

Study for the Month of November 2014

***The Image of the Beast-Part III***

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***The Golden Image at the Plain of Dura  
(Daniel Chapters 2, 3) Compared to the Image  
of the Beast of Revelation 13***

*And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell upon the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had a wound by a sword, and did live. **And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.** And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in the right hand or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”*  
Revelation 13: 11-17, Authorized Version.

Edwin Thiele, in his *Outline Studies in Daniel*, pp. 35-36, quoted the Introduction of Daniel 3, pp. 99, 100, of *An Exhaustive Ellen G. White Commentary on Daniel, Vol. 1*, published by Academy Enterprises, Inc., 6200 Academy Lane, Harrah, Oklahoma, copyright Review & Herald Publishing Asso., 1980, wrote:

“The experiences related in Daniel 3 are of vital importance to God’s people today. The crisis then faced is the crisis that will face all of God’s people before the end. As these men [Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego] were faithful so must we be faithful even as the risk of life itself.

“ITS DIMENSIONS. Sixty cubits high would be about one hundred feet, and six cubits would be about ten feet. This ratio of ten to one is evidence that the height includes the pedestal on which the image was standing. If the width of the image across the shoulders were ten feet, the height of the image itself would be about thirty-five feet.

“Images of great height were common in the ancient world. The Sphinx in Egypt, a portrait of king Khafre of the fourth dynasty, is seventy feet from the base to the top of

the head. The colossi of Memnon---images of Amenhotep III,---are each 69 feet high. They are made of granite and each weighs about a thousand tons. The four colossi at the rock temple at Abu Simbel in Nubia are each sixty-five feet in height. They are portraits of Ramses II.

“That gold was used in large amounts in the service of the Babylonian gods is indicated by the description given by Herodotus of a temple in the city of Babylon: ‘There is a second temple, in which is sitting a figure of Zeus, all of gold. Before the figure stands a large golden table, and the throne whereon it stands, and the base on which the throne is placed are likewise of gold. The Chaldeans told me that all the gold together was 800 talents’ weight (over thirty tons!). Outside the temple are two altars, one of solid gold . . . In the time of Cyrus there was likewise in this temple the figure of a man, eighteen feet high, entirely of solid gold. I myself did not see the figure, but I relate what the Chaldeans report concerning it.’ Herodotus, *Persian wars*, I. 183.

“The fact that the image was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide is of great significance, for the number 6 and multiples thereof was common in ancient Babylonia. Their great gods had numbers. The number of Anu, their highest god, was 60, and that likewise was the number of Marduk or Bel, when he replaced Anu as head of the Babylonian pantheon.

“The number 6 and multiples thereof was common in occult circles. Often it had evil or sexual connotations. *Hex* is the Greek word for six, and *sex* is the Latin word for six.

“In Revelation 13: 18 the number of the beast is given as 600-60-6. There are indications that six is the number chosen as the evil one as a symbol of himself.

“In a number of alphabets certain letters have numerical values [see in the Ghematria of the Rabins], and at times those connected with the number 6 are of interest. In Latin we find the following:

I	=	1	
V	=	5	6
X	=	10	
L	=	50	60
C	=	100	
D	=	500	600

[Total six hundred sixty six, 666].”—Edwin Thiele, *Outline Studies in Daniel*, pp. 35, 36.

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## **Brief Summary of Daniel 2 of Nebuchadnezzar’s Image**

### *The Image of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream*

Source: *Patriarchs & Prophets* by Ellen G. White, pp. 495, 496 (Boxed)

“A mighty prophecy of the kingdoms of men is the image of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, the great and ambitious king of Babylon. He longed to know what

should come to pass hereafter; and in the dream of the image, which no human could interpret, God made known what should come to pass.

“God gave to Nebuchadnezzar, who believed that Babylon would stand forever, the dream. By His prophet, He gave to Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation of the dream, that Nebuchadnezzar might know that Babylon would not stand forever, and that the king might learn that truth was more than the ambitions of patriotism. God gave the dream and its interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar, not alone that the Babylonian king might know, but that every king who followed him might know, that earthly kingdoms are all temporal at best, and must pass away, and that the only eternal kingdom, that shall never pass away, is the kingdom of the Living Stone, Christ Jesus.

