

## Kingdom Not Culture



Daniel 2:31 [You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:36 "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.

[This refers to Babylon – Head of Gold] Dates: 626 BC – 539 BC

Babylon was the dominant world power when Daniel interpreted the dream. It was known for immense wealth, centralised authority, and absolute rule under one king. Gold accurately represents Babylon's splendour and supremacy. The empire ended suddenly in 539 BC when Babylon was conquered by the Medo-Persians without a major battle, exactly as foretold.

**39 But** after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. [Medo-Persia – Chest and Arms of Silver] Dates: 539 BC – 331 BC

This empire was a dual kingdom, represented by two arms. It was less glorious than Babylon but broader in reach and stronger administratively. Persian rule was defined by fixed laws and customs that could not be altered. The Medo-Persian Empire fell in 331 BC after defeat by Alexander the Great.

**[Greece – Belly and Thighs of Bronze]** Dates: 331 BC – 168 BC

Greece expanded rapidly through military strength and speed, fitting the symbolism of bronze. Alexander conquered the known world in a short time. After his death, the kingdom was divided among his generals, weakening its unity. Greek culture and language spread widely, preparing the world linguistically and culturally for the coming of the Gospel. The bible was written in Old Greek.

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

[Rome – Legs of Iron] Dates: 168 BC – AD

Rome was unmatched in military strength, discipline, and law. Iron accurately represents Rome's ability to crush and dominate nations. Jesus Christ was born during Roman rule, and the early Church was established while Rome was the world power. 41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

[Feet of Iron and Clay – Final Phase of Rome] This represents the later divided and weakened phase of the Roman Empire. Strength and fragility existed together, leading to instability and fragmentation. It is the final form of the fourth kingdom (Rome).

44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain,

and its interpretation is sure.”] Babylon: 100 years Medo-Persia: 200 years Greece: 150–160 years Rome: 600 years. So each of the four kingdoms lasted for many generations, in length, with Rome standing far longer than the rest and ruling at the time Christ was born. **[And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;]**

### **Now God Arrives To Set Up His Kingdom**

(Mark 1:14–15) Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the **gospel** of the **kingdom of God**, and saying, ‘The **time is fulfilled**, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’”] Christ was confirming what Daniel and the other prophets, inspired by the Holy Spirit, had already declared: that the appointed time had arrived and the Kingdom of God was now being revealed through Him.

### **What is the Kingdom of Heaven Like -**

**The Lord used many parables to speak of His Kingdom** Matthew 13.31 [Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

**The Parable of the Leaven** 33 Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”]

Jesus was teaching that the Kingdom of God often begins small but, over time, has great impact. Leaven (yeast) is tiny, yet once mixed into dough it changes the whole batch. In the same way, when we receive Christ and the Holy Spirit, the work of the Kingdom may begin unseen and quietly, but it has the power to transform every part of our lives. The Kingdom is transformational.

### **The Coming of the Kingdom**

Luke 17.20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”]

The Kingdom of God is Jesus: “Among You” He was physically present as King on earth. His miracles, teaching, and authority demonstrated God’s rule. But the Kingdom was not yet fully established. It was still present spiritually, not fully manifest in the world.

### **Pentecost: The Kingdom Expands Through the Holy Spirit**

Acts 2:1–4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...” The Holy Spirit empowers believers to live under God’s rule. This is the spiritual

outworking of the Kingdom: **Authority over sin.** Bold witness for Christ. Obedience to God's Word living by His rules on the earth Believers become citizens of God's Kingdom, living under His reign.

Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." ] The Kingdom of God is experienced in the lives of those who submit to God. Through the Holy Spirit, God rules in our hearts and His Word governs our actions. As believers, we demonstrate the reality of the Kingdom on earth until we are finally brought home to the fullness of God's Kingdom in heaven.

### **Kingdom Vs Culture.**

God calls us to live under His Kingdom first, even when our culture may be strong and deeply rooted. Indian, African, Chinese, Japanese and many others have traditions that go back 100's of years if not more. While culture can give identity and belonging, it can sometimes carry beliefs or practices that conflict with God's truth. Some cultures and traditions stem from Ancestral and Generational spirits and carry curses, the Lord does not want us under such rule or reign where He is NOT King or Lord. After all He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Every knee in Heaven, Earth and below the earth. Every realm.

[Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4) this also includes - divided loyalty, values, systems, traditions and ways of thinking that oppose God.

Just like the four kingdoms in Daniel 2, which completely reshaped the cultures they conquered—changing laws, languages, and customs—God also calls us to be transferred into His Kingdom. He wants us to leave behind anything that opposes His rule and embrace His ways fully. God's Kingdom does not erase who we are but assimilates us, reshaping our hearts, minds, and lives so that we reflect His authority and His purposes as citizens of Heaven. [1 Peter 2.9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.]

### **A Snapshot of Kingdom Citizens Heaven.**

The only culture we want to embrace fully is the one that aligns in heaven after all this is where we are ultimately all headed.

Rev 7.9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of **all nations**, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10and

crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”]

To End.

As we begin the New Year of 2026, we want to start in holiness. That means consecrating and sanctifying ourselves — examining our lives and removing anything, even parts of our culture, that do not reflect the Kingdom of God.

The culture of this world is not our kingdom; rather, we belong to a different Kingdom. The Kingdom of Christ, established through the new covenant, shapes how we live, think, and walk. We are citizens of the Kingdom spoken of in Scripture:

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.” (Daniel 2:44)