Both Protestants and Mormons generally recognize the First Christian Apostasy. Some points in Daniel suggest the event will play out. Why else does the kingdom go from Gold to Silver and then to Brass? What follows in Christianity will come from the basest of men, yet God will use our mistakes to his advantage. The only thing we must remember is suffering and desolations always follow disobedience to the Laws of Heaven. This is even more so with the Kingdom of Iron. OOOO **Great Tree: “**And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and *let* his portion *be* with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him” (Daniel 4:23). The tree weaves in an out of scripture to represent how the Lord will restore heaven. When the Lord cuts the tree down, he leaves a stump. This is the stem of Jesse. In the above, the Lord puts a band of brass and iron around the stump of the tree in order to symbolize the Protestants and Mormons attempt to preserve it until the day of redemption. Cutting the tree down is defiantly the apostasy of the first church. It will certainly include the destruction of the Priesthood and the principles of heaven for which the tree reached. The most interesting prophecy hear is that seven times will pass over the stump of the tree bound with brass and iron. According to the meaning of times, this is from the reformation to the redemption. OOOO “Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and *let* his portion *be* with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man’s, and let a beast’s heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. This matter *is* by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men” (Daniel 4:15-17). Leave the sump of his (Christ) roots in the earth seems clear. The tender grass refers to the weakness of man. Let this grass be wet with the dew of heaven. This is not revelation, but some spirit to work for those willing to listen. Let his portion be with the beast’s means God leaves something to the kingdoms of Christianity to preserve the prophecies of the Lord. To let his heart, meaning Christ heart in man, be changed to a beast’s heart indicates the evil of false doctrines that permeate Christianity. The intent is that the living may eventually know the Lord rules in the Christian kingdoms, and gives power to whomsoever He will. The Lord even sets up some of the basest of men to lead the saints. This is prophecy that never should leave our minds. Instead, we often worship these men rather than God. This idolatry we keep for the honor we seek. OOOO Exactly when the tree had fallen seems difficult. Even with the loss of the Priesthood, there is reason to assume some could have still lived righteously. When the Rome took all the tithes to a central location would definitely usher in a final destruction. When the Lord bares his arm, He works in his vineyard along with his servants. He would only do this if he has revealed his secrets and the people have the Priesthood. The arm of the Lord is the priesthood. When the apostles were killed revelation ceased and the arm of the Lord began to vanish. OOOO **Four Kings:** Here is a part that indicates a loss of the Priesthood. “And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king’s daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: ***but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm***: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in *these* times” (Daniel 11:6). More is explained later as to the use of she and he, but by this time neither the king of the north or the king of the south had the power of the arm. “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1). This is like saying to whom is the priesthood revealed? “Put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake as in the ancient days” (2 Nephi 8:9). The ancient in the days of Abraham, he had the Melchizedek Priesthood. Israel lost it while in bondage, but Moses gave only the lesser priesthood and the promise was that when Christ comes they will have the priesthood of ancients. “And then cometh the day when the arm of the Lord shall be revealed in power in convincing the nations, the heathen nations, the house of Joseph, of the gospel of their salvation” (Doctrine and Covenants 90:10). This perhaps implies more than the priesthood, but it is the power of the priesthood to give the Gift of the Holy Ghost to the house of Joseph. This becomes the gospel of their salivation. When the priesthood was lost during the darkness of Christianity, the Lord saw fit to give the priesthood to Joseph Smith. Without the priesthood, there is definitely the existence of apostasy.