

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**  
**Sunday Sermon**

**Date: June 20, 2021**

**Text: Malachi 1:14**

**Scripture Reading: Malachi 1:14**

**Subject: The Present Kingdom of God**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Dictionary Definition of Kingdom:**

**From *Websters 1828*:** 1. The territory or country subject to a king; an undivided territory under the dominion of a king or monarch. 2. The inhabitants or population subject to a king.

**From *The Oxford English Dictionary*:** Kingly function, authority, or power; sovereignty, supreme rule; the position or rank of a king; kingship. An organized community having a king as its head; a monarchical state or government.

In his book, *The Greatness of the Kingdom*, Alva J. McClain set forth what he called a tentative definition of the kingdom. He wrote this: "A general survey of the Biblical material indicates that the concept of a "kingdom" envisages a total situation containing at least three essential elements: first, a *ruler* with adequate authority and power; second, a *realm* of subjects to be ruled; and third, the actual exercise of the function of *rulership*."

At this point, I want to copy some quotes from George Eldon Ladd's *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. I think this is a very good, brief summary of what the kingdom of heaven is.

"The Biblical idea of the Kingdom of God is deeply rooted in the Old Testament and is grounded in the confidence that there is one eternal, living God who has revealed Himself to men and who has a

purpose for the human race which He has chosen to accomplish through Israel.”

“Thus the prophets announced a day when men will live together in peace. God shall then “judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa. 2:4). Not only shall the problems of human society be solved, but the evils of man’s physical environment shall be no more. “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isa. 11:6). Peace, safety, security—all this was promised for the happy future. Then came Jesus of Nazareth with the announcement, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4: 17). This theme of the coming of the Kingdom of God was central in His mission. His teaching was designed to show men how they might enter the Kingdom of God (Matt. 5:20; 7:21). His mighty works were intended to prove that the Kingdom of God had come upon them (Matt. 12:28). His parables illustrated to His disciples the truth about the Kingdom of God (Matt. 13:11). And when He taught His followers to pray, at the heart of their petition were the words, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). On the eve of His death, He assured His disciples that He would yet share with them the happiness and the fellowship of the Kingdom (Luke 22:22-30). And He promised that He would appear again on the earth in glory to bring the blessedness of the Kingdom to those for whom it was prepared (Matt. 25: 31, 34).

---

**Almighty God, a Great King, rules over all**

In order to get a correct scriptural view of the Kingdom of Heaven, we need to consider that Almighty God presently rules as a great king over all men and all things.

### **Our God rules over all his creation**

Scripture tells us that God refers to himself as “a great king” whose name is dreadful among the heathen. Our God has ruled over all his creation from the beginning until this present moment.

**Malachi 1:14b (KJV)** *...for **I am a great King**, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.*

**1 Chronicles 29:11-12 (KJV)** [David’s thanksgiving and prayer] ***Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.***

**Psalm 47:8 (KJV)** [A Psalm for the sons of Korah] ***God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.***

**Psalm 93:1-4 (KJV)** ***The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. 2 Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. 3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. 4 The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.***

**Psalm 96:10 (KJV)** *Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.*

**Psalm 97:1-4 (KJV)** ***The LORD reigneth;** let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. **2** Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. **3** A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. **4** His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.*

**Psalm 99:1 (KJV)** ***The LORD reigneth;** let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.*

Thus we can see that the Psalmists of Israel thought of the Almighty as one who reigned – a great king. I cannot possibly say all that ought to be said about our great King – our God, but let me venture a few remarks about the manner and particulars of his present reign over all his creation.

*In the beginning, God...* If we consider the meaning of the very first verse of God's word, then we can begin to realize that our God existed alone and in himself before anything or any person was. He was **then** and is **now** a great KING. He created everything that was created with his word. *For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.* (Psa. 33:9) *And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.* (Gen. 1:3). God has reigned over all his creation from the very beginning and his rule continues to this very hour.

God's rule has existed since before creation and continues to exist now **without respect** to the attitude of those in his kingdom. It doesn't matter whether men believe in him or not; his royal majesty still rules over all without exception.

It was our great God and king who created man from the dust of the earth in his own image and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul – therefore, all of us without exception, live, and move, and have our being in our great God and king.

God, our great heavenly King who created the heaven and the earth has set the sun, moon and stars in the firmament to give light on the earth and to be for signs and seasons. These majestic heavenly bodies move at his pleasure and according to his laws given them. The sun knoweth his going down; the moon and stars move in their courses. Our God, the great king has created these great lights and designed their courses which they follow unerringly, except when He, the king, chooses that they do otherwise. For example: Our great king stopped the movement of the sun and the moon when Joshua was in the great battle with the Amorites.

**Joshua 10:12-14 (KJV)** *Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. **13** And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. **14** And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.*

It was God, our great King who turned back the shadow of the sun in the sun dial of Ahaz to confirm his promise to King Hezekiah.

