

Dr. Ernest Martin's Home Study Course: Lesson 10

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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.

BIBLE STUDY LESSON 10 ORIGIN & GOAL OF W. CIVILISATION

What was the original central goal?

One World Government, and One World Religion, with one God, but when and how did this come about?

Many nations would have wanted to enslave the whole world – Egypt, Assyria and other ancient powers, all wanted to conquer and rule, but, under inspiration of God in the 6th Century B.C., Nebuchadnezzar had a different plan. He wanted to establish a very different setup which would govern the whole world. 'Worldism' would embrace Religion, Politics, Economics, and Philosophy, in harmonious relationship.

This format was to be the key to a completely new type of government that would last more than 2600 years from the 6th Century B.C., until the second advent.

Nations with aspirations to achieve world government have wanted to establish these principles but they have not wanted God or Christ Jesus involved. The aim of all those who pursue world government are driven by the desire to control and actually enslave the populace. If they have used the Bible, they have mis-used it to support their efforts to control for their own ends. Worldwide Christianity is based on a completely distorted and misapplied use of God's Word.

BEFORE BABYLON WAS ESTABLISHED

Over many centuries, each of the nations thought that it was their specific gods local to them which gave them victories and power to rule over other nations. But over time, conquer and rule ceased to be effective due to constant rebellion.

There were many gods which nations looked to for their prosperity and success in warfare. The Moabites had Chemosh and Milcom; The Moabite

gods were many but the principle one was Chemosh. The Ammonites chief god of was Molech, also called Milcom, Malcham.

The Canaanite god was Baal who expected children to be offered as burnt sacrifices. The Phoenicians worshipped many gods, and were great sailors who travelled and explored man areas of the world.

The Egyptians gods were many, a list of at least twenty-five is easy to find. The creator god of all things was either Re (Ra), Amun, Ptah, Khnum or Aten. Various gods were worshipped in different areas of Egypt.

Most pagan religions had their roots in the Sun and the astrological bodies, and included sexual and fertility rites which were practiced at the numerous shrines which dotted the land, as well as at the major sanctuaries.

607 B.C. KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON

God had come to the end of His patience with the Jews and the Israelites, and had decided that they needed to learn a lesson by having Nebuchadnezzar invade Jerusalem, see the Temple destroyed, and for them to be taken into captivity and transported to Babylon for seventy years.

So then began a period of over forty years when God was working with the mind of the Gentile Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, to cause him to come to realise step by step who the God of gods was.

To serve His Master Purpose, God had put into the mind of Nebuchadnezzar to want to create a different setup of 'One Worldism', or 'Globalism'.

God through Jeremiah refers to Nebuchadnezzar as 'My Servant', and it is clear in the book of Jeremiah that God had great plans for Nebuchadnezzar, but first he had some serious lessons to learn which we read about in the book of Daniel. This is yet another indication that God appoints world leaders to serve His purpose.

Jeremiah 27:5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. 6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my

servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. 7 And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

Near the end of his reign, in the 7th Century B.C., as a result of God working with his mind, Nebuchadnezzar finally came to appreciate the absolute power of YHWH, not just as the God of the Israelites, but THE true God of all gods.

Prophecy tells of the time when Babylon would conquer and take over Jerusalem and take the Jews into captivity for seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

The Book of Daniel is one of the most important books in the Bible as it contains so much information about the historically critical time in which Daniel lived, and also embodies a great deal of prophecy, that is history written in Advance.

It is worth emphasizing that no human being can prophesy the future. Only God can see the stream of history from before the world was created until He completes His Plan. The Bible many times mentions that if a human being prophesies anything and it does not come to pass, then according to God's law that person is subject to the penalty of death.

God's Prophets of old were frequently told to warn of false teachers; and Christ Jesus warned that *many* false prophets would arise in the future, and use His name as authority for their statements and claims.

Both this author and Dr. Martin witnessed men claiming to be Apostles and Ministers of God who made many prophetic predictions, none of which came to pass. However, despite the fact that they led many astray with their false doctrines, in our era they were not immediately struck down, nor were they subjected to corporal punishment.

Daniel Chapter 1 – 607 B.C.

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. **2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

In the third year of Jehoiakim... This chronological indication is likely to give us the beginning of the seventy years captivity that was prophesied through Jeremiah.

Nebuchadnezzar recognised the intelligence and knowledge of some of those he had captured in Jerusalem and the land of Israel.

Daniel 1:3 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.

So Nebuchadnezzar gave instructions for one of his top officials to seek out your men of royal birth, who would be wise, able to learn the language of the King, and suitable to stand in the King's palace as advisors.

