

First Mount Zion Baptist Church

Wednesday Bible Study

December 4, 2024

Daniel 11:36-12:13

Presenters:

Rev. Gillis M. Taylor (Morning) & Rev. Tarra Taylor (Evening)

Summary: Daniel's life and ministry bridge the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian captivity. The time period for the book of Daniel ranges from 605–536 BC. This book claims Daniel as its author and it uses the first person from chapter 7, verse 2 on. Daniel's wisdom and divinely given interpretive abilities brought him into a position of prominence in the courts of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius. Daniel is an example of how to live and work as a believer in a hostile environment – a man of action while at the same time fully aware of his dependence on God.

The first eight chapters of Daniel are filled with warning to Nebuchadnezzar and other kings. His job was to remind them there is a God in heaven who is truly in charge. In chapters 9 through 12 Daniel's focus shifted to future generations as he received God's divine plan for the nation of Israel.

The purpose of the book of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is – his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of people. Throughout the book we are all reminded God is sovereign. He rules over the affairs of mankind. He will set one ruler in place as He puts down another. He is supreme over creation, He also has a purpose and a plan for nations and for individuals, and He carries them out in His time and in His way. He is a faithful God who will fulfill all He has promised.

The focus for our study is the last 2 chapters of Daniel. The vision in Daniel chapter 10 continues in chapters 11 and 12. In chapter 11:36-45, The last portion of the prophecy looks to the end times: blasphemous rulers, an invasion from the north, and a major defeat. In chapter 12, Daniel closes with prophecies about the end of the world. Daniel's final word is a promise of eternal reward.

Chapter 11:36-45: *The Northern King's Blasphemies & Conquests*

1. Who is the willful King who exalts himself and magnifies himself above every god, and what else does he speak of in this verse? (Daniel 11:36) _____

2. In verses 36 through 39, which are connected to the land of Israel, where do you see similarities between the "blasphemies" recorded in those verses and our culture's approach to God? _____

3. Why is it so crucial that we are a people who know God during times of peace, times of hardship, and persecution? _____

4. What comfort and assurance comes to us from studying a chapter like this?

Chapter 12: *Prophecy of the end of time*

5. In your own words, why is death no longer the enemy for the Christian?

6. What can we learn from the confidence and authority with which the man clothed in linen (verse 7) says all these prophecies will be completed?

7. In verse 8, Daniel did not understand what he had been told, what did he do? What do we do when we don't understand what we see or hear?

8. How did the revelation to Daniel end – 12:13? Explain the meaning.

9. One major themes for entire book of Daniel is God controls the past, present, and future. How does this truth affect how we as Christian should live our lives, especially in the midst of an uncertain world?

Reflection:

We are made in the image of God. And though we don't exist for eternity past, our souls will exist in eternity future. The decisions we make in our life on earth will affect not only our eternal destiny but others as well. Our choices have eternal consequences. That means that the life we live during our short time on earth is packed with meaning and purpose.

Only the things of God are eternal. What is one specific way you can pursue the things of God this week?