

Daniel - Faithful to the End - Week 5

I. Intro

- A. Today, we finish our study of Daniel 7-12
- B. Been a challenging and rewarding journey
 - 1. We have learned to put our lives in perspective
 - 2. We have seen God's faithfulness to Israel, to us, and to Himself
 - 3. We learned to live in trust and not fear
- C. God has shown Daniel big visions about the immediate future and the distant future
 - 1. Chapter 12 is the distant future
 - 2. Everything we discuss today is prophesy that has not been fulfilled, but will be
- D. We ended last week with...
 - 1. Daniel standing on the edge of a river, and meeting "one like a man" and "like the son of man" -> It's Jesus
 - a) Jesus has always existed
 - b) This puts into perspective what Christ gave up when He took on flesh to die for you and me
 - 2. Jesus tells Daniel about the end of the world
 - 3. Lets read Daniel 12

II. Text

A. vs 1-4

- 1. "That time" is the end of the world - the tribulation begins
- 2. God's people will be delivered
 - a) Every Christian who was buried will be resurrected
 - b) Every non-believer will be punished

3. Matthew 24:15-31

- a) We have Jesus telling Daniel about the end, and we have Jesus quoting what He said to Daniel about the end
- 4. Teaching Point for Daniel and the Disciples
 - a) Things are going to get bad, but I got you
 - b) Jesus is with us AND He is coming to raise the dead

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5. Then why the wait?
 - a) One of God's greatest gifts is time
 - b) It has the power to heal, and give perspective
 - c) It shows us what is really in the heart. You can't hide things forever.

B. vs. 5-7

1. Two angels appear behind Jesus and ask "how long will this tribulation last?"
 - a) Jesus lifts His hands and swears to God that it will be a time, times, and half a time
 - b) Some think this points to the final 7 years on Gods prophetic calendar
 - c) There will be time (1 year), times (2 year), half a time (3.5 years) -and then- the shattering of God's people will be complete
 - d) In the 7 years, something will happen halfway through..what is it? Let's keep reading
2. Teaching Point
 - a) All dark seasons have a beginning and an end
 - b) We may feel like the confusion will never end, but God swears to Himself that all dark times come to an end

C. vs 8-13

1. Daniel is very confused, and asks Jesus for clarification
2. Jesus responds by saying...
 - a) You are not going to understand all of this, it is sealed up until it happens
 - b) When it happens you'll know this is what I was talking about the whole time
3. There are a final 7 years on God's calendar for dealing with darkness and sin
 - a) It begins with the anti-christ bringing false peace in the world
 - b) Possible peace in the middle east including rebuilding the temple
 - c) 3.5 years into the treaty the anti-christ will stop the offerings and declare himself as a god (abomination that makes desolate)
 - d) 1290 days remaining (about 3.5 years) will be great tribulation
 - e) 45 days later (1335 - 1290 = 45) Jesus arrives and the end has come

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4. The end of this crazy vision ends with a promise
 - a) Jesus promises Daniel rest
 - b) He promises you rest
 - c) He promises us a final rest from all the pain, aging, sickness, sadness, and death

III. Conclusion

- A. Every word that God speaks demands a response from our heart.
- B. Our question today is, how do we respond to Daniel 12?
 1. Daniel 12 shows us that we are people between times.
 - a) We respond by living as people between the times.
 2. Daniel 12 shows us that tribulation and hard times make us want to give up.
 - a) Jesus doesn't give up, we don't give up.
 3. Daniel 12 shows us that all things have order and purpose, even the darkness
 - a) We respond by not allowing the darkness to overtake us; we become the light in the darkness
- C. Daniel 12 shows us that our God is faithful to the end.
 1. Let us reflect that God to the world.
 - a) Not a god who gives up on people,
 - b) Not a god who is overwhelmed with anger
 - c) Not a god who worries about tomorrow
 2. A God who is faithful. People who are faithful.