

# KINGDOM SPIRIT

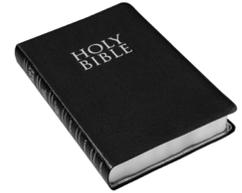
P O Box 279, Pleasant View, CO 81331

Phone 970-562-4874

e-mail [ksm@fone.net](mailto:ksm@fone.net)

**"SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD"**

Matthew 6:33



Issue 808

## DANIEL

Daniel, though usually considered a prophet, was very different from the rest of the prophets that we have been reading. As we will see, Daniel was, for virtually all of his adult life, a part of the government of Babylon. He did not make an effort to prophesy to the people in general, but rather, for the most part, he recorded events that happened to him during the seventy or more years that he served in the various positions he was put in. The record of these events is what we have in the book of Daniel.

Daniel also introduced us to a new concept, or at least a much broader concept of God's overall plan for man than the other prophets. While certainly not denying anything that the other prophets have told us, Daniel added a new dimension in that much of what he saw involved the whole world as opposed to singular kingdoms.

As God did when He sent Jacob/Israel to Egypt to develop and multiply into a nation by sending Joseph ahead to become a part of the governmental leadership in Egypt that His people might be ruled somewhat by their own people, God provided Israelite leadership for the people of Judah as He sent them into the Babylonian captivity. In the third year of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem and laid siege against it. When he broke into the city, he not only carried away many of the gold, silver and brass vessels of the house of the LORD, he

~~also took children of the king's seed and that of his princes.~~ His intention was to take of the very best of the land, both physically and mentally, to teach them the ways of the Chaldeans. Among those taken were four young boys named Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The four boys first distinguished themselves by refusing to eat of the king's provision for them, but ate pulse (vegetables) and water rather than defile themselves with the unclean foods of the kings. As a result, they appeared so much healthier than the rest, their guardian changed the diet for all the children in his care to pulse and water.

God blessed the four boys with knowledge, skill and wisdom, and Daniel was given special understanding in visions and dreams. When they were brought before the king at the end of their training, the king found these four to be ten times wiser and better in understanding than all the magicians and astrologers in his realm.

As with Joseph, this special understanding of dreams and visions was God's tool to put Daniel and his three friends into positions of ruling in the kingdom by the time the bulk of Judah was brought into captivity. The king had a dream that troubled him greatly, especially since he could not remember what the dream was about. As a result, none of his magicians or astrologers could interpret it for him, but God gave the same dream with the interpretation of it to Daniel. When he told the king the dream and the interpretation of it, he was installed into a place of rulership in the gate of the king. The gate would correlate to our capi-

tol building or courthouse.

The dream had to do with the world order that was to come and most of the balance of the book of Daniel deals with this subject. That we might understand the basis for this order, let us briefly examine this dream that was given as a double witness to both the king and Daniel. There was a great image whose brightness was excellent and its form was terrible. Its head was of fine gold, its breast and arms were of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of iron and its feet part of iron and part of clay. They then saw a stone cut out without hands. This stone struck the image's feet, broke them to pieces and then the whole image was broken to pieces by the stone and became like chaff and the wind carried it away. The stone then became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Understanding this dream and its interpretation is crucially important to the plot of our story and the entire plan of God.

The interpretation God gave Daniel was that the image represented four successive world kingdoms of which Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon was the first, or the head of fine gold. The second kingdom, represented by the silver, would then be inferior to the first; the third, represented by the brass, would then be inferior to the second and the last, represented by the iron and the iron and clay mixture, would be inferior to the third. When we say inferior, we are not saying that the kingdom would be weaker, but rather, the quality of the kingdom would be less than its predecessor.

In the days of these kingdoms, God was to set up a fifth kingdom which shall never be destroyed and it would ultimately break in pieces and consume all of the four kingdoms of the image we discussed above. This kingdom then shall stand forever, we're told.

A knowledge of history is necessary for us to understand this and the visions that Daniel was to have following this. However, before we proceed, we need to understand a couple of things about Babylon. Chapter 3 tells us that King Nebuchadnezzar erected a column, or pillar of gold, some sixty cubits high and six cubits

wide, in the plain of Dura. He then required that all who had responsibility of government and/or the economic system to be present at a mass meeting before this golden column. It was not a religious conference in the sense we normally would think of one, but rather an economic conference involving those having to do with the affairs of government and business. The commandment was given that at the sound of the music, all peoples, nations and languages were to fall down and worship the golden column as an indication of one's obedience to what the image, or column, represented. Failure to do so would result in the one so failing to be cast into the fiery furnace (that had been set up to cast the golden column).

