

Kingdom Clashes

Daniel 8

Three Lanes of Bible prophecy:

Lane #1: The Near Fulfillment Lane.

Lane #2: The Far Fulfillment Lane.

Lane #3: The Spiritual Encouragement Lane.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4 ESV)

Main Idea: Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not lean upon your own understanding, nor upon the understanding of kings or human governments. In all your thoughts, words and pursuits, acknowledge Him and He will go before to you to clear your path to life.

Application: When you are in a bind and without understanding about ANYTHING . . . take it to the LORD for understanding!

"who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"" (Isaiah 44:28 ESV)

*Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: "I will go before you and level the exalted places. . . that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. **For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.**" (Isaiah 45:1-4 ESV)*

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. "So when you see **the abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." (Matthew 24:14-16 ESV)*

Truth: The future of human kingdoms will grow darker not brighter through the times of the Gentiles. But the LORD will not allow evil to last forever. His kingdom is coming!!

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God." (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 ESV)

*If anyone has an ear, let him hear: If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. **Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.***" (Revelation 13:10 ESV)

Application: The LORD tells us to expect much to be wrong with our present world. He calls His saints to endure the present evil age with faith, hope and love. He urges us away from bitterness, complaining, grumbling and destructive anger.

Three realities to live by:

Reality #1: God's Word is trustworthy.

Truth: There is only one source for truth . . . God. AND He has spoken to us through His Son by His Spirit in His Book. Jesus as revealed by the Spirit in scripture is the only place where we will find 100% accurate wisdom, knowledge and truth.

Reality #2: God's rule is absolute.

"Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."'" (Revelation 11:15-18 ESV)

Reality #3: God's enemy will be broken.

*"And they worshiped the dragon, **for he had given his authority to the beast**, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"'" (Revelation 13:4 ESV)*

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith," (1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV)

Five strategies of Satan to murder our soul.

1. He throws temptations in our path.
2. He places discouragement in our lives.
3. He distracts us with the cares of this world . . . money, jobs, children's successes.
4. He sows seeds of anger and discord in our relationships with others in Jesus' church.
5. He assaults our physical bodies.

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4 ESV)