

“The Kingdom of Christ”  
Daniel 2:31-35,44; 7:13-14  
(Preached at Trinity, March 16, 2014)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last time we looked at the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s troublesome dream.  
**Daniel 2:1 NAU** - "Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him."
2. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of an enormous statue of extraordinary splendor. The head was of gold. The chest and arms were of silver. The middle portions of the statue were of bronze and the legs were of iron. The feet were of iron mixed with clay.  
While the king was watching a great rock that was not cut by human hands rose up and struck the statue on its feet and the whole thing toppled over and broke in tiny pieces that the wind blew away. Then the rock that struck the statue grew into a huge mountain that filled the whole earth.
3. Then Daniel gave the interpretation. He told of the mighty kingdoms of the world, each rising to power only to be crushed by the next kingdom.
  - A. The identity of the head is given. It represented Babylon ruled by Nebuchadnezzar – a mighty kingdom.  
**Daniel 2:37-38 NAU** - "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; <sup>38</sup> and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold."
  - B. As I stated the other kingdoms are usually assumed to be the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, and the Roman Empire.  
But please note that while these seem to fit the description of the statue, we are not given this precise identity in Scripture.  
Iain Duguid – “It is important to notice, however, that the passage itself gives us virtually no data about the specifics of any of these kingdoms . . .”  
But these kingdoms do seem to fit the historical record. Medo-Persia & Greece are mentioned in **Chapter 8**.
4. There are some things that we can clearly see. Notice it is a single statue. There are some things that all of the kingdoms of the world share in common.
  - A. First, they all owe their power and glory to God. Nations rise and fall at the sovereign command of God.  
**Daniel 4:17 NAU** - "the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men."
  - B. Second, all earthly kingdoms are temporary. The greatest kingdoms will come to an end. Even the most powerful have feet of clay.
  - C. Because of the sinfulness of man all are in a patten of regress – gold to silver, bronze, iron.
  - D. There is a never ending lust for power and domination.

- E. The ultimate hope is not in the formation of a new and improved statue but in bringing it to a crushing end.
5. But finally Nebuchadnezzar was given the vision of another kingdom—a Stone formed without human hands, a Kingdom that would crush all others.  
**Daniel 2:34 NAU** - "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them." This Rock of course is Jesus Christ—the King of kings.
6. Jesus came to establish an entirely new Kingdom, a Kingdom untouched by human hands, a perfect and mighty Kingdom that will never end. It is something that starts small until it has filled the earth, dominating every earthly kingdom.  
 King Darius would declare in **Chapter 6**  
**Daniel 6:26 NAU** - "He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion *will be* forever."
7. Last week I gave you a brief summary of this Kingdom. More particularly, I set before you the rule of Christ, His mighty absolute dominion.
- A. His Kingdom is not of this world, yet is manifested in this world through God's people—the church.  
**Luke 17:20-21** – "Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; <sup>21</sup> nor will they say, 'Look, here *it is!*' or, 'There *it is!*' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."
- B. All of this world is being brought under His sovereign power
8. Before we move on to the next chapter I want to set the Kingdom of Christ before you in a little greater detail.  
 I said last week my struggle with presenting this to you. The Book of Daniel is marvelous, and yet it has to be handled carefully. I also realize my audience ranges from unbelieving children to some relatively immature in the faith to those who are very mature. So the manner in which I set parts of Daniel before you weighs heavy upon me.
9. There is also the issue of how much regarding the Kingdom of Christ do I cover in **Chapter 2** because the subject will come up again in later chapters. For example:  
**Daniel 7:13-14 NAU** - "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup> "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."
10. Last week I only gave a brief overview of the reign of Christ.  
I've decided to set a little more before you before moving on.  
 It is important for us to have a good understanding of the nature of God's Kingdom. I stated before that there is a sense in which God has always reigned. He is Creator of all things. He owns all things. He rules all things with sovereign authority. And He has always had this infinite power and authority.  
 When we speak of the Kingdom of Christ we are talking about a particular aspect of God's sovereign reign.
- A. Although God has always reigned with absolute power and authority mankind revolted against God's authority and became a part of the kingdom of darkness with Satan as the head.

- B. God has determined to deliver a multitude from the chains of their captivity by raising up a Redeemer who would destroy the dominion of Satan and establish a new and entirely different kingdom.  
**Colossians 1:13-14 NAU** - "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
11. The entire Old Testament by way of covenant and promise points forward to this Redeemer and His Kingdom. God's eternal redemptive purpose is to choose a people and gather them together into His Kingdom. He sent forth His Son to redeem them through the shedding of His own blood.
- A. This Kingdom was foretold throughout the Old Testament  
**Numbers 24:17 NAU** - "A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth."
- B. It was promised to David  
**2 Samuel 7:16 NAU** - "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."
- C. It was foretold by Isaiah  
**Isaiah 9:6-7 NAU** - "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this."
- D. The Psalms sing forth the coming King and the establishment of His Kingdom  
**Psalms 45:6 NAU** - "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom."  
**Psalms 72:8-11 NAU** - "May he also rule from sea to sea And from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>9</sup> Let the nomads of the desert bow before him, And his enemies lick the dust. <sup>10</sup> Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. <sup>11</sup> And let all kings bow down before him, All nations serve him."  
**Psalms 110:1-2 NAU** - "The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." <sup>2</sup> The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."
- E. Micah foretold Him  
**Micah 5:2 NAU** - "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."
12. Finally, the Angel Gabriel announced His arrival to Mary  
**Luke 1:31-33 NAU** - "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

13. John the Baptist announced that the Kingdom was about to come in power  
**Matthew 3:2 NAU** - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
14. The bulk of our Lord's preaching revealed elements of this Kingdom.  
He spoke of it over 80 times in the Gospels.
15. The Kingdom of God has been given to Christ. It is administered by Him under His royal authority.