The story of Daniel's three friends being cast into the fiery furnace because of their refusal to fall down and worship the image follows. But the significance of the story really has to do with the introduction of the "gold standard" which has dominated the economic system of the world from that date to this. Gold became a measurement of wealth and has remained so to this day, though contrary to God's law. Gold and its representative money, became very much an object of worship that has only become more so through the ages.

Chapter 4 recounts a strange occurrence in the kingdom and is even more strange in that it appears that Nebuchadnezzar himself wrote it. Nebuchadnezzar had another dream, in which, according to Daniel's interpretation, he was depicted as a tree that was hewn down, then he became an animal. This dream had a literal fulfillment as Nebuchadnezzar was driven from power and for seven years lived in the field and ate grass as an oxen. Nebuchadnezzar finally acknowledged God and His power and was returned to his throne. In what was probably among the first state papers ever written, King Nebuchadnezzar gave us the reason for what happened—his own failure to acknowledge God as God—and in the paper to all people, nations and languages, he confessed his sin and said, **"Now I Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose words are truth, and his ways judgment; and those that walk in pride, he is able to**

**abase.”** (Dan. 4:37)

The dream has a much greater fulfillment in that it applies to the Babylonian government as well but the other visions of Daniel will basically bear out the same testimony. God protected this kingdom of Babylon as long as its leadership acknowledged Him, as did Nebuchadnezzar. But with Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, Belshazzar, came its fall in that Belshazzar's pride prohibited him from acknowledging God. He even desecrated God by using the vessels of the temple to drink wine from at one of his drunken parties. Suddenly, during the party, a hand appeared and wrote a message on the wall that Belshazzar could not read nor understand as could none of his magicians or astrologers. Finally, at the queen's urging, the king had Daniel called in and promised him the number three position in the kingdom if he would read and interpret the writing. Daniel reminded Belshazzar of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling of himself before God and how Belshazzar, though he knew of this, had done just the opposite. If you recall when we looked at Isaiah 14, Isaiah prophesied of a Babylonian king that God mocked calling him Lucifer because he tried to put himself above God. Belshazzar is this king and Daniel is reminding him of his trying to put himself above God before he interpreted the writing on the wall for him. Daniel then explained that the writing basically said that the kingdom had come to judgment and was to be given over to the Medes and Persians. That very night, the king was slain and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom.

There then follows the story of Daniel and the lion's den in chapter 6 that most of us are familiar with. But note that this story shows us that King Darius also feared and acknowledged God.

Now, let us back up to the dream of the image that Nebuchadnezzar had, and look more closely at the message we said Daniel had of the world to come and a short look at history to see how the two match up. In the vision of the image that Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar saw, Daniel tells us that each of the metals represented a kingdom of a world order that was to come, and

that Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom of Babylon was represented by the head of fine gold. Now we find the Medes and Persians controlling the next kingdom, or empire, and by the vision would be represented by the silver chest and arms. In history, we find that Alexander the Great conquered Persia and established the Grecian Empire, the third great world empire, represented by the brass. Eventually, Greece was subdued to the position of just a province in the great Roman Empire. Certainly the representation by iron was fitting as the strength of this great empire could be compared to that of iron. But as Imperial Rome began to pass in power, we find Papal Rome coming to power in such strength that the power of the Roman Empire continued for many centuries. Eventually, this power began to subdivide into the various empires and nations of continental Europe. While these nations certainly had the strength of iron, there was always disunity among them as was especially evidenced by World Wars I & II. Again the prophecy of the dream showing the feet of the image to be iron mixed with clay that would not cleave to each other, is a good representation.

