ACTS 1:1-11

The Kingdom Of GOD Intelligent Response to the **Good News about** the Kingdom

Isaiah 2:1-4

1 The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 Now it will come about that In the last days, The mountain of the house of the Lord Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.



3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.



4 And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.



Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

Daniel 2:44

44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.



2 Samuel 7:14-16

14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.""



Luke 1:32-33

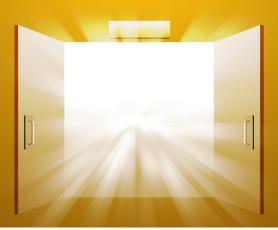
32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."



I think there can be no doubt where Jesus Christ found and nourished his doctrine of the Kingdom. He found it in the book of Daniel, and especially in Daniel 7. There are many evidences that the book of Daniel was one of the favorite books of Jesus Christ, one of the books which he diligently and deeply studied during the years of peaceful obscurity in Nazareth before his stormy public ministry began.



He makes several references to Daniel, and when the book of Daniel is once understood, it throws quite a flood of light upon the numerous parables in which our Lord described the Kingdom...He declared again and again that the Kingdom was the first object of his life to establish, and, he asserted, it ought to be the first object of our lives to promote. He summed up all our duties in the ever- memorable command to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt. 6:33).



Taking our cue from the book of Daniel, we may easily establish the fact that the Kingdom of God (or Kingdom of Heaven) is a real, external empire. Not only this, it is to be an empire which will seize power suddenly and dramatically from the world's governments which precede it; and it will be administered by "the Son of Man" (Dan. 7:13, 14) and "the saints" (Dan. 7:27).



Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.



14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away;

And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.



Daniel 7:27

27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'



On no account, from the evidence of Daniel, could it be an invisible reign established only in the hearts of believers. Its **political dimension** as well as its location **on earth** is unmistakably clear. It is equally obvious that the Kingdom of God described by Daniel has not yet appeared.



Daniel 2:44

44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.



Ezekiel 44:23

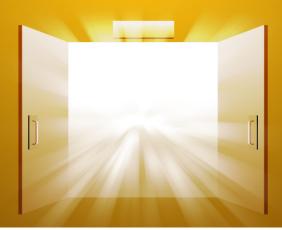
23 Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.



The Holy and the Profane



We do not often hear the word profane these days. Its full meaning has disappeared from common conversation, and it is now used almost exclusively with regard to language—as in profanity. But obscene or vulgar speech—as common as it is—is only a fraction of what is contemplated by profane.



The word came into English through French from the Latin profanus, and its root is quite revealing. It consists of pro- (before, meaning "against" or "away from") and fanum ("temple"). Something that is profane, then, is literally "against the temple" or even "far from the temple."



Biblically, "temple" refers not just to a physical building, but embodies all that takes place there—specifically, the true worship of the true God. Thus, not only can foul words and phrases be "far from the temple"—far from the true worship of God—but also people, behaviors, and even instruments of worship can be profane.

