

Where are we in time #2

8-2-2020

Sunday Morning

1. Last week we looked at a comprehensive overview of time, in Daniel
2. While looking at time we must keep in mind that Israel is the center of the world geographically & chronologically
3. These are the most exciting days since Christ was on earth
 - a. But many believers don't see things that way
4. Here is a brief overview of what we looked at
 - a. In Daniel 2 we saw a picture of the kingdoms of the world all the way to eternity

Daniel 2:31 "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.

V.32 "The head of that statue *was made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

V.33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

V.34 "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

V.35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

*Now Daniel gives the interpretation of the dream – V.36

V.36 "This *was* the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.

V.37 "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

V.38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

V.39 "After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

V.40 "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

1. "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things"
 - a. The 4th kingdom is the Roman Empire – they utilized iron like none previously
 - i. In easy to remember numbers, Rome became great in 500 B.C.
 - ii. It really started disintegrating about 500 A.D.
 - iii. It still exist in the form of our western civilization

V.41 "In that *you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron,* inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

1. "you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom"
 - a. This is the timeframe we live in
 - b. It is 1500-2000 years after Rome's zenith
2. "it will have in it the toughness of iron"
 - a. It is the western world that has kept nations like China or Russia from having world dominance
 - i. The USA has been a force for good in the world
 - ii. The only nation to conquer a people & then give them their nation back & finance their reconstruction
 - b. Today it is the military strength of the western world that keeps peace (from a human standpoint)

V.42 "As the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of *it will be brittle.*

1. "it will be brittle"
 - a. We notice how fragile western civilization is today
 - b. It appears that Russia, China, N. Korea, etc. are going to overpower the West – that is b/c the West is brittle!
 - i. But there will be no more great manmade empires

V.43 "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, *they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another,* even as iron does not combine with pottery.

1. "they will combine...in the seed of men...they will not adhere to one another"
 - a. Interpreting to say
 - i. Because mankind is fallen – man is unmanageable

- ii. Laws will never keep men restrained
- iii. Time has proven man can't govern himself
- iv. Some other translations of that verse

Daniel 2:43 (NIV) And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

Daniel 2:43 (ESV) As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

- b. Again, Paul said as much to Timothy

2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, **revilers**, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, **brutal, haters** of good,

⁴ treacherous, **reckless**, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

- c. All western civilization is having the same problem
 - i. This problem doesn't exist, so much, in 3rd world countries
 - ii. What we see in our country is a breakdown of civilization
 - iii. Because we are living in the days of partly of iron & partly clay
- d. All the riots & civil unrests are not just the products of human emotion & ideas

1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

- i. All that is going on today is satanically inspired
 - 01. But w/ God's sovereign oversight
- e. The next world kingdom is eternal

Dan.2:44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

V.45 "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

1. "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed" (**V.44**)

a. The stone that struck the stature is the last kingdom

i. It is called the kingdom age – "Kingdom of Heaven" / "Kingdom of God"

ii. The "Kingdom Age" is also called "Kingdom of Heaven" & "Kingdom of God"

iii. The "Kingdom of Heaven" & "Kingdom of God" are not the same thing

01. But Scripture sometimes used interchangeably – similar to the way "soul" & "spirit" are used

b. Some erroneously believe the Kingdom of Heaven arrived at Christ's first coming & refers to when someone makes Christ Lord of their life

c. They use passages like:

Mark 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Luke 11:20 "But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

i. But that is not what the Kingdom is

d. The Kingdom of Heaven was prophesied to come in O.T.

i. The kingdom age is a particular time & place

01. There are numerous Scriptures prophesying that future event

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

e. The kingdom was offered to Israel & they rejected it

Matthew 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist

*came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,

² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

³ For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

a. The Gospel of the Kingdom was offered to the Jews only – not to Gentiles

Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;

⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

⁷ "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

⁸ "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

i. Even Christ didn't offer it to Gentiles – He offered salvation but not the kingdom

Matthew 15:21 Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon.

²² And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and *began* to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed."

²³ But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us."

²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

²⁵ But she came and *began* to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

²⁶ And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

- b. The salvation message of the kingdom gospel was different
 - i. The message was clean up your act – repent of your sins & prepare for the coming King
 - ii. This is why so many people get the gospel grace mixed up
 - iii. If you read thru the gospels w/out realizing what is being said you can confuse when the Gospel of the Kingdom w/ the gospel of grace
 - 01. They are not the same message
- c. But Israel refused John the Baptist's message
 - i. Christ explained that to the disciples coming down from the Mt. of Transfiguration

Matthew 17:10 And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

¹¹ And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things;

¹² but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."

¹³ Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.
- c. We are living in the last of the last earthly kingdom
- d. Times are troubling – but we need to be careful how we look at things
- e. The government is not our enemy – our enemy is unseen forces
- f. As bad as it is – we are fortunate to live in this country day & time

- i. Know that this country belongs to Satan just like the rest of the world

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

⁹ and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

- a. Christians are called to be the best citizens of this country we can be

Romans 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

² to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

¹⁶ Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.

¹⁷ Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

¹⁸ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

- f. There may come a day when we must defy government b/c of Scripture
 - i. But wearing mask is not unscriptural

- ii. What is going on in California probably is against Scripture (no Bible studies)
- g. There is no doubt that this is all a dry run for the antichrist to take control
- i. At one time I couldn't see how the antichrist could rule the whole world – but now it is not hard to imagine
- h. You don't have to worry about accidentally taking the mark of the beast
- i. First – we won't be here to take it
 - ii. Secondly – taking the mark of the beast is a purposeful thing

Revelation 13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.

¹² He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

V.16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name.

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.
- iii. The chip people are putting in their hands are not the mark of the beast – but it is the forerunner
- i. This is what the end looks like! We are going home soon!