thing I think we are all agreed upon -- **that we believe we will all be taken before the 'Armageddon' we feature of the trouble.** You know the Bible gives us symbols of **the loosing of the 'winds' which is this great war.** Then comes the 'earthquake', **which is the great Revolution** to follow. Then comes the 'fire' -- **the Anarchy -- Armageddon experiences.** I think **the Church, the Bride Class, will be gone before that Armageddon experience,** but cannot be sure.."

-Question Book, pg. 617 (Cf: QB 529 D548 #1) year 1915

ARMAGEDDON AWAITS VITILIZATION OF IMAGE OF BEAST

"High-handed activities of Protestantism and Catholicism, operating in conjunction for the suppression of human liberties, **await this vivifying of the Image.** This may come soon, but Armageddon cannot precede it, but must follow - perhaps a year after, according to our view of the Prophetic Word.'

-1913 Foreword, Volume IV. pg. Xvi" []

APPENDIX B - INTERESTING COMMENTARIES

Stone Smiting the Image

-- Daniel 2:31-45

With Relevant Material -- Br. Fred Mundell

See article by W.J. Erdman, approved by Brother Russell, with but one exception, in Zion's Watch Tower, May 1, 1904 edition; Reprints, p. 3359.

Quotations from Vol. 1, page 255, 256: "The stone cut out of the mountain without hands, which smites and scatters the Gentile powers, represents the true Church, the Kingdom of God ... **When complete, when entirely cut out, it will smite and destroy** the kingdoms of this world

"Call to mind now the promise made by our Lord to the overcomers of the Christian Church: 'To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne', -- "and he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers!"

Reprints, p. 5575, Col. 1, Par. 3 (Nov. 15, 1914): "This stone kingdom is quarried out of the 'earth' by the Lord. It is at first insignificant in size, and it seems powerless. But **as soon as set up in power, this kingdom will smite the 'great image' of earthly rulership**, and shall grind it to powder (in the coming time of, trouble), and the wind shall carry it away."

Reprints, p. 5716, Col. 2, end of par. top of page (July 1, 1915). "The smiting of the image, which will grind it to powder, will come not from the church in the flesh, with carnal weapons, but **from the church in kingdom glory, backed by divine power.**" (Dan. 2:45)

Reprints, p. 5854, Col. 1, Par. 2 (Feb. 15, 1916): "It is upon the feet of this image that the **Armageddon crash** of God's Kingdom is pictured as falling -- grinding **the entire image to powder.**

Question Book, Page 617 (year 1915): "There is one thing I think we all agree upon -- that we believe we will all be taken before the 'Armageddon' feature. You know the Bible gives us symbol's of the loosing of the '**winds, which is this great war.**' Then comes the 'fire,' **the anarchy** -- Armageddon experiences. I think the Church, The Bride Class, will be gone before that Armageddon experience, but cannot be sure."

Question Book, p. 626 (year 1916): "The Strong Man of the House **must be bound** before his goods can be spoiled (or his kingdom destroyed).

The collapse of Babylon will indicate that Satan has been quite fully bound. -- **The church and the state are getting pretty well welded together** (but if the iron and the clay already **have been smitten, this would be contradictory**). They depend upon each other, and will get pretty closely united in the time of need. "In this answer, Brother Russell, further says: "All present institutions

of the world are Satan's goods and arrangements. They will be spoiled in the great time of anarchy which will make ready for the establishment of the Kingdom of Messiah."

1913 Foreword of Vol. IV, pages xvi; Dawn editions, p xviii: "High-handed activities of Protestantism and Catholicism, **operating in conjunction for the suppression of human liberties**, await this vivifying of the Image. This may come soon, but **Armageddon cannot precede it**, but must follow -- perhaps a year after, according to our view of the Prophetic Word."

--- Bro. Fred Mundell,
Editor of *Zion's Watchtower*
in the days of Pastor, Charles T. Russell.

