

## **Dr. Ernest Martin's Home Study Course: Lesson 8**

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped Home Study Course made between 1977-98 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D. Former Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

### **HOME BIBLE STUDY LESSON 8 WORLD POWERS DECLINE - 6<sup>th</sup> C.B.C. - 'NEW AGE' DAWNS**

In the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., God intervened dramatically in world affairs and changed the course of history, and the way the world was governed from that time which would endure until the second coming of Christ.

To announce His intentions, and tell the world at that time what was going to happen in the future, God appointed a Prophet, a young lad about seventeen years old called Jeremiah, to bear witness to the prophecies and to record the future history of the world.

Jeremiah 1:1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:

There was a High Priest by the name of Hilkiyah, and Jeremiah may have been his son, but the Bible does not say. Anathoth is a little village almost 3 miles northeast of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 1:2 To whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah (640-609 B.C.) the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year (627 B.C.) of his reign. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim (609-598 B.C.) the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year (586 B.C.) of Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.) the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive (587 B.C.) in the fifth month.

Jeremiah lived at the same time as Daniel, who was somewhat younger, and their prophecies are linked by the time frame they were given.

Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

This was in 606 B.C., at the start of the 70 years captivity. Daniel was among the captives in Babylon, where God was working with the mind of King Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah was working among Judah and the House of Jacob.

Jeremiah, a priest, was the 'axial' prophet of momentous change. He would be working as God ushered in a 'new age' and new era during the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Being such a young man, Jeremiah was, to say the least, daunted by the task, but he had the power and authority of YHWH with him who had known him in the womb..

Jeremiah 1:4 Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jeremiah prophesied for about 40 years between 627-587 B.C. proclaiming God's prophetic warning messages to the rebellious and idolatrous Jews and Israelites.

Jeremiah 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.

As time went on, Jeremiah would have good reason to be afraid of the reactions of the religious priests and lay people who heard God's predictions from his lips.

Jeremiah 1:9 Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Note that God was setting Jeremiah over the nations, not just Judah and Israel.

**Jeremiah's commission was in six parts:** Four destructive, and two constructive to build and to plant. The first four were to:

**1. Root out 2. Pull down 3. Destroy 4. Throw down.**

God was about to set in motion the destruction of the entire system of worldly government that had existed since the flood of Noah in 2369 B.C., until in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. The nations, the kings, all established powers would go immediately into a decline, and quickly be heard of no more.

God was going to announce to the world through Jeremiah, that all the power and the known systems of government that had existed in the past would be 'rooted out', 'pulled down', 'destroyed', and thrown down'. There would soon be no remnant left of the power once held by nations like Egypt, Edom, Ammon, Moab; and also Judah and Israel because of their continual idolatry and rebellion against God.

Jeremiah 9:25 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; 26 Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

### **Jeremiah would also announce God's Plan 'to Build and to Plant'.**

God would take away all power held by existing nations because He planned 'to build and to plant' a completely new type and system of Government which would become a world dominating power. A new world order which would control the politics, economics, religion, and philosophies of the world, and which would endure in different forms from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., until the second coming of Christ.

God would begin to work with the mind of the most powerful ruler in the world, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and use him not only to punish Judah and Israel, but to prepare him to set the scene for global government. The nature of this government would become the framework for what is known in our era as 'Western' civilisation.

Jeremiah 1:11 Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. 12 Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

The rod of the Almond Tree, first to bud and blossom, was a symbol of life. The Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden was undoubtedly an Almond Tree. Aaron's rod that budded, and was kept thereafter in the Ark was of Almond wood. God indicated to Jeremiah that He was going to begin to perform His Will immediately.

Next God tells Jeremiah what is about to happen, in that he will shortly see turmoil like a seething pot, and that evil people will come and enter the gates of Jerusalem to destroy it.

Jeremiah 1:13 And the word of the Lord came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north. 14 Then the Lord said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. 15 For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the Lord; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.

God explains to Jeremiah that the evil is coming from the North, by King Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon, to punish God's people due to their forsaking Him, and their persistent idolatries and adulteries with other gods.

Judah was taken captive to Babylon around 586 B.C.

Jeremiah 1:16 And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

And do not be afraid Jeremiah or fearful of those who hear My words through you because I am going to protect you.

Jeremiah 1:17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. 18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. 19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee.

Everyone in Judah was going to be against Jeremiah because he would be repeatedly proclaiming the sins of the Jews and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple; all the Kings, Princes, Priests and the people; a terrifying thought, but God is with him.

A study of history is needed properly to understand doctrine, and what the Word of God has to teach us in this era. The world scholars think that they are the 'authorities' on historical events, and that the Bible is in error in many areas. The exact opposite is true.

