

## Serm. Series: Daniel: Christ Among the Exiles

Sermon Text: Daniel 2:31-49 The Everlasting Kingdom of Christ

**You can work for righteousness in an ungodly society because your hope is in the everlasting Kingdom of Christ who controls the rise and fall of all earthly tyrants.**

### 1) Work in hope because God controls the rise and fall of all earthly tyrants.

- a) The four kingdoms/kings are tyrannies that promote the man-centered glory of Babel (Gen. 11).
  - i) Human image—"head . . . chest and arms . . . middle and thighs . . . legs . . . feet . . . toes"  
"you are the head of gold"
  - ii) "Great image/idol" "exceeding brightness" "frightening" (v. 31)—kingdoms that seek glory of man apart from God; terrorize with "greatness" rather than serve (cf. Mark 10:42-45)
  - iii) example of this tyranny in Nebuchadnezzar (2:12);2:43 "they will mix with one another in marriage"—political alliances through marriage.
  - iv) The problem is not that they are human, but that they are man-centered and inhumane.
- b) God knows the future of these kingdoms because He decreed it from eternity.
  - i) "to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom . . . and into whose hand He has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man . . . making you rule over them all . . ." (2:37-38).
  - ii) "Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And there shall be a fourth kingdom . . ." (2:39-40).
  - iii) "The great God has made known to the king what shall be after this." (2:45).
- c) **Application:**
  - i) God's sovereignty is universal. Christ is above all earthly powers.
  - ii) God raises up and brings down according to His eternal purposes.

### 2) Work in hope because Christ will certainly end all human tyranny.

- a) "The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure" (2:45).
- b) "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found" (2:35).
- c) "It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end" (2:44).
- d) **Application:**
  - i) Do not envy the wicked but consider their end (Psalm 73).
  - ii) The leaven of the Kingdom of God is still spreading over all the earth.
  - iii) Bringing up a godly seed in an ungodly soil.

### 3) Work in hope because Christ will certainly reign forever.

- a) "But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" (2:35).
- b) "a kingdom that shall never be destroyed . . . and it shall stand forever" (2:44).
- c) Parallel with Dan. 7:13-14, 27
  - i) "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should

- serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed” (7:13-14).
- ii) “And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them” (7:27).
  - iii) Divine Reign manifested through saints in the world (cf. Rom. 14:17-19; Col. 4:11).
- d) Christ’s Kingdom has been inaugurated (Luke 1:30-35; Acts 2:22-36). He is putting all His enemies under His feet until the consummation (1 Cor. 15:20-28).
- e) The homage Nebuchadnezzar paid to Daniel prefigures the homage of the nations before Christ and His people.
- f) **Application:**
- i) Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord because He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His Beloved Son (Col. 1:9-14; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Thess. 1:3-12).
  - ii) Your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).
  - iii) “This is my Father’s world, O let me ne’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father’s world: the battle is not done; Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.” (Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901)

**You can work for righteousness in an ungodly society because your hope is in the everlasting Kingdom of Christ who controls the rise and fall of all earthly tyrants.**

**Doxology:** Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him. (Daniel 2:20-22).