

In the Days of These Kings (Dan. 2:44)

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Solomon said, “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). Few illustrations of that truth could be given that are better than what is recorded about Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel. That Nebuchadnezzar was a prideful king, there can be no doubt. Time and again he saw powerful illustrations of Jehovah’s supremacy and sovereignty, yet to no avail, until finally he was humbled by Jehovah, so that he came to the realization that “the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men” (Dan. 4:32).

Of all the illustrations of God’s power over the nations, perhaps the most thrilling is found in Daniel 2. In that monumental chapter scripture reveals that Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him. He saw a great image standing before him. The figure that he saw possessed a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay (Dan. 2:31-33). He then saw a stone cut without hands out of a mountain. That stone struck the feet of the figure and broke them. The figure then fell to the ground, crumbling into pieces, which the wind picked up and blew away. The stone then became a great mountain that filled all the earth (Dan. 2:34-35).

Daniel revealed clearly the interpretation of what the king saw. The figure represented four world empires. Namely, the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman Empire. Each of these would rise to greatness in its own right, but ultimately be defeated (study Daniel closely and notice that Jehovah decides when nations will rise and fall). While speaking of the Roman Empire, Daniel made this statement: “And in the days of these kings 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” (Dan. 2:44). Through the eyes of prophecy, Daniel saw the greatest kingdom that would ever come into existence—God’s kingdom.

“But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (Gal. 4:4). During the reign of the Roman Empire, the time was right for God’s eternal purpose to be fulfilled (Eph. 3:9-11). Thus, “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John. 1:14). What began to be revealed in the garden (Gen. 3:15) was now to be realized. Jesus’ message was, “repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17). Mark 9:1 records, “...There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.” Jesus came to establish His kingdom, which He did on the first Pentecost following His ascension (Acts 2). The Father has given Him all power in Heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18), and He is presently reigning as King of His Kingdom (see Acts 2:22-36).

The fact that God’s Kingdom was coming was a revelation to Nebuchadnezzar, and to all of the world, that Jehovah reigns supreme as sovereign of the Universe. God’s Kingdom, the church, is superior in every way to every kingdom or nation that will ever exist. It is a spiritual Kingdom (John 18:36), the borders of which cannot be limited to any locale. It is ruled by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16). He reigns “far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:21). Salvation is

found within it (Eph. 5:23), and would to God that all men would bow their knee in submission and recognition, that “the most High ruleth” (Dan. 4:32).