

I. THE PREPARATION FOR THE INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM

A. "IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS..." (44)

1. Daniel describes the image as depicting four kingdoms which shall rise and fall

2. The first one is definitely Babylon - Daniel 2:37-38;

3. With Babylon as the starting point, world history confirms that the next three kingdoms would be:

a. The Medo-Persian empire, represented by the chest and arms of silver

b. The Grecian empire, represented by the belly and thighs of bronze

c. The Roman Empire, represented by the legs of iron, with feet mixed with iron and clay

4. Thus one could look for the establishment of the "indestructible kingdom" in the days of the Roman Empire

B. WHEN "THE TIME IS FULFILLED"...

1. Notice what John the Baptist began preaching during the days of the Roman Empire ("the kingdom of heaven is at hand") - Matthew 3:1-2;

2. Jesus proclaimed this also, adding "the time is fulfilled" - Mark 1:14-15;

a. What "time" was fulfilled?

b. The time described by Daniel!

II. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM

A. DURING JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY, IT WAS "AT HAND"...

This is what both John and Jesus proclaimed - Matthew 3:1-2; Mark 1:14-15;

B. BUT FOLLOWING THE ASCENSION OF JESUS...

1. He is far above all principality, power, might, and dominion – Ephesians 1:20-21;

2. All has been made subject to Him - 1Peter 3:22;

3. He is ruler over the kings of the earth - Revelation 1:5;

4. He rules the nations with a rod of iron - Revelation 2:26-27; -- He truly has all authority in heaven and on earth! - cf. Matthew 28:18;

C. THIS SUPPORTS WHAT IS REVEALED LATER IN DANIEL...

1. Consider Dan 7:13-14;

- a. Where one like the Son of Man approaches the Ancient of Days (God)
- b. And is given dominion, glory, and a kingdom which shall not be destroyed

2. Compare this with Acts 1:9;

- a. Daniel describes the ascension from a heavenly perspective
- b. Whereas Luke describes it from an earthly perspective!