



The Baptist Defence

Hear ye my defence . . . Acts 22:1

The Last Four Kingdoms

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

One of the most frequent questions asked today is "Are we living in the last days?" The absolute and uncontroversial answer to that question is yes; and it is not because of natural, social, or political phenomena. It is because God told us when the last days would be. This was explained by Daniel when he interpreted the image of the last four world kingdoms to exist on the earth before the return of our Lord.

When explaining God's Kingdom in Revelation Chapter 12, Satan's kingdom is portrayed as a red dragon with seven heads and ten horns. When Satan's kingdom is explained in Revelation Chapter 13, we see the same beast rising out of the sea (Rev. 13:1). In Revelation Chapter 17 we see this same beast as a scarlet-colored beast (17:3). This is the beast that carries the adulterous woman (17:7). We are told in Rev. 17:9 that these seven heads are seven mountains, which symbolize seven world powers.

The seven earthly powers are Satan's powers. Scripture tells us that Satan is the "prince and power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). These are the "kingdoms of the world" which the Devil used to try to tempt Jesus to fall down and worship him (Matt. 4:8). Satan is as a roaring lion walking about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

The name of these seven world powers, which represent the history of the entire age of the world, are as follows: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. When you study world history, you will

find that these are the seven world kingdoms which Satan rules throughout the age of the world.

When God gives Daniel his prophecies, he does not give the representation of the entire world but of the last four kingdoms: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. These were the only four kingdoms that remained to be fulfilled when Daniel received his prophecies. Daniel received his prophecies from God in the middle of the Babylonian empire; therefore, this was only half a time. Persia and Greece follow as two times (or periods of time). Rome came last, with only one time. This makes up the "time, times, and half a time" mentioned in Rev. 12:14 and Dan. 7:25. Many will not agree with this, but I have just as

WORLD HISTORY
FORETOLD

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
Daniel 2:31-45

Head of Gold
BABYLON
B.C. 605-539

Breast of Silver
PERSIA
B.C. 539-331

Thighs of Brass
GREECE
B.C. 331-168

Legs of Iron
ROME
B.C. 168 - A.D. 476

Feet of Iron and Clay
REVIVED ROMAN
EMPIRE
A.D. 476 - 2nd Advent



much right to an opinion as others; and this is my opinion.

The last time (or kingdom) is the
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A Worldwide Work

When we speak the truth in love, we should remember that our message is to the whole world. When we read The Great Commission, we see that Christ Jesus directed that commission to the entire world and expects us to be diligent in sending missionaries to all parts of the earth that men, women, boys, and girls may hear the Gospel everywhere. Be a supporter of our missionary endeavors

here at First Baptist Church. Our Wednesday evening offering goes exclusively into our Mission Fund, and this helps missionaries all around the world to preach the Gospel and to train people how to start churches, disciple believers, and bring glory to God.

Search First Names

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

F G L T G A N E A D Y X E N U
 G N Q O S D I G H U N U U Q V
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 M E L A N I E J J O V R C R A
 G Z O O T L T U L E A T E E D
 B R R S J A F A K H Y H T A K
 P L A D E L L N C X T R V F Z
 N T C Y E L R I H S J I M F I
 V R P V H B R T E Y D U J G R
 L I E T V M O A B F N O J X J
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 W P I W Q M T M N B U E O K T
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 JOHN
 JUDY
 LEAH
 MARIE
 NATALIE
 ROBERT
 SHIRLEY

CHARLES
 DORIS
 JERRY
 JOYCE
 KATHY
 LINDA
 MARY
 PEGGY
 ROGER
 STEVE

They are as follows: Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Vandals, Burgundians, Franks, Jutes, Angles, Saxons, and Lombards. Soon the political landscape changed into different forms and has from that day until now.

These last four kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's dream are referred to as the "times of the Gentiles," when Gentile nations will have dominion over God's people, Israel. This will happen until Jesus comes again.

The fourth kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is the Roman kingdom, and it will have sway over the world until the return of Jesus. It has broken into smaller kingdoms, but the iron of Rome remains until this day. This kingdom of Rome, then, is the period we call "the last days." It was in the last days that Jesus lived (Heb. 1:2). It was the last days when the Holy Spirit was poured out (Acts 2:17). It is in the last days that perilous times and scoffers shall come (2 Tim. 3:1; 2 Pet. 3:3).