SMITING OF THE IMAGE -- D. McCasland

Dan. 2:34: 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.

Dan. 2:44: 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 forever. (A262:top)

A255 p2: The stone cut out of the mountain **without hands, represents the true Church**, the Kingdom of God. During the Gospel Age this "stone" Kingdom *is being formed*, cut out, carved and shaped for its future position and greatness -- **not by human hands, but by the power or spirit of the truth, the power of Jehovah. When complete, when entirely cut out, it will smite** and destroy the kingdoms of this world.

R3293 p2: Soon Messiah, **head and body**, will so overrule in the affairs of men, that the nations of earth **shall be broken to shivers** as potter's vessels.

R3389: Article title: "*Universal Anarchy -- Just Before or After October, 1914*" -- The time for the smiting of the Image on it, feet will not come -- until October, 1914. (**Smiting associated with anarchy**)

R5526p4: A stone was to smite the image upon the feet, and break them to pieces -- in the end of the Age -- the preparatory step to the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom -- p6: **The time of trouble of the Scriptures will be brought on by anarchy. (Again associated with anarchy).**

R5575 p3: As soon as set up in power, this Kingdom will smite the great image of earthly rulership, and shall grind it to powder, **in the coming time of trouble. (Nov. 1914)**

R5631 c2 p3: In the days of these kings, **before their utter overthrow**, the God of heaven would set up a Kingdom, which would **smite and break in pieces all the kingdoms of men**. p4: What is signified by the expression "in the days of these kings" when the Kingdom of God was to be set up in power? The first step was to be the raising of the sleeping saints in 1878. The work of setting up the Kingdom has progressed -- is now **merely lacking the last member of the Church class**. When they **shall have taken their places as members of the Church in glory, the Kingdom will be fully set up**. (Feb. 1915)

R5632,p1 "We see the kingdoms of this world now being dashed to pieces." (1915) (Immediately below this is the Sub-heading, "The Kingdom of God Set Up". This was before Bro. Russell. was convinced that the **Harvest did not end in 1914**, as he did say a year and a half later; R5950. Also, in

this same article, pg. R5631, c2, p4, is a clear statement that Kingdom *will not be set up fully until the last member the Church is glorified; and that is still future.*)

R5673 c2 p3: This smiting, we believe, *is near at hand*. The present war in Europe -- will weaken the nations to *prepare* for the next stage - *revolution*. (April, 1915) (Revolution, then anarchy).

R5716 c2: The smiting of the image, which will grind it to powder, will come, not from the Church in the flesh -- but from the **Church in Kingdom glory, backed by divine power**. (July 1915) (Will; future tense).

R5854 p2: It is upon the feet of this image that the *Armageddon crash of God's Kingdom is pictured as falling*, grinding the entire image to powder. Feb. 1916) (Future tense)

OV Monthly, 82 p3: Not until the Church shall have been completed, *not until the last member shall have been changed from earthly to heavenly conditions -- will this heavenly power be hurled against the image*. (Future)

Ezek. 21:27: "Until he come whose right it is."

SM416:1: The one whose right it is -- is **Messiah, Jesus the Head, and the Church, his body**, on the spirit plane.

R3616 p3: The great **Prophet, Priest and King** of the divine plan was **NOT** the "man" Christ **Jesus, but the glorified Christ, Jesus, the Head, and the Church, his body**. (Dan. 7:18,22, 2 7)

R3293. p2: **The Messiah** of the divine plan,- includes *not only* Jesus glorified, -- **but it includes also the Church, which is his body**.

D271: God is the great commander who now gathers the nations and assembles the kingdoms -- preparatory to the transfer of earth's dominion to "him whose right it is": Immanuel.

D623: Our Lord assured his faithful that at the time of the establishment of his Kingdom and the **overthrow** of Gentiles power, *the overcoming Church would be with him*.

D296: In the days of the Son of Man, when he has come, while he is gathering his elect to himself, and thus setting up his Kingdom, whose inauguration **will be followed by the dashing of the present social system to pieces**.

