

KING OF ETERNITY

A LOOK INTO DANIEL: VISIONS + DREAMS

INTRO // Have you ever eaten some bad taco bell late at night and had the wildest dream ever?! You wake up wondering was that God or the tacos (LOL)

In our scripture tonight, Daniel had a WILD dream that we are going to unpack.....

BACKGROUND//

- Daniel is now about 70 years old and receives a vision from God!
- He sees 4 great beasts....
 - Beast 1 - like a lion + had wings like an eagle
 - Beast 2 - like a bear with 3 ribs in its mouth!
 - Beast 3 -like a leopard with 4 wings like a bird. 4 heads and given authority to rule
 - Beast 4 - most frightening beast with iron teeth + 10 horns. Was the most powerful beast.
- Each of these great beasts represents a present kingdom.
 - Beast 1 - NeoBabylonian Empire (King Nebechunazzar's reign)
 - Beast 2 - Persia w/ 3 ribs being the conquests of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt.
 - Beast 3 - Greek Empire (Alexander the Great's Conquests) // 4 heads are the 4 empires that formed out of his reign represented through his generals: Lysimachus (Thrace + Bithynia), Cassander (Greece and macedon), Seleucus (Babylonia and Syria), Ptolemy (Holy Land, Egypt, and Arabia).
- As he watches them wreak havoc on the earth, we pick up in our reading as God gives him the final portion of the vision. This is what Daniel saw.....

Scripture // DANIEL 7:13 - 14

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

(MEANING: Jesus coming back to establish his eternal kingdom!!!)

MAIN POINT // HE IS THE KING OF ETERNITY

1. HIS KINGDOM IS FREELY GIVEN

- God's ultimate desire is to establish a kingdom for all of his creation to reside in perfect unity with Him forever!

VERSE 14 // "He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him."

- Scripture is very clear that ALL will worship Him. Every nation, tribe, and tongue!
- This tells us that his Kingdom is freely given for anyone to enter if they choose.
- Scripture is also very clear that while everyone is free to enter, not everyone will possess this Kingdom.

SCRIPTURE // DANIEL 7:18

"But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever - yes, forever and ever."

- This verse tells us that only the saints of the Most High will possess this Kingdom!
- **WHO ARE THE SAINTS?**
 - Those who are holy, meaning they are spiritually pure, complete in character and separated from evil because their relationship to the holy God purifies them and sets them apart for God's purposes.
 - They have separated themselves from the world's corruption and devoted themselves to serve and worship God.
- **IF GOD IS LOVE, THEN WHY DO ONLY A CERTAIN GROUP OF PEOPLE GET TO INHERIT THE KINGDOM?**

SCRIPTURE // 1 John 1:5

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

- Yes God is love; however God is also fully light.

- If God is light, and there is no darkness in Him this means within his Kingdom it is only light....there can be no darkness because he himself possesses no darkness within Himself.
- God's design is not to be separated from his people; however, because he himself cannot embody darkness it separates those living in darkness from him.
- **If the kingdom of light is eternal, this darkness must be eradicated from this kingdom....**
 - This Kingdom of Darkness is a place where we are eternally separated from God.
 - Because God does not exist within the Kingdom of Darkness (Hell), there is no light within this kingdom. This means that because this Kingdom is separated from the light - only darkness can exist there.
 - This darkness is where pain, suffering, and torment live!
 - This Kingdom of Darkness is Hell....
 - NEWSFLASH: God did not create Hell to be a place of punishment, torture, or pain to punish those who chose not to follow him. It is a place of punishment, torture, and pain because he is simply not there.
 - It is God's design that ALL would be reconciled back to Him.
 - This is WHY God sent his son Jesus to make a bridge that eliminates the darkness in our lives so we can be children of the light; therefore, giving us access to the Kingdom of Light...God's Eternal Kingdom - Heaven + New Earth.
 - God's eternal kindness is that he allows us to CHOOSE to be in fellowship with Him.
 - God does not force us to serve him, love him, or even choose him.

2. HIS KINGDOM IS ETERNAL BECAUSE HE IS ETERNAL

- The beauty of this eternal kingdom is that he created it for you because he loves you.....
 - Most king's would hoard the 'wealth'....but we serve a King who forsook his 'wealth' so you could inherit an everlasting Kingdom free of suffering.
- **Because God is an eternal deity this means that his very character is eternal...**
 - meaning he is eternally good, eternally love, eternally peace, eternally patience, eternally kindness, eternally gentleness, eternally self-control and ultimately eternally light.
 - THEREFORE: His kingdom is eternally good, eternally love, eternally peace, eternally patience, eternally kindness, eternally gentleness, eternally self-control, eternally light!

SCRIPTURE // REVELATION 21:3-5

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘ I am making all things new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

ALTARS

- SALVATION
- HOPE!
 - Some students may be coming with some ‘temporary’ struggles due to the world we live in corrupted by sin + imperfection.
 - Remind them we look towards an EVERLASTING KINGDOM where there is no more weeping, pain, or suffering.....