

I WRITE

As I See It

By Barton W. Marsh

In the past we have had occasion to mention, more or less incidentally, the four world powers, Babylon, Media-Persia, Rome and Greece, all of whom are prominently set forth in Divine History and Prophecy. Now we desire to examine them somewhat more closely, firm in the hope that we will discover facts that may prove helpful to some in this cur time.

Babylon had its beginnings in the year 608 B. C. when Nebuchadnezzar its first independent king, ascended the throne. This power is symbolized in the Bible in various ways. It is called "A Head of Gold," "A Lion with Eagles Wings," "The glory of kingdoms," "The beauty of the Chaldea's excellency," and that it shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorah." Daniel 2:38; 7:4; and Isaiah 13: 19.

During its short life of, only seventy years it ascended to great heights of grandeur and display of power, exercised to the uttermost its vicious will to persecute and destroy all who dared oppose its imperial decree, to in the end sink to the lowest depths of debauchery and shame. It was in the 28th year of his reign that Nebuchadnezzar cast into the

overheated furnace, his three faithful Hebrew slaves, who dared oppose his decree in the sacred right of Freedom of Worship. See Daniel fourth chapter.

The last night of the kingdom, and also of its king and lords was spent in drunkenness and debauchery in the palace of the king. It was at that time that the hand of a man came out of the shroud of darkness and wrote on the wall over against the candlestick the strange words, "MEME, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN; which being interpreted, reads, "God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." The drunken king and his thousand drunken lords were that fateful night slain in the palace, and Darius the Mede took the kingdom. Thus ended the Glory of Kingdoms. The beauty of the Chaldea's excellency. Read Daniel 5th chap. The date is 538 B. C.

The comparative brief period of 207 years was allotted to the succeeding kingdom, Media-Persia. This kingdom is symbolized in Prophecy as "The breast and arms of silver" Daniel 2:32, "The bearlike beast," Daniel 7:5, and "The ram with two horns" Daniel 8:3.

It was under this kingdom that the decree, condemning Daniel to be fed to the lions, was dishon-

estly wangled from the king by the lords of the Medes and Persians. See Daniel chapter 6. Media Persia ended its career on the plains of Arbela in 338 B. C., at which time Alexander of Greece, with an army of only 49,000 men utterly destroyed the Persian king along with his army of more than a million soldiers.

Alexander ruled over an undivided Greece for eight years, when he died in a drunken spree, at the age of thirty-two. He willed his great empire to the strongest, and it was divided between his four leading generals. In Scriptural symbols Greece is designated as the belly and thighs of brass, in Daniel second chap. The leopard beast of Daniel 7:6, and the he goat with the notable horn between his eyes of Daniel 8:5. The notable horn, designates Alexander, the first king. The life of this world power was 170 years. It was conquered by Rome in the year 168 B. C.

Rome now swings into power of world significance, and is symbolized in the Bible by the legs of iron and the feet part of iron and part of clay which would not hold together as noted in the second chapter of Daniel; also as in the fourth, and entirely non-descript beast of Daniel 7th chapter.

For a little more than 160 years after the ascendancy of Rome to world position it maintained a democratic form of government, similar in some respects to that of the United States. During that period it became wealthy, arrogant and proud. Vicious forms of corruption developed. Money getting became the ruling passion of all, from the highest demagogue in the senate to the lowliest menial on the street.

It is said of the early Romans that, "they possessed the faculty of self-government beyond any people of whom we have historical knowledge, with the sole exception of the Anglo-Saxons; and by virtue of this, in the very nature of the case, they became the most powerful nation of all ancient times." Great Empires of Prophecy, page 250.

Their poet Juvenal wrote - - "Luxury came on more cruel than our arms and avenged the vanquished world with its charms." And in the train of luxury came vice. "There was now gluttony and drunkenness and debauchery hitherto unknown. Most of the Romans lived in strange dissipation. The young allow themselves to be carried away in the most shameful excesses. They are given to shows, to feasts, to luxury and disorder of every kind, and vices hitherto unknown in Rome now become naturalized.

History of Rome by Duray. "Money was the one thought, from the highest senator to the poorest wretch who sold his vote in the Comitia. For money judges gave unjust decrees, for money juries gave unjust verdicts." Caesar, chap. 2 par. 8

Democracy could not continue under such conditions. Within the shadows of Rome's dying freedom a Caesar awaited the call to power. It was in the year 60 B. C., 108 years after the Roman legions had conquered Greece that Rome lifted from its brow the laurel of Freedom, and placed in the hands of a tyrant, such as the world has never before known the scepter of authority and power. The fires of freedom had died upon their altars. The heart and will of a great nation had been conquered by self indulgence, and Rome, the great Iron Kingdom began making ready for the most inhuman and unjust spectacle of all time - THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.

Local News Items

Joe Rose left Monday by bus for Mt. Vernon, Wash., where he will look after business interests.

Bob Nicodemus, employed by a bank at Klamath Falls, was an Easter visitor of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Nicodemus.

Bob Abbott returned, to Arcata, Monday, to resume his student-

ies at Humboldt State after spending Easter with parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. bott, and brother, Nick. See Pete for your every-ance need—Central Building.

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