A262: *After it is set up, it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms*, and it shall stand forever.

R5526 p4: Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, which portrayed the **Gentile rule** of earth during the interregnum of God's Kingdom.

R5526 p5: So long as these Governments would be here, they and Messiah's Kingdom could not cooperate. Hence it was foretold that Messiah at his second coming will first bind the strong man of **Gentile supremacy**, and on the ruins of earthly dominion establish a righteous government. **(Two quotations showing that the image represents Gentile dominion)**.

A260 p1: They three successively (Babylon, Persia, and Greece) had their dominion taken from them; they **ceased to hold the ruling power of earth**, but **their lives as nations did not cease** immediately. Greece and Persia still have some life. Not so, however, with the Roman Empire, the fourth and last of these beasts. It will **lose dominion and life a once, and** go into utter destruction; and with it the others will pass away also. (Dan. 2:35; Dan. 7:11)

R5916 last p: It is the smiting of the Kingdom of God that is even now preparing for the wreck of all the kingdoms of the earth. (1916). (This **statement also appears at R1692** last p, 1894. This was before the end of the Gentile Times, so **it could NOT refer to the smiting of the image**. The "wreck of all the kingdoms" *must refer to the smiting of the image*.)

D625: The beginning of the earthly phase of the Kingdom will, we understand, consist wholly of the resurrected holy ones of olden time, from John back to Abel. (The stone cannot grow and fill the earth ***until the Ancient Worthies are resurrected***).

OV Monthly 342 p1: I ask you to consider candidly - ***is there a Kingdom in the world today*** that in your judgment represents *a divine government amongst men*? Is there a perfect government, ***where God's will is done***, as it is done in heaven?

R2606:3: The New Jerusalem as John saw it (Rev. 21), "That holy city (government) coming down from God out of heaven." ***During the time of trouble*** it will be coming down, and before the end of it, it will have touched the earth. This is the stone cut out of the mountains without hands (but by the power of God), and it will then have become a great mountain (Kingdom), filling the whole earth, its coming ***having broken to pieces the evil kingdoms of the prince of darkness***.

Vol. 3, Foreword, iv, bot: ***Dominion of the earth will be assumed when the church is all beyond the veil***.

R3359:6: "Daniel says ***the stone grew after it struck*** (Dan. 2:35), and then covered the place once possessed by the kingdoms. There is not the least hint that as the stone increased the Image decreased. The two are not seen side by side, the one *encroaching* upon the other's ground; but ***with mighty blow*** upon its brittle feet, the colossal form ***crushes into shapeless ruin***, and is swept away like the chaff of the summer threshing floor, and for it no more place was found. It is therefore evident that if the world-power disappears in ***one simultaneous and sudden ruin***, the stone Kingdom ***has not yet begun to grow*** and the mighty stone ***IS YET TO FALL***."

-- W. J. Erdmann. Quoted with Bro Russell's approval. □

HARVEST GLEANINGS 1 -- Pages 675,676

"The last monarch of David's line was King Zedekiah, of whom we read: 'O thou profane and wicked Prince, whose time has come that iniquity shall have an end. Remove the diadem, take off the crown I will overturn, overturn, overturn it *until He comes whose right it is, and I will give it to Him.*' (Ezek. 21:25-27) *Messiah is the One whose right it is -- Jesus, the Head, the Church His Body -- on the spirit plane.*"

"Next came the *feet of the image*, which were of iron *smearred with clay*, thus *made to resemble stone feet*. The iron feet represented the Holy Roman Empire, which was *really a part of the Roman Empire*, and the *divisions of which are at war with each other today*. The dream and its interpretation showed that a stone cut without hands struck the image on its feet, ground them to powder and utterly destroyed the entire image. This *stone represented the Messiah's Kingdom*, which will ultimately fill the whole earth, according to this prophecy."

