

Studies in Daniel #3 – God’s Kingdom

The overall theme of Daniel is: **God’s kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.** Dan. 4:3, 4:34, 6:26, 7:14, 7:27, Ps. 145:13

In the first study, we looked at how God is the source of wisdom and knowledge, the revealer of secrets. The second lesson was on the sovereignty of God.

Theme #3: God’s Kingdom

A. God’s Kingship in general

God rules over all, in omnipotent power, preserving and ordering all things according to His sovereign will and infinite wisdom. Col. 1:16-17

a. He is king over all creation

- i. Principalities and powers (angels, demons, and all spiritual beings) – He is called “Lord of hosts”, of the “armies of heaven”
- ii. The laws of chemistry and physics
- iii. Reproduction and provision for all plant, animal, and human life
- iv. Processes and events of earth, sea, and weather
- v. Ordering of sun, moon and stars

b. He is king over all the earth – Ps.47:6-8, Rev. 19:6

c. His is an eternal kingdom – Dan. 4:3 - His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation 6:26 – his kingdom shall not be destroyed ...

d. He rules over the governments of men and kingdoms of men, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The mightiest and proudest of human kings are merely his under-lords, and he raises them up and brings them down according to his own will and timing. Dan. 4:17 – the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

e. Over history – God predicted the rise of the world kingdoms/empires, destructions of Israel by Assyria and Judah by Babylon, named Cyrus as the one to direct the return of the Jews from their exile, directed Abraham’s descendants into Egypt for 400 years. He has predicted the final gathering of all nations against Israel and Jerusalem.

B. His Kingship over Israel

Isa. 44:6 – “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts ...”

1 Sam. 8:7 – “... they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” (God speaking, when the people demanded a king)

C. The NT Kingdom of the Heart

John the Baptist and Jesus both came, preaching that the kingdom of God was “at hand”. In the book of Acts, a central part of the message they preached everywhere was that the kingdom of God had come. The present reality of that kingdom is the reign and rule of Christ in the heart of the believer. Lk. 17:20-22 – “And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation; Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

This was predicted in Ezek. 36:25-29 (that God would cleanse them, and give them a new heart and a new spirit, and take away their stony hearts, and save them from uncleanness). It is also alluded to in the OT where it mentions “circumcision of the heart”.

D. The Future Visible Kingship of the Messiah

The present kingdom of God in our hearts does not, however, mean that there will be no future, visible manifestation of God's kingdom. Ac. 1:6-8

There are many places that describe Jesus as the King of Israel, or King of the Jews:

Lk. 1:31-33 – "... and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Jn. 1:49 – Nathanael said, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God, thou art the King of Israel.

Mt. 21:5 (Zech. 9:9) – "Behold thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass."

Besides the overall theme of God's kingdom being everlasting and from generation to generation, it is this future kingship of the Messiah that sometimes occurs in the book of Daniel.

In the dream of the colossal image, it is seen as the stone that smites and destroys the image, and becomes a great mountain that fills all the earth.

2:44 – "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

It is significant that Jesus came during the reign of the Romans, and that his kingdom has superseded theirs and has (so far) extended to most of the earth. This reign will eventually become universal and openly visible to the whole world during the millennial reign of Jesus, following his return.

In the vision of the four beasts in chapter 7, verses 9-14 describe the Ancient of Days (God) sitting on his throne of judgment. 7:13-14 says "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

It is this Messianic kingdom, with the Lord reigning over all the earth from Jerusalem, that is mentioned all throughout the OT prophets. e.g., Isa. 2:2-4, Mic. 4:1-8, Zech. 14.

It is also what is described in the NT, in Rev. 19-22.

This is the king we serve – now with him reigning in our hearts, but then as our triumphant and reigning King over his kingdom on earth, and then in his eternal kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth, the holy city, new Jerusalem.

Sunday school teaching notes are available at: <https://hnslack.wixsite.com/mysite>

The whole subject of the Kingdom of God was covered thoroughly in our study on the book of Acts back in 2017, in 14 lessons. Lesson notes and audio recordings are still available on the website, in a folder under "Christian Teachings", called "The Kingdom of God". <https://hnslack.wixsite.com/mysite/the-kingdom-of-god>.