

12/15/18

OT #46

A Kingdom, Which Shall Never Be Destroyed

GT

Daniel 2 (add 7)

2:4 Syriack = Aramaic

Daniel asks for the faith and prayer of his friends

2:17-18

→ God reveals to Daniel the dream, and in so doing shows Daniel who the real king of the world is. Isaiah called Cyrus the anointed he was appointed by God to conquer Babylon. i.e. God is the true king of history

Kingdom

4:45:11 Prince of Peace
Son of Man

Daniel meant to culminate entire story of Bible, not meant to provide concrete details about timelines.

The book of Daniel is about the struggle of Daniel & friends to maintain faith & devotion when in a minority (i.e. resist cultural pressure)

→ swimming upstream: exhausting & constant

Nebuchadnezzar's dream

So intoxicated with his own power, people die when he's in a bad mood
magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, Chaldeans - people of "hidden" wisdom
patents vs. trade secrets

v.11 There is none other that can show it but the gods

v.20-23 4 verses of thankfulness. Did this have anything to do with the facility with which his answer came? This is poetry/song. Poetry in scripture is a way of highlighting themes.

v.28-30 God in heaven is making it known unto three (not me, Daniel) thy dream. What does this tell us about Daniel? What sin of Moses did Daniel avoid?

v.34 "without hands" = "without human hands" or "by no visible agency"

v.38 King of kings, ruler over man and beast → Genesis

v.47 revealer of secrets (God → Daniel become known by this title)

v.44 the kingdom of God will crush/destroy/break in pieces the kingdoms of the earth. Will this be by violence? (liken to "prince of peace" from Book of Abraham)

v.35 rock grew to fill the earth. Do rocks grow? This reminds us of the vision of Ezekiel's temple & its river. Do rivers grow? (i.e. do they w/o tributaries?)

Pay attention: "Wisdom and power belong to God"

images of God ruling the earth:

Genesis 1:27, 28 "have dominion" → rule

humans were always (i.e. even before the Fall) intended to rule

How does God rule as opposed to how humans rule?

- God is the ultimate respecter of agency, men rule by limiting the agency of others (Neb. was going to kill his wise men simply for not knowing his dream)

This story is an illustration of the tyranny of man's rule.

The Jews were to seek the good of Babylon (Jeremiah 29:3) but were to swim upstream against its currents throughout their lives

Living in Babylon
To maintain hope - i.e. to fuel swimming upstream, Daniel has to maintain hope that Yehweh is the true king, and Nebuchadnezzar is merely an image

Ch. 7 - the "beasts" of Daniel's vision are, again, the kingdoms of men.

v. 4 First beast had the shape of a lion

v. 7 the super-beast is the archetype of man's power at its height

v. 12 the beasts' lives were prolonged for a time before their dominion was taken away

v. 13 son of man came (one who appeared to be a mortal man)

v. 14 his dominion is an everlasting dominion D&C 65:2 D&C 121:37 dominion in any stone is as the gospel, rolling forth to fill the earth degree of unrighteousness

v. 17 four beasts are four kings

v. 41 persuasion & long-suffering is the only way to maintain power
v. 46 everlasting dominion flowing to thee forever - never without compulsory means

Are these events in Old Testament times (i.e. before Jesus), were they around that time, or were they latter-day prophecies?

Josephus explained why the Jews were so militant to fight against Rome so constantly: it was because of Daniel chapter 2. This chapter has inspired revolutions.

Daniel 6 → a mortal man also thrown to a "beast" in the shape of a lion, but the lion has no power - until the wicked who worshipped them are thrown to them

Jesus accepted the title of Messiah but didn't use it. The most consistent title Jesus used to describe himself came from Daniel 7, "the Son of Man."

Jesus in John 16 tells his disciples to have peace, because he has conquered "overcome" the world. Then he immediately goes out and is arrested and crucified.

when did Jesus get his royal robe, crown, public proclamation of royalty, when was he lifted up? Precisely when he was beaten and killed. He conquered human kingdoms, smashed them, by allowing them to smash him. Rome, this pinnacle of human government, killed a righteous man, knowing he was innocent, to please each other.

Colossians: God made a public spectacle of the powers of this world when he triumphed over them.
2:14-15

Matt 26:44 Son of Man - the moment that you (son of man) condemn me, is the moment you enthrone me
Caiaphas is the super-beast