

Daniel - Faithful to the End - Week 4

I. Intro

- A. We are studying the book of Daniel. To setup our study today, let's go back to a popular event and work forward.
- B. About 2,000 BC
 - 1. Joseph and his brothers (12 tribes of Israel) move to Egypt
 - 2. Eventually become slaves to the Egyptians
- C. About 1,500 BC
 - 1. Moses shows up, the plagues, passover, and Israel is free
 - 2. They go to a mountain in the desert and God makes them His people by giving them the law
 - 3. Moses dies, Joshua takes over, they conquer the land known as Israel
 - 4. Joshua dies and the Judges take over
- D. About 1,000 BC
 - 1. Israel asks God for a king, they get Saul, then David, then Solomon
 - 2. Solomon dies, the kingdom splits (think civil war north and south)
 - 3. Evil kings take over in the North and South, everyone starts worshiping idols
 - 4. God warns (through Isaiah 1-12) that if they don't stop they will be punished with exile...they don't stop
- E. About 500 BC
 - 1. God has had enough, He allows Babylon to conquer the remnants of Israel and they are taken as slaves
 - 2. In Babylon this guy named Daniel decides to be faithful to God, and God shows himself faithful to Daniel
 - 3. God shows Daniel a series of visions...
 - a) The next 4 nations to rule the world (*Persia, Greece, Rome*)
 - b) The coming of Jesus
 - c) The restoration of the temple in Israel, and it's destruction in 70 AD (*Titus*)
 - d) The end of the world and the second coming of Jesus
- F. These are all recorded in Daniel 7-12...we are studying them

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1. Last week, the angel Gabriel showed Daniel the coming of Jesus AND the coming of the anti-christ (the abomination)
2. Let's continue in Daniel 10-11

II. Text

A. vs 10:1

1. Cyrus is the king that let Israel return to Israel, he freed the slaves (*read about this in Ezra 1-3*)
2. 150 years before Cyrus was born, Isaiah records this happening in Isaiah 45:1 (*he calls Cyrus by name*)
3. God is about to share the most detailed prophesy yet

B. vs 10:2-9

1. Daniel is on a fast.
 - a) He might be fasting because the Jews in Israel are facing harsh opposition in rebuilding the temple
 - b) He is denying his flesh and focussing on his spirit
 - c) *A traditional Daniel fast is 21 days – No meats, no sweets, no dairy...and no deodorant*
2. He is standing at the river, praying, and he sees a man (maybe Jesus)
3. Nobody else sees him, they are just overcome with dread and hide
4. Daniel falls to the ground and God shows him a vision
5. Teaching Point
 - a) God loves involving His children in his work
 - b) Daniel is shutting stuff down to focus on God, and God's response is "Come to work with me"
 - c) How many opportunities to we miss working with God because we are too busy to deny our flesh?

C. vs 10:10-17

1. The moment Daniel started praying, God immediately started using him

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- a) God used Daniel in BIG stuff, namely spiritual warfare taking place over all Persia
 - b) Ephesians 6 says "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but powers and principalities..."
 - c) We see this being (maybe Jesus) fighting with Michael against the darkness over Persia
2. This experience is so overwhelming, Daniel is left speechless

D. Daniel 10:18-21 - 11:1

1. This being touches Daniel and energizes him with strength, strength to listen and understand
 - a) Daniel's role is to understand what is happening so he can bring comfort to God's people
 - b) This is so important, Daniel is not taking up a sword and fighting, he is listening...writing
 - (1) God is fighting this battle for him. Daniel's role is to grow in faith that God is faithful...faithful to do this for His people
2. Michael and this being have been fighting the demonic forces of Persia since king Darius took over and Daniel started praying. They will continue fighting from Persia through Greece.

E. 11:2-4

1. Here is the detailed vision
 - a) After Cyrus, there are coming 3 more kings
 - b) Then Greece will rule. Alexander the great will lead, then 4 generals after him, and eventually Antiochus IV (Abomination)

F. vs 11:5-40

1. This being unleashes a vision so clear that most scholars argue that this was written after the events took place
 - a) vs 5-6 detail a king from the south sending his daughter to the king of the north to make a peace treaty...she does not succeed and everyone dies

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- b) Ptolemy II is the king of the south, and he sends his daughter Bernice to marry the king of the north Antiochus II. Antiochus' wife, Laodice, finds out and poisons her husband, the daughter, and their son.
- 2. Through vs 39, this man gives details about regional politics with astounding detail
- 3. He details Antiochus IV as the "abomination"
- 4. Then, in vs 40, he uses all this detail to point Daniel to the end of the world
 - a) "...at the time of the end..."

G. vs 12:1-2

- 1. At the end of the world, there will be great tribulation like has never been seen before
- 2. Everyone whose name is in the book will be raised from the dead to everlasting life / some to eternal punishment (this language is mirrored in Matthew and Revelation)

III. Conclusion

- A. This is where we stop for today, we will finish 12 next week
- B. I want to take this moment to come up for air, and remind you why we are reading this
 - 1. God showed all of this to Daniel to put things in perspective
 - a) Things were rough for Daniel. Things were rough for Israel. They were only going to get worse.
 - b) But, as bad as things are with God's creation, He remains faithful. He does not give up.
 - 2. You are to follow that example.
 - a) God is faithful to His people, to this earth to His plan...all the way to the end. Even when it is difficult and messy, He is faithful.
 - b) When things fall apart, become painful, and confusing...don't give up.
 - c) Jesus is faithful. Be faithful like Him.