"The *clay smearred on the iron feet, making them look like stone*, represents the fact that the present Roman governments of Europe *claim to be Christ's Kingdom*. On their coins, and otherwise, they claim to represent God. They *have been deceived into thinking and speaking of themselves as Christendom*, which signifies Christ's Kingdom. In *reality they are the last representatives of Gentile power -- 'kingdoms of this world' the toes of the image of Gentile supremacy* of which King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed."

"The *present war will weaken the nations*, draining not only their life blood, but *also their wealth ...*"

---- From the Article: *DISTRESS OF NATIONS PRECEEDING ARMAGEDDON*

APPENDIX – A

J. F. Rutherford's teachings from the Book "Deliverance," written in 1926, and leading to the confusion on this subject because from him came others who formed one organization after another and who carried these views with them.

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and clearly *in fulfillment of prophecy they have acquired title to lands, have builded houses, colonies, factories, installed irrigation plants, dedicated their great university in the city of Jerusalem, and have done many other things looking to a rebuilding of Palestine for the Jews and by the Jews. This is so clear that no one can doubt that it is in fulfillment of the prophecies of Jesus and of the other holy prophets. [Ed. This shows that the Judge had a correct understanding of the promises to Israel until 1932 (Vindication 2) when he changed his thinking with regard to the promises to Israel. He there declared all the promises to the Jew were properly made to "Jehovah's Witnesses" – the new name that he instituted in the previous year. (Vindication 1)]*

Furthermore, Jesus said concerning the end of the world: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." (Luke 21: 25, 26) Sun is a symbol of the light of the divine plan. The moon is a symbolic expression used to represent the divine law; whereas stars symbolically represent ecclesiastical leaders. Since 1918 the clergy in the various denominations have practically repudiated God's plan for the establishment of his kingdom. They have repudiated and refused to walk according to the divine law; therefore these, symbolically represented as stars, have fallen.

Although several years have elapsed since the World War ceased, yet it is fully appreciated by all the people that "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity" continues. Nations, in this, scripture, clearly refer to the organized governments of the earth; and all of these governments are now in perplexity and distress, not knowing what to do. They are in fear and trepidation of losing their power. Continuing, the Lord said: "The sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts

failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." (Luke 21: 25,26) The "sea" represents the restless element of humanity; and these are dashing against each other and against the governments, and are roaring. The common people even fear for what things they see coming upon the earth. *[Ed: JFR says: Smiting work begun Of Dan. 2:34, 45. Smiting of the Image in 1914 – erroneous view of the Judge. He says: This stone of Dan. is as the kingdom and was the new nation born in 1914 and there smote the Image of Dan. 2:34,45. See the following for yourself:]* All these things further testify that the world reached its end and *began to pass, away in 1914; and that there, in the time of the Lord's presence, the birth of The Nation occurred.*

The Prophet Daniel described the kingdoms of this world, or world powers, from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to the time of the end. He then stated, in substance, that while there world powers or kingdoms are still in existence the kingdom of God shall be set up. "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." (Daniel 2: 44) This kingdom of God is described in prophetic phrase as "the stone cut out without hands" which exercises its power against all other world powers. (Daniel 2: 34,45) *This stone is the new nation born.* The Scriptures therefore definitely show that at the end of Satan's world, when the nations and kingdoms would begin to war, the Lord would be present *and that the new and righteous kingdom of God would then be born.*

ZION THE MOTHER

Jehovah God is the Father or Life-giver of the empire or kingdom, because he begets and gives life to each one of those who are to make up the reigning house.

