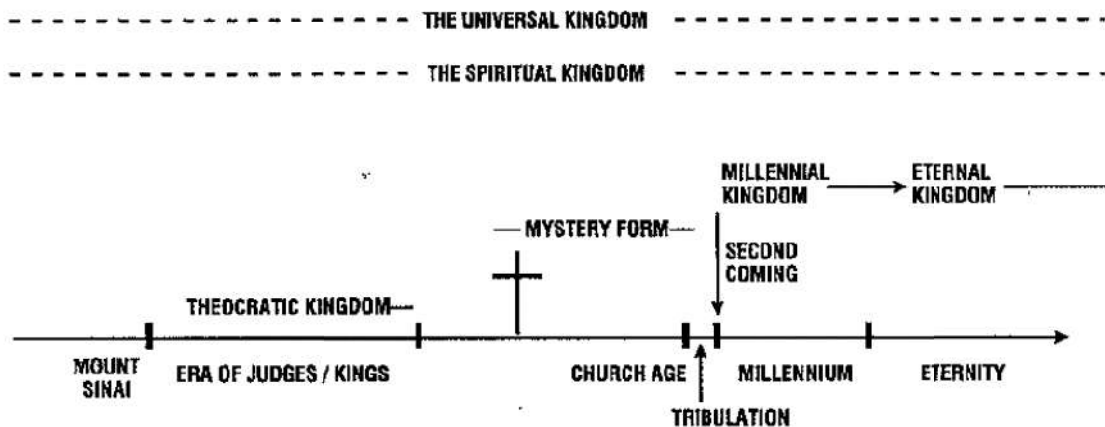


SUMMARY OF THE KINGDOM IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

REVIEW

- God created the universe, functions as King over His creation, and creates man in His own image to function as His vice regent over creation (Gen 1-2)
- But man fails in this task by sinning against God and His commands and all creation is cursed as a result of sin (Gen 3)
- But God promises a deliverer who will rescue mankind from God's judgment and restore creation (Gen 3:15)
- God sends a global flood to destroy wicked mankind (Gen 6-9)
- The covenants convey the plan of God to restore mankind and carry out His kingdom plan:
 - Noahic Covenant – God promises to never flood the earth again and to provide stability in nature so that His kingdom plans can be carried out (Gen 8)
 - Abrahamic Covenant – God chose Abraham and his descendants to be the vehicle by which He would bless the nations of the earth, promising them land, seed, and a blessing (Gen 12, 13, 15, 17, 22)
 - Mosaic Covenant – God entered into a conditional covenant with Israel at Sinai as the means by which Israel could be set apart to God's purposes and remain connected to the promises of the AC (Exodus 19-20)
 - Davidic Covenant – God promised David that one in his line would have an eternal throne, reign, and kingdom (2 Samuel 7)
 - New Covenant – God promised in the NC to grant Israel a new heart and the indwelling Spirit so that they will obey God and therefore experience kingdom blessings

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD



* From Paul Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy*

THE KINGDOM IN DANIEL

- More than any book in the OT, Daniel describes God's mediatorial earthly kingdom
- It describes the time when God's kingdom will be established on the earth and will replace rebellious human governments

Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Dream (Daniel 2)

Daniel 2:28-29 ~ However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.

Daniel 2:31-35 ~ You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- Notice some things about the materials of this state...the most valuable and most weighty materials are on the top...the lighter and less valuable materials are on the bottom
- The material of each section of the statue decreases in value but increases in strength
- The decreased value may refer to the decline of political influence with each succeeding kingdom
- The increased strength may refer to the harsher domination of each succeeding kingdom
- Gold on the top – heaviest and most valuable...then Silver...then Bronze...then Iron...then Iron/clay – lightest and least valuable...clay = most brittle
- Each of those represents a different Gentile nation or kingdom
- The entire statue was toppled by a crushing blow at its feet
- The “stone” that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth
- This massive imposing statue is reduced to rubble
- This prophecy is about a coming kingdom of God that will suddenly and decisively crush and replace the reigning Gentile kingdoms
- The main point is that starting with Babylon there would be four major Gentile powers that would rule over the world and Israel, but a day is coming when God's kingdom will suddenly crush these kingdoms and itself will be established as a geo-political entity over the entire earth forever

