

2017: Week 14

Sunday, April 2nd 2017

"Confidence for the Future"

Revelation 17:14

¹⁴ They will wage war against the Lamb, **but the Lamb will triumph over them** because he is Lord of lords and King of kings— and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers " (NIV)¹.

On Sunday John concluded our sermon series through the **Book of Daniel**. As he stated numerous times throughout the series, this book has many passages that are difficult to understand. Visions given to Daniel often relate to events that would be future to Daniel's time (6th century BC) but past in relation to our time (21st century). There are also events recorded in the book, however, that are still future for us as well. It can be confusing at times trying put all the pieces together from these visions. What is clear thought throughout the **Book of Daniel** is that the Lord God is in absolute control. The Almighty has a plan. We may not understand why the Lord does everything that He does, but we know that His plans involve His greater glory and our greater good. One day the Lord Jesus Christ will establish a kingdom on this earth that will never end (**Daniel 2:44**). If you have trusted in the Lord Jesus as your savior, you will be victorious with Him in His triumph. Be encouraged!

1. "THE TEXT"

READ Daniel 11:21–12:13

READ 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4

¹ Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

- Throughout the **Book of Daniel**, there are similarities regarding events involving a man named Antiochus IV Epiphanes (2nd Century B.C.) and another man the Bible identifies as Antichrist. Sometimes it can be difficult to recognize which man Daniel is addressing in his visions. History itself helps to identify events most likely associated with Antiochus, but other events seem to be associated with Antichrist who has yet to come. Passages like **2 Thessalonians** remind us that a "man of lawlessness" (Antichrist) has yet to enter the scene of God's timeline. God will permit this man to be victorious for a season, but ultimately Antichrist (like Satan) will be doomed to destruction in the Lake of Fire. God wins in the end!

2. "YOU"

- When you reflect upon the **Book of Daniel** as a whole, what have you learned about God?
- When your circumstances seem overbearing, difficult, or discouraging, what encouragement can you receive from truths you have learned in the **Book of Daniel**?
- In light of what God has done for you in the *past* and what He will do for you in the *future*, what do you think He wants you to change in your life *now*?

3. "REMEMBER"

- **Psalms 110:5–6** ⁵ The Lord is at Your right hand; **He will shatter kings** in the day of His wrath. ⁶ **He will judge** among the nations..." (NASB).
- **Revelation 19:11** "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness **He judges and wages war**" (NASB).
- **Revelation 22:20** "... (Jesus): **"Yes, I am coming quickly."** Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus**" (NASB).

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Lord, I do not always know why You allow certain things to happen, but I still trust You. I believe Jesus is coming again, and He will be victorious. I am so thankful You have allowed me to be on Your side. Amen.

¹ All Scripture notations taken from the **New International Version (NIV)** unless otherwise noted.