PROPHETIC IMPERIALISM; OR, THE PROPHETIC ENTAIL OF IMPERIAL POWER

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BY

JOSEPH L. LORD

OF THE BOSTON BAR

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AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION.

The following lecture has been read during the past winter to private audiences in New York, Brooklyn, Boston and elsewhere, representing biblical and historical as well as legal criticism of the highest order — by which criticism the whole ground gone over by the author is believed to have been fairly covered.

This point accomplished, the lecture has been rewritten with careful reference to the various discussion it has called forth, and is now given to the public in compliance with the wishes of many who have heard it.

Briefly stated, our object has been to place before our readers, from the point of view indicated by our title, a brief sketch of the divine method of human government during the whole period of Gentile ascendency and domination over God's covenant people Israel — from the time of Nebuchadnezzar until the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled.

We commend our theme to the favorable consideration of our readers, notwithstanding the great and innumer-

able abuses which have always accompanied the exercise of imperial power; which abuses we would not and do not spare; assuring our readers that, upon careful inquiry, we have failed to discover any reason why prophetic imperialism with its supernatural method, which has been thought about and written about so little, is not quite as deserving of attention as merely historic imperialism with its natural method only, which has been thought about and written about so much.

If in the great contest between the natural method of man and the supernatural method of God, to accomplish the great ends of human society, the supernatural method is destined to prevail, we cannot perceive why it is not of the greatest consequence to make ourselves acquainted with what the prophetic oracles so clearly reveal and so absolutely and plainly admonish us concerning an issue of such vital importance.

Indeed we do not perceive how an inquiry of such vital importance can fairly be avoided. If it be true that we are commanded by our Saviour to search the Scriptures because they are they which testify of Him who is appointed and destined to be the great Head of imperial dominion in the earth; to whom in all of the apostolic doxologies such dominion is invariably ascribed; and if it be true that the Holy Spirit assures us that all Scripture, prophetic as well as any and all other, is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for instruction; and if it be true that the Holy Spirit is particular to assure us that

prophecy came not of old time by the will of man, but that holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and that we do well to give heed thereunto — to unfulfilled as well as fulfilled prophecy, no distinction being made in this regard — as to a light that shineth in a dark place; then surely, not to speak of other admonitions to the same effect, is it clearly impossible to avoid, with excuse to ourselves, a prophetic inquiry of such great and timely importance as that to which we invite the attention of our readers.

It is the hope of the author, which hope he is greatly encouraged to entertain, that, in some humble measure, he has been successful in restoring a meaning to a portion of the prophetic Scriptures which has been suffered to die out.

JOSEPH L. LORD.

SAXONVILLE MASS., *May*, 1871.

INTRODUCTORY NOTICES.

"I have read your book upon Prophetic Imperialism with great care. Its leading idea of the nature and grant of Imperial Power is original and striking. I do not see how your conclusions can be resisted.

It throws wonderful light upon the grand prophetic symbol of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which has given so much trouble to biblical scholars and interpreters in all ages.

But I have been especially interested in your book because its reasoning and its illustration bear with so direct reference and with so great force upon the kingly glory of the Saviour. In the light of your exposition of the Image and the Stone cut out of the mountain, no one can fail to discover the marvellous resplendence of that kingdom which is to take the place of all other kingdoms and the glory of Him who is to be the King of all other kings.

I wish the exposition could be put into the hands of every minister in the country, that they may learn how