“The whole image of a man represented the kingdom of man; but the divisions of the image, the metallic symbols, represent the four great world-molding empires which earth should know before the close of man’s reign upon the earth. These begin with Babylonia, then at the height of its glory under Nebuchadnezzar, the kingdom preeminently which has molded the world.

Sayce says: “In populousness and antiquity, Assyria was far exceeded by the southern kingdom of Babylonia. Here were the center and starting-point of the civilization which afterwards spread through western Asia.” –  
“*Ancient Empires of the East,*” by Sayce, page 93.

“Says the Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia, “The earliest religious, scientific, and artistic traditions of our present civilization were cradled in Babylonia.” – *Article, “Babylonia.”*

“Says Rogers, “No capital in the world has been the center of so much power, wealth, and culture for a period so vast.” – ‘*History of Babylonia and Assyria,*’ volume 1, page 397.

“It was fitting that the revelation and warning from God should be given to the first and greatest world-moulding empire; but Babylonia, the great and golden, passed away under weaker rulers, Nabonadinus and his son Belshazzar, in 538 B.C., in the same generation the revelation was given.

“Babylonia was succeeded by Medo-Persia under Cyrus the Great, who placed Astyages as local ruler upon the throne. *Astyages was known by the general term “Darius,”* meaning *maintainer* or *ruler*, a title used by various Persian kings. For 207 years, Persia, symbolized by the silver, held the throne of the world.

“In 331 B.C. another Darius (Codomannus) fought the issue of power with Alexander the Great at the Battle of Arbela, and Alexander of Greece became the world’s ruler. Grecia’s symbol is the brass. Alexander died in B.C. 323; and in a few years his kingdom was hopelessly divided, and left a prey to the rising war power on the Tiber.

“Rome conquered the Syrian division of the Greek Empire in B.C. 190, the Macedonian division of that empire in B.C. 168, Egypt recognizing the suzerainty of the iron monarchy of Rome the same year. Rome was united in her beginning, although a republic. Later she became an empire. Into the Roman Empire came division, symbolized by the mixture of iron and clay, through incursions of barbarians from the north and east of Europe in the fourth century; and Rome, the iron monarchy, became broken forever. There have been mighty efforts put forth to weld the nations of Europe, the divisions of Rome, into one homogenous whole by intermarriage, referred to in the prophecy as mingling themselves with the seed of men, but they have failed.

“Charlemagne\* and Napoleon\*\* sought by arms to build a united kingdom; but they failed. The prophecy declared that these divisions would not unite, even as iron cannot mix with clay. They are all in fearful warfare now. The word, “They shall not cleave one to another,” is stronger than diplomacy or force of arms.

“In the days of the last divisions of Rome, the God of heaven shall set up His kingdom, never to be destroyed, never to be given to another people than His own, who shall inhabit it forever. “And the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”

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**NOTES:**

\*Charlemagne was also known as Charles the Great or Charles I, king of the Franks from 768, king of Italy from 774 and from 800 the first emperor of western Europe since the collapse of the Western Roman Empire three centuries earlier.- *Wikipedia, art. “Charlemagne.”*

\*\*Napoleon- (Aug. 15, 1769- May 5, 1821). As Napoleon I, he was emperor of the French from 1804 to 1814 and again in 1815. He implemented a wide array of liberal reforms across Europe, including the abolition of feudalism and the spread of religious toleration. His legal code in France, the Napoleonic Code, influenced numerous civil laws jurisdictions worldwide. Napoleon is remembered for dominating European affairs (1799-1815) while leading France against a series of coalitions in the Napoleonic Wars. He won the large majority of his battles and seized control of most of continental Europe. One of the greatest commanders of history, his campaigns are studied at military academies worldwide. He remains one of the most studied political and military leaders in all history.” – *Wikipedia, art. “Napoleon Bonaparte.”*

To diligent students of Bible prophecy and history, it was under the orders of Napoleon that Berthier, general of the French Republican Army, seized Pope Pius VI captive on \_\_\_ and took him to France where he died the next year. This was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Revelation 13 that “one of the heads of the beast (the Papacy) would be wounded as to death”—but that “this wound would be healed.”

