

I. Introduction

- A. Eight largest empires: Persian Empire, Han Dynasty, Umayyad Caliphate, Mongol Empire, Ottoman Empire, Spanish Empire, Russian Empire, British Empire
- B. All eight had in common ... they all ended.
- C. *There is one and only one Kingdom that does not share this thing that is shared by every single kingdom.
- D. *The Kingdom that God has established through Jesus and empowered by the Spirit will never end. It is anchored and sustained by the birth and death and resurrection and ascension and return of Jesus.

II. The character of this unshakable Kingdom

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, (Hebrews 12:28)

**Speaking of the character of the one described in verse 6*

Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His Kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:7)

A. Unending

- 1. Government increase/authority/sovereignty
- 2. Peace
 - a. Two things that do not go together—government and peace (governments are not characterized by lasting peace)
 - b. Jesus' unshakable Kingdom will be a forever peace with no end.

3. Duration is a fulfillment of God's promise

Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever. (2 Chronicles 21:7)

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 23:5)

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, My steadfast, sure love for David. (Isaiah 55:1-3)

B. Uninterrupted

- 1. Established and upheld, a sustained Kingdom without interruption
- 2. Not a Kingdom of mere might and triumph of force over enemies, but righteousness and perfect justice attainable only in the Messiah.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your Kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; (Psalm 45:6-7)

3. *How can this be an unending, uninterrupted Kingdom? That does not seem possible. How can this happen?
4. *The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
5. *The zeal of the Lord of armies will accomplish this.
6. *The Lord all powerful will make certain that all of this is done.
7. *The Lord Almighty will make these things happen because He loves His people.
8. *The Lord of Heaven's armies has dedicated Himself to do it.
9. *The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's armies will make this happen.
10. *The fervent love of the Lord of hosts shall make this happen.

C. Unrivaled

1. Zeal: a strong eagerness, a prompt willingness, an excessive fervor to do or accomplish some end
2. Both God's zeal and jealousy emerge from His heart of compassion and devotion.
*Zeal includes love, jealousy, righteousness, salvation, vengeance, tenderness, and compassion (that's a confusing thesaurus entry...)
 - a. This is a love that can tolerate no rivals, and it's a love that is provoked by unfaithfulness.
 - b. Not petty, but how God displays His desire to protect and provide for those who are the objects of His love
 - c. *This is the result of God's true love, His covenant love for His bride.
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. (Ephesians 1:3-4)
3. God's covenant love is the epicenter of His plan for the world—His passionate commitment to the wedding feast for the bridegroom and bride.
 - a. The purpose of God from all eternity is to put together a people that are his very own (Titus 2:14)
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)
 - b. That in the last day there will be a company of people from every tribe and language and nation who are represented by God's zealous commitment to them.
 - c. *It is this God Who will establish this unending, uninterrupted, and unrivaled Kingdom expressly for His glory and for His bride.

III. Isaiah wrap-up

- A. Peace is only peace that is eternal.
1. Temporary peace is only a cease fire with no resolution or parties in their corners between rounds.
 2. Our world, before the coming of this Kingdom and King, is a war with momentary breaks.
 3. We await the peace that will never end that only Jesus can bring.
- B. If we limit what Isaiah said to the advent of Christmas, then we can't possibly understand the full meaning of Christmas.

Then I saw Heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God. And the armies of Heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 19:11-16)

1. Ultimately, our hope is in Christ's coming again. He came as predicted, but the consummation is not yet. We too, like those in Isaiah's day, are expected to trust God, to take Him at His Word. Not to fear what our culture fears. Not find false security in whispered voices of culture or complex conspiracy theories, but to remember that God is in control and Jesus is coming back.
2. This does not invite passivity, but genuine God centeredness. Genuine trust in God. Genuine fearlessness before the changing historical tides. As we look back and contemplate how those generations leading up to Christ were exhorted to wait for Him, to look forward to Him, to trust the God Who would send Him, we must not look back with smugness and simply say, "Ok, now we survived," but learn also that we are called in our turn to await His appearance again.
3. That is why throughout 20 centuries of church history, Advent season has simultaneously been a time to remind us of how people waited for His first coming and as a call to invite Christians to wait for His second coming.

Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, Him you shall honor as holy. Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. ... I will wait for the Lord, Who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in Him. (Isaiah 8:12-13, 17)