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THE RISE AND FALL OF THE IMAGE

NO.272

THE NATIONS AND THE PEOPLE

In this study, the Lord took me into the domain of prophecy as it applies to our world today. As you read this, keep in mind that everything that is at work in the world at large, has already been worked within each one of His called out people.

The signs of the times are in place, the fulfilment of the all the words spoken by God's prophets of old is unfolding. The question that is on everyone's mind, as they watch world events, has to be, *“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? (Ps.2:1)*

The Psalmist makes a marked distinction between those he calls the heathen, and those he calls the people. While the heathen are the nations of Gentiles, the “people” who imagine a vain thing are God's people.

And so today we see on one hand, the godless nations raging, and the Christians imagining vain things. Indeed in times of uproar and violence among the nations, the majority of God's people is at a loss for answers as they look to their leaders whose imaginations run wild.

While the forces of darkness are swiftly destroying nations and civilizations, we hear all kinds of reasonings and opinions from those who are imagining vain things. Many claim that when the nations repent, God will stop the fury and the destruction. I admire their zeal and their efforts to help, but the raging nations are far from ready to believe in the true God and turn their lives around (repent).

Men have made their carnal intellect and wisdom,

their gods and guides. They believe that the solution to their woes will be found in man. They keep looking for the man with the highest IQ, the brightest ideas and most extensive experience; he will “fix” their problems and their nation.

Man's passion is to be as God. It began with Nimrod at the Tower of Babel; it is ingrained in human nature. Nimrod was looking for a way to reach up to the stature of God by his own strength. God had him in derision, He laughed, and confused their language. *“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision.” (Ps.2: 4)* God has been laughing all along...because He has an infallible plan in action.

In the meantime, the nations are “raging” and the masses are suffering greatly. *“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” (Vs.2-3)*

The nations are meeting to decide on a plan of action to stop the violence and help the people. Each nation is asked to submit to the ideas of those who seem to have the better solution to their problems. This is called “The United Nations;” It is another form of Babylon.

There is a group called the EU or the European Unions, where each participating nation of Europe is asked to surrender part of their decision making sovereignty and to follow the determinations of that organization. It all sounds like a wise thing to do, but it is yet another desperate effort to stay afloat in a world that can no longer be sustained.

None of these are looking to God for counsel. On the contrary, when it comes to the commandments of God, they are saying, *“Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”* (Vs.3) In all that is said and decided, they totally agree on this, *“Let's keep God out of our business.”* *“Let's separate church and state.”* *“Let no one mention the name of God here!”*

I understand the separation of “church and state,” because the worldly church as it stands, is just another governmental power controlling people. But what they really mean is, *“Let's separate ourselves from acknowledging God among us!”* Let's keep God and His standards out of our laws!

Major Western countries, (Britain, France, the USA, Canada among others) had once fashioned their constitutions, (standards for governing) from the Ten Commandments. There was a time when their courts called on God's Law for justice. But now these bands are broken and the cords of God's standards that guided them have been cast away from them. This is what they desired and what we see now. The rebellious rage that has been churning within the nations has now reached the boiling point. They have made their beds and the beds of their citizens in hell.

God is laughing but, He is NOT mocking them because of their suffering. He is laughing because He has a infallible plan that He is about to unveil. All that we see happening today, as bad as it is, is ordained of God. Men would always think of themselves as being smart enough to run the world if they were not proven wrong. They would never know how wicked their hearts really are, if they were not given opportunity to develop and be fully exposed.

Man is now reaching the time of his full potential. He has evolved in all three areas (666) of his being and is now reaping the harvest of his own nature (seed). He is reaching the time of conceding... the world that he has created for himself can no longer stand. Entire populations are being destroyed by the evil that their rulers have contrived for them.

Why do the nations rage?... The answer is that they

have separated themselves from God; God did not separate Himself from them. He is still speaking to them, only now they will not hear Him until He demonstrates His power. *“Then shall he speak to them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.”* (Ps.2: 5)

Yet, God declares that in spite of all the violence and wickedness of man's heart, He has made a way to save them. He has set up His king. *“YET, have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare my decree”* *the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”* (Ps.2: 6-7) God has declared His decree. His decree is His plan and purpose for His creation. His decree is in His Son.

