

Daniel
11 – Ram, Goat, and Even More Crazy
Daniel 8

Truths to Remember

Situations CHANGE (v.1-8)

- Susa anticipates an event still 7-8 years away
- Remaining vision covers hundreds of years
- Pastorally: have you found your fortitude?
 - It may get bad and genuine suffering / pain may come, but we can continue to live faithfully to Him (because He wins)
 - If we throw our hope into something that changes easily, we will find ourselves frustrated because they will falter, fail, forget, or forfeit

Spiritual Powers are REAL (v.9-14)

- The political provocations have spiritual parallels
 - Isaiah 14.12ff – the king of Babylon and the Prince of Darkness
 - Ephesians 6.10-12 – powers, rulers, authorities
- Pastorally: how do you use your freedom? (Gal 5.13)

God's Word is TRUE (v.15-22)

- What He said would happen did happen
 - Just because it doesn't make sense to us doesn't mean He's not smarter than us
- We don't have to have the whole story to know that it's a true story
 - It's not a code to be broken but a story to live in
- Pastorally: is your focus on the Bible and have you set aside the foolishness controversies of the world? (2 Tim 2.23)

God is in CONTROL (v.23-27)

- Even what is happening that seems contrary to His will is being used for His purpose to bring about His desires
 - Sometimes God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves – therefore we have no need to fear
- God has appointed an end to the evil and brokenness of this world – it will not last forever
 - Our personal monsters and the societal monsters will be cut down to size
- Pastorally: do you handle your fear? (or does it handle you?)

There was a time they thought they could lay hands on God – but they failed

The one time God did allow them to lay hands on Him – they succeeded...for 3 days

Questions for Discussion:

1. Think about your life and the first statement that “situations change.” What changes have you seen in your lifetime? Out of the initial changes that happened, what situations are the same (or have they changed again)? What all does that tell you about the nature of life? (see James 4.13-17)
2. In the section of the sermon about how spiritual powers are real, the pastoral application related to how we view and use our freedom (a right for my self-expression vs. a responsibility I receive for the sake of service). How do you see that playing out in our culture today? Read Galatians 5.13: how did Paul see it?
3. The pastoral application that followed related to our focus on God’s Word and putting aside the foolish controversies of the world. What is one thing you need to do that will reflect that application point? If you need to, reread 2 Tim. 3.16-17 and 2.23.
4. How have you seen this to be true: “Sometimes God allows what He hates in order to accomplish what He loves?”
5. COVID Check-in: how are you? Your family? Your One? Your neighbors?