

Daniel 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

Analysis

The king's doxology proclaims: 'How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.' The exclamatory 'How great...how mighty' expresses wonder and worship. The declaration about God's eternal kingdom directly contrasts with human kingdoms' temporality (Daniel 2:44). Nebuchadnezzar, ruling earth's mightiest empire, acknowledges a superior kingdom that outlasts all earthly dominion. This confession fulfills Daniel 2's prophecy—human kingdoms will pass, but God's kingdom endures forever.

Historical Context

Babylonian kings claimed eternal dominion for their empire. Royal titles included 'king of the four quarters' implying universal rule. Inscriptions celebrated achievements designed to last 'for all days' and 'everlasting name.' Nebuchadnezzar's confession subverts imperial ideology—only God's kingdom truly lasts forever. Ancient Near Eastern peoples understood 'generation to generation' as spanning all time. The king's acknowledgment that divine dominion supersedes human empire was revolutionary for absolute monarchy claiming divine sanction.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's kingdom as eternal relativize all earthly political structures and achievements?
2. What does the contrast between human empires' claims to permanence and God's actual eternal kingdom teach about true versus false security?

Interlinear Text

מְקִיפִים	אֵת	וְהִ	כִּמְהִ	בְּרָכָה	וְהִ	וְתִמְהָ	וְהִ	אֵת	וְהִ	מְקִיפִים	וְהִ	כִּמְהִ	בְּרָכָה	וְהִ	וְתִמְהָ	וְהִ	אֵת	וְהִ	
are his signs	and how		great		are his wonders		and how		mighty										
H852	H4101		H7260		H8540		H4101		H8624										
מֶלֶךְ	וְתִ	עַל	מְ	וְשָׁלַטְתָּ	הִ	עַם	וְ	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִ	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִ	עַם	וְ	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִ	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִ	מֶלֶךְ	
his kingdom	his kingdom		is an everlasting		and his dominion		is from		generation										
H4437	H4437		H5957		H7985		H5974		H1859										
וְ	מֶלֶךְ		וְ	מֶלֶךְ		וְ	מֶלֶךְ		וְ	מֶלֶךְ		וְ	מֶלֶךְ		וְ	מֶלֶךְ		וְ	
generation																			
H1859																			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:13 (Kingdom): Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Isaiah 25:1 (Parallel theme): O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

Daniel 2:44 (Kingdom): 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.

Daniel 7:14 (Kingdom): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Revelation 11:15 (Kingdom): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Hebrews 1:8 (Kingdom): But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

1 Timothy 1:17 (Kingdom): Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Daniel 7:27 (Kingdom): And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Hebrews 2:4 (Parallel theme): God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Psalms 105:27 (Parallel theme): They shewed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.