FF 59: “Rev. Joseph Rickaby, an English Jesuit writes, ‘ When, in 1797, Pope Pius VI fell grievously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death no successor should be elected to his office, and that the Papacy should be discontinued. But the Pope recovered. The peace was soon broken; Berthier entered Rome on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1798, a proclaimed a republic. The aged Pontiff refused to violate his oath by recognizing it, and was hurried from prison to prison in France . . . No wonder that half Europe thought Napoleon’s veto would obeyed, and that with the Pope the Papacy would be dead.’ –*‘The Modern Papacy,’ p. 1. London: Catholic Truth Society.*

“Rev. George Trevor, Canon of York, writes of this eventful year [1798]: “The object of the French Directory was the destruction of the pontifical government, as the irreconcilable enemy of the republic. . . . The aged pope was summoned to surrender the temporal government; on his refusal, he was dragged from the altar . . . His rings were torn from his fingers, and finally, after declaring their temporal power abolished, the victors carried the pope prisoner into Tuscany, when he never returned (1798).”- *Quoted in “Facts of Faith” by Christian Edwardson, (Revised edition), p. 59, Southern Publishing Asso., Nashville 8, TN, USA: 1943.*

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**DANIEL CHAPTER 3**

Prophecy is history written in advance through Omniscience, and true history are merely fulfillments of this prophecy fulfilled. Hereunder is defined this verity, and the true philosophy of history:

“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind and through all the play and counterplay of human interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful

One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.” – *Prophets & Kings*, pp. 499, 500, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, CA (1917).

Understanding the Philosophy of History of Nations and God’s Purpose for them

Most leaders of nations do not yet realize it or if they do, lack the moral courage and resolve to do God’s bidding, so unlike Daniel and his three young friends, yielding instead to the mounting pressures of party-line local, national, and global political, economic, military, environmental pressures and demands, or merely the love of honor, accolades, and the recognition of men, not the glory of God--that are clearly contrary to God’s revealed divine will. Worse, many, whom inspirations calls “the king of the earth” or “the great men of the earth” have been progressively establishing the groundwork for the final confederacy against God’s law and His faithful remnant church in these last days as prophesied in Revelation 13 and 17 by catering to and adopting the principles of “the man of sin,” “the son of perdition,” the antichristian power of prophecy whom the faithful reformers of Europe exposed and were martyred for doing so—the Papacy. And yet (all emphasis and words in brackets supplied):

**“The power exercised by every ruler on the earth is *Heaven-imparted*; and upon his use of the power thus bestowed, his success depends.** To each the word of the divine Watcher is, ‘I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God beside Me, I will gird you, though you have not known Me.’ Isa. 45:5, N.K.J.V. And to each the words spoken to Nebuchadnezzar of old are the lesson of life: Dan. 4: 27: ‘Break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. *Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.* Dan. 4: 27, N.K.J.V.

“To understand these things, --to understand that righteousness exalteth a nation; that ‘the throne is established by righteousness’ and ‘upheld by mercy’ (Prov. 14: 34; 16: 12; 20: 28) to recognize the outworking of these principles in the manifestation of His power who ‘removeth kings, and setteth up kings,’---this is to understand the philosophy of history.

“In the word of God *only* is this clearly set forth. Here is shown that the strength of *nations* [the biggest global powers, particularly the United States of America today], as of *individuals* [whether of America and all the other past, present, and future kings, monarchs, emperors, prime ministers, military dictators, democratically-elected presidents, etc.], is not found in the *opportunities or facilities* that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. It is measure by the fidelity with which they fulfill God’s purpose.” – *Ibid*, p. 502.

The same impartial, thorough, merciful yet righteous divine principle applies to all individuals, families, cities, and nations where the final judgment that determines the fallen mankind’s eternal salvation or eternal damnation, which is taking place right now in the heavenly court system, is concerned and based upon. Notice:

“We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service [under the Mosaic, Old Testament, or Jewish dispensation], while the high priest was making the atonement for [ancient] Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. *The light, frivolous*

*spirit indulged by so many Christians* must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. *The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual* with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.’ [Eph. 5: 27].

