

“Daniel – Conclusion”
Daniel 12:5-13
(Preached at Trinity, October 19, 2014)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we’ve seen, the book of Daniel was written through the eyes of one of the exiles deported into Babylon, a pagan land that didn’t recognize the one true God, a land where Daniel was not familiar with either the culture or the language.
 - a. Yet, in such an environment Daniel never wavered in his commitment to God. He showed himself as a man of faith and courage.
 - b. And in such a condition he was recognized as being such a man of excellence and principle that he quickly rose as a statesman trusted by a series of at least six kings.
2. One of the purposes of the Book of Daniel is to encourage God’s people as they live in a pagan world.
 - a. It also reminds us that we too live in a world of powerful nations and powerful men, each seeking dominion over the other. It is a world of conflict. God’s people often find themselves the target of opposition. This will only grow worse as we reach the end of the age.
 - b. The Book of Daniel is written to encourage us as we live in this world and to remind us that our God reigns supreme over this world. Christ is prominent in the Book of Daniel. He is the Stone that crushes the kingdoms of this world and the Mountain that fills the whole earth.
 - c. This continues to be a wonderful source of encouragement for God’s people today. The history of the church is a history of suffering. This tends to ring hollow upon the ears of the Western church, but our condition is the exception. And we should not presume that it will continue. The suffering church will be the history of the church until Christ returns.
3. Daniel’s visions were amazing in their detail, yet mysterious in many ways. One thing is clear. A full understanding of these visions is not necessary in order to benefit from this book. It is meant to encourage us but not give us an understanding of every detail. Daniel himself did not understand all of the details of his visions.

Daniel 12:8 NAU - "As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?"

Daniel 8:27-9:1 NAU - "I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain *it*."

 - A. The portions of Daniel’s prophecy that have been fulfilled were fulfilled with amazing accuracy, yet to Daniel’s eyes they were mysterious. He was told of animals with large horns and small horns and broken horns. We can see their meaning clearly because we are looking back at history fulfilled.

- B. The last portion of Daniel's prophecy looks still further into the future. It is mysterious to us and much will not be known until it has happened.
Daniel 12:8-9 NAU - "As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?" ⁹ He said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time."
- C. The final generation will have greater clarity as they see it all unfold.
Daniel 12:8-9 NAU - "As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?" ⁹ He said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time."
 a. The problem with some expositors today is the assumption that we *are* that final generation. They try to identify the days and events in great detail.
 b. It is OK to humble yourself and confess that you do not understand everything in Daniel's visions.
4. What we do know is the same thing Daniel knew. God's people will be persecuted. God will prevail for His people and they will prevail. His Kingdom will endure forever and His people will receive their portion in God's Kingdom.
5. Tonight I want to bring our series of sermons to a close. As I stated last time, **Chapters 10-12** form a unit that closes out the Book of Daniel. **Chapter 10** serves as a preface to provide the context—Daniel is reminded that the conflict upon the earth is in reality only a reflection of the great spiritual conflict that is continually raging. **Chapter 11** describes the great earthly conflicts and **Chapter 12** serves as a concluding passage.
6. There are four realities that form the heart of this final chapter
- A time of great persecution upon God's people – **Verse 1**
 - The general resurrection of all people – **Verses 2, 13**
 - The final judgment – **Verse 2**
 - The final eternal blessedness of God's people – **Verse 3**
- I. A time of great persecution upon God's people – **Verse 1**
- A. **Verse 1** speaks of terrible distress upon God's people
1. There is much disagreement over what this means
 2. Dispensationalists maintain a focus upon national Israel and the great tribulation that takes place 7 years before Christ comes to set up his millennial kingdom.
 They insist that the church will not experience this tribulation.
 3. The reality is it describes the history of the church that will intensify until a terrible time of tribulation at the end.
 Jesus applies it to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD which served as a forerunner of the suffering of the church.
Mark 13:19 NAU - "For those days will be a *time of* tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will."
- B. A proper approach to understanding this verse is to step back and view the big picture
1. The church has experienced and will experience an ever intensifying persecution. Christians have experienced this in every age and it will only get worse.
 2. This is the great battle that rages against the church

3. To pretend that the church will not experience this suffering is to dismiss the history of the church and the plain teaching of Scripture.

John 16:33 NAU - "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Acts 14:21-22 NAU - "After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

- C. The message to Christians is to joyfully endure

Mark 13:13 NAU - "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."

1. We have the sweet comfort of our Lord's presence
Matthew 28:20 NAU - "lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
2. John Calvin: The church is to be "subject to most numerous and grievous calamities until the advent of Christ, but yet it should feel God's propitious disposition, enduring its own safety under his aid and protection."
3. And we will never fully know in this life the work of God's angelic beings in ministering to the saints.
Daniel 12:1 NAU - "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise."
Hebrews 1:14 NAU - " Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?"
We see them ministering to Christ:
 - a. After the wilderness temptation
Matthew 4:11 NAU - "Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him."
 - b. In the Garden of Gethsemane
Luke 22:43-44 NAU - " Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground."

II. The general resurrection of all people – **Verses 2, 13**

- A. There will be a resurrection of all men

1. At death all men enter eternity to await the resurrection of the body at the end of the age.
 - a. The wicked will be raised to eternal damnation
 - b. The righteous will be raised to eternal joy

2. *LBC - Chap. 31:2-3* –
 31:2 - “At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and none other; although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever.”
 31:3 – “The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor; the bodies of the just by His Spirit, unto honor, and made conformable to His own glory.”

