

CHRIST'S KINGDOM IN O.T. PROPHECY

Text: Daniel 2:44

INTRO: There are many prophecies in the O.T. about the Messianic kingdom which was to come. We certainly cannot exhaust the subject in one lesson. There are many misconceptions about Christ's kingdom and neither can we deal with all of them in one lesson. We hope as this series of lessons progresses that we will be able to set forth the primary truths about the kingdom of God on earth.

In this lesson, we will center in on portions of four chapters of Scripture -- three chapters from the Old Testament and one chapter from the New. And you can remember these four chapters. They are Daniel chapter 2, Isaiah chapter 2, Joel chapter 2, and Acts chapter 2.

From these chapters we will learn four basic facts about the Messianic kingdom: (1) WHEN it was to be established, (2) WHO would be its citizens, (3) WHERE would it originate, and (4) WHAT would be its nature and/or primary characteristics.

Much of our time will be taken up in Daniel chapter 2 in order to set the background for the rest of the lesson.

I. DANIEL CHAPTER 2.

A. Nebuchadnezzar's challenge to his wise men.
vs. 1-6, 14-16, 19a [NOTE: KJV, NKJ]

B. The dream revealed, vs. 31-36

C. The interpretation involved 4 world empires. The first 3 of them are unmistakably identified in the book of Daniel.

1. The head of gold=Babylon, vs. 38
2. After that, Medo-Persian, 5:28
3. The 3rd=Greece, 8:3-7
4. The 4th undoubtedly=Rome, vs. 44-45

NOTE: A mountain was frequently used to represent strength, stability & permanence. The kingdom of God would become a great mountain.

D. It should be further noted that the statue Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream represented 4 world empires, & only 4.

E. The passage does not say there would be no more worldly powers after these, but the things prophesied were to occur within the time covered by these 4 powers.

F. Note that Daniel chapter 2 provides answers to two of our questions.

1. When -- during the days of Roman rule, vs. 44
2. Who -- the whole earth, all these kingdoms.

NOTE: Parallel verse-- Then to Him was given dominion & glory & a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, & languages should serve Him... (Dan. 7:14).

II. ISAIAH 2:1-5.

- A. When--last days
- B. Who--all nations
- C. Where--Jerusalem, Mt. Zion
- D. What--Carnal weapons give way to implements of peace.

NOTE: Warfare is spiritual.

III. JOEL 2:28-32.

- A. When--afterward (last days, Acts 2:16-17)
- B. Who--all flesh
- C. Where--Jerusalem, Mt. Zion
- D. What--salvation, a spiritual blessing.

IV. ACTS 2, THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE & ALL OTHER O.T. PROPHECIES REGARDING THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM. READ ACTS 2:1-4.

- A. When--last days, vs. 16-17
- B. Who--all nations, vs. 5-13
- C. Where--Jerusalem, vs. 5, 14
- D. What--salvation, forgiveness of sins, vs. 16-21, 36-38

CONCLUSION: Let us conclude by returning to a statement found in Daniel 2:45, "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, & that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, & the gold--the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, & its

interpretation is sure.”

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