The fifth kingdom, represented by the stone cut out without hands, was set up by God during the times of these other kingdoms. Being set up by God, it has to be God's Kingdom. This kingdom was of the earth also as were the metal kingdoms, but was "cut out" without the assistance of men (cut out without hands). We have already studied a kingdom that came into existence strictly by the Word of God through His unconditional promises (i.e. they did not require a specified performance of the people to be carried out). While we found later this kingdom divided and both houses ultimately spoiled and placed in captivity, we have, through the prophets, found God not only promises deliverance from captivity but a changing of the covenant that established them as a kingdom to a better covenant. Later, if we read Luke 1:31-33, we will find that this is the same kingdom over which Jesus Christ is to rule forever. Little doubt can exist then that this fifth kingdom can be none other than the King-

dom of Israel, also called the Kingdom of God.

In chapter 7, Daniel saw a vision of four beasts that the angel told him represented four kings. While these do not represent the four kingdoms we have already looked at per se, they do appear to represent the driving forces within those kingdoms. A good knowledge of history is necessary to understand the full significance of each of these beasts. The fourth beast seen by Daniel appears to be the same beast seen by the apostle John in Rev. 13:1-2. Though Daniel doesn't provide a name for the beast, the description of the beast in both passages is very similar, and John calls it a dragon. While the elements of this fourth beast would do great and terrible things and utter great words, the ultimate end of it would come in which the saints of the Most High would be given dominion over the whole earth by the Ancient of Days and the beasts would be destroyed and all dominion given unto the saints of the Most High, **“whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”** (Dan. 7:27)

Daniel was shown further visions that foretold events in the world order to come. He gives numbers dealing with the length of various time periods. We will not attempt to deal with these in this lesson as they are a detailed study unto themselves for the serious student. They foretell how long it would be until Christ was to come and when He would be crucified. They deal also with the length of time the world would be under the influence of the image we have discussed and the time of the ultimate return of Christ and the complete destruction of the image, or Babylonian succession of empires.

Daniel was acquainted with Jeremiah and evidently corresponded with him. The seventy year duration of the captivity was made known to Daniel by Jeremiah. When Daniel learned this, he turned to God in three weeks of prayer and fasting. He received an answer giving him more times and events, with the ultimate event being the deliverance of Israel and the resurrection of the dead. The book of Daniel is very difficult to summarize as it is a summarization of many cen-

turies of our history in prophecy itself.

We'll look at the book of Obadiah and then at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah next issue.

## ROADBLOCKS

There is at least one more “roadblock” to good Biblical study that I would like to discuss with the hope and prayer that we can join together in deeper Bible study in future articles. The subject that I would like to discuss this time has become almost a bedrock in the foundation of Christian understanding in our day. It has also become one of the biggest hindrances to Christians taking and acting on the responsibility that Christ gave to each of us as His servants.

The “Secret Rapture” doctrine, in one form or another, has had many books written about it, and movies made about it, and has become very much central to the daily thinking of a very large number of Christians. While most think it is a doctrine that comes directly from our Holy Bible, I doubt that the vast majority have any idea where it actually came from. It was not taught at all by the apostles, the early church fathers, nor the reformers during the reformation. In fact, it was not taught much at all before 1830. But the origin of the doctrine does go back farther than 1830. Let me review how this doctrine got started and promoted.

Until the Protestant Reformation, the “historical” interpretation of the Bible was embraced by most and more especially by the reformers during the Reformation. It was understood that instead of the antichrist being one person, it was a system of apostasy and persecution. While a number of characteristics were attributed to this antichrist system, probably the one that bothered the reformers the most came from the “little horn prophecy” of Daniel 7:25 in which this little horn would **“speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and**

**laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”** They associated this with the Roman Catholic Church which began through Justinian to exercise civil power as well as ecclesiastical power starting in 529-533 A.D. A time is considered to be equal to 360, so a time, times (2x) would equal 720 and the dividing of a time would equal 180. These added together equals 1260 days, or using a day for a year prophetically, 1260 years. To the reformers, this speaking great words against the most High and thinking to change times and laws as well as ruling over the saints could only apply to the Roman Catholic Church. To head off this doctrine, the Church called a special meeting known as the Fifth Lateran Council (1512-1517) with the result that the Church forbade anyone to publish a book without prior censorship, preaching on the subject of antichrist was prohibited, and an attempt was made to burn all the Bibles, heretical books, and the heretics that owned or preached from them. To divert attention away from the Catholic Church as an antichrist power, a Jesuit doctor of theology, Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) proposed rejecting the “historical” interpretation of the Bible and proposed a “futurist” interpretation. In his book, “Sacrum Beati Ioannis Apostoli, & Evangelistiae Apocalypsin Commentarij” he said that the 1260 years was actually just 1260 days, or 42 months, or 3 1/2 years. So to his reasoning, none of the book of Revelation had anything to do with the middle ages and the 3 1/2 years applied to a future period just prior to the Second Coming of Christ.

