

CONSUMING THE KINGDOMS

Text: Daniel 2:44

INTRO: Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is often the subject of millennial dispensational teachers. That the 4 parts of the image represented the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek & Roman empires is seldom disputed. It is also generally understood that in the days of the Roman kings God would set up His kingdom. This presents a major problem to premillennial teachers, for all are well aware that the Roman Empire ceased to exist centuries ago.

Premillennialists seek to overcome that problem by insisting that the Roman Empire will be re-established in the near future in order that this prophecy may be fulfilled. Their basic error is in misunderstanding the nature of the King, the nature of His sword, and the nature of His kingdom.

I. THE CONSUMING KING.

Isa 9:6-7, For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; & the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government & peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David & over His kingdom, to order it & establish it with judgment & justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Dan 7:13-14, I was watching in the night visions, & behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, & they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion & glory & a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, & languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, & His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

Luke 1:30-33, Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb & bring forth a Son, & shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, & will be called the Son of the Highest; & the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of His kingdom there will be no end."

John 18:37, Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

Heb 1:8-9, but to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God,

has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

II. THE CONSUMING SWORD.

Rev 1:12-16, Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw 7 golden lampstands, & in the midst of the 7 lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head & hair were white like wool, as white as snow, & His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, & His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand 7 stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, & His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Isa 11:1-4, There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, & a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom & understanding, the Spirit of counsel & might, the Spirit of knowledge & of the fear of the LORD. His delight is in the fear of the LORD, & He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, & decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, & with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

A. His sword is not made of iron or steel. It is not a weapon of carnal warfare. It is a spiritual tool – the word of the gospel.

Eph 6:13-19, Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, & having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance & supplication for all the saints.

Heb 4:12, For the word of God is living and powerful, & sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul & spirit, & of joints & marrow, & is a discerner of the thots & intents of the heart.

Rev 2:12, 16, And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, "These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword... Repent, or else I will come to you quickly & will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

- B. It is this "sword" that brings division into families, when some members obey the gospel & others do not.

Matt 10:34-39, Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; & a man's enemies will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, & he who loses his life for My sake will find it

- C. Simon Peter wielded this sword on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:36-37, Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, & said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men & brethren, what shall we do?"

III. THE CONSUMING KINGDOM.

- A. Jesus' kingdom is not of this world & its warfare is not carnal.

John 18:36, Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

B. His kingdom is not one of outward pomp & show.

Luke 17:20-21, Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

C. Since the nature of His kingdom is different from the kingdoms of this world, its growth is equally different. Not by military conquest or political compromise, but by the quiet influence of the word of God as it is preached & lived by the citizens of this heavenly kingdom.

Matt 13:33

Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in 3 measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Matt 5:13-16, You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, & it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

D. Christians are soldiers in Christ's kingdom. By their lives & their teaching they are gradually leavening the world around them and Christ's kingdom is still consuming all other kingdoms to the glory of God.

Eph 6:12, For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

James 4:7-8, Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil & he will flee from you. Draw near to God & He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; & purify your hearts, you double-minded.

2 Tim 2:1-4, You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION: Jesus our King has led the way. He is a consuming King. His gospel is a consuming sword. His church is a consuming kingdom.

1 Tim 6:11-13, Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called & have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

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