His plan is to be ALL IN ALL in His creation. He declared through Isaiah, *“Look unto me, and be ye saved, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear* (confess). *Surely shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.”* (Isa.45: 22-24) God has decreed that His Son shall accomplish this in the earth.

GOD REVEALS THE IMAGE

There is no clearer prophecy given to man than the one given by the prophet Daniel. God had told him to seal the vision that he saw until the time of the end. The time of the end is here and the vision is opening. God is revealing His most excellent plan for His beloved creation.

Daniel was in captivity to Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar the king had a dream that shook him to the core. He also had a huge problem with this dream, he could not remember it and so none of the magicians could interpret it.

This is typical of the world today. All the world's rulers are very much aware that the governments of their world are swiftly being destroyed, but they have no understanding as to why this is happening

and how to fix it. They are shaken to the core, but no one can find a way out of the calamities. How can anyone deal with the rage that is erupting in all the nations. Only Daniel, a young man who was in touch with His God, could give the interpretation to the king's dream. By the same token, what is happening in the world today can only be explained by the Christ that is rising in the midst of His called out ones who are hid among the nations.

Daniel reveals the dream to the king, *“Thou O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like a chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” (Dan.2: 31-35)

THE IMAGE IS ONE

Today we hear about “one world order” and we see the events that have taken place in the world in the past fifty years to bring it about. Actually, a “one world order” had been in process since the beginning of civilizations. The image that the king of Babylon saw is God's definition of the “one world order” that man has raised in the earth.

It is good to keep in mind that the image is one. It depicts several levels of power, but in itself the image is one. It must be noted that the stone that smote the image, smote only the feet. When it struck the feet, the entire image went to pieces.

The image represents the totality of what man has established in the earth. Kingdoms, empires governments of all kinds, societies, educational systems

and all that comprises the arrangements of our world are represented by the image. As each kingdom and society appeared, they embodied the traits of the kingdom they had conquered and replaced. So it is that although the image is diverse in value and characteristics, the governing powers it portrays all originate from the same root and follow the same road of decadence and degradation.

THE HEAD OF GOLD

The head of gold depicts the Ancient Kingdom of Babylon. In this case gold represents the corruptible riches of man as Peter explains in I Pet.1:18- It also speaks of the formidable power of those who lord over the multitudes and uses their sweat and blood to enrich their coffers. Babylon is the mother of all man-made religions in the world. From its inception Babylon brought in a confusion of teachings about God or gods. This world of confused doctrines incites man's passion and compels them to feel that it is their holy duty to conquer all who oppose their creeds.

This “Head of Gold” mentality not only remains in the world, but has grown to its full potentiality and is raging among the nations of today.

CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER

The Medes were defeated by the Persians and together they became the super power of the Medes and Persians. They never reached the wealth and stature of fame of Babylon, silver is of lesser value than gold. However their contribution to the image is very much with us today.

The Persian Empire lasted about two hundred years. They were good organizers and administrators and made important contributions in government, law and even religion. They introduced the first widespread system of coins as money as well as a relay system for mail delivery. The chest and arms of silver is therefore very much alive in the image today.

BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE

This speaks of Greece and the wisdom of man.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil is fully depicted in that area of evolving civilizations. Bronze looks like gold but is of lesser value. The root of the tree is evil so even the “good” side is evil and their wisdom and knowledge ends in corruption. Greece established traditions of justice and individual freedom that are basic to democracy so it is found on the “good” side of the corrupt tree.

Their arts, philosophy and science became foundations of western thoughts and culture. Greece was the birthplace of democracy. It also became the place where young and old alike became enamored with sports and games which grew to such proportions as to become a god in their lives. The spirit that drives the competition in these games is especially wicked and dangerous as it promotes trampling over the weakest ones to gain the prestige and honor. Sports heroes are well rewarded and even worshipped as gods.

Sports and games replaced any search for the knowledge of God or scriptural principles. Later, this influence became very strong among the Romans (their conquerors.) And this spirit is very much alive today in our modern world. With great zeal and desire they run after the torch of the Olympics, puffed up with pride as they accept the adulations of the crowds.