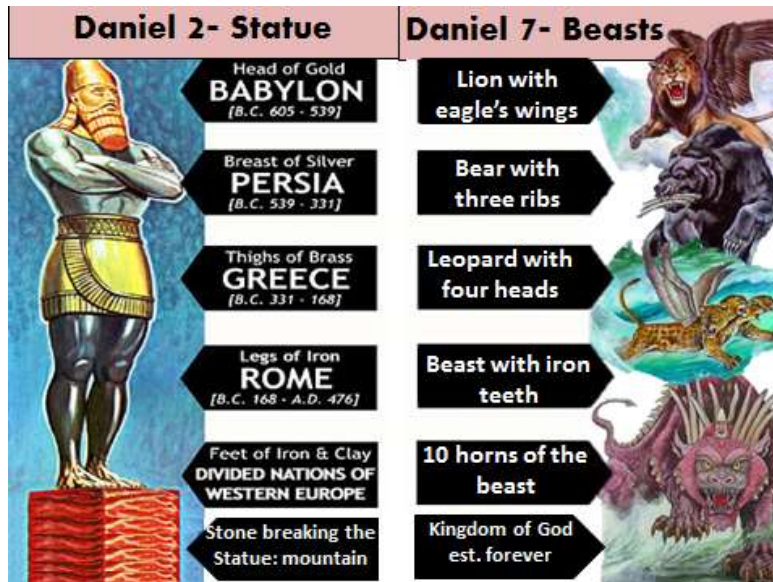
Daniel 2:36-43 ~ This *was* the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. 37 You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; 38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. 39 After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. 40 Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. 41 In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 *As* the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, *so* some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. 43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery

- First kingdom = Babylon (vs. 37-38)
- Second kingdom = Medo-Persia (vs. 39)

- Third kingdom = Greece (vs. 39)
- Fourth kingdom = Rome (vs. 40-43)
 - Notice that there are 2 parts to this Roman empire: 1) Legs of iron; 2) Feet and toes of iron/clay
 - The legs refer to the past Roman empire...the feet/toes referring to a future revived Roman Empire
 - The feet/toes indicate the final form of the Roman empire....and the final form is represented by 10 toes
 - Those ten toes represent a 10-nation confederacy....a revived Roman empire
 - This is talking about Rome 1 and Rome 2: Rome 1 symbolized by the legs was powerful, strong, mighty....Rome 2 is symbolized by the feet and clay with 10 toes
 - Rome 1 never had a 10-nation confederacy so this must be talking about Rome 2 made up of 10 nations – some weak, some strong
 - Daniel could not have known that there would be a gap between the fall of Rome 1 and the establishment of Rome 2 in the future...we are living in that gap now
 - We know this is referring to a revived Roman empire because Daniel 2 says that the Roman empire will be around when the stone comes and smashes it and fills the earth

Daniel 2:44-45 ~ 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. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy

- Fifth kingdom = the kingdom of God (vs. 44-45)
- The consummation of human history is the coming of the stone that destroys all these nations
- This final nation....this revived Roman empire under the control of Antichrist....is the very nation that is in power when the stone comes to destroy it
- Who is the stone? → Jesus Christ at His second coming
- And when all this happens, Christ returns to establish His kingdom...one that will last forever
- A stone from heaven shatters the Gentile kingdoms leading to the establishment of God's kingdom on earth
- Just as the previous 4 kingdoms are literal kingdoms, so too, God's coming kingdom is a real geographical and political kingdom that will exist on the earth



- The church cannot be the 5th kingdom since, according to Daniel 2:44-45, when God's kingdom is established it crushes and puts an end to the prevailing Gentile powers...this did not happen when the church began

The Four Great Beasts (Daniel 7)

Daniel 7:1-7 ~ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. 4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!' 6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns."

- These 4 beasts represent 4 kings and kingdoms

Daniel 7:16-17 ~ I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.

- First beast (lion) = Babylon = head of gold
- Second beast (bear) = Medo-Persia = arms/breast of silver
- Third beast (leopard) = Greece = belly/thighs of bronze
- Fourth best (terrifying) = Rome = legs of iron
 - Vs. 7-8 describe the second phase of this kingdom under Antichrist



- Daniel then takes us into the courts of heaven itself and shows where the beasts will finally be tamed and destroyed...and he shows how Christ will come and establish His kingdom which will never end
- He flashes forward to the throne of God from which judgment will come on the fourth kingdom:

Daniel 7:9-10 ~ I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. 10 A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.

- There is coming a day when the 4th beast, the revived Roman empire, headed by Antichrist will be relieved of its power not by being conquered militarily, but by divine judgment:

Daniel 7:11-12 ~ Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

- Then comes the eternal kingdom of the “Son of Man” when Christ is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords of an earthly kingdom:

Daniel 7:13-14 ~ 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.

