

# God Showed Nebuchadnezzar Jesus' Kingdom

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### I. A prophecy from Daniel about a kingdom to come

**Dan 2:31** Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible.

**Dan 2:32** This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

**Dan 2:33** His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

**Dan 2:34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

**Dan 2:35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

**Dan 2:36** This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

**Dan 2:37** Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

**Dan 2:38** ...Thou *art* this head of gold.

**Dan 2:39** And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

**Dan 2:40** And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*...

**Dan 2:41** And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron...

Dan 2:42 ...so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Dan 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.

Dan 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter...

Dan 2:46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped...

Dan 2:47 The king answered...your God *is* a God of gods, and a Lord of kings...

## II. God always had a plan wherein He would become a visible King

Act 4:11 This is the stone...which is become the head of the corner.

2Sa 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever...

Luk 1:32 ...the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luk 1:33 And he shall reign...for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

## III. Jesus taught that there is a kingdom of heaven that exists here and now

Mat 4:17 ...Jesus began to preach...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

### A. As defined by the words of Jesus—‘*At hand*’ means ‘now’ and ‘here’

Mat 26:45 ...**the hour is at hand**, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Mat 26:46 Rise, let us be going: behold, **he is at hand** that doth betray me.

### B. There is an aspect of the ‘*kingdom of heaven*’ that is right here and right now

Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs **IS** the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until **now** the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

### C. The at hand *kingdom of heaven* does not eliminate an up there *kingdom of heaven*

2Ti 4:18 ...the Lord...will preserve *me* unto his **heavenly kingdom**...

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

1Co 15:24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the **kingdom** to God...

#### IV. To know of a *kingdom of heaven at hand* is to know how to understand scripture

##### A. Consider the conflict between God's plan for heaven & Jesus' *kingdom of heaven*

Act 15:11 ...through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved...

Mat 13:44 Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he...selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

##### B. To understand the *kingdom of heaven* requires rightly dividing the word of truth

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.

—Example of '*rightly dividing the word of truth*' with the word 'save'

Mat 1:21 ...call his name JESUS: for he shall **save** his people from their sins.

Mat 14:30 ...and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, **save** me.

Act 2:40 ...**Save** yourselves from this untoward generation.

#### V. What is the kingdom of heaven at hand?

##### A. The kingdom is a spiritual kingdom within the heart of a subject to the King

Luk 17:20 ...The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

##### B. The kingdom of heaven at hand is an experience beyond external worship

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

##### C. Repent...*The kingdom of heaven is at hand*—It's the message of the New Testament

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

Mat 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

Mat 4:17 ...Jesus began to preach...Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth...

Mat 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

Luk 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also...

Luk 10:9 ...and say unto them, **The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you**.

Act 1:3 ...being seen of them forty days, and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God**:

**Act 28:31** Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ...

## **VI. Further thoughts on the kingdom of heaven at hand**

### **A. King Jesus did bring a kingdom**

**Joh 18:36** Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight...

**Joh 18:37** Pilate...said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world...

### **B. The ‘at hand’ (here and now) ‘kingdom of heaven’ is worth more than all the world**

**Mat 13:45** ...the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

**Mat 13:46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

### **C. Living in the kingdom of heaven that is at hand is a great way to live life**

**Mat 11:11** Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

### **D. The word of the kingdom is sown—But few ever really experience it**

**Mat 13:19** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart...

**Mat 13:20** But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

**Mat 13:21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

**Mat 13:22** He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

**Mat 13:23** But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

### **E. Yet the kingdom will continue through time and place—And some will rest in it**

**Mat 13:31** ...The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

**Mat 13:32** Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it...becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

### **F. Satan is a great deceiver—Offering the kingdoms of the world**

**Mat 4:8** ...the devil...sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

**Mat 4:9** ...All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

**G. Religious liars and hypocrites rob many of the kingdom**

**Mat 23:13** But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

**H. The sad truth is that we ourselves tend to become weary & give up on the kingdom**

**Luk 9:62** And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

**VII. To live in the kingdom here is the best life for now—Even while eternal life awaits**

**Luk 18:28** Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

**Luk 18:29** And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake,

**Luk 18:30** Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.