The list of gods in Greek mythology is endless. The stories are formidable and such epic poems as The Iliad and The Odyssey are taught in our schools to this day. These Greek gods were not considered mere myth or superstitions; they were the center of life. They were part of their religious and ritualistic practices.

Dionysus who was called Bacchus by the Romans, was the god of grape harvest and wine making. He was also the god of pleasure and poetry. They held festivals to these gods and let loose with orgies and debaucheries that lasted for days. The Dionysian priests wore the skin of leopards to identify themselves with this god.

This was the religion of Ancient Greece. It was part of their civilization and culture. It is easy to see

that these traditions still carry a significant influence on the culture, arts and literature of Western civilization today.

Years ago, I was receiving a publication called, “Plumbline.” One of the issue was on Daniel chapter two and the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, entitled, “Sons of Greece.” In it the writer reveals the nature of the “leopard” which he describes as the Grecian spirit arising out of the sea of humanity today. He said, “It is the spirit of human reasoning without wisdom. It is the kingdom of the glory of the body of man as it is captured in the grandeur of the Olympic Games.” End of quote.

The apostle John writes, “*And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as of the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*” (Rev.13: 2) This beast is derived from the word meaning a “wild and dangerous animal.” The wild beast that John describes in his vision is the compilation of the natures which have come down from the “golden head” of the image in Daniel, down to the feet where we stand today. This nature as the leopards spots cannot be changed. It has to be removed.

LEGS OF IRON

The legs depict the Roman Empire which arose as the most powerful political and social structure of Western civilization. It held the people under its boot. It was under Roman power that our Lord Jesus was born, lived and was crucified. The domination of the Greco-Roman culture brought about the catastrophic destruction of Jerusalem and of the Temple.

The birth of Christianity took place at that time and Christians were cruelly persecuted. Romans loved entertainment and games. They built spectacular amphitheatres to hold their games and chariot races. Among their games were gladiatorial contests in which man fought against beasts to their death. In particular, they loved to see Christians fight with lions. One of their theaters had a capacity of 150,000. This is how much they enjoyed watching these “games.”

False worship flourished in Rome, even their emperors were worshipped as gods and the people offered sacrifices to them. Not much different from the bribes people offer to the politicians or some who are in high religious positions today. Although the behavior is modified, it is still the spirit of the image that prevails. The image represents the systems that are governing our world as it stands. The nations are ruled by the global mind that has absorbed all the traits of the image from the head to the feet. This is our world today, and it is the world that God is bringing to an end.

FEET OF IRON AND CLAY MIXED

The feet are the brawn that holds up the image. It is a mixture of iron (unbending rule of God's law) and clay (weakness and decadence of the man of flesh.) *"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."* (Dan.2: 42)

We see this duality as on one hand, our nation is ruled by law, and on the other hand, the flesh and its sensualities set out to replace that law. The laws that had been written to protect the people of the land are being bent and over-ruled by fleshly compassion for evil. This endangers the law-abiding citizens of the nation.

This is very apparent in current events. As a blatant example, on one hand there are rules of law that call for proper authorization to enter a country, and on the other hand, we want to show the world how hospitable and friendly we really are. So we bend the rule. This is the iron and clay mixed. It is an appeal to our fleshly emotions and it weakens the feet of the image. It has made the feet vulnerable to falling apart.

Moreover, Western civilization has been undermined and weakened by the love of materialism, greed and all that pertains to the man of clay. This is the condition in which the Western world, headed by the United States stands today.

This country has been the strength and power that held the rest of this world's system in place. It has

been broken by the mentality of the man of clay, and because of it, the rest of the world's systems are being overthrown by forces more formidable than has ever been seen to this day. And then there is another thing to consider.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. THEN was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." (Dan.2: 34-35)

Even from its inception, this world system was headed for a crushing end. God allowed it to stand and to prosper as it did for a long period of time. God has set this creation in "time" so that nothing of what is established can last. The image explains the rise and fall of the kingdoms of men as they have thrived in the earth.

The next great power in the earth is not of man. The image is braking in pieces and will never stand again. The kingdoms established by man were doomed from the start. The "stone" that the king saw is the "Rock" which is Christ. This Rock speaks of our Head Jesus Christ as He is joined by his Body that has been forming in heaven and in earth (both sides of the veil). This stone is the fulness of Christ that is breaking up the image and ushering in the kingdom of God on earth.

