THE RESTORATION The Kingdom Of God

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I. The Need for a Restoration

- 1. As we learned in a earlier study, Christ Built His Church here on earth,
 - Fashioning and structuring it according to His divine plan. He placed in it specific offices of the ministry, ordinances and Principles.

STRUCTURE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

Ordinances Ministry Principles Christ @ Head Faith Sacrament **Baptism** Repentance **Apostles Evangelists** Blessing of Children **Baptism** Laying on of Hands **Elders** Laying on of Hands **Priests** Resurrection of the Dead **Teachers Eternal Judgment Deacons**

- 2. The New Testament recorded the gifts and blessing of those who followed and believed and worshipped according to the principles which Christ established.
 - But it also make a prediction that this order, established by Christ, would not continue in an unbroken progress throughout the ages.
 - Rather, shortly after Christ's ascension into heaven there would be an "Apostasy" or a "falling away" by the church.

The Bible prophecies

Acts 20:28-30 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

- 2 Thess. 2:1-4 Row we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.
 - Paul warning Timothy of what was to come;

1Timothy 4:1-3 Row the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils: Speaking lies in hypocrisy: having their conscience seared with a hot iron: Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

◊ Jesus Himself said;

Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

This is consistent with a revelation given the Book of Mormon, known as Nephi's vision

1Rephi 3:183 And after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which has been kept back. by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb....

- As we can see these prophecies and conditions of the apostasy have been literally fulfilled in history, as church leaders have placed themselves in high esteem and demanded to be worship as Gods.
- 3. As there are several prophecies concerning the apostasy, there also prophecies regarding the Restoration of the Church.
 - ◆ In the Book of Daniel, a story is told about a vision had by King Nebuchadnezzer, where in the king saw a great image to which Daniel gave the interpretation.

Daniel 2:36-43 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, 0 king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them All. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron; forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest 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 sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

♦ The Prophecy of the restoration;

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings 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.

- The vision points to a time when Persian, Grecian, Roman and Babylonian kingdoms exist all at the same time, and the image is complete with the additional kingdoms, (10 toes) also existing at that time.
- In the days of these 10 kingdoms, shall the God of heaven set restore his Kingdom. See appendix of "The Great Image of Daniel Chapt. 2"

- ◆ Ever since the division of the Roman kingdom, there has been various kingdoms in existence, although sometimes there were more than 10 other times there was less, but in 1829-1830 there were 10 kingdoms, no more no less, set up along with the other mentioned, Persian, Grecian, Roman and Babylonian kingdoms, and the image stood complete. Thus God's Kingdom was prophesied to be established during those years. This would be an everlasting Kingdom which should never be destroyed.
- ◆ As the interpretation continues, it refers to the restoration, something man could not do by the power of his own hands, nothing artificial or simulated, only God could accomplish it using the illustration "a Stone Cut Out without hand",
- ♦ Continuing with the interpretation of the vision;

Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest 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 hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

- 4. Later in history we can see a attempt to revive the Church and recapture the original Christian beliefs in what is known as "The Reformation"
- ◆ There were conscience men within the Churches who identified and opposed priestcrafts which had been introduced.
- All though the efforts of these men, like Martin Luther, did not cause the church to return to the truth, it did expose the fact, there was an apostasy and Christianity had fallen away.
- 5. In light of a parable which Christ used, we could foresee and understand why the reformation to fail, and a restoration would be needed.

Luke 5:36-37 And he spake also a parable unto them: Ro man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old: if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

This parable which he used illustrates the error in using new cloth on old to make a repair. After sowing the new on to fit the area which needs patched and the garment is washed the new shrinks the old does not casing it to tear. Likewise, the old bottle, (wine skin) having been used has already stretched with the expanding gasses as the fermenting wine. Now being previously stretched, if one would fill it with new wine (unfermented because it has just been made), when it begins to ferment and the new gasses begin to expand, a rupture would be anticipated, because the flexibility has been lost.

