

The Fourth Kingdom—Daniel 2 Image

Daniel 2:40-43

Rome

Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

Revelation 17:12-13

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

The Biblical meaning of iron and clay. According to Psalm 2:9 and Revelation 2:27, iron is a symbol of a ruling power. So in terms of the world, iron would denote a civil ruling world power. In Isaiah 64:8 and Jeremiah 18:1-6, clay in the Bible denotes people, with the Lord Himself being the Potter.

IRON = World Ruling Power

CLAY = A Professed Church

in the last days there would be a mingling of civil power with a church. But we are not just talking about any church. God gives us even more detail if we look closely. Take a look at the type of clay that is in the feet. It is called "miry clay" in the verses above. Meaning the clay is dirty, muddy clay. So what does that tell us? It tells us that the church represented by the clay in the feet is a corrupt, apostate church.

"The transfer of the emperor's residence to Constantinople was a sad blow to the prestige of Rome, and at the time one might have predicted her speedy decline. But the development of the Church, and the growing authority of the Bishop of Rome, or the Pope, gave her a new lease on life, and made her again the capital—this time the religious capital—of the world."—Abbot's Roman History

Pontifex Maximus

A. The highest office in the pagan pantheon was that of Pontifex Maximus or Supreme Pontiff....This was held by the Roman Caesars. The last Caesar to hold that title was Emperor Gratian who conferred it upon Pope Damascus. This shows the unbroken continuity between pagan and Papal Rome

Daniel 7:7

After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It

devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

- B. When Roman Emperor Constantine moved to Constantinople, which is in modern day Turkey. He handed civil power over to the Catholic Bishop of Rome, therefore making Rome a religious-political kingdom.
- C. The papal title Pontifex Maximus can be traced back in different forms to the ancient Chaldean times. When Medo-Persia conquered Babylon, the Babylonian religion was maintained, but after a revolt of the priesthood, the priests of Babylon were driven out of Medo-Persia, and established themselves at Pergamum, taking with them their titles and vestures.
- D. The last pontiff king of Pergamum was Attalus III, who bequeathed his title to the emperor of Rome in 133 BC. In the fourth century AD, Christian emperor Gratian refused the title, and in the year 431 AD, the title was taken over by Damasus, bishop of Rome.
- E. Indeed, it was not until the Empire split in two, with the Western Empire going to the pious, youthful Emperor Gratian (c. 360 AD) that the Pope was given the title Pontifex Maximus. Indeed, feeling that it was not right for he himself to carry that title (since he was, after all, not a Christian priest) the pious young Emperor bestowed it upon Pope Damasus I, who became the first Pope in history to hold the title "Pontifex Maximus."

The God of Justice With Eyes Like Flames of Fire

Daniel 7:8

While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

Daniel 7:21

I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them

Daniel 7:25

He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Uttering Great Things Against God

A. "The pope is of so great dignity, and so exalted, that he is not a mere man, but as it were God." (Ferraris Ecclesiastical Dictionary)

B. "To believe that our Lord GOD the Pope has not the power to decree as he is decreed, is to be deemed heretical." (The Gloss

Extravagantes o.f Pope John XXII Cum inter, Tit. XIV, Cap. IV. Ad Callem Sexti Decretalium, Paris, 1685)

C. "The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth." (Pope Pius V, quoted in Barclay, Chapter XXVII, p. 218, Cities Petrus Bertanous)

D. "From the birth of popery to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family, have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors,--an average of more than 40,000 religious murders for every year of the existence of popery to the present day. Of course the average number of victims yearly, was vastly greater, during those gloomy ages when popery was in her glory and reigned despot of the world; and it has been much less since the power of the popes has diminished to tyrannize over the nations, and to compel the princes of the earth, by the terrors of excommunication, interdiction, and deposition, to butcher their heretical subjects." (John Dowling, The History of Romanism, pp. 541-542)

(The Reverend John William Dowling (alive as of 1873) was an American Baptist minister, the author of The History of Romanism: from the Earliest Corruptions of Christianity to the Present Time.)

E. There was a deliberate attempt to remove the "Jewishness" from Christianity.

F. In endeavoring to show this distinction, not only was the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath transferred to the Julian Sunday, but all of the annual feasts which, up until that time were still observed, were

replaced with popular pagan festivals, giving them a Christian slant and incorporating Christian names.

- Ephesus ("desirable") - Meaning provided by "Hitchcock's New and Complete Analysis of the Holy Bible" (published in the late 1800s)
- Smyrna ("myrrh") - from the Greek word smurna, meaning myrrh
- Pergamum ("married") - from the Greek word pergamos, which is a combination of two Greek words: pergos and gamos. These words combine to mean either "citadel" or "united by marriage."
- Thyatira ("sacrifice") - a Greek word meaning "the castle of Thya." An alternative meaning of "sacrifice offering" was suggested by "Hitchcock's New and Complete Analysis of the Holy Bible" and by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum in his book "Footsteps of the Messiah."
- Sardis ("escaping") - Three meanings have been proposed: "prince of joy," "that which remains," and "those escaping." We relied on Dr. Fruchtenbaum's scholarship which supports "escaping."
- Philadelphia ("brotherly love") - From the Greek word philadelphos, meaning "brotherly love."
- Laodecia ("people ruling") - From the Greek word laodikeia, which is a combination of two Greek words: laos (meaning peoples) and dike (meaning justice or judgment).