

kingdom of the Son of Man. The verse anticipates Jesus' promise that He will associate His people with Him in His rule by saying that the power "will be handed over to the saints," but goes on to speak of "his kingdom" and to declare that all "will worship and obey him."

In considering Nebuchadnezzar's dream we were left with the question whether the destruction of the statue by the stone and the enlargement of the stone to cover the whole earth represent two parts of a process that would gradually be accomplished, with both parts occurring simultaneously, or whether the supernatural stone would destroy all that the statue symbolizes before the universal kingdom would be established in its place. It would be hard to draw a conclusive answer from that chapter alone, but in chapter 7 only one view seems possible. The little horn fights against the saints and greatly injures them. It is only by a divine intervention that they are delivered. It is not the saints who destroy the fourth beast but the power of God. The universal kingdom of righteousness and peace is not established until the Son of Man comes in the clouds of heaven with authority received from His Father.

It is said that the kingdom is received by the saints (v. 18). It is said that it is handed over to them (v. 27). They are graciously given a share in its control. They do not themselves win the kingdom.

This model would seem to fit with the impression given by the first chapter of Acts. In that chapter the Lord does not say that His people are to set up the kingdom. Instead He directs them to be His witnesses throughout the world while they wait for His return. They are to be His instruments to tell the story of His wonderful grace. While He carries the statue will continue to stand. The terrible fourth beast will continue to exert its ferocious power, culminating in the activity of the little horn. The ultimate victory will be accomplished through a definite intervention of God when the Son of Man will come to set up His indestructible and universal kingdom.

At the end of our discussion of chapter 2 we noticed the problem raised by the many centuries that have passed