**Isaiah 38:7-8 (KJV)** *And this shall be a sign unto thee from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he hath spoken; **8** Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone*

*down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.*

The proud waves of the sea are stayed by him in their place therefore the sea is shut with bars and doors so that it can go no further than the king's commandment.

**Job 38:8-11 (KJV)** *Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, 10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, 11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?*

Our king has formed the rivers of the earth so that they water the valleys and run to the sea, yet the sea is not full. Continuously the rivers run to the sea and return again in the mist and rain which God sends on the earth.

**Ecclesiastes 1:6-7 (KJV)** *The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. 7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.*

Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter come unerringly by his commandment. While the earth remains these shall continually come in their order. His bow is seen in the clouds to confirm his covenant with all flesh that there should not be a flood of water to destroy all life on the earth again.

**Genesis 8:22 (KJV)** *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

**Genesis 9:12-15 (KJV)** *And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: **13** I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. **14** And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: **15** And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

Our great king who originally gave the man, the beasts, the fowls and every creeping thing for food, also after the flood gave to man every moving thing that lives for food.

**Genesis 1:29-31 (KJV)** *And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. **30** And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. **31** And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

**Genesis 9:2-4 (KJV)** *And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. **3** Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. **4** But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.*

Who can doubt the wisdom, power, and majesty of heaven's king who created the trillions of creatures in the earth and in the sea? Look at

the diversity of them – the colors and designs of them - the wonder of them. What great mind designed all of their shapes, colors, designs, and capabilities. Every one of these creatures - the beast, cattle, fowls, and creeping things in his kingdom cry for their food – he opens his hand, and they are fed. He withdraws his hand and they die.

**Psalm 147:9 (KJV)** *He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.*

**Psalm 104:24-30 (KJV)** *O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. 25 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. 26 There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. 27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. 28 That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. 29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. 30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.*

He has commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and so they do. Our King opens and closes the womb – he causes the barren woman to keep house.

Not one sparrow falls without our heavenly Father, the great king.

Our king has numbered the hairs on each of our heads and knows our thoughts afar off; there is not a word in our tongue but that he knows it altogether.

Our King’s eyes did see our substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them, the psalmist tells us in the 139<sup>th</sup> Psalm.



Our king puts wisdom in the inward parts; and places understanding in the hearts. To some he gives great abilities according to the counsel of his own will while depriving others of such great gifts.

It is by our Lord, the King alone that we are able to work and get wealth.

**Deuteronomy 8:18 (KJV)** *But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*

All our times are in his hand and in him we live and move and have our being.

**Job 14:1-2, 5 (KJV)** *Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. 2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not...5 Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;*

Our king has his way in the storm. By his command tornadoes, hurricanes, and storms rise and move. Our king sends the hoar frost and the ice – who can stand before his cold? Our king sends the pestilence – he makes sick and binds up.

Our king sets up kings on the earth and removes kings at his pleasure. He teaches them wisdom. The hearts of these kings are in the hand of the great heavenly king, and as the waters of the river, he turns them whithersoever he will. Every person who is or ever has been in a place of authority in the earth was placed there by our king and he is ruler over all, therefore he continually moves men and women, though they know him not, to do his good pleasure. He reigns over all and will always do His pleasure.

**Revelation 4:11 (KJV)** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

## Israel – a kingdom of priests and an holy nation

### Israel to be unto God a kingdom of priests and a holy nation with an “if-then” promise

**Exodus 19:5-6 (KJV)** *Now therefore, **if** ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, **then** ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And **ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

We know by reading the history of Israel that they did not obey God’s voice and keep his covenant. Therefore, the “if-then” promise is made void because they failed to keep it. We will note that a very similar promise is made to the Lord’s church in the New Testament. In other words, the kingdom was taken from Israel and given to the Lord’s church. Let’s read about that:

**Matthew 21:42-43 (KJV)** *Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 **Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.***

**Acts 28:28 (KJV)** ***Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.***

Therefore, the kingdom of God was taken from Israel and given to the church which is predominately gentiles so the LORD will deal no more with Israel until the fulness of the gentiles be come in.

**1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)** *But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;** that ye should*

*shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

**Revelation 1:4-6 (KJV)** *John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 **And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;** to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

These passages show us that God took the kingdom from Israel and gave it to the church, the gentile bride of Christ. Why was that? Because Israel failed to obey the commandments of the Lord. It is also true that, as a nation, Israel rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah when he began his earthly ministry among them and in so doing, announced that they were to repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. As a consequence of that, Israel was set aside for a long period of time. As most of us are aware, they were judged severely in 70 A.D., when Titus, son of Vespasian, besieged Jerusalem completely destroying the city. Titus and his army either killed the Israelites or they were led away captive into all nations until the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled. Here is quote from the book of Luke about the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jews. Please pay close attention to verses 23 through 24. Great distress in the land, and wrath upon **this** people speak of the besieging of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

**Luke 21:20-28 (KJV)** *And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the*

*days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. **23** But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. **24** And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. **25** And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; **26** Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. **27** And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **28** And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ had already pronounced judgment on the inhabitants of Jerusalem as we see from these verses.