To bring this teaching then into what today is the “Secret Rapture” doctrine, I would like to take a few quotes from a paper written by Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D. entitled “The Rapture Theory: It’s Surprising Origin.” “In the middle 1820’s a religious environment began to be established among a few Christians in London, England which proved to be the catalyst around which the doctrine of the Rapture emerged. Expectations of the soon coming of our Lord were being voiced. This was no new thing, but what,

was unusual was the teaching by a Presbyterian minister named Edward Irving that there had to be a restoration of the spiritual gifts mentioned in I Corinthians 12-14 just before Christ’s second coming...Among the expected gifts was the renewal of speaking in tongues and of spirit-motivated prophetic utterances.” Irving, who had great oratorical skills, was able to build a growing congregation in London and people began to experience these “gifts.” This brought about opposition from the organized churches and Irving was dismissed from the Presbyterian church in 1832. But we need to look at a particular event that occurred sometime in the spring of 1830. Again quoting Dr. Martin, “On one particular evening, the power of the Holy Spirit was said to have rested on a Miss Margaret McDonald while she was in a state of illness at home. She was dangerously sick and thought she was dying. In spite of this, or perhaps because she is supposed to have come under “power” of the spirit for several successive hours during which she experienced the manifestations of ‘mingled prophecy and vision.’ The message she received during this prophetic vision convinced her that Christ was going to appear in two stages at His second coming — and not one! The emanation revealed that Christ would first come in glory to them that look for Him and again in a final stage when every eye would see Him.”

Pastor Edward Irving, who is considered the forerunner of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, was the pastor of Miss McDonald and he attended a prophecy conference in Dublin Ireland in 1830 at Powerscourt Castle. Here he promoted the doctrine of the Secret Rapture. Attending that same meeting was John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), at the time a minister of the Church of Ireland, later the founder of the Plymouth Brethren. After attending this conference, he became a promoter of the Secret Rapture doctrine. He visited Miss McDonald at her home in Port Glasgow, Scotland and later visited America several times promoting his Secret Rapture doctrine where it was quite well accepted. The writings of John Darby greatly influenced Dr. Cyrus

Scotfield (1843-1921) who then incorporated this doctrine in the notes of his Scofield Reference Bible.

Dr. Scofield brought it all together by incorporating the futuristic ideas taught by Francisco Ribera with this relatively new doctrine of a pre-Second Coming rapture. To these two doctrines he added a new emerging doctrine called “dispensationalism.”

Quoting Mr. Larry Wilson of “Wake Up America Seminars, Inc.,” “As a result of Schofield’s synthesis, four new prophetic ideas were introduced into Protestant thinking:

1. The promises given in the Old Testament to ancient Israel will be fulfilled after the rapture of the Christian Church. God will fulfill all that. He promised a restored and “converted” Israel after the rapture.

2. The 70th week of Daniel 9 is disconnected from the 69 previous weeks and should be placed at the end of the world. The gap between the 69 weeks and the 70th week is called “the age or dispensation of the Christian Church.”

3. Down through the ages, God has implemented different plans or requirements (dispensations) for the salvation of man. (This is the teaching that frees Christians from obedience to the Old Testament laws which “were nailed to the cross.”)

4. Before the Great Tribulation begins, the body of Christ will be raptured away from Earth. Then 144,000 Jews will be converted to Christ and they will fulfill their original appointment to lead the world to Him as a Savior.”

If you have studied your Bible, I’m sure that you realize that virtually none of all of this is Biblical. While I do not discount visions and prophetic utterances, we need to take the apostle John’s advice in I John 4:1, **Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**” Certainly, one way we need to “try the spirits” is to see if they agree with the Bible. We also need to keep in mind that near the time Miss McDonald was seeing her vision,

Joseph Smith was seeing visions in America that brought Mormon doctrines to the world and soon thereafter Ellen G. White received visions that resulted in many Seventh Day Adventist teachings. All of these doctrines were at variance with each other, yet these individuals each received them through visions.

