

GO YOUR WAY

Daniel 11:36 - 12:13



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we wrapped up the book of Daniel by looking at the characteristics of the king who exalts himself at the end of chapter 11 and the time of distress at the end that is mentioned in chapter 12. Chapter 11 ends with a magnifying lens on a king who exalts himself. We compare this with King Jesus, who has ushered in a new and eternal kingdom. Looking at this prideful king, we notice a few defining characteristics: entitlement, self-promotion, narcissistic, discontent, and paranoid. We contrast that with the humble king (Jesus) and we notice the opposite characteristics: meekness, self-sacrificing, willful submission, content, secure.

The second topic we look at in chapter 12 is the time at the end that is revealed to Daniel. It is revealed to be a time full of distress - and the goal for believers is to be found faithful even in times of distress. We cannot expect to be found faithful if we do not give ourselves to proper training and discipline. As we consider the need to be disciplined and train for righteousness and faithfulness, what are small steps we need to take towards faithful living?

Lastly - we see at the end that Daniel is perplexed. He doesn't know what to make out of the vision. As he asks for an explanation, none is given to him. Instead, the messenger tells him "Go your way." Similarly, we realize that we may not get all the answers we want, but the question we then ask is: Can we find contentment even without all of the details? May we be encouraged that though we don't have all the answers - the end is written: Jesus is risen and His Kingdom is coming. May that be our true hope and stay.



OUTLINE

1

PROUD KING VS HUMBLE KING

The question that we must ask ourselves is a) Who do we want to model our lives after? b) Who are we modeling our lives after? As we consider what it means to be followers of Christ, let's continue to ask God to shape our perspective so that we would not desire to be successful in the world's eyes, but to be successful in the eyes of God in this lifetime.

2

FAITHFULNESS IN TIMES OF DISTRESS

Faithfulness is not something you stumble into - it's something you work through. It's wrestling with God with the tough questions and trying to understand God's perspective in the midst of challenging times. It's pressing in during the difficult moments. It's hunkering down in your spiritual rhythms and disciplines and practices even when you don't feel like it. How are we preparing ourselves in faithful living?

3

GO YOUR WAY

In the end, the only reply Daniel gets is "Go Your Way." We are reminded that we will not get all the answers to our questions, but we can still choose to trust in him and follow after him in faithful obedience knowing the end of the story has already been declared.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Icebreaker: What is the most outrageous/wildest dream or passion that you have for your life?

2

What's a theme through the book of Daniel that has resonated with you?

3

Who are you modeling your life after? When was the last time you were able to reflect on the path you are on?

4

What do you think success from God's vantage point looks like in general and more specifically for your life?

5

How can we prepare ourselves for faithful living? Especially in times of distress, what are some baseline spiritual rhythms that we have or want to establish?

6

Would you be content to "go your way" even when you have many questions left unanswered? Are you content to follow him in obedience without knowing all the details?



BIG IDEA

The Book of Daniel reminds us that though kingdoms rise and fall, the Kingdom of God remains. As people who are part of that kingdom - we can face the trials, the sufferings, the troubles ahead because we hold onto the promise that the end is written. And as we live in metaphorical Babylon, we hold fast to our identity as citizens of a new kingdom, living our lives becoming more like the Humble King that will one day rule with His perfect righteousness for all of eternity.