

The Gospel According to John

12-2-2020

1. Two weeks ago, I taught in part how the *Divine Decrees* and the *Divine Institutions* related to the *Four Unconditional Covenants*.
2. Before returning where we left off last week, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
3. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page three.

Doctrine of the Four Divine Institutions

Introduction

1. The four divine institutions are volition, marriage, family and nationalism.
2. Now let's see how both the Divine Institutions and Divine Decrees relate to God's established authority realms.
3. God, early on, established an organization chart. For example:
 - 3.1 A coequal, coinfinite and coeternal Jesus and Holy Spirit agreed to get under the authority of the Father. As deity they shared the triune nature of equality, however, in time Jesus and the Holy Spirit agreed to get under the authority of the Father.
 - 3.2 The Father developed the plan of propitiation and reconciliation, Christ agreed to execute the plan and the Holy Spirit agreed to reveal the plan.

Isa 48:16 "Come near me and listen to this: "From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there." And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with his Spirit.

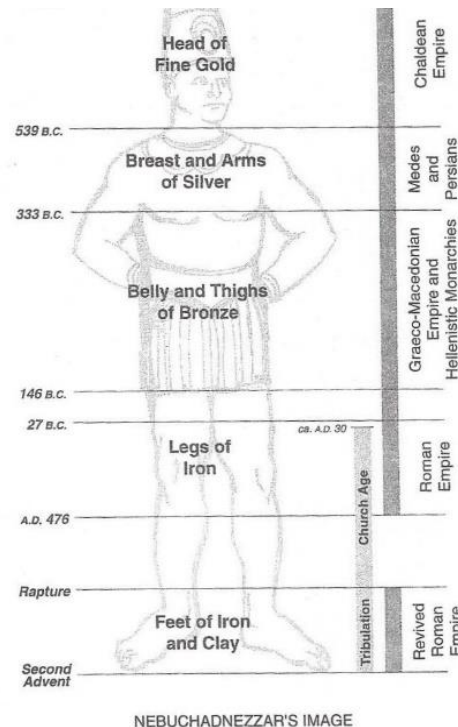
Isa 48:17 This is what the LORD says--your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.
 - 3.3 The principle of authority is clearly seen in the garden. The woman failed by refusing the authority of the Word and then the authority of the husband and was thus mentally seduced. Adam chose to eat the fruit and thus refused the authority of the Word.

4. God has established authorities to permit the proper functioning of His plan in the devil's world:

Expanded Translation

1Pe 5:5 In the same way you novices in Scripture place yourselves under orders of your pastor-teacher. Yes, every believer must submit to his or her right pastor-teacher and metabolize the teachings of your God appointed instructor; it must be done with humility for God places Himself in battle array against the arrogant, unteachable types. In contrast, He keeps on providing grace benefits to those who desire the Word of God.

5. Let's again, take a look at the giant statue of gold with explanation:

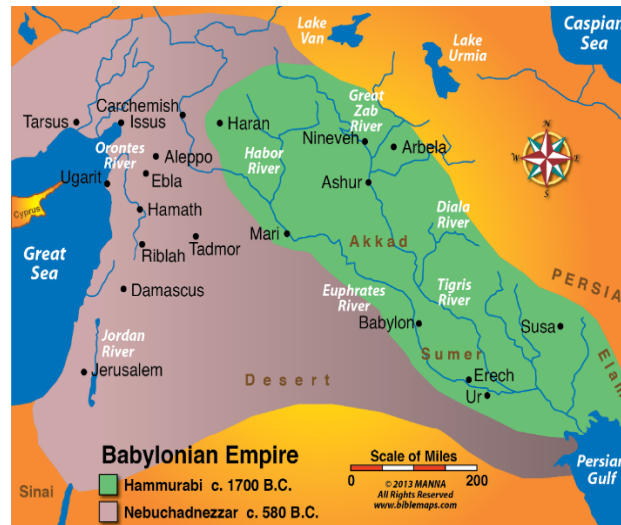


Chaldean Empire

You Nebuchadnezzar are the Head of Gold.

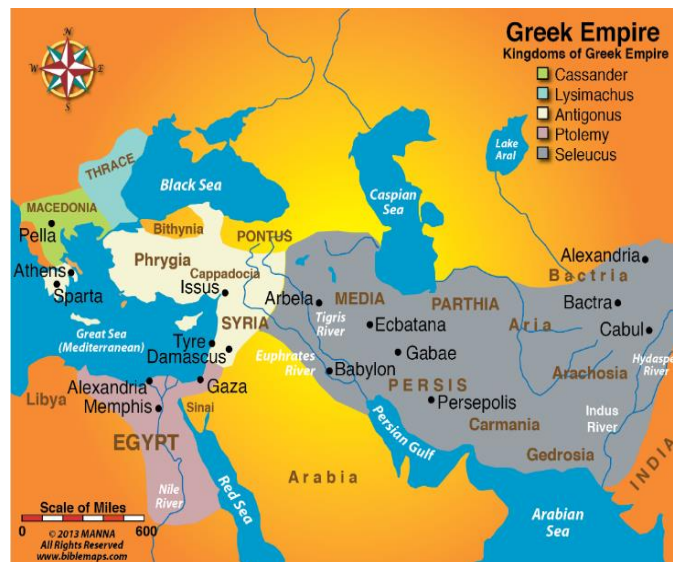
Dan 2:37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;

Dan 2:38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all.



