

Christ The King (Daniel 2, 7)

Introduction: *Daniel's prophecies often either ignored or abused*

Those people who first received the prophecy could obviously not identify which kingdoms were represented. Nevertheless, this book had an important message for that generation. The message of encouragement in the book depends not on identifying every detail, but rather upon the God who clearly is ruling over all nations to bring his kingdom purposes to pass. In the midst of their sadness and confusion and captivity and foreign domination, this book beautifully reveals Christ the King.

1. Christ the Rock (Dan 2)

The statue represents four successive kingdoms of the earth, ruling over all the civilized world of their day. They're successive kingdoms, yet all one glorious statue united against the rock. The rock represents the coming kingdom of God. And it's very unimpressive at its beginning, yet it's supernatural, universal, eternal, and indestructible.

Application: *This is a challenging message to bear to others.*

Daniel had to go to that powerful man and say, "That for which you dreamed and worked and plotted and killed, the reason for your existence, is going to crumble into emptiness and nothingness." Can you be so faithful? For the God of heaven "has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Can you say that? "That stone is made head cornerstone which builders did despise. This is the doing of the LORD and wondrous in our eyes" (Ps 118:22).

2. Christ the Son of Man (Dan 7)

"Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth" (v. 17), and we're given considerably more detail about their kingdoms. Then the Son of Man approaches the throne of God, coming on the clouds of heaven, and is given a universal kingdom, an everlasting dominion, that he should be worshipped throughout the earth.

"The high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." "Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? "You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death" (Mark 14:60-64).

Application: *This is the greatest reality in the world.*

"You were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev 5:9, NIV). The kingdom grows and grows until it fills the whole world. And then the end will come.

What is the goal of your studies and your life? For what kingdom do you labor? "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" (Dan 12:2-3).

Conclusion: *Daniel 12:13*

I have wrestled on towards heaven, against storm, and wind, and tide // Now, like a weary traveler which leaneth on its guide // Amid the shades of evening while sinks life's lingering sand, // I hail the glory dawning from Immanuel's land.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Dan 2)	Daniel's Dream (Dan 7)	Successive Kingdoms
Gold head	Lion with eagles' wings	Babylon
Silver chest and arms	Bear raised up on one side with 3 ribs in its mouth	Medo-Persia
Bronze belly and thighs	Leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings	Greece
Iron legs and iron and clay feet	Beast with iron teeth and 10 horns	Rome
Stone cut out without hands	Son of Man coming with clouds TO the Ancient of Days	Christ

