

THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Part 1: WHY THEN?

December 3, 2017

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel."

Genesis 3:15 (NIV)

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

1. THE _____ STAGE

"Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth."

Daniel 2:31-35 (NIV)

"This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king ... The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands He has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, He has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. 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...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. 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. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future."

Daniel 2:36-40, 44-45 (NIV)

ANATOMY

Head
Chest and Arms
Belly and Thighs
Legs and Feet

MATERIAL

Gold
Silver
Bronze
Iron and Clay

EMPIRE

Babylonian
Medo-Persian
Grecian
Roman

ERA

606 B.C. - 539 B.C.
539 B.C. - 331 B.C.
331 B.C. - 146 B.C.
146 B.C. - 476 A.D.

"... the LORD, is the Rock eternal."

Isaiah 26:4 (NIV)

"... that rock was Christ."

I Corinthians 10:4 (NIV)

2. THE _____ STAGE

- **The Grecian Empire provided the known world with a _____
_____.**
- **The Roman Empire provided the known world with _____
and enhanced the safety and speed of _____.**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

3. THE _____ STAGE

"Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you."
Acts 17:22-23 (NIV)

"But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law."
Galatians 3:10 (NLT)

- **While the Gentile world searched for something that would fill their _____, the Jewish world struggled under the weight of the _____.**

"But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, He took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."
Galatians 3:13 (NLT)

4. THE _____ STAGE

"But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
Matthew 16:15-16 (NIV)

- **It makes no difference when Christ came, if I don't _____
_____ as my _____ and _____.**

MY NEXT STEP THIS WEEK IS ...

- I will discover what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- I will sign-up for the Christmas Baptism – Next Sunday
- I will prayerfully consider participating in the Christmas Challenge.
- pick-up a brochure at the Welcome Center
- I will prayerfully consider participating in the Christmas Eve offering.