

"Dark Kingdom" traces the development of Satan's kingdom from its start in the Garden of Eden to its eventual destruction in the near future.

Dark Kingdom

By Robert Fitzpatrick

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Dark Kingdom

A BIBLICAL STUDY
OF SATAN AND HIS KINGDOM
THROUGH THE AGES

Robert Fitzpatrick

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Preface

For years, there has been a ready audience for books and films dealing with Satan or his demons. *Dark Kingdom* deals largely with these topics based on what the Bible reveals about them. However, this is not a book that will appeal to anyone expecting to see supernatural evidence of spiritual evil in the future. Aside from the evil we already see all around us, the Bible reveals that there won't be anything unusual until the very last day of earth's existence. There won't be even a hint of the end-time Biblical events described in the Book of Revelation in terrifying detail. So, I suspect that for most people this would be a very boring book. But, for the serious Bible student *Dark Kingdom* can provide welcome guidance to understand difficult verses, such as those dealing with the beasts in the book of Daniel, its account of the kings of the north and south, and many other mysterious verses in Daniel, Revelation, and elsewhere in the Bible.

This is my third book in a series dealing with Biblical revelations concerning the end of salvation and the period immediately preceding the return of the Lord Jesus. In the first, *A Little Book of God's Mercy*, I cover the Biblical calendar discovered by the late Mr. Harold Camping of Family Radio, show how it reveals key dates in God's salvation plan, and explain how the Bible reveals God's mercy at the end of this world. In *Lazarus Revealed*, I further explore the calendar's significance in numerous prophetic verses, many of which have not been recognized as such. These verses provide amazing revelations about the disciple Lazarus. Now, in *Dark Kingdom*, you'll discover how Satan's kingdom was transformed during the past approximately two thousand years, and you will gain insight into how this all fits into God's salvation plan.

Robert Fitzpatrick
October 21, 2021

Much of the Bible is focused on the Kingdom of Heaven; but the Bible reveals the existence of another kingdom as well. It's a kingdom controlled by Satan and his demons. This is the Dark Kingdom.

Chapter 1:

Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream

We begin our investigation in the book of Daniel, for there we find the key to understanding so much of what the Bible reveals about the Dark Kingdom. As we proceed, we'll be making frequent jumps to other books of the Bible to see how other scriptures help us understand what we are finding in the passage currently being considered. Remember, it's all God's word!

The Great Image

If you search for a commentary on Nebuchadnezzar's dream as recorded in Daniel 2, you will probably find it explained in a completely erroneous way. This is the dream in which Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, saw a great image. Daniel, who had been carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon with other captives, was given knowledge and understanding of the dream after he and his companions prayed for it.

We find the image described in Daniel 2:31-33:

Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Here we find Daniel's description of the image, since Nebuchadnezzar refused to reveal his dream to anyone. He had a good reason. He

didn't trust any of his counselors to correctly interpret the dream unless they could tell him what the dream was. In fact, he planned to have his advisors executed if none of them could reveal the dream. Daniel was able to do so after the Lord revealed to him the dream and its meaning.

There are two more verses describing the dream, Daniel 2:34-35:

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The first difficulty in understanding this dream has to do with the head of gold. In the Bible, gold is often used as a reference to God's elect. For example, in Malachi 3:3, we find this:

And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Here, gold and silver refer to the sons of Levi, who represent those whom God has saved. We know that the elect will be with the Lord for all eternity. However, notice what happens to the gold, silver and other substances making up the great image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. According to Daniel 2:35, the image is broken in pieces, becomes like chaff, is carried away by the wind, and "no place was found for them." Clearly, this image has nothing to do with God's elect.

We can also dismiss the standard interpretation of this dream by many past theologians. A commentary by J. Vernon McGee from his book *Daniel* may be typical. He explained the image as a series of earthly kingdoms, beginning with the kingdom of Babylon under the rulership of Nebuchadnezzar as the head of gold. Next on the image, we find the breast and arms of silver. Dr. McGee identified them as the ancient kingdom of Media-Persia. He believed the third kingdom (the image's belly and thighs of brass) to be the Graeco-Macedonian Empire under Alexander the Great. The fourth and last kingdom, represented in the image by the legs of iron and feet of iron with clay, is a picture of the Roman Empire according to Dr. McGee. He believed that the Roman Empire continues today through the modern nations of Europe, that a future leader will emerge to unify Europe far beyond the economic and other ties existing presently among those nations, and that this leader will forge a united Europe into what is essentially a powerful, new Roman Empire.