Medo-Persia and Greece

Dan 2:39 "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours.



Greco-Macedonian Empire

Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. First Alexander the Great and then Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and lastly Seleucid.

You will recall our previous teachings regarding the war between the Ptolemy's and the Seleucid's over the control of Israel. The victory ultimately was decided by the Maccabean revolt resulting in a quasi "Jewish Nation."



The above three maps: representing the Ptolemy, Seleucid and Maccabean Empires give us a historical montage of the middle east after the death of Alexander. The three participated in several wars. Next will follow Rome which under Pompey made Israel a jewel in the crown of Rome.

Rome Empire

Dan 2:40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron -- for iron breaks and smashes everything -- and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. The Revived Roman Empire ruling in the Tribulation under the heading entitled The Divine Kingdom.



The Divine Kingdom

Dan 2:41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

Dan 2:42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.

Dan 2:43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

Dan 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Dan 2:45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands -- a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

"God will show the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

Dan 4:5 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in my bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me.

Dan 4:6 So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me.

Dan 4:7 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me ...

Dan 4:8 Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)

Dan 4:9 I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me.

Dan 4:10 These are the visions I saw while lying in my bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous.

Dan 4:11 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth.

Dan 4:12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the beasts of the field found shelter, and the birds of the air lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

Dan 4:13 "In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven.

Dan 4:14 He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

Dan 4:15 But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. "Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth.

Dan 4:16 Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.

Dan 4:17 "The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.'

Dan 4:18 "This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

Daniel Interprets the Vision

Dan 4:19 Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So, the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you." Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!

Dan 4:20 The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth,

Dan 4:21 with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the beasts of the field, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds of the air --

Dan 4:22 you, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

Dan 4:23 "You, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live like the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

The Interpretation by Daniel

Dan 4:24 "This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king:

Dan 4:25 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.

Dan 4:26 The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules.

Dan 4:27 Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

The Vision Fulfilled and woe to the Arrogant King ... Uh Oh!

Dan 4:28 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan 4:29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,

Dan 4:30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

Dan 4:31 The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.

Dan 4:32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most-High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

Get Ready for An Old Testament Likeness of Howard Hughes

Dan 4:33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

Recovery of the King

1. Now let's see how and why Nebuchadnezzar recovered and how God used the man to spread the Word.

Dan 4:36 At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before.

Dan 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

2. We must know the supremacy of His providence, without which not a single bird in the extended reaches of the Amazon forest have ever fallen off any limb, and not a single hair of any head turns grey or as in my case falls away.

3. We must know the supremacy of His word. Isa 55:11; Heb 1:3-14

NIV

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where unto I sent it.

NIV

Heb 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Heb 1:4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Heb 1:5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

Heb 1:6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Heb 1:7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

Heb 1:8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Heb 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

Heb 1:10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Heb 1:11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

Heb 1:12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

Heb 1:13 To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

Heb 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

4. We must know the supremacy of His purity. He never sinned. He never had one millisecond of a bad attitude or a sinful lust.

5. We must know the supremacy of His trustworthiness—that He always keeps His word, absolutely, without fail—and the supremacy of His justice; He will render all accounts settled in the universe, either on the cross or in hell.

6. We must know the supremacy of His patience. He has endured you and me for decades. He has endured the world, and He brings the sun out to shine on it. Can you imagine why the sun rose this morning on this wicked world, so full of sinners?

7. We must know the supremacy of Christ and His sovereign-like obedience—He kept every one of His Father's commands and embraced the cross with total willingness. He is meek and lowly and tender. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering flax. (Isa 42:1-4)

Isa 42:1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations

Isa 42:2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.

Isa 42:3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

Isa 42:4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope."

8. We must know the supremacy of His wrath. One day it will explode on this world from Heaven such that all who have rejected Him will call for rocks to crush their brain lest they have to face the wrath of the Lamb.
(Rev 6:16-17)

Rev 6:16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

Rev 6:17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

9. When some people see Christians being punished for their faith and I hear someone ask, "Where is your supreme Christ?" My answer is easy: "He is in Heaven storing up almighty wrath in fury to pour out on all those who commit such sins." And you better get right with Him and repent, or you will all likewise perish.

10. We know the supremacy of His grace, which gives life to spiritually dead rebels like us, awakens faith in hell-bound haters of God and justifies the ungodly with His own righteousness.

11. We must know His love: He died for us while we were yet sinners and He gives to the undeserving the ability of ever-increasing joy in making much of Him. Rom 5:8-10

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

12. We must know that this is what we were made for. We are not made to do little diddly things. We are made to know this King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This world is a little, two-second slice, and then we're with Him—forever.

13. As Abraham Kuyper famously said: “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: “Mine!” He rules with absolute supremacy.

14. And though it may not seem like it now, it is only a matter of time until He is revealed from Heaven in flaming fire to give relief to those who trust Him and righteous vengeance on those who don't.

14.1 We must know the supremacy of Christ's authority. Mat 28:18

Mat 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

14.2 It is Christ Who changes times and seasons, removes kings and sets up kings; does according to His will in the Host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.

15. No one can stay his hand and say, “What have you done?”

16. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 4:27-30.

NIV

Joh 4:27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

Joh 4:28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

Joh 4:29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

Joh 4:30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

17. I think the best way to teach these verses is to review the *Doctrine of Witnessing*.

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