**Matthew 23:37-39 (KJV)** *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.*

**Luke 13:34-35 (KJV)** *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! **35** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall*

*not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

Israel was cut off and scattered into the nations of the world in 70 A.D, until the times of the gentiles be fulfilled. The “times of the gentiles” and the “fulness of the gentiles” are two different expressions and mean different things. The times of the gentiles refers to the gentile nations which have in the past governed and continue to govern the known world. The term “gentiles” in Luke 21:24 is from the Greek word: “εθνος ethnos” which means nations or people who are not Israelites. So, Israel has been set aside until the times of the gentiles be fulfilled. This suggests that gentile rule shall cease one day in the future. Let us consider the term “the fulness of the gentiles”:

**Romans 11:25-32 (KJV)** *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26** And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **27** For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. **28** As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. **29** For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. **30** For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: **31** Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. **32** For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:14-16 (KJV)** *For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: **15** Who both killed the*

*Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: **16** Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: **for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.***

Beginning with Babylon, the great king Nebuchadnezzar was shown in a dream about the rise and fall of four great kingdoms in the earth. As a consequence, the Lord moved the prophet Daniel to write so that the prophecy regarding these great kingdoms was revealed to Israel and consequently to all of the Lord's people in the Holy Scriptures. It is clear that from the days of Babylon, that four great kingdoms, including the one in power, Babylon, would arise to be succeeded in order. The book of Daniel explains that these kingdoms are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, then after Rome, to be followed by a world-wide fragmented kingdom.

Let us consider the dream and explanation of the dream which King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had in the days of Daniel, the prophet:

**Daniel 2:1-30 (KJV)** *And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. **2** Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. **3** And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. **4** Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. **5** The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. **6** But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and*

*the interpretation thereof. **7** They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. **8** The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. **9** But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. **10** The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. **11** And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. **12** For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. **13** And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. **14** Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: **15** He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. **16** Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. **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. **24** Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. **25** Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. **26** The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? **27** Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; **28** But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; **29** As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. **30** But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.*

**Daniel 2:31-49 (KJV)** *Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. 36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 **And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even***

***as iron is not mixed with clay. 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. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure. 46*** Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. **47** The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. **48** Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. **49** Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

From this 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Daniel we see that the great King, the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

1. We also see that this will occur **after** the four great kingdoms represented by the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dreams. These four kingdoms shall have come and gone, viz: Babylon (the head of Gold), Medo-Persia (breast and arms of silver), Greece (thighs of brass), and Rome (Legs of iron, feet part of iron and part of clay). God will set up his kingdom in the days when the kingdom of the whole world is fragmented, since the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; the kingdom

shall be partly strong, and partly broken inasmuch as there was in it the strength of iron and the weakness of miry clay. During the days of **these kings** – his kingdom shall be set up.

a. *"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. **42** And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. **43** And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."*

2. The kingdom of Babylon is gone; the Medo-Persian kingdom is gone; Alexander the Great and the kingdom of Greece is gone; the kingdom of Rome is gone having gone into oblivion around 500 AD, but fragments of all these earthly kingdoms still remain within the nations of the earth to his day. One would have to be willingly ignorant not to see that fragments of Rome remain in the US, Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany and in the smaller and less powerful nations. Remember that the fourth kingdom, Rome was in power when our Lord was present on the earth – when John the Baptist and Jesus both preached, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This fact tells us that the last or 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom would be set up after the fall of Rome.

The divided kingdom part of iron and part of clay is what we have in the earth today. All the kingdoms about which Daniel prophesied have come and gone. In this year in which we now live we clearly see a divided kingdom – part of it strong as iron others weak and insignificant like iron mixed with miry clay. The present world is a mingled people but, as the prophecy told us, we shall not cleave one to another. There is division everywhere! Here is an important question: Did the people of

Israel know about this prophecy of the fragmented kingdom represented by the feet and toes of Daniel's prophecy? We assume they were aware of the Holy Scriptures and this prophecy.

It is in the days of "these kings" that *"the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, shall strike the image of Nebuchadnezzar on the feet and shall brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold;.."* Most all Christians who believe the Bible literally believe the stone cut out of the mountain without hands is Christ and speaks of his return – so that "the stone that smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces should become a great mountain and fill the whole earth. In scripture, the word mountain is sometimes used as a metaphor for a kingdom.

A kingdom has a king and a territory (or realm) over which the king reigns. The territory of this prophesied kingdom which God will set up in the days of the kingdom which is the 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom, both weak and strong, part of iron, part of clay, is the same territory over which the former kingdoms reigned, viz: the whole earth – this present earth and all of mankind.

**Next: The kingdom of heaven**