Our Lord came to redeem that which had been lost. *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* (Ps.24:1) When we understand and believe this, we know that God's redemption is for all his creation. This is happening in God's order.

Christ is the stone cut out without hands. God has set His power in the Lamb company that follows Him. He is leading them to finish this work. *"And*

they sung a new song saying, *Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*" (Rev. 5: 9-10)

"And every creature which is in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." (Vs. 13) And all said Amen to that.

Indeed the kingdom of God has already struck a deadly blow to the feet of the image set up by the rulers of the earth. While each nation grew in strength and power and controlled the people, God was cutting out His stone out of His mountain (kingdom), preparing a people for this day.

*"And in the days of these kings (the feet or Western civilization) 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 forever.** 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 is sure."* (Dan.2: 44-45) This was addressed to Nebuchadnezzar, the world ruler of that time. It is addressed to the kingdoms of this world today. The Word is the same, only now it is no longer a dream, it is a reality.

As for us who are still in the world, we hear the words of Isaiah calling, *"Come my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation is past."* (Isa.26: 20)

And again, *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be anymore pain: for the former things are passed*

*away. And he that sat upon the throne said, "**Behold, I make all things new.**"* (Rev.21:4-5a) God is not making all new things...He is making all things new. What is passing away is the sin, death, sorrow and pain of this old nature.

God is speaking to us in His Son, and He says, *"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance; and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron (God's Word); thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel (make them new)"* (Ps.2: 8-9)

The Son and all who are in Him are heirs of all things. *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall by my son"* (Rev.21:7) The HEIRS are asking the Father to give them all that belongs to them. Jesus asked the Father to give Him the heathen, the Gentiles, the godless people of the earth with whom to build His Church. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for them all, and the Father gave US all to Him.

We have been feeling the breaking of His rod of iron. His unbending Word that breaks our old nature and makes us worshippers of God and not of self. He has been dashing us to pieces like a potter's vessel. The potter breaks the vessel so he can make a perfect one from the very same clay. All who are His body have been feeling this mighty work of grace within.

Now, as He takes possession of His body, Jesus is asking for more. Even those who are indignant and raging against the Lord shall be brought down to their knees before Almighty God. This is God's decree in the Son. And so the Psalmist concludes his discourse by exhorting us to *"Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are they that put their trust in him."* (Ps.2: 11-12)

We kiss someone when we are of one accord with them. We show our affection for them. The Son is within us, and each day we are called to kiss Him and be in agreement with Him. When we look at the

world with our natural minds, we are more than troubled. But when we look to the Son and kiss Him, we are agreeing with His Word and we find the peace and power that we need for the day and forevermore.

JOSEPH AND BENJAMIN

In my previous study, I was left with a short space to talk about this important pair. We spoke of them as representing the Word that God sends to us today. The Lord revealed the meaning of Joseph to me, before I could understand what He was telling me. It was in a dream, shortly after I heard the call to this walk that *“I saw myself in my house, with my Bible under my arm and I declared, “Let's go do Joseph.”* In the dream, I knew that I was taking my Bible with me and going to bed.

It took many years for me to understand the true meaning of this dream. Today, it is very clear. Joseph represents the Word that is given to us at the end of this age. He represents those in whom the Word has been rooted and growing. “Doing Joseph” meant that we were going to experience, in the Spirit, without works of our own, that which actually took place in the life of Joseph.

Joseph's trouble began when he told his dreams to his brothers. The one dream about “his sheaf” that stood up while his brethren's shieves bowed down to it, riled them against him with murder in their hearts. As we know they plotted to kill Joseph and they would have, if it was not that God had another plan for him. Nevertheless, they separated him from his father's house and he was as a dead man among them.

This was fulfilled when Jesus stood among those He had come to save. They should have bowed down to Him but instead they killed Him. Everyone who has been given the Word of truth is a threat to the brethren who cannot receive it. They are banished from among them. At this time, the Word they cannot receive is that *“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”* (II Cor.5: 19)

It is the Word that all men will bow their knees to the Christ. God has ordained that His Son in His body, overcome all of the traditions of men and rule and reign in the earth. This Word has been, and is rejected by those who control men through the power of their organizations.

