

# Kingdom of God Part 1

## *Old Testament Visions of Kings and Kingdoms*

Isaiah 9:6-7 • 2 Samuel 7 • Daniel 2:36-47 • Daniel 3:28-30

**Q1:** How would you define what the Kingdom of God is?

People grow increasingly desperate, unaware that there is an invisible realm charged with God's power and superabundance...called the Kingdom of God... And it's available for those who seek it! The right understanding of what God's Kingdom is, can transform our picture of God, Christianity, and your role in the world.

### ***Kingdom of God in the Bible is also known as...***

God's Kingdom	Kingdom of Heaven	Heaven
Kingdom Eternal	Kingdom of Light	Abraham's Bosom
City of God,	New Jerusalem	Promised Land
City of Light	Paradise	

God could have used the word "Realm" or "Domain" but instead He used **KINGdom**.

### ***Isaiah 9 context:***

- Isaiah is speaking to the southern kingdom of Israel (Judah) before the Babylonian exile.
- Isaiah spoke into a situation here, where Judah was at war and felt powerless and fearful of being overrun; they didn't know if God was for them or against them or if he had simply abandoned them.
- And among Isaiah's prophecies about their future defeat, exile, and return, he included two prophetic visions. Here is one of them...

### **Throne of David**

**Isaiah 9:6-7** - For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

We see here that Isaiah's vision that there'll be a king and a kingdom in the future, but what is the "Throne of David"?

**Q2:** What is the Throne of David?

Read with device

Read **2 Samuel 7** - God's Covenant with David

Any Comments or Questions on that?

**The promise given to David includes the following provisions:**

- David is promised a child who would succeed him on the throne.
- The temple which David desired to build would be constructed by this son.
- The throne of David's kingdom would be continued forever and would never be taken away from his son even through David's iniquities.
- There seems to be little disposition to question that Solomon is the son mentioned in the covenant and that he built a literal temple as a house for the Lord.
- Part of these promises were fulfilled in Solomon, in that Solomon was later born, and ultimately built the temple. The promise goes far beyond Solomon, however, in that the kingdom, throne, and David's house itself were established forever. The difficulties in interpretation come in examining the exact meaning of the term "house" as it pertains to David's posterity and the words "throne" and "kingdom".

**Q3:** So who sits on the Throne of David?

**Q4:** Any Comments or Questions?

OK so now we'll move ahead to Daniel and read about his Kingdom dream.

**Daniel 2:36-30**

**Back Story:**

Nebuchadnezzar was commander of the Babylonian armies and conquered Egypt at the battle of Carchemesh, in 605 BC. In the same year of defeating Egypt, his father Nabopolassar died, making him the King of Babylon. On route back to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar defeats Judah/Jerusalem (an ally of Egypt), capturing Daniel and 3 of his friends and taking them back to Babylon. **Leader Note:** Does anybody know his 3 friend's names? *Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego*, In chapter 2, in the second year of the young king's reign, Nebuchadnezzar has a vivid dream that he wants interpreted.

Here we'll read Daniel interpreting this troubling dream...

***Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Dream***

**Daniel 2:36-43** - The Interpretation - "This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth..."

Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

**Q5:** According to Daniel, how did King Nebuchadnezzar become such a powerful ruler?

**Inferior Kingdom** - Media-Persia ruled from 539 to 331 BC. Was inferior in terms of its conquering ability. **Third Kingdom of bronze** - The Grecian Empire ruled by Alexander the Great from 333-63 BC. **Fourth Kingdom as strong as iron** - Most likely the Roman Empire who went on to dominate the world after defeating of Carthage in 146 BC, until the division of the East and West empires in 395 AD.

So without breaking down what **everything** represents in this passage... Basically, Daniel is saying that the dream indicates that Nebuchadnezzar's Kingdom will be destroyed and surpassed.

This is the interpretation, continued...

**Daniel 2:44-47** - *The Devine Kingdom* - "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that **a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future;** so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy." Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. The king answered Daniel and said, "**Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery.**"

**Q6:** What do you think the stone represents in the passage?

Commentary I found on-line: The stone is a picture of Christ succeeding the earthly kingdoms of man, and the confrontation between humanity, pictured as a statue, and God's messiah.

**Q7:** And the Mountain?

Commentary I found on-line: Mountains in scripture are symbolic of kingdoms. This is because the capital cities of almost all ancient kingdoms were founded on mountains. Throughout the Bible there are tons of examples in which mountains mean cities...

**Q8:** What do you think the meaning is of the stone being “cut out of the mountain without hands”? supernatural

In my Opinion: Mountain represents God’s Kingdom here on earth, because mountains are earth and Jesus came as a man from a human woman and a long lineage of faithful and, most of the time, dedicated men and women... But by the supernatural, did the Creator, Jesus come to earth.

**Q9:** In verses 36-43, why do you suppose God showed Nebuchadnezzar the other worldly kingdoms that would succeed his? Two possible answers... Because God wanted to illustrate that worldly kingdoms will come and go, but God’s Kingdom reigns forever and rules over all. - and/or - To show Nebuchadnezzar God’s sovereignty and give the king an opportunity to repent and change his ways.

Add a summary statement and maybe another question