God was with Daniel, and his three friends that were selected, and they were well fed, and given very special treatment for three years.

Daniel 1:5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. **6** Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

There is a lot of significance in the numbers used in the Bible, and the numbers that are often hidden in the structure of the language. For instance, the number of man is 6, the number 7 connected with God, and the number 8 is linked to Christ. The name of Jesus Christ in Greek letters adds up to 888. The numbers of the letters of the Hebrew names of Daniel and his three friends were Daniel 95, Hananiah 120, Mishael 381, and Azariah 292, add up to 888. This matter of numbers is stated simply for interest.

Daniel 1:7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

Names that would be associated with the language of Babylon. And God gave these four very special skills, and they became well established and enjoyed great favour in the court of the King.

Daniel 1:17 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.

Wise above their years, and certainly ten times better than all the 'wise' men of the King. This did not endear Daniel and his friends to the local Chaldean magicians and astrologers, so they hatched a plot to get rid of them.

Daniel Chapter 2 - 603 B.C.

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. 4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten the dream, but he still expected his 'wise men' to tell him what it meant, which of course, was humanly impossible.

Daniel 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

Nebuchadnezzar did not like being told this,

Daniel 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Daniel got to hear about the King's displeasure, and that he intended to kill all the wise men because they could not reveal the dream to the King. So Daniel went to the King and asked him for a little time, and he would be able to reveal the nature and meaning of the dream to the King.

Daniel 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. 23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter. 24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

So Daniel was brought into the presence of the King. Daniel was humble, and not about to take any credit for being able to reveal the dream.

Daniel 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 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; 29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. 30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

Absolute humility. So now Daniel explains the dream of the image that represented the kingdoms of the earth from that time forward, right into the future time of the second coming of Christ.

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 that a stone 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, and filled the whole earth. 36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

So not only did God reveal the dream to Daniel, but He also gave him the interpretation of it.

Daniel 2:37 Thou, 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 was the Head of Gold. The kingdom of Babylon. The head directs and controls all the other parts of the body, in this case by setting up the characteristics of this new form of government.

Daniel 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, (538 B.C. the Medo-Persian Empire) and another third kingdom of brass (The Greek Empire under Alexander the Great), which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom (Is not named, but shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 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. 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. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone (Christ) was cut out of the mountain without hands (supernaturally), and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The succession of Empires

Daniel 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee...

The Medo-Persian Empire is even specifically named later on in Daniel 5:30-31, as being the kingdom that conquered Babylon.

Also, the Prophet Jeremiah, about 55 years earlier in 593 B.C. had prophesied that the Medes would conquer Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:11 Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple. 28 Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion. 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.

History tells us that this third kingdom of brass, the one to follow Persia, was the Grecian Empire. In a later chapter Daniel specifically prophesies that Greece will be the conqueror of Medo-Persia.--Daniel 8:21,22. This was fulfilled in 333 B.C., 219 years after the prophecy was given!

The Greeks, symbolised by the belly of the image, were great food gourmets, and were very preoccupied with sex, the thighs and sexual parts in the image are symbolic. The Greeks were also philosophers and had many gods, the practices of both became interwoven with Christianity then and to this day.

The revealing of this dream to the King was the first step in God working with his mind and revealing His power to Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 2:47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

King Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed with Daniel, that he made him and his three friends

Daniel 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

In Daniel 2 it gives the Hebrew names of Daniel and his companions.

Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

Simply for interest, the Hebrew names of these three numerically add up to 888. Daniel 95, Hananiah 120, Mishael 381, Azariah 292 = 888

The name of Jesus in Greek letters is 888. Christ was with them!

Daniel Chapter 3 - 580 B.C.

Daniel 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Dr. Bullinger in his commentary says that the Hebrew letters here add up to 4662 or 7x666. The 7 is for God and completion of the pinnacle of human government. This is where the hint of the number of the Beast appears. The Beast being the world government, unseen now, but will emerge before the Second Coming.

Then when the music played, everyone had to bow down to this image that Nebuchadnezzar had made or be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

They refused to worship the image and were thrown into the fiery furnace, but there appeared to be four persons in the fire, one like the Son of God. So Nebuchadnezzar watched in amazement, and commanded them to come out of the fire. They did, completely unharmed, without even the smell of smoke on them.

This was a key occasion when God was working with the mind of Nebuchadnezzar to gradually come to the realisation that He was the Almighty 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. 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

The episode of the fiery furnace utterly convinced Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel's God was not ordinary god. So he made this powerful decree, but although his mind had changed, his heart had some way to go. So he had to go through another lesson.

Daniel Chapter 4 - 570 B.C.

Chapter four deals with the vision of the tree representing Nebuchadnezzar which was cut down.

