

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

April 26, 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!

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Gentle

2 Corinthians 8:9: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 47:5-7

+We Adore Him

Hymn #7, "From All That Dwell Below The Skies"

We Confess Our Sin

We confess to You, Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that we have grievously sinned in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us through Christ Jesus. Make us truly contrite. Fill us with holy fear.

We ask You to restore our souls in Jesus Christ, that we may be merciful and kind, even as You are. Let your forgiveness make us willing to forgive, all wrong which we have suffered. Give us the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, who dwelt among men, and yet was meek and lowly of heart.

Let the same mind be in us, which was also in Him. Grant that our hearts may be tender to all need, and our hands give freely for Your sake. That being rooted and grounded, in the mystery of the Son of God, being made flesh for us, we may receive power to overcome the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #308, "Jesus Paid It All"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication 1 Pet. 2:23

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #609, "Why Should Cross And Trial Grieve Me?"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship Jn. 6:66-69

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #580, "Lead On, O King Eternal"

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. 11j

Daniel 11-12

Study Notes for April 26, 2015

I. Introduction

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)
- b. **How Come?** (vv. 8-10)- V. 10 this verse essentially says four things in explaining Why? or How come?...
 1. We must be Sober-minded as Christians!

*This is the stated reason for the trial and conflict of this age... it is about tempering, strengthening, and so "proving" the love, devotion, and faith of the believer! That is what God is doing in your life!

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!

*This is another reason for the trial and conflict of this age... Man is NOT essentially good; in themselves they are wicked and so will do what is necessary to indulge their lust for sin, power, and dominance (cf. Rom. 1:32; 1 Pet. 4:4; Jn. 2:24-25). Because we live as servants of Christ in a world that hates the Lord, we are the special focus of attack.

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 ought not to be surprised if our good is evil spoken of OR if our love is repaid with hatred! Wicked people are doing only what they can in their fallenness...

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 (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!

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*)

Joachim Neander (1650-80) put it this way, "Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shieldeth thee gently from harm or when fainting sustaineth; hast thou not seen how thy heart's wishes have been granted in what he ordaineth?"

c. **How Now?**- what are we to do? (vv. 11-12)

If it is our inclination to take these numbers literally, we are in for some grief. For they do NOT correspond to any historical event whatsoever!

The Abomination of Desolation- Dual Fulfillment: Dan. 9:27 & Mt. 24:15-16...

...accordingly, much like our understanding of the other eschatological time references in this book, we take these numbers figuratively in reference to a duration of time in which great suffering will occur AND over which God rules!

Tremper Longman wrote, “What is the relationship of the 1290 days to the 1335 days (12:11–12) to the 2300 evenings and mornings (8:14) to the “time, times and half a time” (7:25; 12:7...)? God alone knows- and that seems to be the point. God knows that there is an end that he has determined, but we cannot figure it out because we are not supposed to. Leave it to God, the angel says to Daniel, and through him he speaks to us.” (*Daniel*, p. 287)

With that, understand the point: “How blessed is he who keeps waiting...”

“Waiting” speaks NOT of holding on for dear life, BUT of a spiritual vigilance which does NOT tire or lose heart! It is what was behind Mt. 26:41 & Eph. 6:13b-14a...

“How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!”- the idea here is, “*Go beyond what is necessary; make it your aim NOT simply to last 1,290; go beyond and endure 1,335 days!*”

*Point: So, what are we to do knowing that we indeed are pilgrims and that this age is an age of suffering and persecution? Remain vigilant! Endure in faith and hope! Don’t grow weary in doing well! Excel! In the words of 1 Cor. 15:58... 2 Pet. 3:14-15a... Deut. 31:6!

d. **How Blessed?** (v. 12a, 13)

V. 12a: we’ve already talked much about this. Again the call is to endurance! Now get this: those who make this their aim and remain steadfast in Christ are described here as, “blessed.” What does that mean?

To Be Envied

Rom. 4:18a, 19-21

In this regard I love the words of **Richard Baxter** which to this day humbles me and inspires me, “It is a palpable error in those ministers that make such disproportion between their preaching and their living, that they will study hard to preach exactly and study little or not at all to live exactly. All the week long is little enough how to speak two hours; and yet one hour seems too much to study how to live all the week.” (*The Reformed Pastor*, p. 162)

Sinclair Ferguson advances the thinking here by adding, “The biblical response to the promises of God’s coming kingdom is always ‘Live for that kingdom now—recognize His reign now—be obedient now—fulfill your present responsibilities now.’ Then you will one day hear your Master say, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things.... Enter into the joy of your Lord’ (Matt. 25:21). If this chapter teaches us anything it is that because God’s people will be different then, they are different now.” (Daniel, pp. 230–231)

V. 13: this gloriously closes with two guarantees which are as applicable to us as they were Daniel...

1. “Then you will enter into rest”- recall that the “rest”- the Sabbath- referenced here and in the Bible had two referents in mind...
 - a. Resting from working in order to attain salvation (Heb. 4:1-5).
 - b. Resting from the struggle that results from living in a state of sin/misery (Heb. 4:8-10; Is. 57:2).

...the latter is the one that is being emphasized here! *Daniel, just keep enduring and soon- very soon- you will enter into a land where the curse is found no more (Rev. 6:11; Rev. 14:13)!*

2. “Then you will... rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”- this is speaking of nothing less than our resurrected bodies, the New Heavens and Earth, and the glorious reward that awaits all in Christ Jesus- a deep and abiding love-relationship with the Lord.