The Bible, written by our Creator, Jesus Christ, is THE authority, the Truth about the significant events of the world since Adam, and should be our guide. Where conventional knowledge about history differs from the Biblical record, we should look to see where men's ideas are at fault, and not blame the Scriptures.

Archaeologists can only properly interpret finds from digs correctly if they harmonise their findings with the Biblical record. Towns and cities over millennia were built, went into decay. When rebuilding took place, the new towns and cities were built on top of the old, or stones and materials were used from the old to build the new. This sometimes means that when a tel or site is excavated, there could be multiple layers, each one of which would yield fragments of history of the time it was built.

There are over twenty-five thousand tells or mounds yet to be explored, where no doubt vast amounts of information exist, buried waiting to be discovered.

To have a mental overview, it is important to bear in mind the dates of the various significant 'benchmarks' of history. Adam to the Flood was 1656 years, or 2369 B.C., which if taken as indications, the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam Jesus Christ was 4000 years, give or take. When we add the 2000 years or so A.D., we arrive at 6000 years, the accepted length of humankind's period on earth. This does not mean that the earth was created 6000 years ago, as it was in existence for an indeterminate period before it was reformed by God to have a suitable environment for His children.

The Tower of Babel was being built around 2160 B.C., when the confusion of languages took place. God worked with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who became Israel between 1900 and 1700 B.C.

Egypt was a very highly developed civilisation prior to the Exodus. The Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years, between approximately 1920 – 1490, prior to the Exodus.

Exodus 12:40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

When the Israelites departed in approximately 1490 B.C., the ten plagues left the country of Egypt in a deplorable state from which it never really recovered.

Then came the four hundred and eighty years of the Judges, Kings, David and Solomon who built the Temple around 1015 B.C.

1 Kings 6:1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord.

The ten tribes of Israel were carried captive by the Assyrians in 721 B.C., and from that time forward, when they were released from captivity were

dispersed and became known as the 'Lost Tribes' of Israel as their migrations were so diverse over time.

Judah was taken and held captive to Babylon around 586 B.C. for seventy years, after which around fifty thousand returned to Palestine when they were allowed to return by Cyrus, but many who had businesses preferred to remain in the area.

2 Chronicles 36:21 To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Notice carefully that the Decree of Cyrus was at the end of the exactly seventy years prophesied by Christ through Jeremiah, so that period must be correct. However if one takes the various different dates offered by 'scholars' for the captivity, and the return, there is rarely a difference of exactly seventy years.

2 Chronicles 36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying  
23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.

So Cyrus wanted to build a Temple in Jerusalem, and ordered the Jews, mostly those who were of a religious persuasion to return to Israel and build it. It is recorded in the Minor Prophets, that the religious leaders of the Jews failed to carry this decree out for at least nineteen years during which time they built nice houses for themselves. God was not impressed.

Haggai 1:3 Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying  
4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house (the new Temple) lie waste? 5 Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.

Ezra 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

*Note: Dr. Martin was a very highly respected historian in many quarters, and especially at the Hebrew University, but the Author of these notes is definitely not a historian. Secular historians and religious 'authorities' are not always in agreement with all the commonly used benchmark dates. For*

*the purpose of this study, this is not important, so long as their calculations are in line with the Biblical record. However, disentangling all the many apparently so-called 'conflicting' chronological indicators in the Bible is no simple task. Here it is only intended to give a broad brush picture of historical dates.*

The entire book of Jeremiah exemplifies the theme of the Bible repeated from Genesis to Revelation. Over and over again in too many places to list, God pleads with Israel to keep His laws so that He can bless them, and not forsake Him, or worship other gods in idolatry, but they do not listen.

Jeremiah 25:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; 2 The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 3 From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the Lord hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened. 4 And the Lord hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear. 5 They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever: 6 And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt. 7 Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the Lord; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

The extreme Patience of God is clear over more than a thousand years, but in the end, punishment has to come. God is going to use Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon to punish God's people, and notice that Nebuchadrezzar (Nebuchadnezzar) is referred to on more than one occasion as God's servant.

Jeremiah 25:8 Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, 9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. 10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. 11 And this whole land shall

be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Notice again, the definitive period of seventy years.

As explained above, God was about to set in motion the destruction of the entire existing system of worldly government. The nations, the kings, all established powers that would go immediately into a decline, are listed in the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Jeremiah. Judah is going to be punished, and all the other nations of the earth will go into decline.

Jeremiah 25:15 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. 16 And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. 17 Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me: 18 To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day;

Then comes the list of all the nations of the earth which are going to lose their power and influence in the world.

