

The Prophet Daniel, who made known to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, the significance of the vision of the metallic image, informs us that it must be taken to represent the existence, order, or succession, etc., of the four great monarchies of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. The principles of interpretation thus outlined must be accepted as true ones by all Christians, nevertheless we need not conclude from this fact that no others are ever to be brought to bear upon this particular vision, provided, of course, that they do not lead us outside the limits of interpretation that were fixed for our guidance by inspiration. Commentators generally explain why the image was composed of metals instead of other substances, as different kinds of wood of varying values, for example, but in so doing they miss the significance of the order in which the gold, the silver, the brass, the iron and the clay appear, is fully explained when it is stated that the relative order of the metals in the image, as arranged from the head to the foot of the image, symbolizes moral degeneracy in the human race.

This question, however, passed, for the question now remains to be asked is, that other and very important truths are taught by the order in which the metals occur in the image, and also by these particular metals? It is evident that the metals must have had some special purpose in view when He constructed the visioned image of metals instead of wood or of stone, and this purpose could not be made manifest by the use of any other substances, and we shall find also that by the use of metals, and by presenting them in the order in which they are described, He made His purpose clearly discernible.

also glued to the doors, and there was no part of the sacred edifice, either internal or external, that was not covered and adorned. Among the furnishings for the temple there were 100,000 vials of gold; 80,000 golden dishes; 60,000 large basins of gold; 2,000 measures, all made of gold; and 10,000 golden vessels of silver. Other gold utensils. Incredible as these statements may appear to us, we must admit their truth in great part for the reason itself, that they are so abundantly attested in those early documents. From II Chron., i, 15, we learn that Solomon made both gold and silver as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones. This is confirmed by Herodotus (i, 166), who says that Tyne, or Tyrus, had heaped up gold as the mire of the streets, and silver as the dust. These were the famous Tyrian purple years before the building of the temple at Jerusalem, and was besieged and captured by Nebuchadnezzar B. C. 586. Croesus, king of Lydia, was, according to Herodotus (i, 74), the richest man the world ever knew. His dominion was taken from him by Cyrus, six years before the fall of Babylon.

These accounts must suffice since they show us clearly that almost all the treasures of immense treasures of gold, as handed down to us, are referable in point of time to the days of the fall of Babylon. As gold is generally so much easier separated from baser metals than other metals are, it would naturally come into use first, and when the Bible assigns the date of the fall of Babylon, we are deluged it is scientifically correct, and in harmony with the progressive development of mineralogical knowledge. The ancients reckoned the comparative value of gold and silver as 10 to 1, and in view of all the facts there can be little or no doubt in the mind of any one that the period of which we are speaking was a time when gold was the chief, and silver a secondary, substance.

2 The age of silver. We have seen that an age of gold, where gold abounded, would naturally take precedence of an age of silver; and attention will now first be directed to some of the easily discernible causes that led to the silver age next in order. As already stated, gold, in general, is quite easily separated from the earth, and from which it is found abundantly, and for this reason it would be sought after first, and as a consequence, the supply would sooner become exhausted, or at least diminished to such an extent that silver would largely take its place.

1. The age of gold. The kingdom of Babylon was founded B. C. 2234, and ceased to exist as an independent power B. C. 538. The age of gold corresponds very closely with this same period of time. That it is so tested by the accounts that have come down to us of the immense hoards of gold, and other riches also, that those ancient people possessed. Some of these accounts would hardly strike our minds as unworthy of serious attention were they merely substantiated in a great measure by writers whose veracity no Christian presumes to call in question. Taking up the account of the sack of Nineveh we find that a single temple in the city of Babylon that erected to Belus—was enriched with vessels of gold and other gold ornaments to the value of \$700,000,000. When Sardanapalus or Asurbanipal, the last king of Assyria, B. C. 747, burned himself together with a large part of his treasures, the gold alone amounted to \$600,000,000. In English money, or about \$7,000,000,000. The substance of both these statements may be found in Rollin's Ancient History. According to Josephus, Antiquities VI. chap. liii. the doors of Solomon's temple were overlaid with plates of gold. Plates of gold

Inter and awful wars of the eastern kings swept from sight the gold that had been amassed in times of general peace during the preceding centuries. Being the most precious metal, people naturally hid it, rather than their silver, in the earth, in caves, or sunk it in the rivers, to conceal it from the grasp of the despoiler. Multitudes who doubtless took this course were killed; others were banished from their country, and dying in exile never divulged the secret of their hidden wealth. Much gold was also in times of peace buried with the dead.