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and those individual members who go to make up the government or nation. **The year 1914 AD is definitely fixed by the Scriptures as the time for the birth of the nation.** In that year the nations forming the Devil's empire *became angry and engaged in a World War*. The Revelator fixes that date as **the time when God Almighty, through his beloved Son, would take his power and reign, or otherwise stated, the time for the birth of the nation or government.--Rev. 11: 17, 18. [Ed. – JFR Error. Christ is yet to take his great power and reign.]**

A symbolic description of the birth of the nation is given in Revelation, twelfth chapter. The woman there mentioned clearly is Zion, the same woman mentioned in, Isaiah 66:7. **[Ed. -- JFR Error. Isa. 66 is really natural Israel – not the true church]** The sun is a symbol of the light of the divine plan, while the moon represents God's law. **Around Zion, God's organization** as symbolized by the woman, shines the light of the divine plan; and thus she is enveloped with the sun. "The moon under her feet" symbolically represents *that the course of action of the woman, Zion, is always in harmony with the divine will as represented by God's law. The Head, the Chief Corner Stone of Zion, is Christ Jesus; and upon that Head is the crown, representing complete and absolute authority.* The twelve stars in the crown correspond to the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (Revelation 21: 14)

On the earth are some of the faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. These have had a mental vision of his kingdom; **they were anticipating that it would that it would be born in 1914** and were in great expectation and anxiety until the birth. Therefore they are represented by Zion in pain desiring the delivery of the man child, which is the kingdom. **[Ed. – JFR Error. Rev. 12 is the true church – woman – but brings forth a false man child. See The Keys of Revelation, Chapter 12 and the Pastor's view.]** The man child, to wit, the new government or nation, was ordained by the Lord from

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the foundation of the world; but now it was about to begin to function, and those who were waiting and praying for its birth were in anxious expectancy for the birth. Thus the matter appeared to them.

"And she brought forth a man child, [*Ed. JFR Error. It is really the false church 313 AD to 539 AD – "that he is God.*] who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." (Revelation 12: 5) [*Ed. – JFR Error. That the man child is the stone kingdom of the image born and smites in 1914.*] The man child here is the same man child mentioned by the Prophet Isaiah; to wit, the nation or government which is to rule all the nations of the earth. It is the same kingdom described by Daniel, in chapter two, verse forty-four. This man child or new government is symbolically represented as being caught up to God and to his throne, *because it constitutes God's kingdom, now beginning to function by virtue of his will and authority.*

WAR WITH THE ENEMY

Watching the preparation of the empire and *observing that the day was approaching for the birth of the nation, symbolically represented by the man child*, Satan the enemy was on the alert, with the avowed purpose of destroying this new nation or government if possible. In the Revelation picture he appears under the name and title of Dragon. He is there represented as a "red dragon". [*Ed. JFR Error. Red dragon in the purely Civil power – Vol 4 Foreward*] The word "red" here used means fiery red, and particularly pictures Satan's devilish, wicked and gory organization, murderously bent upon the destruction of the new government. In this the Dragon was thwarted, because God prevented him.

The new government or nation there began to function; and the **first work** thereof necessarily was the expelling of Satan from heaven. "And there was war in

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time "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool."---Hebrews 10: 12, 13.

The time must come when God would subdue the enemy, Satan the Devil, and his institution. We read: "The Lord [Jehovah) shall send the rod [sceptre of authority and power rightfully reposed in his beloved Son] of thy strength out of Zion [God's organization *[Ed: Another JFR error. Please note Zion is the Glorified Church completed ONLY.]*, saying]: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies." (Psalm 110: 2) This is the same time mentioned by the prophet: "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." -- Psalm 2: 6.

The new government is now born. Jesus Christ, the King, now stands up and assumes his power and authority and begins his reign, even while the enemy still exercises power; [Ed: Another error. JFR speaks of Michael as standing up and assuming his power in 1914 and beginning his reign then, while Satan still rules as the God of this world.] but the enemy's right to that power has expired, his world having ended. Necessarily this would mark the beginning of the battle in heaven; the King of glory and his angels on one side, and Satan the old Dragon, the disloyal son of God, and his angels, on the other side.

It is really the fight of God Almighty against the Devil. The light on God's side is led by his beloved Son, and in this fight he subdues the enemy. The Psalmist thus describes the Lord Jesus Christ moving into action: "Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most Mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things." -- Psalm 45: 3, 4.

