

The Most High Rules In The Kingdom Of Men

Dan. 4:28-32

I. The Power and Reign of God In The O. T.

•Proclaimed By The Prophets...

—Daniel:

- Dan. 2:19-21 → removes kings and sets up kings.
- Dan. 2:36-40 → foretells the kingdoms of Babylon, Medes-Persians, Greeks, and Roman Empire
- Dan. 4:28-32 → rules in the kingdoms of men, and gives it to whom he will.

—Habakkuk:

- Hab. 1:5b-6a → I will work a work in your days...I raise up the Chaldeans...

—Isaiah:

- Reveals the nations as “tools” in the hand of God to accomplish his purposes. (Isa. 10:5-15)
- Declared God’s judgment on wicked nations...
 - Babylon → Isa. 13:17-20
 - Assyria and Philistia → Isa. 14:25; 29-32
 - Damascus → Isa. 17:1ff
 - Ethiopia → Isa. 18:1ff
 - Egypt → Isa. 19:1-3
 - Edom and Arabia →
 - Tyre → Isa. 23:1ff

•Principle by which God judged the nations:

—Scriptures:

- Prov. 14:34 → “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” (ESV)
- Jer. 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, 8 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.

—Some examples of this rule:

- Babylon → Hab. 1:6; 2:5-20
- The nations of Amos 1:3-2:3
- Sodom and Gomorrah → Gen. 18:20; 19:24-25

•Psalm 33:13-15: The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

•Psalm 66:7: He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

•Psalm 99:1: The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; let the earth be moved!

II. The Power and Reign of God In The N. T.

•The dominion and authority of Jesus Christ:

—Foretold in the O.T.

- Dan. 7:13-14 -- 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.
- Dan. 2:44 → 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.

- Revealed In the N.T.

- Matt. 28:18 → 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

- Eph. 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,

- I Cor. 15:24-26 → 24Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

- Rom. 13:1-2 → 1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

- Jn. 19:10-11 → 10Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:

- Illustrated:

- Jerusalem → Matt. 23:36-24:2

- Rome → Rev. 19:19-20

- He is Lord of lords, and King of kings... (Rev. 17:14; 19:6;16)

II. *What The Power and Reign of God Mean For The Christian...*

- We should praise God for his sovereignty. (Dan. 4:37; Ps. 95:2-3; Rev. 4:11)

- We should recognize that he knows and is concerned about what happens in the affairs of men and nations. (Dan. 4:32; Jn. 19:10-11)

- We should remember that he brings nations into judgment. (Rev. 2:26-27)

- We should not look to the future with anxiety. (Matt. 6:33-34)

- What should a Christian do?

- Proclaim the gospel. (Rom. 1:16-17; Prov. 14:34)

- Pray fervently. (I Tim. 2:1-3)

- Place faith in the One from whom our strength comes. (Hab. 2:4; 3:17-19; Phil. 4:13)