

SECRETS IN STONE

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Archaeology. (Concluded).
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Well, its certainly a thrill to go through the amazing lands of history. In fact it reminds me of an American and a Canadian who wore being shown around London by an Englishmen. As they leaned over the precipice of the old tower of London the two men from across the Atlantic become a little sarcastic an to the size of the Thames, And they compared It with the mighty Mississippi and the Saint Lawrence River in Canada. The cockney looked at them as they spoke about the American rivers. He said to them. "The Saint Lawrence River, that's a cold muddy river. The Mississippi is a warm muddy river, But this here the Themes is liquid history." And that's true, But when we get over to the Middle East lands we are in dusty history.

For its wonderful to be able to walk the streets where the Babylonians walked where the mighty Assyrians lived, where Alexander the Great led his victorious armies, where Darius and the Hittites and the Egyptians lived, where Abraham walked, where Daniel walked, even where Jesus Christ walked. We're going back a long, long time to the land of history. It gives you a strange feeling for you feel that you are leaving behind you the 20th century. And you have stepped back into the olden days.

In this lecture we're taking you back in history way back over 2,000 yearn BC. One of the greatest nations that over pressed this Earth, if not the greatest nation was the Babylonian empire. If you have a watch on your wrist you may have wondered where the idea of 60 seconds to the minute and 60 minutes to the hour came from, Actually it came from the old Babylonians. They were the ones that discovered this. They were the ones who divided the circle into 360 degrees, Their whole system, you see was based on the 60.

We have changed to the decimal system and most of us are finding that so much easier to use. While 10 in divisible by 2 and by 5, when you think about 60 it's divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The Babylonians were the ones that worked all this out thousands of years ago.

Today you can visit the remains of Babylon. Its about 50 miles south of Baghdad in Iraq. This city has been referred to as the golden city. And certainly it was that during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. Nebopolasar the father of Nebuchadnezzar was campaigning in the tar reaches of the Babylonian empire when suddenly news came through to his non that hie father had died. So Nebuchadnezzar galloped across the Syrian desert.

You see back in those days when a king died there was always insurrection. And Nebuchadnezzar wanted to establish his claim for the throne. He was successful and for the next 44 years Nebuchadnezzar reigned in prosperity and victory over the surrounding nations. He even invaded Egypt and besieged Tyre for about 13 years. Although he wasn't successful in conquering it he certainly put it to tribute. He conquered Jerusalem and completely destroyed it. The Assyrian power had already been in decline and so Babylon during the reign of Nebuchadnezzarg is known in history as the Neo-Babylonian empire had unparalleled prosperity and he built a tremendous city.

You see Nebuchadnezzar had actually built up magnificent palaces and temples and towers. In fact you can find there in Babylon today the remains of dozens of towers built by Nebuchadnezzar. And Babylon became a strong and a prosperous city under his golden reign. Nebuchadnezzar, you see was intent on

3. SECRETS IN STONE

building a city that would last forever. That was his intention, and he has left some magnificent ruins behind.

The interesting thing I found when I was over there was thing that there are no reliefs no images or statues of Nebuchadnezzar himself, But he was very intent on leaving behind him a memory of himself. And nearly every brick that you pick up in Babylon today has Nebuchadnezzar's name stamped in cuneiform all over it.

The throne room of Nebuchadnezzar has also been excavated and identified. The Iraqie government of antiquities has reconstructed some of these old temples of Babylon to give the tourist and the visitor to Babylon today some Idea of what ancient Babylonian temples wore like. Actually artists have done their bent to try and reconstruct what ancient Babylon looked like and the temple tower, the Ziggurats and the hanging gardens which were one of the wonders of the ancient world. You see these hanging gardens are attributed to Nebuchadnezzar who had married the daughter of Cyaxeres.

When Nebuchadnezzar's father Nebopolasar conquered Nineveh with Cyaxeres, they did what was often done in those days, they formed a marriage relationship and sealed their alliance by a marriage. The offspring of this marriage married Nebuchadnezzar's Median princess and she came to live in Babylon. Naturally, she would miss in the sands of Babylon, the beautiful hills of Media in that dry thirsty land. She was use to the high lands of Media, And Nebuchadnezzar being the ideal type of husband that he was tried to make his wife very happy. He decided to build her an artificial mountain and beautiful hanging gardens. Now we don't know whether he succeeded in making her happy but we do know that he succeeded in building one of the wonders of the ancient world, the hanging gardens. These have been excavated and the foundations of these gardens have been dug up. You can still see today the conduits which obviously carried the water to water the gardens.

The other interesting thing in Babylon today in the remains of the temple tower. This was practically demolished by Alexander the Great. But from the description that we have, It was a thing of extreme beauty. And Professor Koldeway, the German archaeologist has helped to reconstruct by his description of what they dug up there in the early part of the century when they were excavating in Babylon. It actually rose in a series of seven stages and the top one contained a shrine, a divine shrine in which the Babylonians worshiped their gods. The side of this tower has been excavated, We know today that it measured 300 feet by 300 feet and it towered up by a distance of about 300 feet. Now that was not quite as tall as the great pyramid at Egypt. Nevertheless it was an imposing structure.

You can visit the Euphrates River today and ace there the new channel that the River Euphrates has cut. You see originally the Euphrates River flowed right through the center of old Babylon. As you walk through the ruins of Babylon today you can see the pools where the ancient river use to flow.

What interested me most about Babylon was what the old Hebrew prophet had said in Jeremiah 51:37 "And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons, (jackals) an astonishment, and a hissing, without an inhabitant." And you know as you wander through the ruins of Babylon today, a more accurate description you couldn't find anywhere, Who would have imagined it, the golden city, the city that was built by Nebuchadnezzar would become an uninhabited ruin?

A visit to the summer palace of Nebuchadnezzar is very convincing evidence of the fulfillment of this Hebrew prophet's statement. You can stand there on the dry and the dusty ruins and just see where the archaeologist has dug. In fact when I was there I was wandering around the great high mound and I was just coming around from the wide of a mound when all of a sudden staring me in the face was a jackal, like a wild dog. He turned on his heels and he ran off. And that's all that inhabited Babylon over the years. It's interesting that the prophet Jeremiah said over two and a half thousand years ago that it wouldn't be inhabited by human beings except by jackals.

Now Heroditus the Greek historians said that Babylon was a vast city, He said it measured 60 miles in circumference. Now we know today that he was incorrect in making that statement. We know that Babylon's circumference was ten and a half miles, making it the greatest city of antiquity. But what I'm

3. SECRETS IN STONE

interested in is this, that archaeologists today are showing us that the pen of the historian is often wrong and they're correcting what the historians have been telling us about the places. Many times you find that an archaeologist has dug down they are correcting misconceptions that we have had regarding these ancient cities. But the wonderful thing is that never one statement that's ever been made by any prophet, any Bible writer has ever had to be corrected because what they have said is being verified today by the spate of the archaeologist.

You see around Babylon they had huge walls, Now Herodotus said that the walls towered up to about 200 feet, Now we know today that that was a slight exaggeration because they towered about 60 feet. These walls were not just ordinary walls. They were actually double walls and strong, certainly impregnable from without.

There are stamps which have a copy of the tiles of the Ishtar Gate which are shown in the East Berlin Museum today in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. The Germans you see were the ones that excavated ancient Babylon and so most of the evidence of ancient Babylon is in the Berlin Museum today. Those stamps have been made to commemorate the diggings of old Babylon.

At Babylon you can find there the excavations of a Greek amphitheatre. You see the Greeks couldn't live in a place without building an amphitheatre and there it still stands among the ruins of old Babylon today.

However the most interesting thing that I found about ancient Babylon was that the king Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. So significant was the dream that this king had that it was recorded by one of the Old Testament prophets by the name of Daniel. It concerns Babylon the city that we've just been looking at. You see, Nebuchadnezzar had built Babylon to last forever and he hoped that his dynasty would never die. As he pondered the future he wondered just what lay in front of the future for his kingdom and he wanted his kingdom to last forever.

One night he fell into a troubled sleep and while he slept he dreamed. In the morning he woke up and he knew that he had a dream, But you know what it's like. Sometimes you wake up in the morning and you know you've dreamed something but you can't remember what it was. Well that was the trouble with poor Nebuchadnezzar. He realized that he had dreamed but he couldn't remember what he dreamed.

So he decided that the only thing that he could do was to call in his advisers, those trusted men of his kingdom who were around him continually to advise him in all matters of foreign affairs and internal matters and things that would help the kingdom. So he called in the wise men and the astrologers and the educated men. He said, "Look men! I've dreamed a dream and I can't remember what it was." "Well," the wise men and the educated men said, "Look, Nebuchadnezzar! You tell us the dream and we'll interpret it for you." You see those wise men could easily work out an interpretation to the dream, but of course the difficulty was that Nebuchadnezzar the king couldn't remember what the dream was. Now the king had a lot of confidence in these advisers that he had around him. And he just thought that they were stalling for time so he offered them great gifts if they were able to make known to him this very troublesome dream. But they couldn't.

When he realized that they couldn't he became very furious, and ordered, if you please, that all the wise men of Babylon be killed including a young Jewish slave by the name of Daniel. Now Daniel had been taken captive when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem in 586 BC and he took with him some Jewish captives, Among them was a man by the name of Daniel. He had been educated in Babylon and was considered to be one of the wise men so brilliant was this young Jewish slave.

When Arioch the king's captain went about to carry out the king's decree, Daniel wanted to know what all this was about. So the king's captain Arioch explained to him.

Daniel 2:27-28. "Daniel answered in the presence of the king and said, The secret which the king has demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king: 28. "But there is a God in heaven that reveals secrets and makes 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."

3. SECRETS IN STONE

So Daniel was standing there and he said "Look: The dream that you've dreamed actually. Nebuchadnezzar has to do with the latter days. It's really the whole history of mankind." And Daniel simply asked for a little bit of time and he went away.

Verse 29. "An for thee. O king, thy thoughts come into thy mind upon thy bed what should come to pass hereafter; (in the future) and He that reveals secrets makes known to thee what shall come to pass."

And you can just imagine the breathless king, as he was sitting there listening to the wine man Daniel, waiting for him to relate the dream. And Daniel begins.

Verses 31-35. "You O king. saw and behold a great image. This great image whose brightness was excellent stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32. "This image 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 saw till that a stone was cut out without hands, Which smote the image upon his feet that were of Iron and clay and break 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 threshing floors; 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."

"Now that's what you saw king, a great image. Don't you remember the head was of gold, the breast and arms of silver, the thighs of brass, the legs of Iron and the feet part of iron and part of clay?" And as King Nebuchadnezzar that mighty king of Babylon listened, the whole dream came back to him and he remembered it. And Daniel began to interpret it.

Verses 33-38 "This in the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

37. "You O king are a king of kings: for the God of heaven, has given thee a kingdom, power and strength, and glory.

38. "And where so ever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into your hand and has made you ruler over them all. You are this head of gold."

Now that must have been very pleasing to Nebuchadnezzar, for what a beautiful fitting symbol that the kingdom of ancient Babylon is represented by this golden head, the golden city of Babylon. But then came some very, very bad news.

Verse 39. "And after thee (that is, after the Babylonian empire) shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee...."

Just as the prophet predicted before Nebuchadnezzar over 600 years BC Babylon fell in the year 538 BC. An every student of history knows that when Babylon fell the next great power that took over world control was the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians.

You know. It's rather interesting that in that great image that Nebuchadnezzar dreamed that the golden head represented Babylon, then the breast and arms of silver. If you read history you'll find that when the Medes and the Persians went into war they wore silver corsets as a protection, And in 538 BC Babylon fell and Medo-Persia took over.

Well, you say if Babylon was built to last forever, if their walls were impregnable however did the Medes and the Persians conquer ancient Babylon? Well it's a very interesting story. For way back by the prophet Isaiah he predicted that Cyrus the Persian king was going to be the one who was going to conquer Babylon. Over 150 years before Cyrus was born, the prophet Isaiah not only predicted that Cyrus would overthrow Babylon but even named him 150 years before he was born. And Cyrus came down with the Medes and the Persian army. When he came down against the walls of Babylon they were absolutely impregnable.