This marks the time of the birth of the nation or government. God's prophet puts it thus: "In the

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beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning (the woman, Zion]: thou hast the dew of thy youth." Psalm 110: 3) The new nation, the government, pictured by the man child now born, is in the vigor of youth and strength and now goes forth to rule; it is the beginning of God's kingdom in action. [Ed: Error. JFR says the stone cut out of the mountain without hands SMOTE the image in 1914 and has NOW become the head.]

REJECTED STONE BECOMES THE HEAD

It seems quite evident that the Prophet Daniel, in speaking of "the stone cut out without hands", refers to the birth of the nation or government. By the time of the end of the World War in 1918 the church denominations, particularly the clergy and the leaders and principal of their flock who pretended to believe and follow Christ Jesus, were provided with abundant proof from the Bible and from fulfilled prophecy that the Lord was present, that the world had ended, that the time for the beginning of God's kingdom had come. In fact, shortly after the captivity of Jerusalem by the allied armies, ten distinguished clergymen met in tile city of London and issued the following manifesto, declaring:

First -- That **the present crisis points toward the close of the times of the Gentiles.**

Second -- That the revelation of the Lord may be expected at any moment, when he will be manifested as evidently as to his disciples on the evening of his resurrection.

Third -- That the completed church will be translated, to be "forever with the Lord".

Fourth -- That Israel will be restored to its own land in unbelief, and be afterward converted by the appearance of Christ on its behalf.

Fifth -- That all human schemes of reconstruction must

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be subsidiary to the second coming of our Lord, because all nations will be subject to his rule.

Sixth -- That under the reign of Christ there will be a further great effusion of the Holy Spirit on all flesh.

Seventh -- That the truths embodied in this statement are of the utmost practical value in determining Christian character and action with reference to the pressing problems of the hour.

This remarkable statement was signed by A. C. Dixon and F. B. Meyer, Baptists; George Campbell Morgan and Alfred Byrd, Congregationalists; William Fuller Gouch, Presbyterian; H. Webb Peplow, J. Stuart Holden, Episcopalians; Dinsdale T. Young, Methodist,

These are well-known names, and are among the world's greatest preachers. That these eminent men, of different denominations, should feel called upon to issue such a statement is of itself exceedingly significant. This manifesto was sent to the clergy throughout the world and was by them rejected.

But the most remarkable part of the affair is that the very men who signed the manifesto subsequently repudiated it and rejected the evidence which proves that we are at the end of the world and in the day of the Lord's second presence.

The Psalmist, the prophet of God, referred to, this same time and event, to wit, the birth of the nation and the rejection of the chief corner stone by the pretended builders, when he wrote: "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is, marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."---Psalm 118: 22-24.

The clergy, instead of heeding the truth and proclaiming

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it to the people, and advising them that the time had come for the reign of Christ, repudiated Christ and his kingdom, rejected him who is the chief corner stone of Zion and openly and boldly supported and advocated the Devil's substitute for Christ's kingdom, to wit, *the League of Nations, and proclaimed League of Nations as the political manifestation of God's kingdom on earth. [Ed: JFR error. League of Nations or currently the United Nations are not the "image of the Beast. The image of the Beast is the Protestant Confederation soon to be empowered.]* Otherwise stated, they ignore God's plan and manner of establishing his kingdom and willingly ally themselves with the Devil, *supporting his "image of the beast"*.

The Jewish clergy in their time rejected Christ, the chief corner stone. Now the clergy of modern times do the same thing. They, together with the principal of their flock, being disobedient to the Word of God, stumble and *fall upon the stone or new government now born. [Ed: JFR error. Stone has not struck as yet. There will be no clergy when the stone class is complete and does its work. The term "fall upon the stone" does not now apply. That stone will be the chief stone, Jesus Christ the head of the corner.]* Mark how well the prophetic words of Peter fit the present situation: "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient; whereunto also they were appointed." (1 Peter 2: 7, 8; Psalm 118: 22; Isaiah 8: 14) *Thus the kingdom of God was taken away*

from those who pretended to represent the Lord, and the words of Jesus were fulfilled. (Matthew 21: 43, 44) Those who rejected it fell upon the stone and were broken.