Daniel Explains the Dream

Dr. McGee and others have based their thinking on several verses that seemingly verify the above interpretation. In fact, one particular statement that the prophet Daniel made when he explained the dream to Nebuchadnezzar apparently makes Dr. McGee's interpretation indisputable. In Daniel 2:38, we read this:

And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he was the head of gold. Then Daniel said (Daniel 2:39-40):

And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Therefore, many people have concluded that the first kingdom represented in the image was necessarily Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, and that another three great human kingdoms succeeded Babylon one at a time. However, this interpretation is all wrong!

We can see the problem with the explanation when we consider all the information the Bible provides about Nebuchadnezzar's dream. When we read how it ends, we find that a stone "cut out without hands" strikes the image on its feet and brakes it to pieces. This stone then becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth. However, elsewhere in the Bible we learn that the entire world will be destroyed when the Lord Jesus returns. It will be the end of planet earth. In fact, the whole universe will disappear then. Only the people whom God has saved through the ages will remain, and they will inherit a new heavens and earth. (For example, see Acts 4:10-11, 2 Peter 3:10, Isaiah 65:17, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

So, here is the problem with the conventional explanation for Nebuchadnezzar's dream: There won't be just one particular kingdom or nation that God destroys on the last day - all nations and kingdoms of the world will be destroyed. Therefore, it doesn't make sense for the fourth kingdom in the image to be a renewed Roman Empire. However, it does make sense that each of the four kingdoms represents the Dark Kingdom in one of its stages as it transformed over time, because only the Dark Kingdom can encompass the whole world.

There are a couple of ways we can confirm that the image represents four stages of the Dark Kingdom. For example, read Daniel 2:43:

And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

If the image represents human kingdoms, what could possibly be meant by “they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men” in the above verse? Read also the next verse, Daniel 2:44:

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Notice that it says, “in the days of these kings” and that the stone will “break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms.” The implication is that all the kings represented by the image remain alive until the end of the world, when the Lord sets up His kingdom. This is clearly not possible if they are human kings and their kingdoms span over two thousand years. So, the key to the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is to understand how Nebuchadnezzar could possibly be the head of gold. The key is to realize that Nebuchadnezzar is a picture of Satan.

We see this confirmed in several verses that start with Isaiah 14:3-4:

And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and

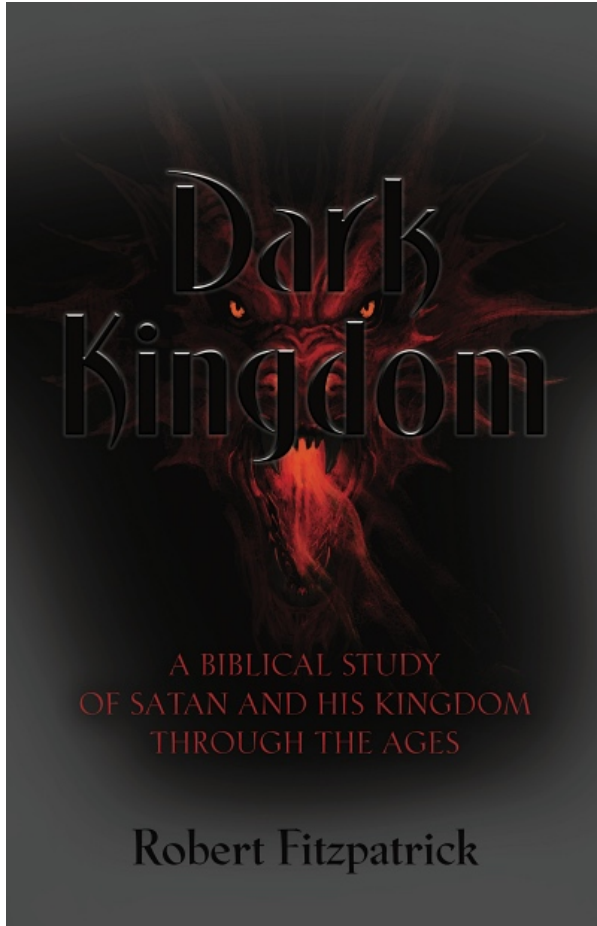
say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

These verses tell of a proverb against the king of Babylon. However, what follows is a prophecy of Satan's destruction, as we see clearly in Isaiah 14:12-15:

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Even without the name Lucifer appearing here (a questionable translation), we see that this proverb against the king of Babylon – against Nebuchadnezzar – tells us about Satan's fate. Although Nebuchadnezzar doesn't represent Satan in every verse in the Bible, he does in the dream of the great image. Once we realize that Nebuchadnezzar's head of gold identifies Satan, many other verses start to make sense.

The great image in Nebuchadnezzar's first dream provides the big picture for much of what we read in the books of Daniel and Revelation. As we proceed, we will find that God has provided details about each phase of the Dark Kingdom pictured in the image.



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