These last four kingdoms are important to Bible study. We must put them in perspective to world history and understand that we are today living in "the last days." There is no future world kingdom that is to come to power. Jesus could come, then, at any time. His coming is imminent.

It is imperative, then, that we should *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come* (Mt 24:42). There are no more chances, no further dealing with us as sinners, no more mercy or longsuffering after this age. The Lord promised that he would be with his churches to the end of the world (age) (Matt. 28:20). The age is drawing to a close. Will you realize the impending judgment that is coming to those who do not trust in Jesus Christ? Are you willing to deny yourself and put your complete faith in Christ, his death, burial, and resurrection? Remember John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.* Ω

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Roman time. As all students of world history know and understand, Rome was divided into ten smaller kingdoms in the beginning, then the political landscape changed very quickly. At the beginning of Rome's fall, there were ten kingdoms which took control.

Babylon Lion	Persia Bear	Greece Leopard	Pagan/Papal Rome Terrible Beast with Ten Horns
1/2 Time	Time	Time	Time

-Chart by Dr. Ronnie Wolfe
 "The Prophecies of Daniel"

Baptists In America

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

On September 6, 1620, 110 people left the shores of England to travel to the new world now called America. These Pilgrims, as they were called, especially after the Mayflower Compact, were oblivious as to what or whom they would meet when they arrived on these shores. Out of the 110, less than 50 survived that first brutal winter in America.

These and others traveled to America for religious freedom. The problem was that they wanted religious freedom for their own kind and not for everyone. Lutherans wanted a Lutheran State, Episcopalians wanted an Episcopalian State, and Congregationalists wanted a Congregational State. Each group was willing to fight wars in order to acquire religious freedom for themselves. If they were to get that freedom, they intended on requiring others to surrender to their authority.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony had a Congregational State, and they made laws against other denominations, especially against the Baptists, who were neither Catholic nor Reformed. Baptists were the only “denomination” that stood against the practice of baptizing babies, so they were singled out for particular and harsh persecution.

Roger Williams was a part of a church that some call Baptist, but the historical records of that church are so scanty that it is impossible to gain a respectable understanding of the true history of the church. Therefore, that church cannot be said to be the first Baptist church in America. W. A. Jarrel says, “The claim that Roger Williams originated the first Baptist church in America has no historical foundation. Isaac Backus, whom Neander highly regarded as a historian, of

the records of the first church of Providence, which are the foundation of this claim, says: ‘The diversity of sentiments mentioned in this volume . . . Brought such darkness over their affairs that no regular records before 1770 are now found therein.’”¹

Rather, the church that came from Wales, pastored by John Clarke, was the first Baptist Church of America, organized in 1638. John Clarke spent 12 years in England working to get a charter to begin a colony called Rhode Island. For the first time American people had a place where they could worship in complete freedom from a State Church. Theirs was the first constitution that declared true religious liberty. Article IV of that first constitution read thus:

IV. That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, and not by force and violence; and therefore all men have a natural, equal, and unalienable right to the exercise of religion according to the dictates of conscience; and that no particular religious sect or society ought to be favored or established,

by law, in preference to others.²

When a State Church prevails, the people through taxation are required to support that State religion. But religion should be exercised from the conscience, not through threats and violence and forced participation.

It is a blessed privilege to live in a country where Baptists brought religious liberty. Without their presence in those early years, this country would be governed by one of the major Protestant denominations, and religious freedom would be absent from this great country. Our political structure would not be free, because the State Church would dictate who the leaders would be, and every denomination of belief would be required to either pacify the powers that be or worship under threat of persecution or death.

The America in which people died through the legal system because of their belief is in the past. What kind of future is coming for us? I am sure I don’t know, but whatever it is, it will be better because of the freedom acquired by the Baptists of early America. Ω

¹Jarrel, W. A., *Baptist Church Perpetuity or History*, W. A. Jarrell, 1894, pg. 372.

²http://www.usconstitution.net/rat_ri.html (3/2/2010).



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Harrison, Ohio

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Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe



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Sunday School 10:00 AM
Morning Preaching 11:00 AM
Dinner 12:00 Noon
Afternoon Service 1:30 PM

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