The nation of righteousness is born. God's kingdom has begun to function [Ed: JFR error. The nation of righteousness is still not yet born as the stone is not yet complete nor is Jehovah in His holy temple.] --- "The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the nations and peoples of earth take note! (Psalm. 11: 4-7; Habakkuk 2: 20) "The Lord hath a

SMITING THE IMAGE -- Daniel 2: 31-45

(Questions and Answers on the Smiting of the Image)

Studies in the Scriptures - Vol. I, pages 252-260

What is the image that the Stone smites, and what does the word smite mean?

The word smite is translated from a Hebrew word which in the Bible is used by 3 people -- Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus. It means to: (1) strike in pieces; (2) to arrest or slow or seize by law; (3) impale; (4) stay or stop or hold back -- like none can stay God's hand. (Translated in King James Version by "hang, smite, stay.) Daniel does his own interpreting and his language shows it is #1 above: strike in pieces This would mean that whenever it happens --

past, present or future -- from our standpoint **now**, when it is struck, it is stricken into pieces. In interpreting this, we must remember that it speaks not of Babylon, as such, but of gentile powers of all stripes, colors, creeds, etc. -- for all the types of gentile dominion from Babylon, Persia, Greece on down fall together R 5564:6. Babylon is only incidentally in this picture as she is **intermarried** to some of these Gentile powers.

But, let us not forget that the judgment or smiting is not upon Babylon, but upon Gentile powers of all types in every nation whether they had ever had any connection with Babylon. Babylon gets into the smiting of the image picture **only** because part of her was allied to some of these powers.

Her judgment and sentence is because she is the counterfeit kingdom of God.

You will note the hundreds of times that the Pastor points out that Babylon must be **destroyed before** the kingdoms are. This should leave no doubt in anyone's mind that the smiting of the kingdoms or image must follow the complete destruction of Babylon -- Rev. 18:21.

So it evidently is **future** from now, July 1978. We cannot see how it could have happened in 1914 or since.

The Lord will not allow the complete destruction of either until they have arisen again and then they will both be smitten and destroyed by the uprising of the people as a result of the truth message then given by those who smite the waters of Jordan just prior to their deliverance and the full establishment of the Kingdom.

**What is the stone?
What is the evidence that
Papacy did not destroy
these kingdoms?**

It is the true Kingdom of God! **A 253:3**

They still exist! A 254: 1 The same answer can also be given to prove that the stone kingdom has not yet broken them into pieces and destroyed

them.

**When will the true Church
(which is being formed by
the invisible power of Jehovah's
truth) smite and destroy--
not the people but--the
kingdoms of this world?**

“When complete, when entirely cut out!” A 255:1

**When does the stone become
the mountain and fill the
whole earth?**

After it has smitten the in-age; after the time of trouble is over; when it is established and all other dominions have become subservient to it. (A255:3)

The paragraph that follows A255:3 clearly shows that it is the reign of **the Christ** that smites the nations and breaks them into shivers and then begins to heal the people and bless all the families of the earth.

A 259, par. 2 shows a distinction between the Roman Empire being destroyed by the rising of the masses in the "Day of the Lord" and the consuming of the "papal horn" which comes first. However, the Roman Empire,

the 4th and last of these beasts, will **lose dominion and life at once**; and go into **utter destruction**; and together with it the other parts of the image will pass away also. (Dan. 2:35. A26)

A 260, par. 2 to the middle of page 262 show that it is the reign of **the complete Christ (head and body)** that does the smiting and destruction. He says the cause of the fall will be the establishment of the Kingdom of God, which establishment has not yet taken place.