- When Christ set up his church, there was many sects and religious group well established such as the Pharisees and Sadducees. We find He did not take the old established religious system of the day and try to rework it, because it would have failed during the change. Rather, He called out men and began a new system. Thus a reformation of the established apostate church would also fail, old ideas, people set in their ways, resistance to change, all would have caused it to fail.
- ◆ A Restoration, a fresh start, a new beginning, without any of the false ideas set in place was needful. Even those men struggling to bring about the Reformation, spoke of and looked forward to a day of restoration and re-establishment of God's work in entirety.
- ◆ They predicted a time when God would rise up and set forth his kingdom, and would "send forth new apostles to plant churches anew." And that body of men would believe in prophecies and insist on their literal interpretation.
- ◆ That would be a Restoration, with a fresh start, a new beginning, without any of the false ideas already set in place.
- II. How will a new Church get started in a world of apostate churches?
 - 1. The reformation failed, because it was an attempt by man, the Kingdom would be by the efforts of man, rather by the power of God.
 - Verse 183 of Nephi's vision, which had accurately predicted the apostasy and the reason for it, concludes with the promise of a restoration.

1Reph 3:183 I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb:

- ♦ The verse states, "In my power", Whose power? The Lord's power, cutting the stone out without the hands of man. Human hands could not quarry it, and granolithic, or synthetic compounds will not suffice.
- Ve must continue to remember, the fact, it is God who will establish the restoration. It is not a matter that will be left to the ingenuity or wisdom of man, which was the cause of thousands of conflicting creeds contrary to God's gospel to already come into existence and the apostasy to take place. The established churches were unfitted for the task.
- 2. During the early 1820's out in the country of Central New York, was a family named Smith.
 - During that time was a great religious revival in the community where the Smith's lived. All the churches were presenting their message and trying to make converts.

- The Smith's attended the of several of the denominations services. Most of the Smith family joined the Presbyterian church, all except a 14 year old boy in the family named Joseph.
- 3. The young Joseph Smith, feeling concerned about which church he should attend, decided the appropriate thing to do would be pray, drawing upon what he learned from the bible which says, "If you lack wisdom, ask f God."
 - Young Joseph resigned himself to do just that, and he writes an account of what happened when he approached the Lord.

"It was on the morning of a beautiful day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty. It was the first time in my life that I had made such an attempt, for admist all my anxieties I had never yet made the attempt to pray vocally.

My object in going to enquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right? That I might know which to join. No sooner therefore did I get possession of myself so as to be able to speak, than I asked the personages who stood above me in the light, which of all sects was right (for at his time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong,) and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight: that those professors were all corrupt."

- 4. Joseph, understandably excited by what had happened, mentioned this vision to the religious leaders which he had prior contact with, but found himself met with a negative response.
- 5. Joseph mentioned this vision to the religious leaders which he had prior contact with, and was met with a negative response.
 - Maybe out of pride, they persecuted him, and challenged him, as to why God would speak to a 14 year old boy, instead of the men of God. These persecutions continued on for 3 years, but Joseph knew what he had experienced., and he writes;

"I continued to pursue my common avocations in life until the twenty-first of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty three, al the time suffering severe persecution at the hands of all classes of men, both religious and irreligious because I continued to affirm that I had seen a vision."

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6. This statement was a preface to the story about his second vision, that came on Sept 21st., 1823.

♦ Joseph recounts the experience of his 2nd vision

"In consequence of these things I often felt condemned for my weakness, and imperfections; when on the evening of the above-mentioned twenty-first of September (1823), after I had retired to my bed for the night, I betook myself in prayer and supplication to Almighty God for forgiveness of all my sins and follies, and also for a manifestation to me, that I might know of my state and standing before Him; for I had full confidence in obtaining a divine manifestation as I had previously had done.

While I was thus in the act of calling upon God I discovered a light appearing in the room which continued to increase until the room was brighter than noon-day, when immediately a personage appeared at my bedside standing in the air for his feet did not touch the floor....

When I first looked upon him I was afraid, but fear soon left me. He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni, that God had a work for me to do, and that my name should be had for good and evil, among all nations, kindreds, and tongues; or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people, He said there was a book deposited written on gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang.

He also said that the fullness of the everlasting gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants. Also that there were two stones in silver bows, and these stones fastened to a breast plate constituted what is a called the Urim and Thummim, deposited with the plates, and the possession and use of these stones was what constituted seers in ancient or former times, and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book."

Church of Christ history pg. 21

- 7. This vision provided information about a future event, which certainly help shore up his faith and confidence after having been under attack for the past three years.
 - This vision actually came 3 times during that night, and each time some additional information was given.
 - ⇒ This vision mentions a record, we know to be the Book of Mormon. Could we expect such a thing would help bring about a Restoration? Is such a thing consistent with God's nature and doings?
 - ⇒ By looking at a revelation given to one of the old testament prophets, Habakkuk, it does seem to be totally consistent.

habakkuk 2:2-3 And the Lord answered me. and said. Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it: because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

- ⇒ Let us quickly outline the characteristics found here;
 - * A vision or revelation will come
 - * It will be written down
 - * It will be recorded on durable material
 - * It will be reserved for some particular, appointed time
 - * It may "tarry" long, however, it will come, ("it shall surely come") nothing can avert it
 - * It will be a true record
 - * It will come in the latter days, (at the end it will speak)
- 8. Joseph continued on, for another 4 years, till 1827, when a third vision came.
- "At length the time arrived for obtaining the plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate; on the twenty second day of September one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven, having went as usual at the end of another year to the place where they where deposited, the same heavenly messenger delivered them up to me, with this charge that I should be responsible for them; that if I should let them go carelessly or through any neglect of mine I should be cut off; but that if I would use all my endeavors to preserve them, until he, the messenger, should call for them, they should be protected."

 Church of Christ history pg. 24
 - 9. Thus we see in preparation for the restoration,
 - ◆ The Lord sought out and prepared a man, who was without preconceived notions, not affiliated with any of the apostate organizations, but was faithful in looking to God for the truth.
 - 10. We also see He brought forth a record of another people, and the teaching of the very same gospel which was taught in Jerusalem.
 - ◆ A second witness to the truth, the difference was, it had not been through the hands of the those who had fallen away from the truth, and would have reason to delete or distort the truth contained therein to suite their own purposes.
 - ◆ In only a few cases, we find distortion in the Bible, one such case can be found in Matthew.

Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you. That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother....

In this verse, we find the words, "Without a cause" to be add to the text, and not found in older manuscripts nor the Book of Mormon. It does go without saying that for the most part the bible can be considered an accurate record, protected by God,

- ♦ However, often we find the Book of Mormon expounding upon the gospel; giving clearer understanding to a subject, such as on the subject of "paradise."
- 11. Thus on September 22, 1827 the records of an ancient people, from this land, was in the hands of Joseph Smith to be interpreted.
 - However, according to his own records, he did not begin the translation until December of the same year, and there were further delays after that time, since Joseph had to work to support his family.
 - ◆ Joseph's wife helped him from time to time, but they both prayed God would send them a scribe to help in the work, which prayer was answered, when on April 5, 1829 a man named Oliver Cowdery, showed up on Joseph's doorstep.
 - Oliver, a well educated man being school teacher and former law student, said he had been sent to act as a scribe.
- 12. As Joseph and Oliver proceeded to translate the plates, into a book the Holy spirit and principles of the truth began to manifest itself, as they read were baptism in water was a requirement in the gospel and was essential for salvation.
 - ◆ They felt led to inquire of the Lord regarding this basic principles of the gospel. We read again Joseph's account.

"We still continued the work of translation, when in the ensuing month, (may eighteen hundred and twenty nine,) we on a certain day went into the woods to pray and inquire of the Lord respecting baptism for remission of sins, as we found mentioned in the translation of the plates. While we were thus employed, praying and calling upon the Lord, a messenger from heaven descended in a cloud of light, and having laid his hands upon us, he ordained us, saying unto us, 'upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of ministering angels, and the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion, for remission of sins, and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord of righteousness."