“Solemn are the scenes connected with *the closing work of atonement*. Momentous are the interests involved therein. *The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above*. For many years [since October 22, 1844] has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In awful presence of God our *lives* are to come up for review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul [particularly Bible-believing Christians] to heed the Savior’s admonition: ‘Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is’ [when our individual lives are to come up for review—which immediately commences upon our death].’ Mark 13: 35. ‘If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know *what hour* I will come upon thee.’ Rev. 3: 3.

“When the work of the investigative [or pre-advent] judgment closes, *the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death*. Probation [earth’s] is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and *My reward* is with Me, to give every man *according as his work shall be*.’ Rev. 22: 11, 12. – *E.G. White, The (New, Illustrated) Great Controversy (1911 ed), p p. 489-490, published by: Laymen For Religious Liberty, Inc., P.O.B, 908, Deland, FL 32721 (1990).*

## OUTLINE OF THE PROPHECY OF THE IMAGE REVEALING WORLD HISTORY FROM THE IMAGE SHOWN TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR

### PROPHECY (metals and beasts)

### HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT

Daniel 2, 32, 38: Head of fine **Gold**  
**Lion** = Babylonia (Jer. 49: 19, 22, 28)

Head of gold: **Babylonia**  
(606-538 B.C.) = 68 years

Dan. 2: 32: ‘Breasts and arms of **Silver**  
Dan. 2: 39: “After thee shall arise another Kingdom inferior to thee.

Breast of silver: **Medo-Persia**  
(538-331 B.C.) = 207 years

**Bear** = Dan. 7:5. Three ribs in the mouth  
Between teeth represents 3 chief  
Countries conquered: Lydia, Egypt, and  
Babylon.

Daniel 2: 32: Belly & Thighs of **Brass**.  
Daniel 2: 39: “Another third kingdom which  
Shall bear rule over the earth.”

Thighs of Brass: **Greece**  
(331 B.C. – 168 B.C.) = 163 years

**Leopard** of Daniel 7: 6. Leopard very alert.  
Four wings mean rapid conquest. Alexander  
The Great marched his army 5, 100 miles in  
8 years and conquered the then known

civilized world. Four heads = the four divisions into which the empire was split after Alexander's death.

Daniel 2: 33: His legs of **Iron**.

Daniel 2: 40: "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

Daniel 2: 33: "His feet, part iron, part clay."

Daniel 2: 41-43: "And whereas thou sawest The feet and toes, part of potter's clay and part iron . . . shall mingle themselves with the seed of men . . . kingdom shall be divided

*. . .they shall not cleave one to another."*

Legs of Iron: **Roman Empire**

(168 B.C. – 476 A.D.) = 644 years

"Dreadful and terrible beast of Daniel 7: 7, 19, 23.

Feet of **Iron and Clay**

(476 A.D. – Second Advent of Christ

**War after war failed to unite them:**

Charlemagne, 9<sup>th</sup> century; Charles V, 16<sup>th</sup> century; Louis XIV, 18<sup>th</sup> century; Napoleon, 19<sup>th</sup> century; Kaiser Wilhelm, 20<sup>th</sup> century; Hitler, 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Unification Efforts al Failed:**

Hague Peace Conference, 1889, 1912  
League of Nations, 1918;  
Washington Naval Limitations, 1922  
Locarno Peace Pact, 1928-1929  
World Disarmament Conference, 1932  
NATO,  
EEC,

Verses 36-44 all history is told and prophesied!

**Daniel 7: 24:** "Ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." The Roman Empire was split into 10 smaller kingdoms between the years 351-476 A.D. The following are their ancient and modern names:

1. HUNS (Alemanni) - GERMANY
2. FRANKS - FRANCE
3. ANGLO-SAXONS - ENGLAND
4. BURGUNDIANS - SWITZERLAND
5. VISIGOTHS - SPAIN
6. SUEVI - PORTUGAL
7. LOMBARDS - ITALY
8. HERULI\*
9. VANDALS\*
10. OSTROGOTHS\*

\*The last three kingdoms were the Arian kingdoms that hated and resisted the Bishop of Rome. Daniel 7: 8 prophesied their complete uprooting by the work of the Papacy. “The little horn with eyes like a man & mouth speaking great things, plucked out the first three horns by the root [uprooted].”

