

Daniel 2:44 – The Eternal Kingdom

By Brent Willey

Amazingly, God previewed the characteristics of his coming kingdom (the church) through a pagan king's dream.

Daniel was one of the Hebrews who had been taken into Babylon in the first deportation (606/5 B.C.). His name means "God is my judge."

In the second chapter of the book that bears his name, the Hebrew lad was petitioned to reveal a dream, and its interpretation, to king Nebuchadnezzar. The dream involved a huge image of a man, with head of gold, breast of silver, belly and thighs of brass, and legs and feet of iron and clay.

Daniel declared to the ruler that this image represented four great empires. History reveals these to be the Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, the Greek, and the Roman.

The prophet then affirmed, with reference to the fourth kingdom (i.e., the Roman empire), that it was struck by a stone (fashioned "without hands," v. 45, i.e., divinely imposed) that demolished it, and then grew into a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

The meaning of this dramatic picture is made clear.

"And in the days of those kings [the rulers of the Roman empire] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

The prophecy has to do with the establishment of the kingdom of God, the church of Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of which is recorded in the book of Acts. Within this passage there are a number of remarkable truths regarding this kingdom that are worthy of notice.

The general time of the kingdom's commencement is indicated – in the days of Roman rule, i.e., between 63 B.C. and A.D. 476.

Its source is revealed – God will be the builder of it (cf. Matthew 16:18).

It would be indestructible. Hostile forces would not be able to vanquish God's kingdom.

It would never be succeeded by another regime; rather, it would be perpetual.

God's church would be militant, invasive (cf. the parable of the leaven in Matthew 13) consuming the kingdoms of this earth, and thus stand forever.

These are astounding traits of the kingdom of heaven!.

For additions or corrections to the directory please contact Mike Mendez

Church of Christ, P.O. Box 231005, Sacramento, CA 95833

(916) 428-1956 / 428-1967 website: www.mackroadchurchofchrist.com

For corrections, suggestions, or to have something included in the bulletins, please contact Ryan or Jennifer Stiltz at 924-0435 or email at stiltz_family@sbcglobal.net

WELCOME

to the
Church of Christ
meeting at Mack Road

This morning's sermon:
Who rules in the kingdom of God?
Acts 2:1-36



Congregational Meeting Times:

Sunday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Evening Service 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visitors

The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.

Important dates to remember:

June:

Sun. 28th - Last Sunday of the month song service during pm services

Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun. 21st - **Group 2** meets following evening services

Fri. 26th - Family night potluck at the Uptegroves home, 6:30pm

Ladies House to House Fellowship

Lesson Book: "Developing Inner Strength, Living in the Joy of God's Love"



Next class: TBD Please prepare lesson 5.

If you would like to host a class, please let Jennifer know
July - August -

Classes

New Converts Class: 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5:00 at the building.

Young Adults Class: Fridays at Caleb's (Steve Sarff's) home. See Caleb for details.

Birthdays this week:

Tyler Kelso	June 21
Pat Williams	June 24

Elders corner

The elders had our first official "elder's meeting" on Tuesday night, 6/16, and we agreed that one of our first commitments to the congregation is communication. We discussed the following measures to allow us to keep the communication lines open, both from us to you and also from you to us:

- Occasionally we will be giving updates via this new "Elders' Corner" in the bulletin. If you have questions, concerns, or observations that you think might affect the entire congregation, let one of us know and we will attempt to address it here. Obviously, personal issues can not, and will not, be addressed in this public forum.
- The last Sunday of each month, one of the elders will be making the announcements and will use that time to share any plans that affect the growth and development of the congregation toward being the type of flock that God would have us be.
- Along that thought, we are planning to use the 5th Sunday of each month (there should be 4 per year, the next is Aug. 30th) to have an open forum with the congregation to discuss in further detail the plans and goals of the elders, and to receive feedback from you concerning those plans. We will have a shortened sermon to allow time for sharing information and receiving input concerning our goals.
- Also, we discussed randomly visiting various classes, both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, simply to determine if there may be some way that we can serve our children, and teachers, with better material, better classroom settings, etc. Any ideas toward that end are certainly welcome. We really appreciate the work and progress that our "Teaching Committee", namely Ben, has done with our classroom teachers, and will be calling upon their expertise.

Also, very high on our priority list is to find qualified men who would be willing to serve as deacons. We would like for each of you to consider the qualifications as listed in I Tim. 3:8-13 and be thinking of men that you feel would be good servants. Our goal is to have deacons in place no later than the end of August, but sooner if possible.

We appreciate your support in selecting us to serve as your elders. It is an awesome responsibility, and we have committed ourselves to you, knowing that GOD will hold us accountable for this flock.

In HIS love and service,
Jim U., Mike M., and Bill R.