In His Hands #3 “The Kingdom of God” Daniel 2: 28-45

Intro: **Be Thou My Vision**… Irish Poem as old as 8th C.!

*Lord of my heart; My great Father* (personal)

*Ruler of All*; (2X) ***High King of Heaven***

Where did he get that idea? Daniel

**Tell Story** of Daniel 2: 1-23 (Powerful, worried; Wise men stumped)

***God of Heaven, God of my father’s is Powerful, Present & Personal***.

*After prayer, Daniel takes action*. **Tell Story of Daniel 2: 24-27**

**Read Daniel 2: 28-30** ***Describe the Dream***

**Read Daniel 2: 36-45**

**The King of Heaven Rules on Earth.**

**t/s** – This dream is parallel to a Vison of Daniel in Chapter 7. In Chapter 7 we will press into some ***detail of interpretation***. Chapter 2, we focus on the big picture, general observations.

What are we saying when say, “**The King of Heaven Rules on Earth**?

***God Reveals Truth and Wisdom***. (28-30)

**Exp** – In this story we find an ***overkill of verbs*** that speak to God’s work of ***revealing, making known*** to people…. Over 30 times!

**Vs. 28** – Reveals and made known…

Daniel, “***I only know because God made me to know***.”

**App** – Theme in NT with regard to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Matt 16:17** – *blessed are you Simon… flesh and blood did not*

*Reveal this to you but My Father*…

* ***Today***, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart.

***God Limits All Earthly Powers*** --- Kings and Kingdoms.

**Exp** – These Kingdoms represent the Powers that Be in the World.

***Limited in Time*** – Transient, Temporary, Like Chaff

“**After you**” == the words every great man dreads

***Limited in Quality*** – degenerating quality… each inferior.

No Infallible upward movement… Evolution…

***Limited by God*** – Subordinate… **Vs. 37-38**

**ILL** – Jesus before Pilate – John 19:11 – *You would have no authority over me unless it had been given to you form above*…

**App** – Two Edged Truth…

Those who are Up = A Warning… Beware, Humble Yourselves

Those Who are Down, Oppressed, in Exile… Lift up your Heads

**The King of Heaven Rules on Earth.**

***God Promises an Eternal Kingdom***

**Exp – Vs. 44** – *The God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom* (future)

***The Kingdom of God is the theme of the NT***:

Luke 1 – Gabriel to Mary, *“…his kingdom will have no end.”*

Mark 1 – Jesus, “*The Kingdom of God is at Hand*…”

Parables, “*The Kingdom of God is like*….”

Model Prayer, “***Thy Kingdom Come***…”

Matt 21; Lk 20; **Jesus uses Dan. 2 to refer to Himself as Stone**!

Rev. – *The Kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever*!

All that NT Language has its Roots in this Promise --- Kingdom.

**Read Daniel 2: 34-35; 44 – 45**

There seems to be two aspects of this Kingdom held in Tension.

1. **Growth** of the Kingdom from a small beginning until it fills the whole earth… Mk. 1
2. Kingdom comes **suddenly**. “Struck them”, by catastrophe, not development… Catastrophic destruction of the kingdoms of earth.

Thus, ***Already; not Yet Kingdom***… His Rule is Inaugurated but not yet Realized until Christ Returns to Reign Perfectly, Visibly, Forever.

**Characteristics of The Kingdom of God from Daniel 2**: (contrast)

1. ***Indestructible*** – Vs. 44 – never be destroyed … endure forever
2. ***Final*** – Vs. 44b – not left for another people
3. ***Overwhelming*** – vs. 44c – put an end to all these kingdoms

Vs. 35 a – Crush all Kingdoms

1. ***Supernatural*** – Cut without human hands…

**The King of Heaven Rules on Earth.**

**How Should We Respond?**

1. ***Live with Confidence*** (even in Exile) – Contagious Confidence
2. ***Praise*** –

Handel… King of Kings, Lord of lord; and He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (Rev. 11)

1. ***Bow to His Authority***

High King of Heaven

Ruler of All

Lord of my Heart?