

The Time Frame of the Kingdom's Establishment

DANIEL 2

The Kingdom would be
established “in the latter days”

Isaiah 2:2

- “Now it shall come to pass **in the latter days** that the **mountain of the Lord's house** shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Micah 4:1, 6-8

- “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it....⁶ “In that day,” says the Lord, “I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; ⁷ I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever. ⁸ And you, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.”

What is meant by the Latter Days?

- Defined – (Heb. – aharit yomayya) – lit. the end of days, the last days, or latter days.
- Generally used of the future, while also having a connection to the coming of the Messiah—the Messianic age – Gen. 49:1ff.
- Contextual definitions:
 - **Tyndale OT Commentary – Isaiah** – “(lit.) end/culmination of days” is neither necessarily distant nor certainly near, but always imminent. It expresses the certainty of what God will do and the urgency of the present readiness.” (p. 18).
 - **K & D – Isaiah** – “invariably indicates the furthest point in the history of this life—the point which lies on the outermost limits of the speaker’s horizon” (p. 113)

What is meant by the Latter Days?

- **Truth Commentary – Daniel** – “The expression *aharit yomayya*, “the end of days,” “the last days,” or “the end of the era,” is a phrase which typically refers to **some decisive change at a future time** (cf. Num. 24:14; Gen. 49:1; Deut. 4:30; 31:29). Literally it meant “the farthestmost part of the days,” just as its employment spatially meant “the uttermost parts of the sea” (Ps. 139:9). Its usage in the prophets is often quite general and refers not strictly to the end of the world, but rather to what will happen “one day” or “some day,” and directs the listener or reader toward some sort of goal for history at some time “in the future” (cf. 10:14)” (p. 178).
- To know the time of the establishment of Christ’s kingdom we must determine when the culmination of days, the outermost limits of the speaker’s horizon, and this goal of history is/was reached?

Daniel 2

THE TIME FRAME OF “THE LATTER DAYS”

Nebuchadnezzar's Troubling Dream

- About 150 years after Isaiah, Daniel provided the time frame for *the latter days*.
- The dream concerned the establishment of God's kingdom – Daniel 2
 - The king couldn't remember the dream - 2:1-19
 - Daniel declared to the king that God had revealed what would take place *in the latter days*, or what would come to pass *after this* – 2:25-30
- This dream revealed what would happen in the *days to come* leading up to and culminating in the *establishment of God's kingdom—the latter days!*

The Dream

- The king saw an immense, excellent, and awesome image suddenly appear – Dan. 2:31
- The image had a head of gold, chest/arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay – 2:32-33
- A stone was cut out “without hands” that hit the feet of iron and clay and then crushed all the rest to powder – 2:34-35
- The stone grew into a mountain – 2:35



Interpretation and Fulfillment

- The dream revealed the succession of three kingdoms after the Babylonian kingdom (2:29) leading up to the establishment of God's kingdom *in the latter days* (2:28).
- Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, **Babylon**, was the head of gold – 2:36-38
- The second, the silver kingdom, was the **Medo-Persian Empire** – 2:39; 5:25-28
- The third, the bronze kingdom, was **Greece** – 2:39; Dan. 8:20-21
- The fourth, the iron (and iron and clay) kingdom, was the **Roman Empire** – 2:40-43; 7:7
- **IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS** God would establish His kingdom – 2:44



In the days of these kings...

- God would establish a kingdom of His creation, indestructible, totally victorious, and eternal – 2:44
- In *the latter days*, the days of the Roman Empire, the kingdom of God was established, being the time of Christ's...
 - Appearance on earth
 - Death and resurrection
 - Claim to complete power/authority in heaven and on earth – Mt. 28:18
 - Ascension to heaven to sit on God's throne, establishing the eternal throne of David – Acts 2:29-36

You have two choices

- Follow the millennial doctrine that...
 - Claims Christ failed to establish the kingdom, making God's prophecy fail
 - Twist the scriptures to make the Roman Empire refer to a future, restored Roman Empire.
 - Separates the Roman kingdom into separate kingdoms, the feet being a kingdom yet to come
- Accept that Christ's kingdom was established as God promised it would be!
- As Christians we can only accept the latter!

The NT Corroborates this Conclusion

- Jesus believed his day to be *the latter days* in which the kingdom would be established – Mk. 1:14-15; 9:1
- Inspired writers of the NT affirmed that the latter days had come.
 - Peter at Pentecost – Acts 2:16-17
 - Peter's epistle – 1 Pet. 1:18-20
 - The Hebrew writer – Heb. 1:1-2
- Christians live as citizens in Christ's kingdom – Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9