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....

Nebuchadnezzar was not listening to Daniel, or to God.

Daniel 4:29 At the end of twelve months he 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?

While the King was speaking, he became like an animal, and was driven out to pasture like one for seven years.

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.

So at the end of the seven years Nebuchadnezzar's reason returned to him, and he had learned a big lesson about God's Power, and proclaimed it to his entire kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar then died and his kingdom was taken over by Belshazzar his grandson.

Daniel Chapter 5 - 538 B.C.

Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. 2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. 3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

This was Belshazzar's way of sticking his fingers up God's nose, as the debauchery continued using the golden vessels from the Temple.

Nebuchadnezzar had told Belshazzar about God, and how he had come to realise that He was the True God, but Belshazzar had not listened.

Daniel 5 22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

So he was defiant. Then the writing appeared on the wall: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. None of the 'wise' men of the court could interpret the meaning of these words except Daniel, who told the King what it meant:

MENE: God has numbered your kingdom and finished it.

TEKEL: Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting.

PERES: The kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 5: 30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.
31 And Darius the Median took the (Babylonian) kingdom, (which, the kingdom, had been in existence) being about threescore and two years old.

This is not his age, the government had been in power for 62 years.

Daniel Chapter 6 - 537 B.C.

Although under a new king, God was looking after the welfare of His Prophet, he was faultless, and above all others in rank, but this aroused jealousy among all the Princes and powerful people in the court.

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 as usual, all the other high ranking men around Darius plotted and schemed how they could get rid of Daniel. Decrees made by the Medes and the Persians could not be altered once made.

So Darius was persuaded to sign a decree that anyone who would petition any God or man other than the king would be thrown into the den of lions. Darius, like Nebuchadnezzar had a lesson to learn about the Power of God.

Then the king's high ranking men watched Daniel at prayer, and reported him to Darius, who, in order not to lose face, very regretfully threw Daniel into the lion's den. Darius spent a sleepless night, but was amazed to find Daniel alive and well the next morning. Daniel told Darius that God had shut up the mouths of the lions.

Daniel 6: 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.

So Darius threw all of Daniel's accusers into the lion's den and they killed them all in moments. The Darius made another decree this time to all the nations of the entire known world.

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.

God was still working with the minds of the new rulers of His new style of government which was to last until the return of Christ.

Daniel Chapter 7 - 555 B.C.

Daniel 7 backtracks to give more information about the vision God had given to Daniel about the four great beasts that came up out of the sea, which Daniel told to Belshazzar.

Daniel 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 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. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This gives the 'when' of this prophecy.

Daniel 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

The detail of this prophecy gives information about the time leading up to the second coming of Christ.

Daniel 7:15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. 17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. 8 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. 19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Daniel 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

*These are ten Kings that **shall arise** in the time ahead of us now, and they will arise in the general geographical area of Babylon. The ten kings will not arise in the area of Rome, or the European Union as some sects teach, they will arise in the Middle East.*

Daniel 7:25 And he (the Beast) shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. 27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. 28 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Daniel Chapter 8 - 553 B.C.

Daniel 8:1 In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.

In this chapter, Daniel has a vision of a ram with two horns, which are interpreted for Daniel as being the Kings of Media and Persia which pushed west and north and southwards, no beast could stand before him, or nothing could deliver out of his hand, he did as he pleased, and became great. Then a he-goat, which is identified as the King of Grecia and a horn which is the first king.

It also contains the prophecy of the 2300 days, and concerns the daily sacrifices, desolation and the sanctuary being trodden under foot. This prophecy in Chapter 8 concerning the end time is very complex, and needs a careful study on its own. We look to the time when knowledge will be increased.

Daniel Chapter 9 - 538 B.C.

Daniel 9 contains the '70 weeks' prophecy which is only partially understood, and again we need greater understanding which will come at the end time with the promised increase of knowledge. Daniel was still in very good standing with the King.

Daniel 9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

We understand that the 70 'weeks' were 70 'weeks' of years, so $70 \times 7 = 490$ years.

Daniel was praying for forgiveness for Judah and Israel in spite of their constant rejection of God.

Daniel 9:21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Verse 25 gives us divisions of time of the 70 weeks. there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.'" Seven "sevens" is 49 years, and sixty-two "sevens" is another 434 years, = 483 years, plus confirming the covenant another 'week' of seven years = 490 years.

Gabriel told Daniel that the prophecy would start when a decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem. From the date of that decree to the time of the Messiah would be 483 years. We know from history that the command and permission to restore and rebuild Jerusalem was given by King Artaxerxes of Persia around 445 B.C.

Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, 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, 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.

It was Cyrus who introduced the silver portion of the image.