**HISTORY: Heruli** under Odoacer (Odovacar) destroyed in Italy in March 493 A.D.  
**Vandals** under Gelmer (in Africa) destroyed September 534 A.D.

**Ostrogoths** under Theodoric “stamped out” between 527-538 A.D.

**HISTORY:** The Papacy (through Constantine, Justinian, Theodosius stamped out the three last Arian kingdoms.

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As someone said of this amazing and stunning prophecy of world history: “Human wisdom never devised so brief a record that embraced so much.”

Ellen G. White, in *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 504-505 wrote (all emphasis mine):

PK 503-504. “The dream of **the great image** opening before Nebuchadnezzar *events reaching to the close of time, had been given that he might understand the part he was to act in the world’s history*, and the relation that his kingdom should sustain to the kingdom of heaven. In the interpretation of the dream, he had been plainly instructed regarding the establishment of God’s everlasting kingdom. ‘In the days of these kings [kingdoms],’ Daniel had declared, ‘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 . . . . The dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.’ Dan. 2: 44, 45.

“The king has acknowledged the power of God, saying to Daniel, ‘Of a truth it is, that your God is a of gods, . . . and a revealer of secrets.’ Verse 47. For a time afterward, Nebuchadnezzar was influenced by the fear of God; but his heart was not yet cleansed from worldly ambition and a desire for self-exaltation. The prosperity attending his reign filled him with pride. *In time he ceased to honor God, and resumed his idol worship with increased zeal and bigotry.*”

NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE KING MADE AN IMAGE OF GOLD.... - The words ‘Thou art this head of gold’ [according to the interpretation given to him by Daniel from God], had made a deep impression on the ruler’s mind. Verse 38. The wise men of his realm, taking advantage of this and of his return to idolatry, proposed that he make an image similar to the one seen in his dream, and set it up where all might behold the head of gold, which had been interpreted as representing his kingdom.

“Pleased with the flattering suggestion, he determined to carry it out, and to go even farther. Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold---symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal, indestructible, all-powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever.

“The thought of establishing the empire and a dynasty that should endure forever, appealed very strongly to the mighty ruler before whose arms the nations of the earth had been unable to stand. With an enthusiasm born of boundless ambition and selfish pride, he entered into counsel with his wise men as to how to bring this about. Forgetting the remarkable providences connected with the dream of the great image; forgetting also that the God of Israel through His servant Daniel had made plain the significance of the



image, and that in connection with this interpretation the great men of the realm had been saved an ignominious death, forgetting all except their desire to establish their own power and supremacy, the king and his counselors of state determined that by every means possible they would endeavor to exalt Babylon as supreme, and *worthy of universal allegiance.*" PK 505, 505.

**“And he set it up in the plain of Dura.”**- “The name of this plain survives in the name of a tributary of the Euphrates called Nahr D ura, which enters the Euphrates 5 mi. (8 km.) below Hilla. Some neighboring hills also bear the name Dura. According to a tradition current among the inhabitants of Iraq today, the events described in chapter 3 took place at Kirkuk, which is now the center of the Iraqi oil fields. The tradition may have originated because burning gases formerly escaped from fissures in the ground in several places in the area, also because great amounts of combustible material like oil and asphalt were found there. *The tradition, of course, must be rejected.* The incident occurred near Babylon. Dura lay ‘in the province of Babylon.’” – *Footnote on p. 101.*

### **Where did Nebuchadnezzar obtain all the gold for building his image?**

“From the treasures *obtained in war* he made a golden image to represent the one that he had seen in his dream, setting it up in the plain of Dura.”