- ◆ This messenger further told them Aaronic priesthood did not the power of laying on of hands, for the gift of the Holy Ghost, then gave them instruction on how to baptize, and commanded them to go and baptize each other.
- ◆ Joseph's brother, Samuel Smith, was also baptized shortly thereafter. One account states Joseph and Oliver overheard Samuel praying as they were going home from their own baptism, and felt he would be a good candidate for baptism, and so he was.

- ⇒ This manner of baptism and ordination to the ministry may seem strange even troublesome, given our present day standard for carrying out these ordinances.
- ⇒ But, looking into scripture, we find Aaron was not ordained, because he felt the pull of the Lord to preach or be a mouthpiece, nor was he ordained in theological seminary.
- ⇒ The fact is, God spoke to Moses and Aaron, and ordered his appointment, and the people knowing the revelation from the God Almighty had been received, were satisfied to accept him.

Exodus 4:10-16, 28-31

And iffoses said unto the Lord. O my Lord. I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said unto him. Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Row therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. And he said, 0 my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou will send. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said. Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee; and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth; and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people; and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and hou shalt be to him instead of 6od.

And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: And Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed: and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

- 13. Even though we have baptisms and ordinations, We still do not have a "Restoration", but we do see the fundamentals of the gospel coming back, just as we saw John the Baptist baptizing preparing for the coming of the Messiah and the gospel which He would bring.
- 14. In **June of 1829** the translation was completed, and the book was in the hands of the printers.
 - The Lord again came to Joseph and Oliver while they were engaged in solemn prayer, and they where told Joseph should ordain Oliver as an Elder, and Oliver was to ordain Joseph. They were also instructed to ordain others as it was made known unto them time from time
- 15. They decided to defer this ordination until such time they could meet with the others who had been baptized and continue with the ordination after taking a vote of the people as to whether they would accept them as their spiritual teachers or not.

III. When did the restoration occur?

- 1. After waiting almost 10 months after the vision where they were directed to ordain each other to be Elders, date was set for **April 6th**, **1830**. On that day they did meet with those who had been baptized, and inquired about their acceptance as spiritual leaders.
- 2. There are accounts of that day written by both Joseph and Oliver, however, the account written by Hyrum Smith seems to shed more light on what was going on that day and during those 10 months.
 - ◆ Joseph's and Oliver's accounts mention 6 men met together to organize the Church that day, but in a book about Hyrum Smith it clarifies that statement.

"The Prophet Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, and others had formed an undeclared organization based on a natural and spiritual relationship. But in order to gain legal recognition and thus be able to own property, license missionaries, and buy and sell property for the Church, it was expedient that a formal organization be made. Civil law demanded the presence of a minimum of six persons to initiate a religious organization. And in order to fulfill this requirement Joseph called a meeting of the brethren for April 6th, 1830, at the home of Peter Whitmer, Sr., in Fayette New York. Hyrum was one of the those requested to be present.

When the meeting was at last called to order, a modern reporter might have described it as the meeting of a group about to organize a young men's club. The oldest, Hyrum Smith, had just turned 30; David Whitmer was 25; Joseph Smith, 24; Oliver Cowdery, 23; Samuel H. Smith, 22; Peter Whitmer Jr. 20. Their average age was 24. Others were present - the elder Whitmers, Hyrum's parents, and perhaps Martin Harris, all of whom were farmers except for Oliver Cowdery, who was a teacher.

During the day the organization meeting all were baptized into the Church, as were Hyrum's parents, Martin Harris, and Orrin Porter Rockwell."

Hyrum Smith Patriarch pg. 61-62

- According to Oliver and Joseph's accounts, they did proceed to ordain each other to be Elder, and latter some to be Apostles as directed in a revelation given in July of 1829.
- Also that day, they laid hand upon all those baptized, now into the newly organized, Church of Christ, for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- they did bless bread and wine, and gave the members the Sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus Christ

IV. The Results

1. On April 6th, 1830, the gospel of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God was restored upon this earth.