The point that I would like to make, is that the doctrine of the “Secret Rapture” stands in the way of deeper Bible study and needs to be at least momentarily set aside while further study is done that will either prove or disprove such doctrine. I believe that one will find that instead of the Bible predicting an end and destruction of the world, it really predicts the very opposite, but if we are going to understand it, we cannot let doctrines such as “heaven - hell,” “putting away the law,” and a “secret rapture” stand between us and understanding God’s Word. All of these doctrines are of quite recent vintage and have been introduced, I believe to prevent people from understanding their Bible. Again, it is not my intent to argue for or against these doctrines—I just pray that if any of these are your beliefs, that you will be willing to set them aside for the moment as we look at what I believe are some of the deeper teachings of the Bible in future articles. I have found in my own case that if I am not willing to hold what I believe up to scrutiny, the door is shut to further understanding whether what I believe is right or wrong. I pray you will bear with me with these thoughts as we continue studies in future issues. **JRL**

## THE GREAT PYRAMID

**“In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt.”** (Isa 19:19-20) We noted last issue that this altar was not to offer sacrifices on, but Isaiah tells us it is to be for a sign and a witness, but we didn’t elaborate. We need to discuss this further. When most

of us think of pyramids, we think of tombs for the pharaohs of Egypt. There are about 80 identified pyramids in Egypt and most all contain tombs of Egyptian potentates with the exception of the Great Pyramid of Giza. Though built during the time of Cheops (Khufu), he is buried in a tomb about 300 yards away from the pyramid. The Egyptian Law (known as Lepsius' Law) of pyramid building called for each Egyptian king, when he took the throne, to start excavating a subterranean chamber that was accessed by an inclined passage. This chamber was to be his tomb. Each year, the area over this chamber was covered over with a few squared blocks of stone. If he lived a long time, this pyramid of blocks of stone would be large. If he lived only for a short time, the pyramid would be quite small. There are some exceptions to this, but when he died it was left to the succeeding king to finish and close up the structure. There were no passage ways within the pyramid itself, only the subterranean chamber and passage way.

The Great Pyramid was quite different in that the whole structure is a very carefully engineered structure and has both a descending passage to a subterranean chamber and an ascending passage that leads to two chambers, the Queen's Chamber and the King's Chamber, within the heart of the pyramid. Though there is a coffer in the larger chamber, known as the King's Chamber, there was never anything placed in it. There are air channels into both chambers which would not have been there if it were intended for a tomb. Three large granite plugs were placed in the ascending passage where it took off from the descending passage so that once the structure was completed, no one could enter the ascending passage. It is clear this pyramid was never intended as a tomb.

That it was intended for a sign and a witness is further amplified when one begins to investigate just how this structure was built. The engineering involved was far above the level of ability of the Egyptians at the time. Quoting from the **Study in Pyramidology**, page 49, "An