Jeremiah 25:19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people; 20 And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod, 21 Edom, and Moab, and the children of Ammon, 22 And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea, 23 Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all that are in the utmost corners, 24 And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert, 25 And all the kings of Zimri, and all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes,

The last nation to lose its power last will be the King of Sheshach. Bible Commentaries and historians say there is no record of a 'King Sheshach'. The reason for that is that there never was a king by that name. The word 'Sheshach' is a cipher, a code, made up by reversing the letters of the Hebrew alphabet that make up the word 'Babylon'. Instead of BBL, taking the Hebrew letters from the end of the alphabet in reverse order it becomes SSK, or 'Sheshach'.

Every relationship between God and man would from this day forward would be 'backwards'. God had 'divorced Israel for their sins.

Jeremiah 25:26 And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

'Sheshach' or 'Babylon' will drink of the Lord's wrath 'after' all the others. Although Babylon's powers will be destroyed by Cyrus in 539 B.C., the fabric of the system of government will not be lost, but will continue in various forms unrealised by most people right up until the second coming of Christ. It becomes the 'Mystery Babylon' of the book of Revelation. More will be developed on this subject in later lessons.

The Prophet Daniel explains Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the awesome beast.

Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. Verse 3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; 4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans... 9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.... 17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. 21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

So Daniel, who Nebuchadnezzar had named Belteshazzar after the name of his god, was in a very strong position with Nebuchadnezzar until Cyrus took over. God had given him the wisdom and insight to interpret dreams. The king had forgotten his dream, and all the 'wise' men of his court said it was impossible for them to interpret it if he could not tell them what the dream was about. God gave Daniel the insight to do so.

### **The major key of 'when' - When does this prophetic dream apply?**

The dream Nebuchadnezzar had was relevant to his era, and also to later times as history in Babylon and later governments unfolded. It is also relevant to us today and in the days to come to help us understand the hidden nature of world government until the return of Christ Jesus.

Daniel 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the **latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

The dream concerned the head of gold, Nebuchadnezzar, but was also prophecies concerning the subsequent governments after his time represented by the breast of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, and the legs and feet of iron and miry clay right up to the second advent.

Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest **till** (note the 'when') that a stone (Christ Jesus) was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain (Kingdom of God), and filled the whole earth.

Christ will completely destroy for all time the Babylonish Gentile governments of this world at His coming, but until that time comes, Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonish system was given power over the whole world.

Daniel 2:37Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And **wheresoever the children of men dwell**, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon was the head of gold, the one who would, under God's control would construct the fabric of the new world empire. God calls Nebuchadnezzar 'His servant', in that God is working with his mind in a very direct way step by step to reveal to him that YHWH is not ust a local god but is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and the One True Almighty God. God is using him to build a new order at the beginning of a 'new age' which will have One God as its foundation. The 'Head' controls everything, as the new order is developed.

Many are familiar with the stories from the book of Daniel about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being thrown into the fiery furnace and how Nebuchadnezzar saw four walking about in the furnace, and how they came out without even the smell of fire on them. This was one of the very

dramatic ways that God got Nebuchanezzar's attention, and demonstrated His awesome Power to him, with the result that Nebuchadnezzar began to change his attitude towards the One True God.

Daniel 3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Daniel 4:4 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. 3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

God was gradually changing Nebuchadnezzar's mind, but not his heart as becomes clear.

Then Nebuchadnezzar had another dream, a warning from God for him not to get carried away with his new power. Again his astrologers and other wise men could not interpret the dream, but Daniel could. He told Nebuchadnezzar that his dream concerned a tree which had grown up strongly, but... Daniel explains the dream:

Daniel 4:24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: 25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. 27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity. 28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

But Nebuchadnezzar was not really listening, and his heart was still full of vanity and pride.

Daniel 4:29 At the end of twelve months he (Nebuchadnezzar) walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. 30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Despite all the demonstrations of God's Power, just like the Israelites who allowed themselves to forget how God delivered them miraculously from Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar forgot where his power actually came from, and Who was working with him, and took the credit for himself.

Daniel 4:31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

His punishment was to lose his human spirit and mind, and for seven years become controlled by an 'animal' brain.

Daniel 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

At the end of the seven years, Nebuchadnezzar came to himself.

Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the days, 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: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. 37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

God had, with His miracles and this punishment, changed Nebuchadnezzar's mind and his attitude in order that he would have the intention of the 'new age' he was instrumental in initiating being dominated

by Monotheism of the True God. This concept in a diffuse way and in a confused manner, **in the latter days**, (Daniel 2:28) still underpins all types of 'Western' civilisation.

Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

At the time of the end, miscegenation would be rife, as it is today. Now Multiculturalism is widespread, but peoples of differing ethnic or racial background never really integrate any more than iron would mix well and integrate with miry clay. Verse 44 gives the 'when' this will all happen, and it is right near the end of the age, just before the return of Christ.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

When Darius took over, Daniel was still in a very important position.

Daniel 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; 2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. 3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. 4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

So the other political people conspired against Daniel, and persuaded Darius to make a 'decree that alters not'.

Daniel 6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Darius would live bitterly to regret this decision and so would his astrologers and wise men. As a result of his own foolishness for listening to his 'wise men', Darius the Mede reluctantly put Daniel in the lion's den, and then watched how he was miraculously preserved with God's protection. This was another of the very dramatic ways that God, YHWH got the attention of King Darius, and demonstrated His awesome Power to him.

Daniel 6:14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. 15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. 16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

Rather than lose face with his court, Darius put Daniel into the lion's den, comforting himself by telling Daniel that his God would deliver him, and despite this, Daniel still showed great respect to the King.

Daniel 6: 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. 23 Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

So Darius, extremely relieved, makes another decree, because this event has put the seal on his mind that YHWH is indeed the Almighty God, and not just merely a local god of the Jewish people.

Daniel 6:25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. 28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 7 tells about the dream Daniel had about the four beasts that came out of the sea, and identifies Nebuchadnezzar as the 'Lion'.

Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. 6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

These four beasts related to world powers. The Lion was Nebuchadnezzar, the Bear was the Medo-Persian Empire, the Leopard was the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and the terrible fourth beast is not named, but was the enduring but hidden Babylonian system.

Daniel 7:12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

All four lost their dominion, but their lives were 'prolonged' in a hidden manner until the second coming of Christ.

This future Babylonian system, the hidden order, was to spread into North and South America, India, even China.

The area of Babylon was prophesied in Jeremiah 51 to become desolate without inhabitant, but this has never happened as this prophecy refers to a time yet ahead of us. Notice again the principle of repetition for emphasis on all important matters in the Bible.

Jeremiah 51:29 And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.

Jeremiah 51:37 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

The 'when' this desolation will happen is at Christ's return. When Christ was accosted in the Temple by the chief priests and elders, He offended them by telling them that the Babylonish system they were serving, and the traditions of men they were actually labouring under and their notions of the

Kingdom would all be swept away from them and be blown away at the coming of the Messiah.

Matthew 21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? ... verse 42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes  
There is no capstone on the pyramid on U.S. Currency which should show the all seeing eye of God.

Matthew 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a (new) nation (the real Christianity of the future) bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. (as they knew it was prophesied in Daniel) 45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Billions all over the earth have been caught up in a false Christianity presented by false ministers preaching 'another' gospel instead of the Truth. Believing the doctrines of Satan like the 'Immortality of the Soul' introduced to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden by the serpent.

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

This doctrine is very popular with Churchianity as well as those who embrace so-called 'new age' concepts.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Century was a momentous time in history as it was the end of the old order of things, and the beginning of a new era of a different type of world government. It is important to know that it was also the period in which most of the Oriental or Eastern religions extant today were formed by various notable individuals.

RELIGIONS – FORMED BEFORE THE 6<sup>th</sup> CENTURY B.C.

Hinduism – India 2000 B.C.

Judaism – Moses 1500 – 1350 B.C.

RELIGIONS – FORMED AROUND THE 6<sup>th</sup> CENTURY B.C.

Zoroastrianism Near East Zoroaster 628-527 B.C.

Buddhism - India Buddha 563-483 CB.C.

Jainism – India Mahavira 599-527 B.C.

Taoism – China/Japan Lao Tse 580-500 B.C.

Confucianism – China/Japan Confucius 551-479 B.C.

These religions have continued to dominate the Oriental and Eastern nations which largely consist of Japhetic peoples. Japheth means enlarge, and their descendants form the majority of the population of the earth.

#### RELIGIONS – FORMED IN THE POST CHRIST ERA

Christianity by Christ 1-33 A.D.

False Christianity adopted by Rome and spread in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D.

False Christianity adopted by Constantine the Great in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century A.D.

Islam – Near East by Muhammed 570-632 A.D.

Sikhism – India by Guru Nanak 1469-1538 A.D.

Baha'i – Near East by Baha'u'llah 1817-1892 A.D.

Then in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D., came the Greek philosophers whose immoral concepts began to dominate the world's thinking, and Paul speaks of the Greek influences which infected Christianity with its worldly and immoral ideas in his time. All these widely differing ways of approaching a Deity became a confused mish-mash of conflicting doctrines that still exist today.