

The Everlasting Kingdom

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Looking back through history you can see many kingdoms that arose then fell after a period of time. For a number of years a nation would be the "Super Power" of the day. A few come to mind like Babylon, Greece, Assyria, Persia, Egypt, and Rome. At different times there were others, all following the same pattern. They arose in military power, wealth, and ruled over a large area. The king would be full of pride, feeling that he was greater than the others. They all shared one thing, they all fell from power. Yet, there is one kingdom that will never fall - the kingdom of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 1:10**, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The kingdoms of the earth fail because they are the kingdoms of men. As mentioned there is pride, arrogance, greed, and corruption that con-

tribute to the fall. Most of these nations tried to conquer their weaker neighbors simply because they could. In time their sins and internal decay caused them each to lose their power. Consider Rome for a moment. The capital of the Roman Empire and ruler of much of the world. In the time of Jesus, Rome was probably at the height of its power.

Rome ruled Israel and many other nations, forcing their laws and rulers on the people. Remember it was Pilate, a Roman Governor, who passed judgment on Jesus. While Rome condemned the Lord and had him beaten and crucified, it was Rome that fell. Jesus lives while the might and glory of the Roman Empire is a memory of history.

Jesus is the King of kings and of his kingdom there will be no end **Luke 1:32-33**. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." We might look at it this way, we are either a subject of the kingdom of this world, or a subject of the Lord and a member of his kingdom. This world and all who love it and hold to it are going to fall, just like all the worldly kingdoms have and will fall.

Those who come to God through his son Jesus will live forever with

him. **Psalms 145:10-13**. "All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." We know that this body will not live forever here on earth, so it is with all the material things that men treasure. All will fade away with the passing of time. However, the spirit goes to be with the Lord if we are saved by his grace. Those who reject him will spend eternity apart from, and without God, just like they lived here on earth.

John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Everlasting life in an everlasting kingdom with the Lord. Now is the time to make sure that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. All the famous rulers of the past have died and will face Jesus in judgment. Caesar, Hitler, Stalin, and all the others will bow before God and confess him, but then will be too late. **Romans 14:1**. "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Which kingdom are you a part of?

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

DAVID'S fighting courage
DAVID HAS SECURED A GREAT VICTORY OVER THE PHILISTINES IN THE VERY BATTLE IN WHICH SAUL HAS HOPED DAVID WILL DIE AND THUS END THE THREAT OF TAKING SAUL'S CROWN FROM HIM, NOW...

MESSENGER, RUN THOU AHEAD AND TELL SAUL OF THIS VICTORY OF THE LORD OVER THE PHILISTINES!

AS DAVID AND HIS MEN RETURN FROM THE BATTLE, BRINGING WITH THEM THE SPOILS AND PROOF OF THEIR VICTORY...

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O KING SAUL, IF IT MAY PLEASE THEE - I COME TO TELL THEE THAT DAVID HAST PREVAILED OVER THE PHILISTINES!

IF DAVID HAST KILLED AN HUNDRED PHILISTINES THEN MUST I INDEED GIVE HIM MY DAUGHTER MICHAL TO WED!

AND THEN WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY KINGDOM?!

WITH DAVID HUSBAND TO THE KING'S DAUGHTER, AND LOVED BY ALL ISRAEL, MORE THAN I, HOW THEN CAN HE BE KEPT FROM TAKING THE THRONE EVEN AS SAMUEL HAS PROPHESED?!

AND WHEN DAVID AND HIS CAPTAINS APPEAR BEFORE KING SAUL...

LET US HAVE A FAITHFUL COUNT OF ALL THE ENEMY SLAIN BY DAVID AND HIS MEN!

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
322 5th St., Ravenna, KY
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Wednesday Mass 6:00 pm
Thursday Mass 6:00 pm
Contact: Father Al Fritsch, S.J.
(606) 723-4705

...IT IS FOUND THAT NOT ONE HUNDRED - BUT TWO HUNDRED PHILISTINES WERE KILLED BY THE ISRAELITES!

IT IS PROOF AND ENOUGH! I GIVE THEE MY DAUGHTER MICHAL TO WIFE, DAVID!

Next Week - David's rise

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