3. The bronze, (brass) age. It is generally admitted that the "brass" of Scripture and "bronze" are one and the same substance, or alleged metal. "Brass," as we know it, did not come into use until about the time of the Roman empire, B. C. 31. The bronze

age, as all are aware, precedes the iron age. The period intervening between his arranging the Colossus and the bronze image is thus demonstrated to be scientifically and historically correct, and as there is no conflict between his facts, all that remains for us to do is to assign some period when the transition from the bronze to the iron age took place. Colonel Rawlinson, one of the ancient souldiers of the world, was made of bronze, and erected about B. C. 275, and was thrown down by a earthquake B. C. 225. It is tempting to suppose that he resisted it and it was afterward sold to a junk dealer.

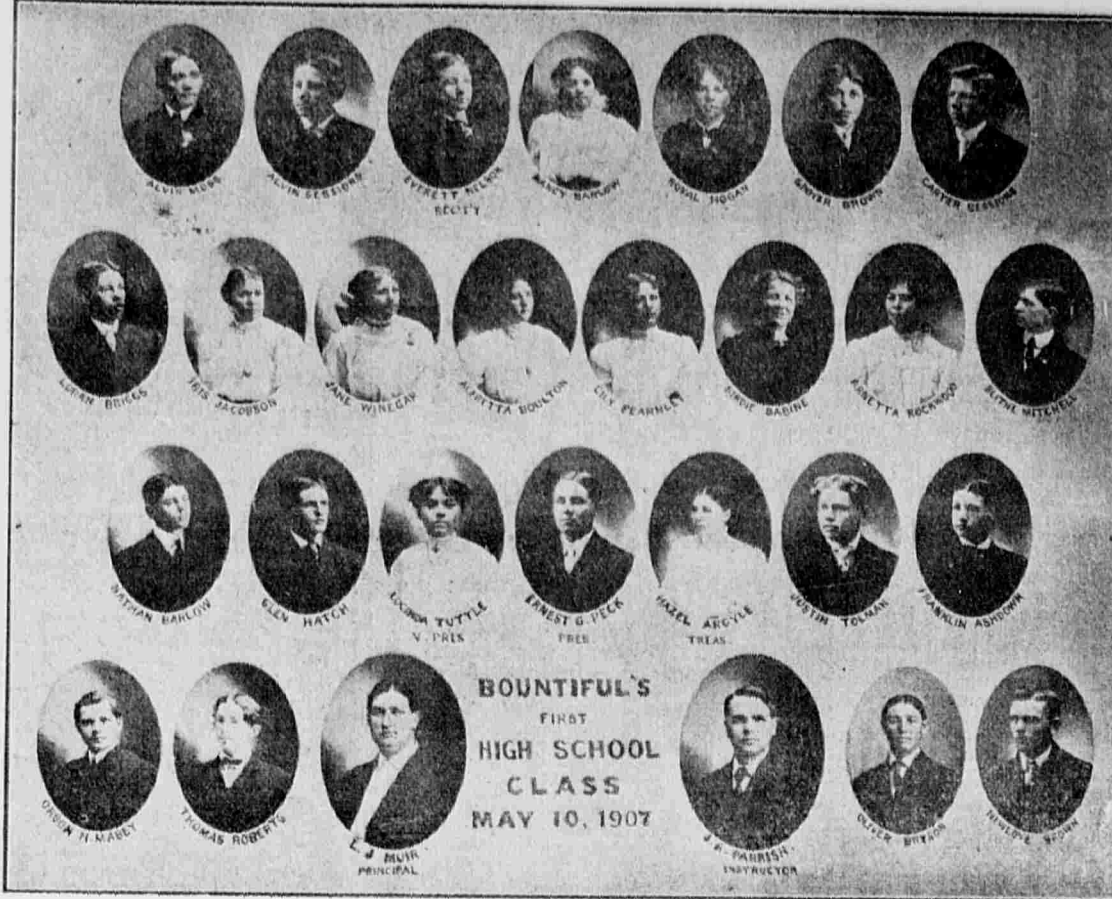
Those times may then be taken as representing the highest development of the human mind from the stone age onward it made way for the advent of

the iron age—iron being largely used by the Romans in the first century before Christ. During the years, therefore, that elapsed between B. C. 550 and A. D. 1, it may safely be said that Rome gave to the world the age of iron. The use of iron before this period was not sufficiently general to justify the naming of the time in its honor. It had, however, so since. Admitting, as we must, that the traditions that sprang from Rome, or that owe their civilization to her, did not pass from the bronze to the iron age simultaneously with her, that circumstance does not alter the fact that the age of iron had dawned upon the world.