Tonight, I want to set before you one more element before we move on to **Chapter 3**

I want to answer an important question: "When?"

When did our Lord receive His Kingdom? When was it established? The answer to this question clarifies the eschatological question. Answering this question will prove essential in how we interpret the second half of the Book of Daniel.

Here's the tension:

- A. Some see the kingdom power as manifested in the church; that it is already present. Jesus entered during the Roman Empire and the church has gradually expanded to the four corners of the earth. Jesus told Peter,  
**Matthew 16:18-19 NAU** - "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. <sup>19</sup> "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
  - B. Dispensationalists insist that the church has not fulfilled this prophecy.
    1. In fact, they claim that they kingdom won't truly be revealed until the church is taken out of the way.
    2. They claim that the fourth kingdom represents not only the historical Roman empire but a *revived* Roman empire at the end of time which will end by a sudden catastrophic judgment after which the kingdom of God will be established, i.e. the millennium. The Kingdom will be established then.
    3. They claim that the prophetic clock has actually stopped during the church; that this can only truly be applied to Israel.
- I. The Kingdom of God has come
- A. The Biblical evidence makes it clear that Christ's Kingdom *has* come
    1. The enthronement of Christ testifies to the presence of His Kingdom. Jesus Christ has been exalted and seated at the right hand of majesty  
**Acts 2:32-35 NAS** - "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup> "Therefore having been exalted <sup>1a</sup>to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. <sup>34</sup> "For it was not David who ascended into <sup>1</sup>heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, <sup>35</sup> Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet."  
**Hebrews 1:3 NAS** - "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and <sup>2b</sup>upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high"

2. Satan has been defeated proving the Kingdom has come. (**Rev. 20**)  
**Matthew 12:28-29 NAU** - "if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup> "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house."
- B. When did Christ receive His Kingdom?
1. He received His Kingdom upon His resurrection and exaltation  
 After His resurrection Jesus announced to His disciples:  
**Matthew 28:18 NAU** - "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
  2. Paul alludes to this in 1 Corinthians 15.
    - a. The context of the chapter is the resurrection  
**1 Corinthians 15:21-24 NAU** - "For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, <sup>24</sup> then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power."
    - b. Christ was raised first, then the saints are raised at His coming  
 At that time He hands the Kingdom over to His Father. At that time His mediatorial work as King comes to fulfillment & completion.
    - c. Clearly, the Kingdom has already existed before He returns since He will hand it over to God *at* His return.
  3. Jesus Christ is reigning until all of His enemies have been defeated  
**1 Corinthians 15:25 NAU** - "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet."
  4. The last enemy is death which is destroyed with the resurrection of the saints.  
**1 Corinthians 15:26 NAU** - "The last enemy that will be abolished is death."
- C. This means the period between the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the saints is the period of Kingdom conquest.  
**1 Corinthians 15:25 NAU** - "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet."
1. During this reign of Christ there is a mixture of evil & good upon the earth. The Parable of the Wheat and Tares describes this.  
**Matthew 13:30 NAU** - "Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."
  2. Christ must reign until all of His enemies have been crushed beneath His feet.  
**Psalms 110:1 NAU** - "The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

3. Then the end comes – the end of this conquest.  
**1 Corinthians 15:24 NAU** - "then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power."
4. Then the Kingdom will enter the eternal state. The return of Christ ushers in the eternal state, not another 1000 year reign upon the earth.

II. The Bible also presents the Kingdom as a coming kingdom.

- A. This doesn't mean that the Kingdom does not yet exist
  1. Jesus is presently reigning and His enemies are presently being defeated
  2. We don't have to wait for a new period upon the earth for His Kingdom to begin.
  3. But the Bible also sees the Kingdom as a future event
- B. The Kingdom awaits the return of Christ
  1. The return of Christ marks the end of time and the final judgment.  
The earthly Kingdom of Christ will enter a new dimension  
**1 Corinthians 15:24 NAU** - "then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power."
  2. The second coming of Christ is referred to as the coming of the Kingdom  
**Luke 21:31 NAU** - "So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near."
  3. We pray for the great consummation of the Kingdom when every enemy of Christ will be forever vanquished  
**Matthew 6:10 NAU** - "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."
  4. The great hope of believers will be to enter into that eternal rest. In this sense it is described as a future hope  
**2 Peter 1:10-11 NAU** - "Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."
  5. The eternal Kingdom is the inheritance of the saints  
**Matthew 5:3 NAU** - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."  
**Matthew 5:10 NAU** - "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."  
**Matthew 25:31-34 NAU** - "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Conclusion:

1. We are commanded to be certain that we are partakers of the Kingdom  
**2 Peter 1:10-11 NAU** - "Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."
2. Paul warned over and over that our Lord's Kingdom is a righteous Kingdom. Nothing defiled will enter into it.  
**Ephesians 5:5 NAU** - " For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."  
**1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NAU** - "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God."
3. Admission to this Kingdom demands faith and repentance. It demands submission to the King and a desire to come under His reign.  
**Matthew 18:3 NAU** - "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."
4. Charles Hodge wrote: "The laws of this kingdom require first and above all, faith in Jesus Christ; the sincere belief that He is the Son of God and the Savior of the world, and cordial submission to Him and trust in Him as our Prophet, Priest, and King. With this faith is united supreme love. The laws of the kingdom moreover require that His people should be holy in heart and life. They must be poor in spirit; meek; merciful; peace-makers; longsuffering; ready to forgive. They are forbidden to be covetous, or proud, or worldly minded. In one word, they are required to be like Christ, in disposition, character, and conduct."
5. He is a glorious King worthy of all love and devotion. May God grant us to seek Him above all things.  
 "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness . . ."