

THE RECONCILER

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JESUS AND NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Who and what do we celebrate at Christmas each year? The real Christmas is a time to acknowledge King Yeshua and His Kingdom and to celebrate that God's Kingdom has come in the person and life of Jesus who was born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. We also eagerly anticipate the external establishment of His Kingdom in its manifest fulness, when He comes to take the Throne of David.

The Book of Daniel, foretells the identity, destiny and mission of this Great Messiah King. About 550 years before the birth of Yeshua, when Nebuchadnezzar reigned as Emperor of Babylon, he received a dream which Daniel interpreted. In this dream he saw four great empires arising in the middle east, each one replacing the other. In the days of the fourth kingdom a rock not made without human hands would shatter and replace the other kingdoms. The first kingdom, Babylon, which was replaced by the empire of the Medes and Persians. This was then replaced by the Kingdom of Greece which in turn was replaced by the Roman Empire - the fourth empire.

And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, ..and will break in pieces and crush all the others. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. .. they will mingle with the seed of

men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold - the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” (Dan. 2. 40 - 45)

This dream foretells that Messiah will come in the days of the fourth kingdom - the Roman Empire. It also predicts the breakup of the Roman Empire into smaller empires which will not hold together until finally God's Kingdom replaces every other rule and authority.

This was also the message that came to Mary through the Angel Gabriel - the King of God's Kingdom was coming into the world. God would give Him the kingdom and the throne of David and this kingdom would increase and expand like the stone in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. "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 and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be

great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Lk. 1.30-33)

When Jesus began His public ministry, He announced the immediate presence of the Kingdom of God. Through Him all believers can enjoy the direct rule of God's throne of mercy love and truth over their lives. However, at His first coming Yeshua did not replace the earthly kingdoms and establish God's Kingdom outwardly as seen in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and in all the prophets. With the return of the Jewish people to their land, we know that those days are now upon us The Kingdom of God cannot come through any political party of this present order - not matter how well intentioned.

The era of the dysfunctional and immoral, kingdoms of this age is coming to an end. Their corrupt rule is about to be replaced by the benign and wonderful

rule of Gods kingdom of righteousness peace and joy. The shakable Kingdoms of this world and the corrupt leaders of this age will soon be replaced by the Unshakeable Kingdom of God and incorruptible rule Messiah King Yeshua.

At Christmas we rejoice in Jesus our savior and Messiah but we also anticipate His soon Coming King to outwardly take the Throne of David and rule over all nations. At this time of the year, we can take time to deliberately align our lives with His plans and purposes and set our hope fully on the grace that is coming to us at His triumphant return. *"Therefore, ... rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1.13)*

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