- 2. There has been separations, diversions, falling away from these basic truths from the very members of the restoration.
- 3. But it was prophesied, this would be an everlasting Kingdom, and there will not be another apostasy.
 - Rather there has been an ever growing separation between what the Book of Mormon calls, The Church of the Lamb of God, and the great and abominable church.
 - ◆ In a future day there is going to be two churches only, because those not of the Lambs church will join or align with the abominable church.

1Rephi 3:219-221 And it came to pass that he said unto me. Look and behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil. And he said unto me. Behold, there are save two churches only: The one is the church of the Lamb of God. and the other is the church of the devil:

- 4. History and today's events show the alignment churches, to include some restoration based churches, with this great and abominable church.
 - ◆ A world council of churches has been established in a effort to align all religions to a common thread.
 - ◆ The Mormons, have a president, and believe themselves to be future God's.
 - ◆ April 6th, 1998 the Reorganized Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints ordained women as apostles.
 - ◆ April 6th, 1998 the Reorganized Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints has asked for acceptance of homosexuals as ministry.
 - ◆ The Reorganized Church of Christ of Latter day Saints, has already sent many of their ministry to seminary.
 - ◆ They have also begun to proclaim the Book of Mormon as a historical document only.
 - ◆ They have always utilized a president as the head of the Church , where scripture calls for Christ only to be at the head.
 - ◆ most of these modifications are solely for the purpose of align itself with the World Counsel of Churches
- 5. But the restoration continues on as with a few faithful followers who refuse to give themselves over to the pride which comes with conforming to the world, even as proclaimed in the Book of Mormon.

Mosiah 9:49-50 And they were called the church of God. or the church of Christ, from that time forward. And it came to pass that whosoever was baptized by the power and authority of God, was added to his church.

Summery

The path which man kind took leading from a relationship with God then back to God provides salvation for some, while others fall away again because of the pride of the heart. However, God has prepared a way for those who truly seek him and his righteousness and enter into the Church of the Lamb, an Everlasting Kingdom. . See Appendix B

Appendix A pg. 1

BABYLONIA (IRAQ)

MEDO_PERSIA (IRAN)

GREECE

ROME

TEN TOE KINGDOMS:

1. AUSTRIA

6. PORTUGAL

2. FRANCE

7. BAVARIA

3. ENGLAND

8. WURTTEMBURG

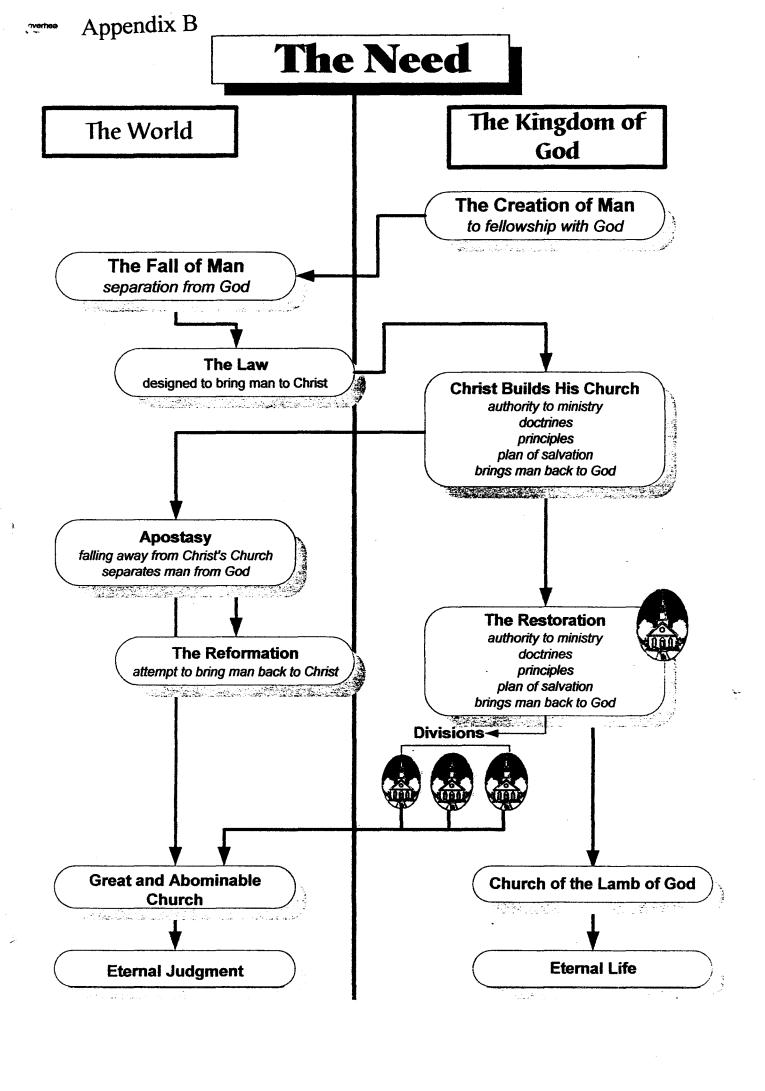
4. NETHERLANDS 9. NAPLES

5. SPAIN

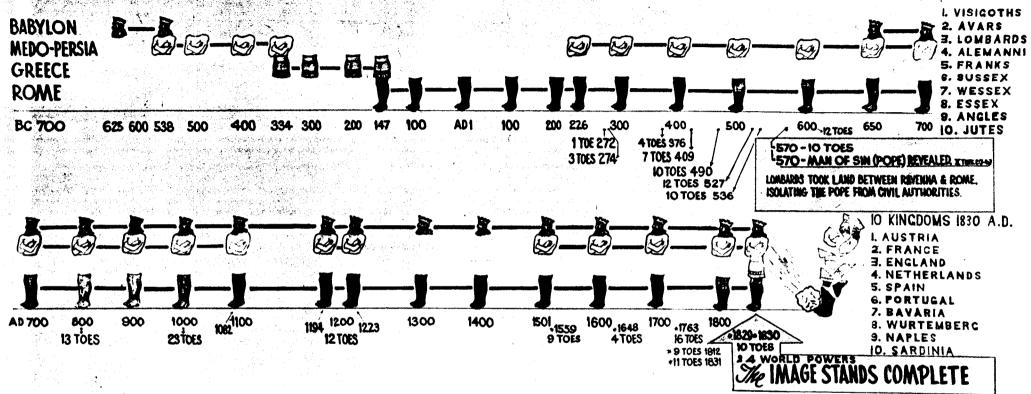
10. SARDINIA

THE GREAT IMAGE OF DANIEL, CHAPTER TWO





THE GREAT IMAGE OF HEBUCHADNEZZAR DANIEL 2:31-35 FOUR WORLD POWERS 570 A.D.



HEAD OF GOLD The Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar, 625-538 B.C.

BREAST & ARMS OF SILVER The Medo-Persia Empire conquered Babylon, 538-334 B.C.

BELLY & THIGHS OF BRASS The Grecian Empire conquered Medo-Persia, 334-147 B.C.

LEGS OF IRON The ROMAN EMPIRE conquered Greece 147 B.C. 570 A.D. THE POPE BEGAN TO RAISE UP AGAINST CIVIL GOVERNMENT DOMINATION.

TOES OF IRON & CLAY The Kingdoms into which the Roman Empire was divided.

DAN 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed... And it shall stand for ever."

1829 a 1830 The first time the IMAGE was complete, but never again! In the days of these kings (1829 & 1830) shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom. ONLY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PROPHECY?

DAN 2:45 The Kingdom of God shall break in pieces all these kingdoms. At the end of World War II there were 78 nations in the world. Since W.W. II 74 new nations have established independent status making 152 in all. (1975)