### **What was his command and how was it to be enforced?**

“*He commanded all the rulers and the people to worship it, on the pain of death.* This statue was about 90 feet in height and 9 in breadth, and *in the eyes of that idolatrous people it presented a most imposing and majestic appearance.* A proclamation was issued calling upon all officers of the kingdom to assemble at the dedication of the image, and at the sound of the musical instruments, to bow down and worship it. Should any fail to do this, they were immediately to be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” – *Ibid, Review & Herald, Feb. 1, 1881/ Sanctified Life, pp. 3-37,*

**“As an idol, and object of worship, the image was placed in the most favorable position; and proclamation was issued that all should worship it.”**- *E.G. White, Signs of the Times, April 29, 1897, 7BC, p. 103.*

## **LESSONS FOR TODAY:**

### **1. All false religion has its origin in the corruption of the true**

“Those who are willing to be taught, may learn a lesson from the conduct of the king of Babylon. As the enemy sought to make God-given light to serve his own purposes, by leading the king to work for his own glory instead of working for the glory of God, so he works today to pervert the truth in order to hinder God’s purposes. *All false religion has its origin in the corruption of the true.* When unmixed with evil, truth is a mighty power to save; but if we allow the enemy to work through us, if by the light given us we seek to exalt self, even this truth may become a power for evil.

“The enemy [Satan, working through his agencies] will lead us all to the use, as did Nebuchadnezzar, the light and knowledge of God for our own exaltation. But self-exaltation can find no place in the work of God. “Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving-kindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.’ [Jer. 9, 24, K.J.V.]”

“The king was instructed by Daniel that all men, whether king or subjects, were not to read the Scriptures and God’s providences in the light of their dreams, and fancies but were to be read in the light of the living oracles.

“Nebuchadnezzar’s dream had been interpreted by Daniel in the light of the Scriptures, but Nebuchadnezzar had so brought it into harmony with his own understanding and ambitions that he made this wonderful display of idolatry with the hope of converting all nations to the worship of his image, which represented the excellency of Babylon. But the fall of Babylon [in the time of Belshazzar to Medo-Persia] came in an hour of feasting revelry. ‘So will it be in the end of the world.’” – *Ibid, Signs of the Times, April 29, 1897.*

## **2. Nebuchadnezzar’s image of gold represents mixture of truth and error—the sum and substance of false religion then, and in the final global religious crisis soon to come!**

“History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image of Babylonia. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath. This is Satan’s plan to make of no account the day instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of creation.

“The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to forth to all the world. In limited degree, it has already gone forth. In several places the civil power is speaking with the voice of a dragon, just as the heathen king [Nebuchadnezzar spoke to the Hebrew captives [Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego].” – *E. G. White, An Exhaustive Comprehensive Ellen G. White Commentary on Daniel, Vol. 7, (7BC) p. 976.*

“The symbolic representation by which God had revealed to king and people His purpose for the nations of the earth, was now to be made [by Nebuchadnezzar] to serve for the glorification of human power. Daniel’s interpretation was to be rejected and forgotten; *truth was to be misinterpreted and misapplied.* The symbol designed of Heaven to unfold to the minds of men important events of the future was to be used to hinder the spread of the knowledge that God desired the world to receive. Thus through the devisings of ambitious men, Satan was seeking to thwart the divine purpose for the human race. *The enemy of mankind knew that truth unmixed with error is a mighty power to save:* but when used to exalt self and to further the projects of men, it becomes a power for evil.”- *Ibid, PK 504-505.*

## **3. All Officers of the empire summoned to the Dedication of the Image**

See Daniel 2: 2, 3. These were named: princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counselors, sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces [satrapies].

**Footnote** on page 106 on: **Worship the golden image**, says: “So far the narrative *has said nothing concerning the fact that worship of the image would be demanded.* The invitation sent to all the leading officials in Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom to gather in the plain of Dura, as far as the record goes, spoke only of the dedication of the image (v. 2), although people accustomed to the idolatrous practices of the time may have had no doubt as to the reason for the erection of the image. The payment of homage to the image would give proof of subjection to the power of the king, but at the same time show a recognition that the gods of Babylonia—the gods of the empire were supreme over all local gods.”

This is the vital. Worship may not be the immediate reason for Sunday-law enactment!  
To be continued next month.