

The Most High Rules In The Kingdom Of Men

Dan. 4:32-37

- **Conflict In Syria**

- Does The Bible Address What Is Presently Happening In The Middle East?
- Isa. 17:1 → An oracle concerning Damascus. Behold, Damascus will cease to be a city and will become a heap of ruins.
- Jer. 49:24-27 → Damascus has become feeble, she turned to flee, and panic seized her; anguish and sorrows have taken hold of her, as of a woman in labor. How is the famous city not forsaken, the city of my joy? Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed in that day, declares the LORD of hosts. And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.”

- **God's Control Over The Nations of Men...**

- God is sovereign.
 - Ps. 24:1 → The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. (Isa. 29:16; Matt. 20:15)
- God rules over the nations.
 - Ps. 22:28 → For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
 - Isa. 40:15-17 → Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.
- God sets up and removes rulers and nations.
 - Dan. 2:21 → He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;
 - Dan. 4:17 → to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’
- God determines the longevity of nations and the extent of their boundaries.
 - Acts 17:26 → And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,
- God is absolutely just in his dealings with men and nations.
 - We are not in position to question God's justice in using men and nations.
 - We cannot see things from God's view, or set our human reasoning against his actions.
 - We cannot determine which nations are more deserving of Divine wrath over others.
 - Case in point: God's use of the Babylonians.
 - God's Use of the Babylonians: Hab. 1:2-4
 - O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.
 - God's Use of the Babylonians: Hab. 1:5-7
 - “Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.
 - God's Use of the Babylonians: Hab. 1:13
 - You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitor and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?
 - Hab. 2:4 → “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.
 - Hab. 2:20 → But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”

- **The Bible Refutes A Premillennial Interpretation of the Scriptures...**
 - God fulfilled the land promise to Abraham.
 - Josh. 21:43-45 → Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.
 - Josh. 23:14-16 → “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the LORD your God has given you, if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you.”
 - Josh. 24:28 → So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.
 - Dt. 19:1-9; Josh. 20:7-9; Num. 35:9-34
- **Concl.**
 - What will happen when Jesus returns?
 - I Thess. 4:13-18.
 - Are we ready?
- **What Should Be Our Mindset In All These Things?**
 - (1) All people of every nation are lost without an obedient faith in acknowledgement that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of man from sin (Rom. 3:23,26; Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:11-12).
 - (2) God loves the whole of humanity in all nations, and he does not wish to see a single soul lost (Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 - (3) Salvation may be accessed only through the divine plan of redemption that is set forth in the New Testament (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4,17; Gal. 3:26-27, etc.).
 - (4) Christians have a burning obligation to love all mankind, and to work to the end that people everywhere are exposed to the truth of the gospel of Christ (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16).
 - What Should Be Our Mindset In All These Things?
 - (5) God can, and will, deliver judgments — both temporal and eternal — against the wicked (Acts 17:26; 2 Cor. 5:10), consistent with his own program of operation. But man is not privy to the intricacies of his movements.
 - (6) All Christians should obey the authorities under which they live — so long as such obligations do not conflict with the revealed will of God (Rom. 13:1ff; 1 Pet. 2:13ff; Acts 5:29).
 - (7) Moreover, they should pray for peace to the end that the cause of Christ may flourish in a tranquil environment (1 Tim. 2:1-2).
 - (8) Finally, followers of Christ should trust God in his providential operations, and be confidently comforted by the reality that all things will be worked out for the ultimate good of the eternal plan that the Lord is implementing (Rom. 8:28; Eph. 3:10-11).