

# Daniel 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

## Analysis

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The promise 'the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever' reveals the ultimate outcome of history—God's people inheriting eternal dominion. The Aramaic 'saints' (קדושים, qaddishin) means 'holy ones,' those set apart for God, emphasizing identity in relationship to the Holy One rather than inherent goodness. 'Most High' (אלعال, elyon) designates supreme divine authority. The phrase 'take the kingdom' (接过王位, yeqabbelun malkuta) means 'receive' or 'be given'—passive reception of divine gift, not conquest through human effort. This establishes that God's kingdom comes through His initiative and power, not human achievement. The emphatic repetition 'for ever, even for ever and ever' (עד עולם עד עולם עולם, 'עד עולם עד עולם עולם) stresses eternality—this kingdom has no end, no succession, no rival. This prophecy finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ and His church. Jesus applies Daniel's 'Son of Man' title to Himself (Matthew 26:64), identifying with the heavenly figure who receives the kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14). Believers, united to Christ, share His inheritance (Romans 8:17, Revelation 3:21). This counters both defeatist pessimism and triumphalist claims that the church conquers through earthly power. God's kingdom advances through gospel proclamation and suffering witness, culminating in Christ's return when the meek inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5) and reign with Christ eternally (Revelation 22:5).

## Historical Context

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Daniel received this vision in Belshazzar's first year (553 BC), during Babylon's decline before Persian conquest. The 'four beasts' represent successive world empires—likely Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—each more brutal than its predecessor. The 'little horn' speaking blasphemies has been variously identified as Antiochus IV Epiphanes (who persecuted Jews 167-164 BC), various Roman emperors, papal Rome, or an eschatological antichrist. Reformed interpretation typically sees multiple fulfillments: immediate (Antiochus), historical (persecuting powers throughout church age), and ultimate (final antichrist before Christ's return). The 'Ancient of Days' (לֵדוֹת יְמִינָה, attiq yomin) sitting in judgment depicts God's eternal sovereignty and coming judgment on earthly powers. The 'Son of Man' receiving everlasting dominion represents the Messiah and His people together inheriting the kingdom. This vision encouraged Jews under persecution: despite appearances, God controls history and will vindicate His people. For Christians, it assures that despite the church's weakness and the world's hostility, Christ's kingdom advances irresistibly toward total victory.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the promise of inheriting God's eternal kingdom shape your response to present suffering and persecution?
2. What does it mean that believers receive the kingdom as gift rather than earning it through conquest or merit?
3. How should the church's confident hope in ultimate victory affect our engagement with temporal political and social struggles?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּקְבְּלוּ	מֶלֶכֶתָא	קָדְשֵׁי	אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה	וַיַּחֲסֹן אֵלָיו
shall take	the kingdom	But the saints	of the most High	and possess
H6902	H4437	H6922	H5946	H2631
מֶלֶכֶתָא	עַל מְאֹד עַל מְאֹד	עַל מְאֹד עַל מְאֹד	עַל מְאֹד עַל מְאֹד	עַל מְאֹד
the kingdom	even for and ever	even for and ever	and ever	and ever
H4437	H5705	H5957	H5705	H5957

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**Revelation 5:10** (Kingdom): And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

**Revelation 20:4** (Kingdom): And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

**Daniel 7:22** (Kingdom): Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

**Psalms 45:16** (Parallel theme): Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.

**Ephesians 1:3** (Parallel theme): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: