

Sermon, August 28, 2011
“Thy Kingdom Come”, Daniel 2:25-35
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The Books of Prophecy

- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Overview of Daniel¹:

- Christ confirmed Daniel as the author of this book (cf. Matt. 24:15)
- Isaiah means “ the LORD is salvation”; Jeremiah means “God will uplift”; Ezekiel, “strengthened by God”,
- Daniel means “God is my judge”
- From 605 B.C. Babylon conquered Jerusalem and exiled Daniel, his 3 friends, and others to the eventual demise of Babylonian supremacy in 539 B.C., when Medo-Persian besiegers conquered Babylon (5:30,31).
- Originally and appropriately written in Aramaic, the contemporary language of international business
- Ezekiel, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, and Zephaniah were Daniel’s prophetic contemporaries.
- **Overall Outline of Daniel :**
 - I. The Background of Daniel (1:1–21)
 - A. Conquest of Jerusalem (1:1, 2)
 - B. Conscription of Jews for Training (1:3–7)
 - C. Courage of Four Men in Trial (1:8–16)
 - D. Choice of Four Men for Royal Positions (1:17–21)
 - II. Destinies of the Nations (2:1–7:28)
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar’s Dreams (2:1–4:37)
 - B. Belshazzar and Babylon’s Downfall (5:1–31)
 - C. Deliverance of Daniel (6:1–28)
 - D. Dream of Daniel (7:1–28)
 - III. The Prophetic Course of Israel’s Destiny (8:1–12:13)
 - A. Prophecy of the Ram and Male Goat (8:1–27)
 - B. Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks (9:1–27)
 - C. Prophecy of Israel’s Humiliation and Restoration (10:1–12:13)

Major Themes of Daniel²:

- Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews by revealing God’s program for them.
- God’s sovereign control over the affairs of all rulers and nations.
- God was providentially working His sure purposes toward an eventual full display of His King, the exalted Christ.
- A key aspect within the over-arching theme of God’s kingly control is Messiah’s coming to rule the world in glory over all men (2:35,45; 7:13,14,27). He is like a stone in chap. 2, and like a son of man in chap. 7. In addition, He is the Anointed One (Messiah) in chap. 9:26. Chapter 9 provides the chronological framework from Daniel’s time to Christ’s kingdom.
- Display of God’s sovereign power through miracles.

In the 6th century BC the prophet Daniel in Scripture reveals the coming of a new kingdom, the kingdom of God.

1. Nebuchadnezzar (pagan ruler) wants someone to tell him what he dreamed then interpret his dream (beginning of Ch. 2:1-14)

- God, sovereign over all rulers, is working through a pagan to tell the Jews of His kingdom to come.
- The religious magicians of Babylon could not produce and all would have been killed if God did not work through Daniel...

¹ MacArthur, John Jr: The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville : Word Pub., 1997, c1997, S.

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2. **In our Scripture reading, Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar what he dreamed and goes on to interpret the dream...**
 - **Daniel 2:36-38**
 - Daniel starts with the head of gold, the most glorious of metals, representing the Babylonian empire.
 - Babylon ruled from 609-539BC, from Nebopolassar to Belshazzar.

3. **Daniel continues with the second ruling power to come...**
 - **Daniel 2:39** ³⁹ *"After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you,*
 - Eventually Balshazzar the last Babylonian king was overthrown by Darius the Mede...
 - **Daniel 5:22-31**
 - The Medo-Persian empire reigned for 208 years, from 539-331
 - The silver arms and chest were not as glorious as Babylon, but just as strong

4. **The third kingdom is prophesied to Nebuchadnezzar, the rule of Alexander the Great and the Greek kingdom...**
 - **Daniel 2:39** *then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.*
 - From 331 to arguably 168BC
 - This kingdom was the beginning of the Hellenistic age and with it spread the Greek language which was spoken from Africa through Asia and as far west as Spain,

5. **The fourth kingdom arises in 168 BC, the Roman Empire...**
 - **Daniel 2:40-43**
 - The language around much of the European.Asian/African world is unified and now the Roman system of iron legions conquer, build various architecture from aqueducts to road systems that still are used today, and maintain peace (PAX Romana-the peace of Rome)
 - The fullness of time had come for the entry of the Kingdom of God, **Galatians 4:4-5**
 - The Roman Empire is the last kingdom to rule before the coming of Messiah.

6. **The last kingdom was one that would come to conquer all nations, the Kingdom of God.**
 - **Daniel 2:44-45**
 - The coming expectation of Messiah was prevalent in Jewish history around the time of Christ.
 - In the writings of Jewish historian, Josephus, gives historical details about self-proclaimed and popularly-embraced "messiahs" who arose during the 1st century. These included: (1) Judas of Sepphoris, son of Hezekiah the "brigand chief"; (2) Simon of Perea, a former royal servant; (3) Athronges the shepherd of Judea; (4) Judas the Galilean (mentioned in Acts 5.37); (5) Menahem, [grand]son of Judas the Galilean; (6) John of Gischala, son of Levi; and (7) Simon bar Giora of Gerasa.
 - The Kingdom of God endures forever, never to be destroyed (spread of the Gospel and Christianity),
 - The Triune God has always ruled over His creation. There has never been a time, nor ever shall be, when the all sovereign God does not rule over his creation,
 - Daniel 4: 35
 - But the world in general is not the kingdom that was promised to the Messiah or Christ. The Lord Himself did not give us a plain and simple definition of His Kingdom. The prophets described it in physical terms for our minds to comprehend. The Lord clarified it to some extent in
 - Luke 17: 21; also when He told Pilate that His kingdom was not of this world. The apostle Paul added
 - Romans 14: 17
 - The apostle John declared himself to be in this kingdom in Revelation 1: 9
 - Messiah's kingdom is the rule and authority over those people that were given to Him by the Father, and who He came and died for. The kingdom of God is a spiritual reign over those that are born of the Spirit.
 - **Hebrews 1:3** *When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*