

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

April 19, 2015

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Willing

Luke 5:12-13: "And it came about that while He was in one of the cities, behold, *there was* a man full of leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, 'Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.' And He stretched out His hand, and touched him, saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' And immediately the leprosy left him."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 89:1-2

+We Adore Him

Hymn #305, "Arise, My Soul, Arise"

We Confess Our Sin

Heavenly Father, deepen in us this day contrition for our vileness, as miserable sinners in Your sight. How often without resistance, have we floated down the stream of evil! We do not cloak our wretchedness. Our lips are ready to confess, but our hearts are slow to feel, and our feet are reluctant to amend our ways. We bring our hard hearts unto You. Break them by Your Spirit, and bind them up by Your grace. Wound them to the core, and then pour in the Gospel-balm!

Jesus, You are our consolation, joy, crown of rejoicing, and pardon. Though great may be our sin, Your grace is greater still. Grant us pardon and cleansing that we not only would know our sin, but Your eternal forgiveness. In the name of our spotless Lamb, Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #420, "At The Lamb's High Feast"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Phil. 2:12-13

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #608, "To God My Earnest Voice I Raise"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** Jn. 6:39-40

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #585, "Take My Life, And Let It Be"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

## Sweet and Sober Truths for Bitter Providences, Pt. 11i

Daniel 11-12

Study Notes for April 19, 2015

### I. Introduction

*A Diamond... a Rock!*

Joel Beeke wrote, "The main fruits of assurance, such as desire for fellowship with God, yearning for his glory and heaven, a godly walk of obedience, and intercession for missions and revival, appear to be waning among contemporary Christians. This stems from the modern pulpit's emphasis on earthly happiness supplanting the conviction that we are pilgrims traveling through this world on our way to God and glory." (*Assured by God*, ed. Burk Parsons, p. 108)

### II. Sweet and Sober Truths for Bitter Providences, Dan. 2-12.

#### K. Life is a Veil of Tears which God's People will Overcome through Christ, Dan. 11-12.

1. A Tumultuous Future, Select.
2. The Keeper of History, Dan. 11:2-45.

#### 3. Lingering Questions, Dan. 12:5-13.

##### a. How Long? (vv. 5-7)

Vv. 5-6: With this we are back in Dan. 10 and the beginning of this prophecy. Turn with me there...

One of the angels asked a very important question, "How long *will it be* until the end of *these* wonders?"... They don't even know and they minister at times in the presence of God! But perhaps, like us, they too were weary of the battle, and so they asked, "How long?" With that we are brought to...

V. 7: We are at the most solemn point in all the book of Daniel...

So how long would the last era last? The text says two things...

1. The Duration would be for "a time, times, and half a time" which brings us back to the language we saw in Dan. 7:25; 9:24-27...
2. The Duration would be until "...they finish shattering the power of the holy people."

#### Where We Live

1. Do you understand how long this present era is going to last? It is going to last until the church is decimated, threatened, and on the verge of destruction! We saw this same theme last time (Dan. 12:1b)...

Joyce Baldwin put it this way, "The visible sign of that moment... is the utter helplessness of believers in the face of their persecutors; thus; paradoxically, when they are enduring the greatest agony of unjust trial and torture they are to look expectantly for the promised intervention of God's deliverance (cf. Luke 21:28)." (*Daniel*, TOTC, vol. 23, p. 230)

Tremper Longman added, "Deliverance comes at the most unlikely time. God seems to work that way. When human resources run out, God steps in to demonstrate his power." (*Daniel*, p. 286)

2. No doubt this is why Christ became so solemn at the question posed here by the angel...
3. How this should encourage us to embrace our "exiled" status on this earth and so live with the glorious expectation and longing for Christ's return!

##### b. How Come? (vv. 8-10)

Vv. 8-9: This is the same language as in v. 4...

What therefore is the message God is giving us here? Why did God give this to you and me? That brings us to...

- A. Our God is Great and so Rules Kings and Nations, Dan. 2.
- B. Our God is Holy and therefore has a Plan that is Beyond our Ability to Understand, Dan. 3.
- C. Our God Reigns and so Holds the Heart of the King in His Hands, Dan. 4.
- D. Our God is Jealous and so will not allow Himself- and so the Believer- to be Mocked, Dan. 5.
- E. God's Way is Infallible and so makes no Mistakes when it Comes to the Child of God, Dan. 6.
- F. In the End, God's People Win, Dan. 7.
- G. Until the End, God's Kingdom will Suffer Violence, Dan. 8.
- H. God is Faithful to His Promises and so His People, Dan. 9:1-19.
- I. God's Purpose and Plan for all things are Realized in Christ, Dan. 9:20-27!
- J. There is much More to this Life than Meets the Eye, Dan. 10.

V. 10: this verse essentially says four things...

**1. We must be Sober-minded as Christians!**

Purged: **בָּרַר** (*bārar*)

Purified: **לָבֵן** (*lābēn*);

Refined: **שָׂרַפַּת** (*šārap*)

The idea here is that God has ordained such a long time of trial and tribulation for the people of God in order to "...purifying for Himself a people for His own possession" (Tit. 2:14b)- He is preparing a people for the immediate presence of their Lord (cf. 1 Pet. 5:9-10; Prov. 3:11-12)!

Speaking of all three terms, Joyce Baldwin put it this way, "For the modern world the refining of steel provides a more telling symbol. If impurities remain in the metal the fracture of a girder under stress results in total collapse, and all because the refining fire has not been allowed to complete its work. The idea of dependability as the outcome of testing is often implicit in the metaphor, especially when the word of the Lord is in question (Pss 12:6; 18:30; 119:140; Prov. 30:5). Here the thought is rather that suffering will prepare a people for the immediate presence of their Lord (cf. Mal. 3:2, 3)." (*Daniel*, TOTC, vol. 23, p. 230)

**2. We must NOT be Shocked on account of the Wickedness of Man or the Treachery that they Inflict upon the Child of God and/or each other!**

"The wicked will act wickedly"- that is what wicked people do; they sin! No doubt that is why...

- Christ warned His disciples in Mt. 10:16-18...
- Peter encouraged the persecuted of his day (1 Pet. 4:12)...

...this is part and parcel of this age and the passion and longing of wicked people! Accordingly, let us be sobered by the attitude of Christ Himself when He walked the earth (Jn. 2:24-25)...

**3. We must Understand that Wicked People won't Understand Anything and Everything Related to Truth and the Kingdom of God!**

"None of the wicked will understand"- this doesn't mean that they can't learn, be educated, and attain great success in this life. BUT no education possible will bring them closer to a knowledge of the truth (cf. 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 4:18-19)...

...in fact, as these texts indicate, the passage of time for the non-believer means only a more hardening of the heart toward the things of the Lord!

Accordingly, as we minister in this fallen world to fallen people, we do all that we can to engage the lost, wandering, and hurting. But any and all fruit will only come as God moves in the heart of man (1 Cor. 3:6)!

**4. We must Cast Off all Worldly Thinking, Plans, and Motive and so come to Understand the Message given to us here in Daniel!**

"Those who have insight will understand"- Unlike the non-Christian who as we just saw is spiritually blind and, in fact, enslaved in darkness, the child of God has been given understanding because they fear the Lord (Prov. 9:10)! I want you to look at two passages in this regard: Eph. 2:1-3 & 1 Jn. 5:20...

Accordingly, as fallen individuals we think this world is about us. But when salvation is imparted, the renewed mind comes to see that this world is NOT our home; God is preparing us for a kingdom and land not of this world!

**Where We Live**

1. Accordingly, we understand the whys and wherefores of the providences of God in this life. They are given to temper our faith, mature us in grace, and so help us on our way to glory!
2. So, "How come?" Why the long delay in Christ's return? The Lord not only is preparing a place for us in glory (Jn. 14:2b-3), but in this life preparing us for that place!

J. R. Miller wrote, "We need only eyes of Christian faith to find in every painful experience, a helper to our spiritual lives. Precious gems of rarest blessing are enclosed in the rough crusts of hardship, affliction, loss, and trial, which we are constantly coming upon in our life's way. We shall find when we get to our Heavenly home, that many of the things from which we have shrunk as evils, have been the bearers to us of our richest treasures of good!" (*The Glory of the Commonplace*)