Nehemiah 2:5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. 6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

Isaiah 44:28 (God) That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid

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. 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.

Jeremiah 29:10 For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

So from this time, the knowledge of the One True God spread around the world.

There is still much discussion concerning the actual chronology of the dates of secular history not being consistent with the Bible record. Dr. Martin always took the Biblical revelation as the true guide from Christ, and that secular historians would need to adjust their thinking to align with the Bible, not the other way around.

A more detailed discussion of the seventy weeks prophecy is covered in other lessons.

Daniel Chapter 10 - 534 B.C.

Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus, 539-530 B.C., king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

Daniel did not understand the vision, but Gabriel gave him words of comfort.

Daniel 10:19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

Daniel Chapter 11 - 534 B.C.

It is not intended to discuss this, the longest prophecy in the Bible at this time, here in connection with the origin of Western civilisation.

Daniel Chapter 12 - 534 B.C.

Is talking about the time just before and when Christ comes, and the resurrection. There is still a great deal for us to understand, and we have the promise:

Daniel 12:8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Cyrus claims his world control - orders rebuilding of the Temple.

Cyrus represented the silver portion of the great statue of Nebuchadnezzar.

Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, 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, 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.*

Isaiah 45:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

From this time forward, this knowledge of the global nature government would begin to be spread around the entire world.

The notion of One God was fine, but the human governments wanted to use the knowledge to control, but they wanted to do it their way. So they misused God's name to support their ideas, which is exactly the situation in the 21st Century.

After the silver portion of the image, the brass portion would come from the West, and Javan, or the Grecian Empire took over under the control of Alexander the Great in 333-332 B.C.

Alexandra went to Jerusalem in 332 B.C., as he had had a vision in Macedonia telling him that the inhabitants would welcome him. According to Josephus, the renowned Jewish historian, Alexander met the High Priest, clad in his white and blue robes, wearing the symbol of YHWH, and bowed or prostrated himself before the High Priest bowing to YHWH and not the man. Alexandra did not destroy the Temple.

Alexander had begun to realise the nature of the True God as had Nebuchadnezzar, Darius and Cyrus before him. It is said that Alexander went to Egypt and was initiated into all the mysteries which usually took years to learn in just one day. The truth of the mysteries was kept from the people, and only revealed to those of top rank. Alexander wrote to his Mother telling her that the Egyptians knew that all the local gods were dead men, and that there was only One True God.

Alexander then tried to bring in one world government, with one religion, but he died in 323 B.C., after thirteen years of conquering all before him. He either died of a fever, or perhaps was murdered by four of his generals.

There is then a gap in the historical record of the development of the world government as the concept spread throughout the known world.

Nero after persecuting Christianity saw its value in controlling the populace of Rome, and wanted to move his headquarters to Jerusalem, but this never happened.

Five centuries later the Roman Empire under Constantine embraced a form of Christianity heavily laced with pagan and heather idolatrous traditions. At this time that form of Christianity spread like wildfire around the Western world.

Christianity is not a form of control.

Christianity was never intended to be used to exert any form of control over others. It is this aspect of the churches of this world that completely misuse Christ's life, His teachings, death and resurrection as a means of subjugating and controlling their followers.

In all human forms of Christianity, every organisation of humans has the desire to control at its roots. Men and women group together into denominations, and formulate their own version of the Gospel, their own choice of doctrines, and their ideas of which views they wish to enforce on their adherents.

This is the opposite of submitting themselves, and allowing all they lead to submit themselves to the Law of Love, and the direction of the Holy Spirit brought by Christ Jesus. Christians all need to submit to the rule of Christ Jesus in their minds and hearts.

The truth about Democracy.

People all over the world in almost every country want "Democracy". The definition of 'Democracy' is 'rule of the people, by the people, and for the people'. Voting is supposed to result in a country being ruled by the wishes of the majority.

There is no country in the world that is ruled Democratically by a majority of its population. Democracy is actually a myth. It does not really exist, except as an ideal in people's minds. It is a 'mask' to hide dictatorship by the few.

All human governments consist of a relatively few individuals who rule by force. The more 'Democratic' a country is, the more the inhabitants believe they live in what they suppose is democratic, the less visible are the powerful forces that back the government.

The less Democratic the system of government is, right up to there being a cruel despot firmly in control, the more visible are the steel 'teeth' of

government. At the slightest sign of unrest or resistance to the government among the ruled results in the immediate appearance of police, guns, tear gas, soldiers and tanks.

At Christ's Second Coming all human governments will be destroyed, and turned into dust like the chaff which the wind blows away. He will then establish His Kingdom, His Rule over the whole Earth.

God speed that day. Selah.