

DANIEL 2:33, 40-45

The Fourth Kingdom

WHAT CONSTITUTES THE FOURTH KINGDOM?

2:40- "The fourth kingdom" is brought to view.

2:41- The feet and toes are said to be "the kingdom" (the fourth) in a divided state.

2:42- "The kingdom" (the fourth) is said to be "partly strong, and partly broken" because iron is strong and clay is weak.

Therefore, the fourth kingdom consists of both the legs of iron and the feet and toes of iron and clay.

HISTORICALLY, WHAT IS THE FOURTH KINGDOM CALLED?

"The legs of iron, and the feet part of iron and part of clay,' fitly represent the Roman kingdom, which still exists, although in a broken state, like iron and clay. This kingdom has been divided between Pagan Rome, the head wounded to death, and Papal Rome, the deadly wound healed, both 'mixing themselves with the seed of men,' that is, uniting church and state, ecclesiastical and civil, in the government." 1842, *Miller's Works*, volume 2, 42.

"The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo- Persia, Greece, and **Rome**. God says, 'It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.'" *Education*, 178.

WHEN DOES THIS KINGDOM END?

"This dream was given to the king of Babylon, the events of the future, reaching down to **the end of time**, were opened before him, that he might have light on this important subject. It was also given for the benefit of all future generations. The record was traced by the prophetic pen that the light might be shared by those kingdoms which should succeed the kingdom of Babylon." *The Signs of the Times*, April 29, 1897.

"The events of the future, reaching down to **the end of time**, were opened before the king of Babylon, in order that he might have light on this important subject. The record of the dream and its interpretation was traced by the prophetic pen, in order that the rulers of the kingdoms that should succeed Babylon might have the same light." *Youth Instructor*, September 8, 1903.

WHEN WAS IT DIVIDED?

According to the 1843 and 1850 charts the division of Rome into ten parts was complete by the year 490 AD. This was a progressive history, which arguably began in 321 AD, with the passing of Sunday legislation by Constantine. The reason for seeing 321 is the principle that "national apostasy is followed by national ruin," that is, when a nation stands in defiance to the law of God, it is judged. Shortly after 321 (330) Rome split into east and west, and just after this (395) the first judgment trumpet (denoted in Revelation 8) sounded

on the empire. From this point forward the western part of the once great Roman Empire was decimated, and finally conquered in 476 by the fourth scourge upon that side of the empire. It was during, and after, this history that the ten divisions of Western Rome were formed.

“To take the ten toes to represent the ten kingdoms into which Rome was divided seems like such an easy, consistent, and matter-of-course procedure, that it requires a labored effort to interpret it otherwise.” 1897, *Daniel and the Revelation*, 62.

WHAT DOES THE IRON AND THE CLAY OF THE FEET SIGNIFY?

“We have come to a time when God's sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay. God has a people, a chosen people, whose discernment must be sanctified, who must not become unholy by laying upon the foundation wood, hay, and stubble. Every soul who is loyal to the commandments of God will see that the distinguishing feature of our faith is the seventh-day Sabbath. If the government would honor the Sabbath as God has commanded, it would stand in the strength of God and in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints. But statesmen will uphold the spurious sabbath, and will mingle their religious faith with the observance of this child of the papacy, placing it above the Sabbath which the Lord has sanctified and blessed, setting it apart for man to keep holy, as a sign between Him and His people to a thousand generations. **The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay.** This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God's forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves.” *SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1168.

Revelation 13:11

“The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.” *The Great Controversy*, 442.

“The enforcement of Sundaykeeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. **But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sundaykeeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.**” *The Great Controversy*, 448.

“But **what is the ‘image to the beast’?** and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image *to* the beast. It is also called an image *of* the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and **in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power.** The result was the papacy, **a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends,** especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, **the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.”** *The Great Controversy*, 443.

“If the reader would understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest, **he has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past.** If he would know how papists and Protestants united will deal with those who reject their dogmas, let him see the spirit which Rome manifested toward the Sabbath and its defenders.

“Royal edicts, general councils, and church ordinances sustained by secular power were the steps by which the pagan festival attained its position of honor in the Christian world. The first public measure enforcing Sunday observance was the law enacted by **Constantine. (A.D. 321;** see Appendix note for page 53.) This edict required townspeople to rest on “the venerable day of the sun,” but permitted countrymen to continue their agricultural pursuits. Though virtually a heathen statute, it was enforced by the emperor after his nominal acceptance of Christianity.” *The Great Controversy*, 574.

IN THE FOURTH KINGDOM’S DIVIDED STATE, WHAT ANSWERS TO THE IRON?

If iron represents “statecraft” and the iron legs are the Roman government, then the iron in the divided state of Rome (in the feet and toes) must answer to the state power of the those divisions, namely, to the territories of the “Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Heruli, Burgundians, Anglo-Saxons and Lombards.”

WHAT ANSWERS TO THE CLAY?

If the clay represents “churchcraft,” then is it not reasonable to assume that the church which historically mingled itself with the state during the very time the divisions of iron were formalized would be represented by the clay? Which church did this? “The early church” who “became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel” and “sought the support of the secular power.” What was the result of this apostasy? “The papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’”

A PRESENT TRUTH APPLICATION

“There is need of a much closer study of the word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. . . . **Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented.** Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase the pride of men, and lay human glory in the dust. . . .

“The light that Daniel received from God was given **especially for these last days.** The visions he saw by the banks of the **Ulai** and the **Hiddekel**, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and **all the events foretold will soon come to pass.**” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 112.