- 6 characteristics of the Future Kingdom of Christ
 1. An Authoritative Kingdom – vs. 14 ~ to him was given dominion
 2. A Glorious Kingdom – vs. 14 ~ Glory and a kingdom
 3. A Universal Kingdom – vs. 14 ~ that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him
 4. An Everlasting Kingdom – vs. 14 ~ His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.
 5. A Victorious Kingdom – vs. 21-26
 6. A Shared Kingdom – vs. 18, 22, 27

THE KINGDOM IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

- The continuing theme through the prophets is one of judgement and restoration... God will judge His people for breaking the covenant, but He will grant them kingdom blessings in accordance with His covenant faithfulness

Hosea

- Judgment:

Hosea 2:13 ~ I will punish her for the days of the Baals When she used to offer sacrifices to them And adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me,” declares the LORD.

- Restoration:

Hosea 2:14-23 ~ “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness And speak kindly to her. 15 Then I will give her her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. 16 It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD, “That you will call Me Ishi And will no longer call Me Baali. 17 For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more. 18 In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety. 19 I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion, 20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD. 21 It will come about in that day that I will respond,” declares the LORD. “I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, 22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel. 23 I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they will say, ‘You are my God!’ ”

Hosea 3:4-5 ~ For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. 5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

Joel

- Material Restoration

Joel 2:21-27 ~ Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things. 22 Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full. 23 So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before. 24 The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil. 25 Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. 27 Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.

- Spiritual Restoration

Joel 2:28-32 ~ It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

- National Restoration

Joel 3:1-21 (esp. vs. 18-21)

Amos

- Judgment

Amos 1-9

- Restoration

Amos 9:11-15 ~ “In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom And all the nations who are called by My name,” Declares the LORD who does this. 13 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved. 14 Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.

Micah

- Restoration

Micah 2:12~ I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men.

Micah 4:1-8 ~ And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. 2 Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then 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 train for war. 4 Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. 6 “In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will assemble the lame And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted. 7 I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever. 8 As for you, tower of the flock, Hill of the daughter of Zion, To you it will come— Even the former dominion will come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.”

Micah 5:2-6 ~ “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.” 3 Therefore He will give them up until the time When she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren Will return to the sons of Israel. 4 And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. 5 This One will be our peace. When the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men. 6 They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, The land of Nimrod at its entrances; And He will deliver us from the Assyrian When he attacks our land And when he tramples our territory.

Nahum

- Restoration:

Nahum 2:2 ~ For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though devastators have devastated them And destroyed their vine branches.

Zephaniah

- While the Day of the Lord (1:14-18) will be a time of devastating judgment, it will also involve restoration

Zephaniah 3:9-10 ~ For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder. 10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings.

Zephaniah 3:12-20 ~ “But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. 13 The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue Be found in their mouths; For they will feed and lie down With no one to make them tremble. 14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. 16 In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: “Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. 17 The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. 18 I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts— They came from you, O Zion; The reproach of exile is a burden on them. 19 Behold, I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save the lame And gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” Says the LORD.

Haggai

- Restoration:

Haggai 2:6-9 ~ For thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts. 8 ‘The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the LORD of hosts. 9 The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘and in this place I will give peace,’ declares the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:20-23 ~ Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying, 21 “Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, ‘I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. 22 ‘I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.’ 23 ‘On that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you,

Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,' ” declares the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah

- Restoration:

Zechariah 8:1-8 ~ Then the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, 2 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.’ 3 “Thus says the LORD, ‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.’ 4 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. 5 ‘And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.’ 6 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?’ declares the LORD of hosts. 7 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; 8 and I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God in truth and righteousness.’ **(a reference to God’s kingdom before the eternal state begins)**

Zechariah 9:9-10 ~ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth. **(gap between Christ’s 2 comings)**

Zechariah 14 (esp. vs. 9)

CONCLUSION

- The OT ends with the expectation that God will fulfill His kingdom promises by sending the Messiah who will deliver His people
- The prophets repeatedly gave comfort to Israel that One would come to rule over David’s kingdom and would usher in the blessings of the AC

The OT revealed God’s plans to restore His creation that was marred at the fall. God’s plans are holistic. He will restore all things material and immaterial. This includes individuals, the nation Israel, and the nations of the world. The kingdom plan will be carried out through the eternal and unconditional covenants – Noahic, Abrahamic, Davidic, and New. The Mosaic Covenant was a temporary and conditional covenant that Israel failed. Because Israel did not keep the Mosaic Covenant, God’s kingdom did not come in its fullness and there is the need for the superior New Covenant, which will enable Israel (and others) to obey the Lord.

According to the prophets the restoration of all things will center upon an ultimate Israelite, the true Servant, who we now know as Jesus the Messiah. There is a coming Day of the Lord when the nations of the earth will be judged and Israel will be saved. Kingdom conditions will follow when the ultimate Davidic ruler will reign from Jerusalem over a restored Israel and the nations of the earth will be blessed. This is the kingdom message of the OT, a message that will continue for four hundred years and into the dawning of the NT era.”¹

¹ Vlach, *He Will Reign Forever*, 252.