

BROKEN AND CONSUMED
DANIEL 2:44

Introduction

1. Ye all agree that the world is going in the wrong direction.
2. I have heard many sermons through the years implying that things are so bad we can't do anything about it. I don't believe it!
3. I hear people say that things are worse than they have ever been, but anyone who knows history knows that this is not even close to the truth.
4. I have also heard that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. This I believe!
5. The truth is that in the very worst of times the church has done its best in reaching the world.
6. My goal with this lesson is to encourage the discouraged.

I. THE IMAGE

- A. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Daniel 2: 1
- B. The Chaldeans could not reveal or interpret the dream for him. Daniel 2: 10-11
- C. Daniel prayed to God and was given the dream and its interpretation. Daniel 2:24-25
- D. Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed of a great image described as follows: Daniel 2:32-33
 1. Head of fine gold
 2. Breast and arms of silver
 3. Belly and thighs of brass
 4. Feet part of iron and part of clay
- E. Daniel interpreted the dream to reveal four world kingdoms. Daniel 2:36-45
 1. Babylonian Empire
 2. Medo-Persian Empire
 3. Greek Empire
 4. Roman Empire (Fourth kingdom spoken of in Daniel 2:44)
- F. The Bible and history have revealed the Lord's kingdom that would crush and destroy the Roman Empire.

II. IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS THE GOD OF HEAVEN SHALL SET UP A KINGDOM

- A. This quote from Daniel 2:44 is referring to Roman Kings serving under the Emperors.
- B. There should be no question as to when the Kingdom of God was set up for Jesus was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus. Luke 2: 1-7
- C. The wise men asked "where is he that is born [present tense] King of the Jews." Matthew 2:1-2
- D. Pilate asked Jesus if he was a king and Jesus said, "to this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world." John 18:37
- E. New Testament Kingdom Preaching
 1. John the Baptist came preaching, "Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:1-2
 2. Jesus preached the same message as John, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Matthew 4: 17
 3. Jesus said, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of

- heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matthew 11: 12
4. Jesus said, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16

III. IT WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED

- A. Israel was overrun by Nebuchadnezzar, and the temple built by Solomon was destroyed.
- B. Titus the Roman Emperor destroyed Jerusalem and the last Jewish temple in AD70.
- C. The Babylonian and Roman Empires were both destroyed, but the Kingdom of God will stand forever.
- D. The truly saved are the circumcised at heart, the Spiritual Jews, Spiritual Israel, the Lord's Kingdom; the true churches are the New Jerusalem or the manifest Kingdom of God in the world.
- E. Jesus said of his church, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.

IV. THE CHURCH EMPOWERED AT PENTECOST

- A. In Acts 2:17-20, the apostle Peter said at Pentecost that the things happening had been spoken of by the prophet Joel. Peter was quoting Joel 2:28-31.
- B. "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before that great and terrible day of the Lord." Joel 2:30-31
- C. The words spoken to Joel are similar to the following:
 - 1. Fall of Egypt, Ezekiel 32:7
 - 2. Fall of Babylon, Isaiah 13:9-11
 - 3. Destruction of Jerusalem and the world, Matthew 24:29
 - 4. Destruction of the world, Revelation 6:12-17
- D. Joel had more to say than Peter quoted: "The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake, but the Lord will be hope for his people and the strength of the children of Israel," Joel 3: 15-16

V. ACTION: THE WAR WAS ON

- A. Acts 2:41 - On the Day of Pentecost, about 3,000 were added to the church.
- B. Acts 2:47 - The Lord added to the church daily those that were saved.
- C. Acts 4:4 - About 5,000 people believed.
- D. Acts 5:14 - Multitudes were added to the Lord.
- E. Acts 6: 1 - The number of disciples was multiplied.
- F. Acts 6:7 - The disciples multiplied greatly, and a great company of priests were obedient to the faith.
- G. Acts 8:4 - Following persecution, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.
- H. Acts 8:14 - Samaria received the word.
- I. Acts 8:27-40 - Philip preached to the Ethiopian, and he went on his way rejoicing. Philip also preached at Azotus and all the cities between there and Caesarea.
- J. Acts 9:10 - Disciples were already at Damascus, and Paul was saved on the road and

baptized there.

- K. Acts 9:31 - After the conversion of Paul, the churches had rest and were multiplied.
- L. Acts 9:42 - Many believed on the Lord at Joppa.
- M. Acts 10 - Cornelius, his house, and his friends were saved.
- N. Acts 11:21 - A great number of Gentiles believed at Antioch.
- O. Acts 11:24 - Barnabas preached at Antioch, and many were added to the Lord.
- P. Acts 12:24 - After the death of Herod, the word of God grew and multiplied.
- Q. Acts 13:44 - In Antioch of Pisidia, almost the whole city came to hear Paul and Barnabas.
- R. Acts 14:1 - At Iconium, a great multitude of Jews and Gentiles believed.
- S. Acts 16:5 - Paul and Timothy returned to some of the churches, and the number of disciples increased daily.
- T. Acts 16 - The jailor at Philippi believed.
- U. Acts 17:6-7 - At Thessalonica, some Jews believed, and others said that Paul and Silas were turning the whole world upside down.
- V. Acts 17:34 - Some believed at the preaching of Paul on Mars Hill in Athens, Greece.
- W. Acts 18:8 - Crispus and his house and many of the Corinthians believed and were baptized.
- V. Acts 19: 1 - Paul found disciples at Ephesus.
- W. Acts 19: 10 - All in Asia heard the word of God.
- x. Acts 19: 18 - Many believed at Ephesus.
- y. Acts 19:20 - "So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."
- Z. Acts 21 :3-4 ~ Disciples are found at Tyre, one of the cities which the Lord had rebuked.
- AA. Acts 24 and 25 - Paul preached to two governors and one king at Jerusalem.
- BB. Acts 28:24 - Some believed at the preaching of Paul in Rome.
- CC. Romans 8 - There were already churches in Rome.
- DD. There are only four of the eighty two apostles mentioned in the book of Acts, so imagine what must have been going on with all the others plus their converts.
- EE. Tertullian, a disciple of Poly carp, who was himself a disciple of the apostle John, wrote, "We are of yesterday. Yet we have filled your Empire, your Cities, your Towns, your Islands, your Tribes, your Camps, Castles, Palaces, Assemblies and Senate."
- FF. It is said that by the time of Emperor Constantine in AD306, half of the Roman Empire were Christians.
- GG. Constantine's conversion in my opinion was no more than his trying to be politically correct.