3. SECRETS IN STONE

There was enough food stored in that city. They needed to close the gates. No one needed to go in and out for 15 years. In fact, so unconcerned were they about the Medes and the Persians. The Babylonians knew that they were outside the city but they were having a drunken spree, They knew the Medes and the Persians were outside the wall but they weren't concerned because they knew that their city was impregnable from without.

But what Cyrus did was this. You remember that the Euphrates River flowed right through the center of ancient Babylon. What he did was to divert the water and so the level of the Euphrates River dropped. He had one third of his soldiers go up against the walls, And as the water level in the Euphrates dropped, because he had diverted it into an artificial lake, then his soldiers went underneath the walls. But even then they would have been caught like rats in a trap had it not been for that night the gates inside the city were left open. Not only were there walls on the outside of the city but there were gates on the inside. Some of those gates were left open because that night they were having a drunken revelry. You can read about that in the fifth chapter of the book of Daniel. It's termed Belshazzar's feast.

So the Medes and the Persians came down and they conquered Babylon. This is the capital this is their city. Decapolis the city of the Medes and the Persians in Iran. You see Decapolis was the chief capital of the ancient kings of Persia, particularly chosen by King Darius, This city was sacked and burned by Alexander the Great about 2,500 years ago. And it's been shaken by uncounted earthquakes and it had rock breaking temperatures but the amazing thing in that this city has been remarkably preserved.

When I was over in Iran a couple of years ago. I went down the main street and I began to talk to some of the folk and I found that opium smoking in a tremendous problem. They have in one city that I visited over 30,000 addicts, And you can see them growing the opium poppy.

But as you approach Decapolis and go up the stairs its a magnificent city, a beautiful city. You can see there the stairs leading up. You can see there the entrance, the main entrance that you went in an you entered Decapolis. The limestone bulls they have are over 18 feet tall and behind those bulls are giant columns over 60 feet tall. Originally they held the roof of the anti-chamber.

On the Eastern side of Decapolis in the monumental staircase which boarded the reception hall, for the Persians had a reception hall, And no one could go into the king but first they had to wait in the reception hall, On the edges of the walls there is seen the different nations bringing tribute to the Persian kings.

You see the power that overthrew Babylon was a dual power. That's why its called the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. Now eventually the Persian empire became much stronger and so generally speaking when we talk about the Medes and the Persians we just talk about the Persians but remember initially it was a dual kingdom.

You can see there the Medes and the Persians. The Medes are those with the round hats and the Persians are those with the square hats. They also have a different dress on the two types of soldiers, The Persians wear robes and the Medes wear dresses.

As I walked up the stairway leading to the reception hall, I saw where Alexander the Great had set fire to Decapolis. I could see that one of the giant pillars had fallen down on the stairs and the stairs have been affected by the burning pillar still standing there today.

There can be seen Darius struggling with a beast. Now the beast there represents evil, and of course Darius the king is seen defeating him. Then in seen Darius being held up by the nations and he ruled there, the lotus flower in his left hand the scepter in his right hand and underneath, row upon row representing the different nations that the Medes and the Persians had conquered. Right up the top in the Sun disc. Darius was the builder of Decapolis.

I walked down some of the streets of Decapolis and I saw there how the original city would have looked. For there you can see the beautiful reflection in the walls. It in a mirror-like reflection. And two and a half thousand years ago in the city you would have been able to see your face anywhere you walked. This was

3. SECRETS IN STONE

the ancient city of Cyuss the man who conquered Babylon. And all that's left today are a few columns that are standing and a stork's nest.

I visited the tomb of Cyuss and there you can see the place where he was buried. Not very far away from Cyrus' tomb you can find some of the other great Medo-Persian kings where they're buried. For example you can find there on the rock-face the tomb of Darius and the tomb of Artaxerxes. Beneath one of them is Valerian the Roman emperor whose kneeling before Shapur in submission pleading for his life. Also not very far away in fact, just about half a mile away from these tombs is a Zoroastrian fire altar. Now the Zoroastrians were the early Persians. They didn't worship Idols. In fact they worshiped fire and water and air. Do you know I stood at that fire altar and I just merely whispered. And my friend who was travelling with me, I got him to stand about half a mile away out in the paddock. And I just talked in a soft tone, and he could hear me over half a mile away. That's how perfect the acoustics are in that area.

