

The Lord Reigns

Daniel 2:19-23

Daniel 2:19-23

- 17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:
- 18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.
- 19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.
- 20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:
- 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:
- 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.
- 23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter.

Habakkuk 1:1-6

- 1 The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.
- 2 O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee *of* violence, and thou wilt not save!
- 3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up strife and contention.
- 4 Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.
- 5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for *I* will work a work in your days, *which* ye will not believe, though it be told *you*.
- 6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places *that are* not theirs.

Habakkuk 1:1-6

- The times of Habakkuk were marked by transgression and turmoil in the nation of Judah.
- We live in times of transgression and turmoil:
 - Immorality
 - Social upheaval
 - Political turmoil
 - Religious ignorance
- Circumstances that cause concern and anxiety. How long will things continue as they are?
- The foundation principle for these things is that God, the Most High, rules in the kingdoms of men. He is Sovereign.
- Lesson: A look at the universal reign of God in the affairs of men, and what that means for us.

Old Testament

- The power and reign of God proclaimed by the prophets, and seen in His work among the nations.
 - Daniel 2:31-40 → prophecy of kingdoms: Babylonian, Medes-Persians, Greeks, Romans.
 - Daniel 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.
 - Daniel 4:32; cf. 34-35 → “...until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”

Old Testament

- The nations as “tools” in the hand of God to accomplish His purpose:
 - Isaiah 10:5-6; 12 → 5 O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. 6 I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. 12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

Old Testament

- God declared His judgment on wicked nations:
 - Isaiah 13 → Against Babylon, cf. v. 17
 - Isaiah 14 → Against Assyria, cf. vv. 24-27
 - Isaiah 15 → Against Moab.
 - Isaiah 17 → Against Damascus.
 - Isaiah 18 → Against Ethiopia.
 - Isaiah 19-20 → Against Egypt, cf. 19:4.
 - Isaiah 23 → Against Tyre, cf. v. 9
 - Amos 1:3-2:8 → Against Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel
 - Genesis 18:20; 19:24-25 → Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

Principles By Which God Judges Nations

- Proverbs 14:34 → Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.
- Jeremiah 18:7-10 → 7 If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, 18 and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. 9 And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, 10 and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it. (ESV)

The Omniscience Of God

- How does God know?
 - Psalms 33:13-15 → 13 The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; 14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.
 - Psalms 66:7 → who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let not the rebellious exalt themselves. *Selah*
 - Psalms 99:1 → The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

New Testament

- Reign of Jesus foretold in the Old Testament:
 - Daniel 7:13-14 → 13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed. (cf. 2:44; Rev. 12:7-12)

New Testament

- Ephesians 1:20-22 → 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,
21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,
- Matthew 28:18 → And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (cf. I Cor. 15:24-26)

New Testament

- God rules in the nations of men...
 - Matthew 23:36-24:2 → 36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. 37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
 - Mat 24:1 → Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. 2 But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

In The New Testament Age

- God rules in the nation's of men...
 - Revelation 19:19-21 → 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.
 - Revelation 17:14 → These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Lessons

- We should praise God for His reign. (Psalms 99)
- Recognize that God not only knows, but is the guiding hand in the affairs of nations. (Acts 17:26-27)
- Understand that God brings judgment on nations. (Amos 1-2)
- Trust in God. (Isaiah 12)
- Become a citizen in His spiritual Kingdom. (Colossians 1:13)
 - Spread the gospel. (Romans 1:16-17; Prov. 14:34)
 - Pray fervently: (I Timothy 2:1-3)
 - Be salt and light. (Matthew 5:13-16)
 - Prepare for judgment to come. (II Corinthians 5:10)