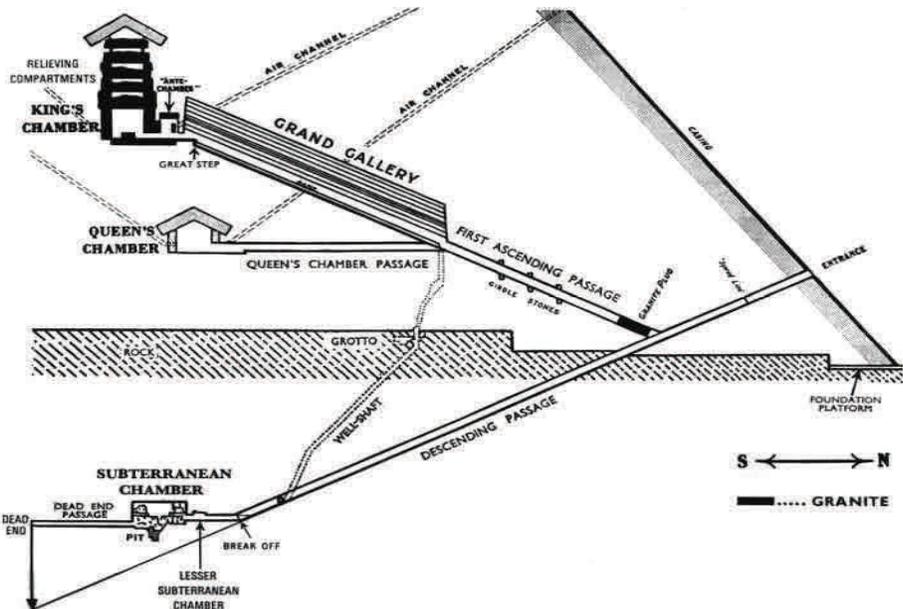
amazing, scientifically engineered feature of the Great Pyramid, distinguishing it from all other pyramids, was a method they used to safeguard the structure against earth movements. At each corner of the base of the Great Pyramid, the builders cut mortises, some eight feet by fifteen feet in size, into the natural rock. Into the mortises they placed heavy, carefully chiseled stones, to act as anchors for the four sloping corner-edges of the Pyramid. These anchorage-blocks were so placed as to allow a space between the sides of the mortises and the corner stones, thus allowing for expansion caused by changes of temperature or earthquakes — serving the purpose of ball and socket joints. This safety innovation was not to be used again for over 4000 years."

The pyramid is the most accurately oriented edifice on earth. This means that its four sides are directed to the four cardinal points of the compass with less than 3 minutes of one degree off true north. Even with today's modern astronomical equipment, such nearly perfect orientation would be very difficult to secure and impossible without it. The descending passage was bored downward at an angle of  $26^{\circ} 18' 9.7''$  with a north-south axis running some 350 feet through solid rock. If one is to be at the bottom of the passage and looking out through the entrance, the sky range would be less than  $1/3$  degree, or about  $1/4$  more than the moon's apparent diameter. When built, if one was to reduce the size of the entrance opening and with a corresponding reduction of the opening at the bottom, only the pole star would be visible. At the time of building, the Pole-star was the star Alpha of the constellation of the Dragon and it was in true north. The Pole-star changes over time and is currently Polaris which will take another 125 years to reach true north. Obviously, this descending passage was intended to establish the true direction of the Pole-star in order to align the foundation of the Pyramid on a true north-south axis.

In its position, by means of its reflections and shadows, the Great Pyramid became the great

sundial of Egypt. This applied not only to days and hours, but for the seasons of the year. The reflections from the Pyramid gave accurately the days upon which the Winter Solstice, the Spring Equinox, the Summer Solstice, and the Autumnal Equinox occurred. This precisely defined the Solar Astronomical Year.

Though it was written about by the earliest historians, it wasn't until 820 A.D. that the upper chambers were penetrated. Caliph Al Mamoun of Bagdad came to Egypt seeking treasure that he had heard was hidden within the secret recesses of the pyramids. The Great Pyramid was his prime target. He couldn't find the original entrance so he directed his workmen to begin excavating near the base of the middle of the north side. He had heard that the Romans had once entered the pyramid through a cleverly concealed doorway on the north side of the structure. He excavated a tunnel about 40 yards into the structure. He was only about 25 feet away from the real entrance to the east. One day, his exhausted workers were about to quit because they had found no treasure, when they heard a dull thud of a stone falling in some hollow space that appeared to only be a few feet to one side of them. This got them to digging again and they finally broke through into the descending passage. The stone that had dropped revealed the ascending passage. However, a series of huge granite plugs were jammed into the passage, thus blocking access. At first



Interior passages and structures of the Great Pyramid

they went on down into the subterranean chamber in the natural rock under the Pyramid's foundation. To their disappointment, they found nothing in the chamber. So they turned their attention back to the ascending passage. But breaking up the granite plugs seemed impossible, so they began cutting away the softer limestone around the plug. They finally were able to get around the plugs and found themselves in a tall gallery 28 feet high and 7 feet wide. At the beginning of this room was a low, narrow horizontal passage. Following this passage led them to what is now known as the Queen's chamber. Going back to the gallery they followed it up to what is known as the Ante-chamber and finally into the King's chamber. It is the construction and measurements of these passages and chambers that prove miraculous and give us clues to the architect and the builder. We'll look at these next issue. **JRL.**