So those Zoroastrian priests would stand there and the thousands of people would come into that area, and that was their temple.

But that's not all because even the kingdom of Medo-Persia wasn't going to last forever because I continue to read Daniel's interpretation of this strange dream, that Nebuchadnezzar had.

Verse 39. "And after you (after Babylon) shall arise another kingdom inferior to you."

That was the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. Just as silver was inferior to gold so the Medo-Persian power was inferior to the Babylonians. But that's not all,

Verse 39. "And another third kingdom of brass which shall bear rule over all the earth."

In the year 331 BC Medo-Persia was followed by the great Grecian empire of Alexander the Great.

Do you know the early Greeks were the foremost artists of the day. And Greek architecture has set a pattern for nearly every state capital building in the United States and around the world.

In the center of Athens you can see there the steep hill called the Acropolis which rises about 230 feet up into the air right in the center of the city. The Acropolis is dominated by the most perfect and the most magnificent ruin in the world, the Parthenon. Do you know it is built of marble and no mortar was used in its construction. And there's not a single straight line in that building or an absolutely perpendicular line in the entire building. You see the Greek architects used curve lines to counteract optical illusions. And since the eye, when you tend to look you make a thing horizontal and therefore a line in the distance will tend to dip in the center. In order to overcome that perspective fault, the Greeks made the floor line of the Parthenon follow a curve of a circle otherwise it would seem to sag. You could see how the line rises in the center and that is to overcome perspective. The beams on the top of the Doric columns all follow the same principle, The columns all tilt inwards. And if you projected the lines right up they would meet one and a half miles above the Parthenon. You see the eye tends to make straight lines look concave and therefore the Parthenon columns swell two-fifths of the way up in order to look straight. On the corner columns they bend in.

Then there's Mars Hill. This is where the Apostle Paul stood over 2,000 years ago looking down over the Agora or the marketplace. Now the Agora is world-famous because world-famous men walked these streets, men like Pericles, Uripedes, Sophacles, Plato, Aristotle and here, if you please Paul himself argued with the Athenian philosophers.

The Stoa of Atlas has been reconstructed as a museum and was completed in the year 1956 by the American Archaeological Association. At the other end of the Agora from the Stoa of Atlas is the most magnificently preserved temple in Greece. It's the temple of Hystaspes, But even with the brilliance of Greece, Greece wasn't going to last forever because the prophet went on to state.

3. SECRETS IN STONE

Verse 40, "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: for as much as iron breaks in pieces and subdues all things: and as iron that breaks all these shall it break in pieces and bruise."

You see Babylon had gone. Medo-Persia had gone. Now Greece fell in the year 168 BC. Taking over from Greece was the iron monarchy of Rome, History simply records that after Babylon followed by Medo-Persia followed by Greece. Rome would then rule the world.

In about the middle of the first century BC two prominent statesmen appeared on the Roman scene. One was by the name of Pompeii who conducted some very successful campaigns down in the Middle East. The other man was by the name of Julius Caesar who was very successful in Gaul and in conquering England. These two men together with Crassus formed the first trio government. They would have been able to rule co-jointly had it not been for a political intrigue that developed. And Julius Caesar felt very insecure. So he moved down against Pompeii.

In order to put Pompeii to the flight, Pompeii withdrew and fled down into Egypt and Julius Caesar pursued him. While he was down in Egypt. Julius Caesar's men murdered him. And Caesar installed Cleopatra an ruler of Egypt and the successor of the Ptolemaic empire. Then Caesar went back and he campaigned in Turkey, and it is here that he made those famous words which probably many of us today have heard when he said "I came. I saw. I conquered." Then he returned to Rome but he wasn't destined to rule Rome for very long.

By the way. It was Julius Caesar that brought in the new calendar called the Julian Calendar. One of our months, July, is named after Julius Caesar.

However the Romans couldn't stand his lack of democracy. You see Julius Caesar had been out in the East and he had seen the way the kings out there ruled and he tended to take too much into his own hands. He wanted to proclaim himself more as a king rather than head of the senate. So finally a revolt broke out and Caesar was assassinated in the year 44 BC by the instigation of Brutus.