VI. PERSECUTION

- A. In Matthew 11: 12, Jesus said, "from the time of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." A Roman had John's life taken to please a woman.
- B. Herod allowed the Jews to persecute the church in action, like that of Paul and others in the death of Stephen.
- C. Acts 12:1-2 - Herod *himself* was persecuting some of the church. He took the life of

the apostle James the brother of John and tried to take the life of Peter, but the Angel helped him escape.

- D. The Romans also let the Idolaters persecute the church.
- E. Persecution ordered by Roman Emperors began in AD54 with Nero, who is also credited with taking the life of Paul.
- F. Persecution continued by most of the Emperors until the time of Constantine in AD306. In AD313, he granted toleration to Christians and pagans, resulting in opposition from the Roman Aristocrats. He moved the capital of the empire from Rome to Byzantium and renamed it Constantinople.
- G. Emperor Theodosius (AD378-395) made Christianity the state religion, and church membership became law. As such, the true church came to be persecuted by those called Christians.
- H. The Roman Empire split in AD-395, with Rome losing the eastern part of the Empire.

VII. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WAR

- A. Psalms 2:6-9 - "Yet have I set my king on my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, "Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
- B. FIRST SEAL Revelation 6: 1-2
 - 1. John saw a white horse, a symbol of Victory.
 - 2. The one on the horse had a bow ready for battle, not the sword of the Spirit.
 - 3. The rider was given a crown; crowns are for kings and are symbols of victory.
 - 4. The rider went forth conquering and to conquer.
 - S. Considering the words of Daniel, Joel, and those recorded by the Psalmist and others, the king must be the King of Kings.
- C. SECOND SEAL Revelation 6:4
 - 1. The horse under this seal is red, a symbol of bloodshed.
 - 2. Power was given to the one riding this horse to take peace from the earth that they should kill one another. This language can only apply to civil war.
 - 3. From AD200 to AD300, the Roman Empire had over fifty Emperors, and fighting raged amongst them. During that century, the Roman Empire lost over half its population.
- D. THIRD SEAL Revelation 6:5-6
 - 1. The horse under this seal is black, a symbol of famine.
 - 2. The balances and the price of grain indicate shortage.
 - 3. "Hurt not the wine" probably means that those in power had plenty while commoners had little.
 - 4. The civil wars lasted so long that laborers were few and many crops were destroyed.
- E. FOURTH SEAL Revelation 6:7-8
 - 1. The pale horse under this seal is a symbol of death.
 - 2. The Cyprian Plague hit Rome around AD250 and at its height that city lost 5,000 people per day.

3. Those fighting to be Emperors during the civil war used barbarians from the North to help in their battles, which eventually backfired. The barbarians began to raid and kill Romans.
4. Because of all the problems, many died from hunger.
5. Wild beasts or animals came in and took lives.

VIII. THE TRUMPETS

A. THE FIRST TRUMPET Revelation 8:7

1. The first trumpet was followed by hail and fire mingled with blood.
2. The Goths were a people that had their beginning in Scandinavia and migrated south and east as far as the Baltic Sea and made war on Italy in AD409. The Goths did not occupy Italy but left many dead, many suffering, and cities burning.

B. THE SECOND TRUMPET Revelation 8:8-9

1. Following the second trumpet, a great burning mountain was cast into the sea.
2. The Vandals were an east Germanic tribe that fought their way through Gaul and Spain and took the Roman province in North Africa. They built a fleet of ships and took the sea from the Romans. **In AD455**, they sacked Rome, from whence we get the word 'vandalism.'

C. THE THIRD TRUMPET Revelation 8:10-11

1. A burning star fell upon the rivers and upon the fountain of waters.
2. Attila the Hun came from Central Asia in AD440, crossed the Danube River, and pushed west with 800,000 men to meet the Roman Army. He defeated them on the River Marne, the River Rhone, and the River Po. It is said that he left rivers running with blood. He returned to the Danube, and when he died, his men turned the river aside and buried him beneath it.

D. THE FOURTH TRUMPET Revelation 8:12

1. Following the fourth trumpet, a third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon and a third part of the stars.
2. Twice, Italy and Rome had been sacked but not taken. **In AD476**, Flavius Odeacer, a Germanic soldier called a barbarian, led his troops into Italy, took Rome, and became King of Italy. The Roman Empire was no more.