It is to Joseph that God has bestowed the “birthright.” It is the Word that we hold in Joseph that is making us sons and heirs of all things. *“Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn, but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's) (I Chron.5: 1-2)*

This is a very important piece of information in the archives of God. Joseph and his sons are heirs of the birthright. This means that the Word that we have come to at the end of this age, is the Word that is bringing the sons of God to their lawful and proper ruling place in Christ... in the earth. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah after the flesh and He is the Chief. But the birthright comes to the sons of God who are His complete body.

Reuben represents Israel under the old covenant which has vanished away. Israel of old broke God's covenant and that covenant has been replaced by a more excellent one. Israel as it is now is not heir of God. Only in Christ and in Joseph is the inheritance of the Father's name and the possession of the earth (body and soul). Only Christ is ruler over the nations. Only Christ is possessor of heaven and earth. Only Christ in His body is the temple of God and there is only one temple of God.

Joseph demanded that Benjamin be brought to him. Father has to release Benjamin. He is the Son of the Right Hand and the Word of power that we greatly need now. He represents the body of the sons of God **in power**. When the brethren recognize Joseph (Word), Benjamin will be brought in. When the eyes of those who have rejected this Word, are open, we will be loosed from the Egypt-

tian covering over us (Joseph revealed) and we will be the new creation of God manifested in spirit, soul and **body** in the earth. The time for this is at hand. It has been fifty years since God gave me the dream of "doing Joseph." Since then, He has revealed Himself, more and more each day. Now we are very close to seeing Him as He is. We are about to possess our inheritance, even our bodies fitted to contain Him who is life eternal. Bodies that are not subject to hurt or pain or death.

THE GLORY OF CRUCIFIXION

The Spirit leads me to write a little more about a chapter in publication No.270, called "The Son of man must be crucified." Jesus was explaining to His disciples that He must suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes "...*The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified...*" (Lk.24: 7a).

Peter became indignant and rebuked Him saying, "*Be it far from thee Lord; this shall not be unto thee. But he (Jesus) turned, and said, Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me; for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*" (Matt.16: 22b-23)

Peter was reacting as would any man who loves his Master. This is how many of us might react when we hear that Jesus had to lay His life down and be crucified. Furthermore, until the cup is filled, the Christ (Word) in us must suffer the same fate at the hand of the world and worldly Christians.

We do not need to go to a literal cross, but our daily cross is very real indeed, and we must absolutely take it up and embrace it. Each time someone comes against us or maligns us for the Word that we believe, Christ in us is crucified... And we are crucified with Christ.

Just as Peter, we may want to defend ourselves and our Lord. We may not want to hear that we are called to just let them rile at us and crucify us for our faith, but the truth is, they are doing what they need to do. Just as those who crucified our Lord did what they were supposed to do. As we mature, we

find that the way of the cross is actually the way of deliverance from the self. Paul said, "*I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..*" (Gal.2: 20a)

Paul taught the church, "*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him...*" (Rom.6: 6a) Indeed, the cross is God's power to slay our old nature. *Jesus did not endure the death of the cross so we could live our own lives. He endured the cross so that we would find the power to die with Him and live in Him.*

This is why Jesus told the young man whom He loved, and why He tells us all, "*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: **but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same will save it.***" (Lk.9: 23-24)

May the Father of Light bless each one as He reveals His Word (Son) in us. May He keep us safe while He brings us into the place of our inheritance where "*God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*" (Rev.21: 4)

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

P.S. Someone just called me with this dream. *She was standing among her extended household when a giant man came in, threatening to take over. She was so small beside this giant but felt strength coming into her and firmly ordered him out. He had to obey.*" I believe this giant represents the forces of the image that man has erected in the earth to take over and destroy the people. The woman in the dream represents the church and the Word of the Lord that is Christ, the Stone cut out of the mountain, hitting the feet of the image (the giant) in the world. This is a great confirmation of this Word. The giant may seem unbeatable to us, but the Word of power that God is about to release (Benjamin, son of the Right Hand) is ready to finish the job. Lord, may it be according to you word! Amen.