After Caesar fell there were two main contenders for the ruler ship in Rome. One was Octavian and the other was Anthony. Now Anthony entered into an affair with Cleopatra down in Egypt and finally Octavian and Anthony met in a naval battle of Actium in 31 BC and Anthony and Cleopatra committed suicide.

Then Octavian became head of the Roman empire and he didn't really like the idea of being called the king, like Julius Caesar took upon himself. He called himself emperor, and he accepted the title of Augustus and so he was known in history as Augustus Caesar.

It was during the reign of Augustus Caesar that Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem as recorded in Luke 2:1, "And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed," That's the decree that brought Mary and Joseph, who were living up in Nazareth down to Bethlehem. (I'll show you some wonderful sights of Bethlehem and Nazareth in the next lecture).

Now following Augustus Caesar was Tiberius Caesar. But as time went on Rome's glory too began to fade under the attacks of the Barbarians coming down from the north. They began to attack the borders of Rome. You see history records that there had been four world empires. Babylon followed by Medo-Persia followed by Greece, and then Rome. Symbolized by the head of gold representing Babylon; the breast and arms of silver representing Medo-Persia; the belly and thighs of brass representing Greece and the legs of iron representing Rome.

Now I want you to listen to a statement by Edward Gibbon, about the rise and the decline of the Roman empire. No one would ever suggest that Edward Gibbon was a believer in the Bible or the Old Testament prophets. Not at all. In fact he was sarcastic as far as Christianity was concerned. But I want you to notice the phraseology that Edward Gibbon uses in his book *The Rise and the Decline of the Roman Empire*. This is what he says. "The arms of the republic sometimes vanquished in battle, always victorious in war advance with rapid steps to the Euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine and the Ocean. And the images of gold or silver or brass that might serve to represent the nations and their kings were successively broken by the iron

3. SECRETS IN STONE

monarchy of Rome." Think of It! Here Edward Gibbon in the last century uses the very name phraseology an the prophet wrote down 2,500 years earlier, So now you see we're right down in the monarchy of Rome.

I've often thought, as I have thought about this interesting dream that Nebuchadnezzar had, if you had four empires, Babylon followed by Medo-Persia followed by Greece, followed by Rome what naturally would you think"! Well I would naturally think that Rome would be followed by another world dominating power. But the prophet says. No. History he says will not repeat itself. For when Rome went down the Hebrew prophet said. Never again will any single power ever dominate the world.

Verse 41. "And whereas thou saw 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 saw the iron mixed with miry clay."

You see it's going to be a divided kingdom.

Verse 42. "And an the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken." (partly brittle.)

You see, the prophet predicted that after Rome fell there wouldn't be another world dominating power. Rather, Rome was going to be divided up into some strong kingdoms and some week ones. It was going to be represented by those ten toes, into ten divisions. Some would be strong and some would be brittle or week.

In 410 AD the Goths succeeded in attacking Rome under Alaric. Then they were followed by the Huns under Attila who invaded the Roman borders. In 456 AD the Vandals come down from the north of Africa. They sailed across the Mediterranean up the coast of Italy and Genseric attacked Rome. The other Barbarian kingdoms came down. And finally in the year 476 AD the old Roman empire collapsed and it was divided, if you please, into exactly ten divisions. There were the Franks, the Huns, the Burgundians, the Suevi, the Vandals, the Visigoths, the Anglo-Saxons, the Oetrogoths, the Lombards, and the Herull. In fact that's where we get our Europe from today, from the breakup of the old Roman empire.

Now you think of it: over 2,500 years before a Hebrew prophet had predicted that there would be four universal world empires. Then he said that there wouldn't be a fifth but rather after the fourth, the fourth empire would be divided into ten divisions. Some would be strong out of those ten divisions and some would be week and all the European powers that we have today have come from the breakup of those ten divisions of Rome. We have the Franks who became the French; the Anglo-Saxons who became Britain; the Huns who became Germany; the Burgundians who became Switzerland; the Suevi who became Portugal; the Vandals who became Africa; the Visigoths who became Spain; and the Ostrogoths, the Lombards and the Heruli who became Italy.

Verse 43. "And whereas thou saw iron mixed with miry clay they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even an iron is not mixed with clay."

Now it says that these divided nations, these ten divisions of the old Roman empire would try intermarriage. They would try to mingle themselves with the seed of men. They would try to use intermarriage In order to bring about unity to weld their empire together.

But even that the prophet said would fail.

Now you take the first world war, Actually the first world war was really a family squabble because all of the rulers of Europe were related. For example they were all children of Christian Nine of Denmark, one son ruled in Denmark; one daughter was the queen of England, the wife of Edward VII; another was the king of Greece; another was the daughter of the Czar of Russia. So the kings of England, Russia, Greece, Norway, Germany, Denmark were all either first cousins or brothers, And the war of 1914 was really nothing more than a family squabble of Queen Victoria's grandchildren.

3. SECRETS IN STONE

Verse 43 said that even though they would try to mingle themselves with the seed of men. They would try intermarriage but they shall not cleave or they will not join. Here the prophet, 2,500 years ago said that Europe would always remain separate powers. They'll never ever weld themselves into one great unified kingdom in the past.

When I was over there in New York just recently, I went through the headquarters of the United Nations. The Greek girl who was my guide and she was taking me through she took me from assembly room to assembly room and she was showing me the art work that anyone can see there today, that the artist has painted to try and depict world unity. As I looked at these artists' drawings of the depictions of how the artist saw world unity, the United Nations. I couldn't help but think of the old prophet's statement, "They will not cleave." they will not join one to another.

You think of the men down through the ages who have tried to weld Europe together. I think of Charlemagne right back in the 8th century. I think of Charles V in the 16th century. I think of Louis XIV in the 18th century, I think of Napoleon Bonaparte in the 19th century. By the way Napoleon Bonaparte was determined to make Europe one. He was meeting with success after success until someone finally said to him that maybe the gods were against him. Napoleon said that the gods are on the side of the kingdom with the heaviest artillery. He said, "I will be master of the world." And he had a little statue made "Napoleon Bonaparte, master of the world." But Napoleon Bonaparte went into Russia with 500,000 men and crawled out with less than 13,000. Hitler later made the very same mistake as Napoleon made a hundred years before of attacking Russia. Then he went to Waterloo and that was his Waterloo. For the prophecy said. "They will not cleave one to another." Then in the 20th century we have Kaiser William. He was going to build the great German empire and unite the iron and the clay. But he ended up as history recorded sawing wood in Holland, Then more recently came Adolf Hitler, He was going to change the history of the world. He boasted for the next one thousand years to come. He would build the great race that would unite and dominate the globe but today Hitler is dead and gone for the prophet said. "They will not cleave," they will not join one to another.

I want to tell you that those same words hang over Moscow's aims for world domination too. For the prophet said that Russia and all these other countries that think they're going to rule the world. "They will not cleave one to another." they will not hold together.

And suddenly the prophet stops and he says, "Look king: You see that thing that's coming out of the side there?" And the king looks up and he sees a great stone that is cut out without hands. It comes down and hits the image on its feet and the whole image breaks up, And the king watches, for this stone that smites the image on its feet becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth.

Then Daniel the prophet makes this very interesting statement.

Verses 44.45. "And in the days of these kings (that is in the days when Europe is divided) 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. "For as much as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter and the dream is certain and the interpretation thereof sure,"

You and I can rest in that. Just as there has been four universal empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, followed by the division of Europe into ten divisions, just so we can be certain of the next great coming event which is the kingdom of Christ and it's going to rule for ever. I tell you we must be citizens of that.

Next time as we journey across to the land of Israel we are going to explore that very interesting and historic land. And were going to answer questions like these. Why do both the Jews and the Arabs regard Jerusalem as a holy city? Why can't the Jews and the Arabs live in piece together? What lies behind the problems in the Middle East? How have recent excavations in Israel helped to completely change the

3. SECRETS IN STONE

thinking of scholars and archaeologists around the world? I am going to answer these questions and more next time as we journey over to Amazing Discoveries in the Land of Israel.

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