Let us quote from R.2975:3 -- "The 'change' of the the Church from earthly conditions and nature to heavenly, Spirit conditions and nature will be first in order, and **then they twain (Bridegroom, Christ and the Church, His Bride)** thus made **one** in nature and in heavenly or spirit power, will commence the work of **putting down all rule** and authority contrary to the divine rule, bringing all things in subjection to the heavenly Kingdom, the Millennial Kingdom.

Then on page R.2980, par. 3, he says that the Heavenly Kingdom and the smiting is still **future** from then (1902).

Then on page R.3389:5, he says that the time for

smiting the image on its feet could not come until October, 1914. This comes as a result of his seeing in 1904 that the kingdoms could not be ousted until Gentile Times **ended**.

R.5527:4 -- Sept. 1914 seems to say that the smiting will come during Armageddon and the "epiphania," were still **future then** and are still future **now** -- July 1978.

What did the pastor say about this in April 1915 ?

Answer: we quote -- "Messiah's kingdom is pictured as a stone cut out of the mountain without hands, without human power; and it, in the days of these kings, **represented by the toes of the image**, is to smite the image and grind it to powder; and the stone is to become the great mountain or kingdom of the Lord in all of the earth. This smiting, we believe, is **near at hand**--the present war of Europe being intended of the Lord to awaken the nations and to prepare them for the next stage of trouble, **the great earthquake**, which in symbol **signifies**

revolution. " R.5673:5

What was the view in Feb. 1916?

That the **Armageddon crash** of God's kingdom would smite the image. Many times we have shown that he pictured Armageddon as being the great **revolution and anarchy**. R.5854:1

On page R.5916, he says there is a smiting work going on that is preparing for the wreck of all the kingdoms of earth. We feel the key phrase here is "preparing for the wreck." The **real** smiting, as we know, **is the wrecking**. We can go back to Vol. I and get that information.

These suggested questions, answers and references are submitted in good faith with the hope that in the providences of God, someone might find them an aid to their study and preparation.

□

THE SMITING OF THE IMAGE

"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. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass. His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 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 piece 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." -- Dan. 2:31-35

1. What does this great image **represent**? Why is its form spoken of as being "terrible"?
2. What does the head of gold signify? Why is its composition of "fine gold"?

3. What do the breast and arms symbolize? Why are they of silver?
4. What is the significance of the belly and thighs? Why are they of brass?
5. What do the legs of iron represent? Why are they of iron?
6. What do the feet of iron and clay signify? What does the clay picture?
7. What does the **stone** portray?
8. What is meant by the expression, "**cut out without hands**"? What is the mountain from whence it is cut?
9. Why is the image smitten upon its **feet**?
10. How is it that the gold, the silver, and the brass **are still represented** in the image, if these former world empires have long since passed into oblivion?
11. What is meant by the phrase, "broken in pieces **together**"?
12. Explain also how they "became like chaff of the summer threshing floor."
13. **Where** is the statement that the image was ground to powder found?

The Smiting of the Image, cont

14. What does the wind that carried them away signify?
15. Do the broken pieces, the chaff, and the wind portray separate phases of the Time of Trouble, or something else?
16. Is this description of the destruction of the image analogous to, and more or less synonymous with, Elijah's visit at Mt. Horeb? -- I Kings 19:11)
17. What does the **stone** signify before it strikes the image?
What does it signify after its impact?

18. What is meant by the statement (a) "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven (b) **set up** a kingdom"? -- Dan. 2: 44
19. Is the date 1914 indicated in this vision of the great image?
20. Can the door to the high calling still be open if the image has already **been** smitten?
21. Has the stone been **fully** cut out of the mountain yet?
22. How can we harmonize a future **union** of church and state if the image has already **been** smitten?
23. Can some of the members of the little flock still be in the flesh **at the moment** of the stone's impact upon the image?
24. What is the **relationship** of the smiting of Jordan to the smiting of the image?
25. How does Daniel's personal dream (Dan. 7) assist us in obtaining **a clearer understanding** of the particulars related to the destruction of the image of chapter 2? []