

INTRODUCTION

In our study on the "Kingdoms of this World", we have found that God rules sovereignly over the kingdoms of man. He gives the authority over these kingdoms to whomsoever He wills. The fact of God's sovereign control may perplex those who view the condition of the world. One may ask the question: If God is in sovereign control over the kingdoms, then why is the world so troubled? The answer lies in the fact that God is demonstrating something about man and Himself through what He's allowing today. But, there is coming a time when He will act upon the unrighteous condition of men. That activity begins at the battle of Armageddon. It will continue in the institution of God's kingdom upon the earth. Today, we will begin an exploration into this kingdom and its role in God's plan and purposes.

- I. GOD HAS USED THE KINGDOM OF MEN IN HIS ADVANCEMENT OF HIS PLAN AND PURPOSES UPON THE EARTH. Dan. 4:25
 - A. Since Nimrod, the kingdoms of men have reigned supreme under God's rule. Dan. 4:25
 1. Satan is seen as the overseer of the kingdoms of this world. Matt. 4:8
 2. Nimrod is seen as the first king. Gen. 10:8-10
 3. Nebuchadnezzar perfected the kingship beyond any other king that existed. Dan. 2:37; Ez. 26:7
 - B. God, today, is exercising ultimate control over the kingdoms of men. Dan. 4:25
 1. He "rules" over the kingdoms of men. Vs. 25
 - a) "Rule" is the Aramaic word shalliyt which is used in Scripture of **having control or power over something**. Cf. Ecc. 8:8 (of one not having power over his spirit)
 - b) This point is repeated three times in chapter 4 of Daniel. Vs. 17, 25, 32
 2. God gives the kingdoms to "whomsoever he will". Dan. 4:25
 - a) "Whomsoever" is a combination of an interrogative pronoun (mawn) and a relative particle used to denote that which is indeterminate or indistinguishable.
 - b) "Will" is the Aramaic word teseba.
 - (1) Denotes "**to desire, be inclined, be pleased.**" -- Strong's lexicon
 - (2) The Septuagint translates the word the subjunctive of the word "dokeo" -- **to think or to consider.**

3. God's sovereign control can be witnessed in his judgment of certain rulers.
 - a) God intervened in time and judged Nebuchadnezzar for his pride. Dan. 4:24-27
 - b) God intervened in time and judged Belshazzar for his use of the sacred vessels of Israel. Dan. 5:2-6,22-28
 - c) God judged Herod for his receiving glory from men. Acts 12:21-23

II. GOD'S PLAN HAS ALWAYS INCLUDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS KINGDOM UPON THE EARTH.

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's dream pictured the establishment of God's kingdom upon the earth. Dan. 2:44
 1. It would occur "in the days". Vs. 44
 2. "The God of Heaven" establishes it. Vs.44
 3. It's a kingdom that shall "never end". Vs. 44
 - a) It is an "everlasting" dominion.
 - b) It is from "generation to generation".
- B. The Son has been designated as the One to head up God's kingdom upon the earth. Ps. 2:6-7
 1. The Son's designation was a part of the decree of God. Ps. 2:7
 2. The Son's kingdom was rejected when it was first offered. Vs. 2-3
 3. The Father will over ride men's rejection and install the Son as King. vs. 7
- C. A takedown of the kingdoms of this world is necessary for the establishment of the Son's kingdom. Ps. 2:9
 1. Christ returns to take control of the kingdoms of this world. Haggai 2:22; Zeph. 3:8
 2. He seizes control of the kingdoms of this world upon His return at the end of the Tribulation period. 1st Tim. 6:15; Rev. 11:15; 17:14; 19:16;
 3. He judges the Gentiles alive upon the earth at His return. Matt. 25:34

CONCLUSION