4. The age of iron, and the sub-age of clay—These two ages cannot be separated from each other in point of time; for Daniel shows us very clearly that during its whole existence the latter was in the closest contact with the age of iron, and will even to the end at the same time that the latter age does. The period in which we are emphatically the age of iron, is the period in which we are at the same time the age of clay. We attest this truth with a united voice. Some, it is true, distinguish these particular times as the age of steel; but since steel is nothing but iron with a little phosphorus, it can necessarily include the steel age. We run their course at the same time, and the two legs of the image point out this fact quite clearly, and they also contain the germ of the final judgment of this metal into the divisions of iron and steel. As already stated, we are living in the age of iron, our houses are being built of it. Hundreds of miles of iron and steel tracks join distant parts of the land together, and muscles of steel instead of flesh, alone make possible the gigantic traffic of modern times. Wires of steel instead of sinews, all that is wrapped around and around like a rope of thread. Our huge merchant vessels are framed in steel, and the floating forts of the sea are built of it, and the battle-pedd, iron is about the sole instrument of death. This metal is now supreme, but grand though its reign be, the end of the lease of life of the iron age is at hand, when it shall be succeeded by another spring which God, for iron, will bring silver and gold for brass, Isa. xl, 17.

When shall the transition occur? This is a serious question, for, since all the transition from one age to another has occurred during times of great trouble, we may analogically infer that this last great change will also be accompanied with similar demonstrations; and such will truly be the case for the Scriptures inform us that the iron age shall come to an end amid the throes of nations and during a reign of terror, death and confusion. Quite a good deal of latitude was also given in pointing out the transition period between the different ages; but the corresponding time for the last transition can be narrowed very materially.

Let us now fix a time for the beginning of the sub-*age* of clay, which, fortunately, can be done with great certainty. I have noticed that there is a great deal of talk of the "clay" of the Biblical representation of the metallic image. There is gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay, wherein the "clay" of the image is the "base" of the metals. How much more harmonious the symbolism would appear were there only a metal where the "clay" is. But right here, in the Bible, is the answer. Metallurgical science comes to our aid, to such an extent that we can brush aside the dust of the clay of the feet, and see the "clay" of the feet as the beautiful, glittering, "Clay Metal," Aluminum. Thus, then, that the prophet, Daniel, has the image arrayed in gorgeous metals and that the feet are of the "clay" of the latter. But why not "aluminum" when he wrote his prophecy? Simply because the metal was not known in his day, nor for long and many centuries.

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quence, we are standing on the verge of the terrible, but avoidable, close of the iron age. One brief agricultural reference respecting them may be found in Dan. xii. The discovery of the foundation of the tower of Babel warning from Almighty God that the time for a new order of things is fast approaching at hand. The ancient prophet laid aware of the fact that the feet of the image and more than 2,400 years later science found it. The secret of the tower of Babel had covered up so long and remained so faithfully. Every pound of aluminum produced since 1828 rings out its own note of triumph, for now the chimno is swelling to hundred notes that crackle to the ends of the earth, proclaiming the end of the iron age. Aluminum is like the new day, new to the nations. To you, saints of God, the notes you hear from the metal in the clay of the feet of the image, are the notes of the angels of heaven, constructed instruments of aluminum to warm your hearts, to inspire your courage afresh, to increase your faith in the Lord, to give you strength in days. Daniel says that in the days of certain kings the God of heaven should set up a kingdom that should never be destroyed, and that you should use these words a little and make them read: In the days of aluminum the Church of Christ shall again come forth from the earth. In A. D. 1828, aluminum was first produced. In A. D. 1880, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was re-established on the earth. A prophetic declaration was thus fulfilled. In conclusion we shall in all charity remind our sectarian friends that the Church of Christ is not the only church in the beginning of the age of iron. Is not the one that was to be established at the time of its end, or when the sub-age of the iron age was to end. This proposition is so self evident

anything but wilful blindness. Again, no one doubts that the *ex-communicated* nations of this period are living in the Iron age. It follows that their form part necessarily of the Iron legion. The language of the *ex-communicated* then, can remain respecting their standing before God? The Almighty in His anger is about to grind the nations to powder. He has appointed in His infinite goodness He has appointed a place of refuge from the impending doom. The house of refuge is the house of the *ex-communicated* or the *excommunicated* saints. There is no other. The one He offers us is large enough to contain all mankind, it is grand enough, where we can all go to satisfy the righteous desires of all classes of men. No one will have to forsake his nobility or character, for when joined the masses will be gathered there. No one need leave his refinement behind him when he enters.

THOMAS W. BROOKER

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