

Jesus, King of Kings

The book of Daniel, which Jesus commends to our attention (Mark 13:14), records a prophecy given in the form of a dream to the king of Babylon (Daniel 2). The king saw a huge, glowing and glowering image, which was later explained to represent a series of kingdoms, or empires, called “the kingdom of men” (Daniel 4:17). The head represented the then current empire of Babylon which had overturned the throne of David and ruled over the nations of the middle-east. While the chest, midriff, and legs of the image (v. 39-40) represented succeeding empires, the feet and toes exhibited a group of independent nations (v. 41-42), rather than a single empire. The king then saw in his dream, “a stone cut out by no human hand” which first struck the image on the feet, and then shattered the entire image. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth (v. 34-35). In Scripture the only man to be born without human initiative is Jesus Christ, by birth to the virgin, Mary.

It is then explained that during the final phase of the kingdom of men (our times), “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it (God’s kingdom) shall stand forever” - Daniel 2:44. This prophecy is in perfect harmony with the Gospel of the Kingdom of God - centred in the Promised Land on this earth - “The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him” - Daniel 7:27. For more details of Daniel’s image prophecy, see our pamphlet, Bible Prophecy.

In his Parable of the Ten Minas, Jesus represented himself as “a nobleman who went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return”. Having returned, he said to a faithful servant, “well done, good servant!..you shall have authority over ten cities” and will so “inherit the earth” with Jesus - Luke 19:12-17. Paul encouraged his young co-worker, “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him” - 2 Timothy 2:12. Paul reminded the believers in Corinth, “do you not know that the saints will judge (rule) the world?” - 1 Corinthians 6:2. The redeemed will say to Jesus, “by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth” - Revelation 5:9-10. “The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father” - Revelation 2:26-27. How will the kingdom of men be replaced by the Kingdom of God? Next time, God willing, we will look at what the Scriptures say about this.