- B. All of us will raised to an everlasting existence
 1. For the wicked there is terror to consider endless eternity
 2. For the righteous, it is our blessed hope. It encourages us to press on. After writing an entire chapter on the resurrection in **1 Cor 15** Paul concludes: **1 Corinthians 15:58 NAU** - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord."
 3. The hope of the resurrection is a constant reminder to us that this world is not our home. It is a constant reminder to us that the sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared to the glory to come.
Romans 8:18 NAU - " For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

III. The final judgment – **Verse 2**

- A. The book of Daniel tells us that we live in a sinful world
 1. There were the sinful Israelites sold into captivity and the evil Babylonians that did not worship God.
 2. Daniel saw visions of sinful kings and sinful kingdoms whose very existence brought terror
 3. In such a world God’s people would always experience opposition and tribulation.
 4. But God will crush all wickedness and His Kingdom of righteousness will shine forever.
 5. All men will stand before Him for a final reckoning.
- B. Between the resurrection and eternity is the judgment
 1. *LBC – Chap 32:1* – “God hath appointed a day wherein He will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.”
 2. The final judgment is a reality that most try to dismiss. It is a reality that none can avoid.
 3. We will all stand before a Judge who knows all. No witnesses will be called. He knows every thought you have ever had and every deed you have ever done. The secret things of men will be revealed.

- C. Daniel's vision sees the great contrast of that Day
Daniel 12:2 NAU - " these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."
1. It describes the rich reward of the righteous – “everlasting life”
 Again, we find the eternal aspect of the outcome – “everlasting”
 2. It describes the torment of the wicked – “disgrace and everlasting contempt.” The lost will forever be abominable and forsaken.
- IV. The final eternal blessedness of God's people – **Verse 3**
- A. The truth is death is only the beginning of an endless eternity
1. All human beings are created with immortality – all of us survive beyond the grave. All of us will exist for eternity.
 2. For the righteous eternity will be spent in indescribable joys in the presence of Christ
 - a. Heaven is a place free from sin—free from trial and torment, free of suffering and sadness, free of disaster and destruction
 - b. Death will no longer threaten us – only eternal life
 - c. Most important, Heaven is the presence of Christ. For eternity we will glory in His infinite excellence. We will behold His beauty. Heaven is a place where we will know in full the love of Christ.
 - d. Christ has designed for us a place of everlasting joy
- B. The righteous are said to “shine brightly”
1. They will reflect the glory of their Creator
 2. Forever they will shine as the benefactors of His grace
Ephesians 2:6-7 NAU - "raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."
- C. This describes the infinite contrast between the wicked and the righteous
1. We live in a world of darkness and the wicked are consumed by the darkness. They will spend eternity in darkness
Matthew 25:30 NAS - "And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 - a. Sadly, the wicked are continually seeking meaning, seeking knowledge, but it will not be found. They will increase in knowledge but continue in ignorance
Daniel 12:4 NAU - " many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."
 - b. God's Word, His perfect revelation has been given but they will not receive it
2 Timothy 3:7 NAU - "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

- c. The prophet Amos spoke of this
Amos 8:11-12 NAU - "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD. ¹² "People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find *it*."
2. The righteous have been taken out of the darkness. Light describes us.
Ephesians 5:8 NAU - " for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light"
3. Forever we will dwell in the light of Christ. We will behold the brightness of His countenance.

Conclusion:

1. Remember, these words are written to encourage God's people in this sinful world. How should we respond to these things? We continue as all of God's righteous people have done. We press on in holiness.
2 Peter 3:13-14 NAU - "But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,"
1 John 3:2-3 NAU - "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
 - a. This was Daniel's response.
 We saw it at the end of **Chapter 8**
Daniel 8:27 NAU - "Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up *again* and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain *it*."
 - b. We see it now at the close of the book
Daniel 12:13 NAU - "But as for you, go *your way* to the end"
2. We must remember that God is over all. Everything is unfolding according to His plan. The question is asked, "When?" When will these things come to an end
 - a. The angel dressed in linen answers:
Daniel 12:7 NAU - " it would be for a time, times, and half *a time*"
 - b. Daniel also asks the question:
Daniel 12:8 NAU - "My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?"
Daniel 12:11 NAU - "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days."
 - c. Not a vague period but one predetermined by God to the day. And then an additional 45 days is added to remind us that the saints must patiently endure to the very end.

3. We have to remember that part of God's purpose in the suffering of His people is their purification.
- Daniel 11:35 NAU** - "Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because *it is still to come* at the appointed time."
- Daniel 12:7 NAU** - " it would be for a time, times, and half *a time*; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these *events* will be completed."
- Daniel 12:10 NAU** - "Many will be purged, purified and refined"
- a. We find nothing here of the church being taken out of this time of suffering. Neither do we find a gradual Christianization of the world.
 - b. Rather, we find God purging and purifying His church—not an intrinsic purifying but a revealing purifying. The fire simply reveals the true nature of God's people. The end will discover the hypocrisy of multitudes as the great apostasy occurs.
3. We have the promise that our eternal reward.
- Daniel 12:13 NAU** - "But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* for your allotted portion at the end of the age."
- There was a rest that awaited Daniel after his long life of enduring in this evil world and there is a rest for us.