EZEKIEL 21:25–27

“The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, **tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come.** All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled **in its order.**...

[Ezekiel 21:26, 27 quoted.]

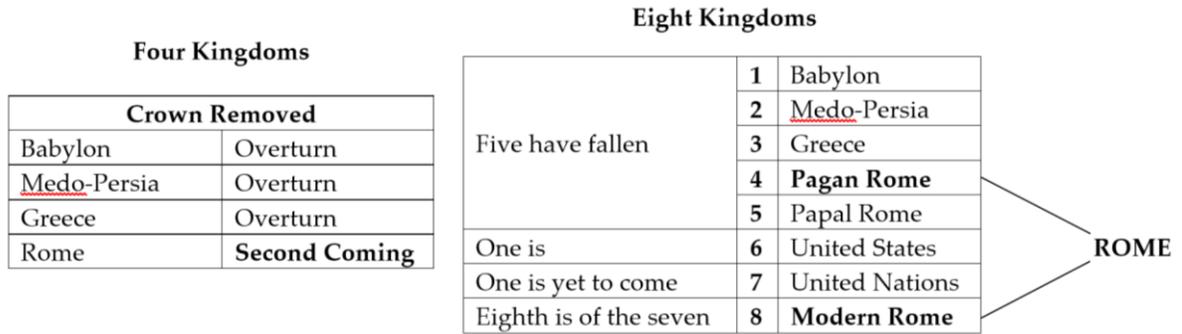
“The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.** God says, ‘It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’

“**That time is at hand.** Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events.” *Education*, 178, 179.

“The kingdom was then subject to Babylon. When Babylon fell, and Medo-Persia succeeded, it was overturned the first time. When Medo-Persia fell and was succeeded by Greece, it was overturned the second time. When the Greek empire gave way to Rome, it was overturned the third time. And then says the word, ‘It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’” Taken from the Appendix of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 762. **This was not written by Ellen White, but the book was published during her lifetime (in 1890), thus it would seem that she endorses the things written therein.**

“Foremost among those who were rapidly leading the nation to ruin was **Zedekiah** their king...

“To the ‘**profane wicked prince**’ had come the day of final reckoning. ‘Remove the diadem,’ the Lord decreed, ‘and take off the crown.’ Not until Christ Himself should **set up His kingdom** was Judah again to be permitted to have a king. ‘I will **overturn, overturn, overturn, overturn,** it,’ was the divine edict concerning the throne of the house of David; ‘and it shall be no more, until **He come whose right it is;** and I will give it Him.’ Ezekiel 21:25–27.” *Prophets and Kings*, 450, 451.



CHRIST'S KINGDOM

“As used in the Bible, the expression kingdom of God’ is employed to designate both the **kingdom of grace** and the **kingdom of glory**...In many of his parables, Christ uses the expression, ‘the kingdom of Heaven,’ to designate **the work of divine grace upon the hearts of men.**

“So the throne of glory represents the kingdom of glory, and this kingdom is referred to in the Savior’s words, ‘When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all nations.’ [Matthew 25:31, 32.] **This kingdom is yet future. It is not to be set up until the second advent of Christ.**

“**The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after the fall of man,** when a plan was devised for the redemption of the guilty race. It then existed in the purpose and by the promise of God; and **through faith, men could become its subjects. Yet it was not actually established until the death of Christ...** When the Savior yielded up his life, and with his expiring breath cried out, ‘**It is finished,**’ then the fulfillment of the plan of redemption was assured. The promise of salvation made to the sinful pair in Eden was ratified. **The kingdom of grace, which had before existed by the promise of God, was then established.**” *The Great Controversy*, 346, 347.

SETTING UP THE KINGDOM OF GLORY

“I saw that all things are intensely looking and stretching their thoughts on the impending crisis before them. **The sins of Israel must go to judgment beforehand.** Every sin must be confessed at the sanctuary, then the work will move. It must be done now. The remnant in the time of trouble will cry, **My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?**

“The latter rain is coming on those that are pure—all then will receive it as formerly. **When the four angels let go, Christ will set up His kingdom.** None receive the latter rain but those who are doing all they can. Christ would help us. All could be overcomers by the grace of God, through the blood of Jesus. All heaven is interested in the work. Angels are interested.” *Spalding Magan*, 2, 3.

“SET UP” – A PROGRESSIVE WORK

Daniel 2:40– 44

“So **the throne of glory represents the kingdom of glory**, and this kingdom is referred to in the Savior’s words, ‘When **the Son of man shall come in his glory**, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all nations.’ [Matthew 25:31, 32.] **This kingdom** is yet future. It is not to be set up until the **second advent of Christ.**” *The Great Controversy*, 347.

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; **the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13**; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of **the same event**; and this is also represented by **the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage**, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” *The Great Controversy*, 426.

“And, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and **glory**, and **a kingdom**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away.’ Daniel 7:13, 14. **The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator.** It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844...” *The Great Controversy*, 479.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Psalms 77:13

“**When Jesus at his ascension** entered by his own blood into the heavenly sanctuary to shed upon his disciples the blessings of his mediation, the Jews were left in total darkness, to continue their useless sacrifices and offerings. The ministration of types and shadows had ceased. **That door by which men had formerly found access to God, was no longer open.**” *The Great Controversy*, 430.

Kingdom of Grace

The <u>Fall</u> of Man		31AD
Eternity	The Courtyard	Holy Place
Instituted		Established
Closed/Open		Closed/Open

Kingdom of Glory

10/22/1844		COP
Holy Place	Most Holy Place	Eternity
Instituted		Established