

“The World Seems Out Of Control, But God Gives Us Hope”

Daniel 12

Sermon Series: “The World Seems Out Of Control, But...”

Introduction:

God’s people in the time of Daniel were in exile facing difficult days in a foreign land. We are also facing difficult days in a foreign land because this world is not our home. Hopelessness seems to be abounding in our world today as evidenced by the proliferation of suicides. God ends the prophetic revelation to Daniel with a word of hope that applied to His people then and today.

Conviction: The world seems out of control, but God gives us eternal hope through Jesus.

Here are five words that characterize this hope that we have in Jesus:

- 1. Rescue**
- 2. Reign (v. 1, 11:45, Revelation 19:11-20:6)**

James Hamilton Jr. writes, “The visions of Daniel 2, 7, 8 and 10-12 are to be understood as complementary presentations of the same realities. They pattern the activities of the wicked powers that have exercised beastly dominion ever since God’s vicegerent surrendered that dominion through rebellious sin against the Sovereign. These patterns are consistent- Nebuchadnezzar plunders the temple, Belshazzar uses its implements for debauched dissipation, Antiochus Epiphanes sets up the abomination of desolation, and the little horn from the fourth kingdom, who will be the final realization of this antichrist pattern, will also seek to cut off the true worship of God, replacing that with the worship of himself and the celebration of his kingdom.

The wicked will seek to stamp out the worship of God and replace it with the worship of some unworthy wreck. They will persecute those who refuse to bow, just as Daniel and his three friends were threatened with death in Daniel 3 and 6. The efforts of this wicked will come to nothing. Even if they kill the righteous, they will succeed neither in making their abominations into God nor in keeping the righteous dead. They are chaff. The wind will drive them away. Suddenly the seed of the serpent will be smashed, the one like a son of man will receive rightful dominion of everlasting duration, and the faithful will be rewarded with him as the wicked are punished.

This pattern is clear. The book of Daniel portrays this pattern in Daniel’s own day, predicts that it will continue as history weaves its long tapestry... and promises that it will culminate in a final king of shocking power, desolating sacrilege and unholy success. That beast will die and his body be burned when the Ancient of Days takes the throne.

Then God's king will reign over God's people in God's place- all creation- and they will shine with the glory of God like stars in the heavens."

3. Rest

4. Resurrection (v. 2)

5. Reward (v. 13, Luke 6:23, 1 Corinthians 3:14)

Applications:

1. This gives us hope in facing death if we are in Christ.

Will I be courageous in death?

John Newton wrote in a letter, "Though our frames and perceptions may vary, the report of faith concerning [the time of death] is the same. *The Lord usually reserves dying strength for a dying hour....* You have nothing to fear from death; for Jesus, by dying, has disarmed it of its sting, has perfumed the grave, and opened the gates of glory for his believing people. Satan, so far as he is permitted, will assault our peace, but he is a vanquished enemy; our Lord holds him in a chain, and sets him bounds which he cannot pass. He provides for us likewise the whole armor of God, and has promised to cover our heads himself in the day of battle, to bring us honorably through every skirmish, and to make us more than conquerors at last."

2. This gives us hope in living life right now.

Our hope has to be rooted in something certain and lasting to really be able to live life (1 Peter 1:3-4, Hebrews 2:14-15).

Action: We will faithfully live for Jesus because of the hope He has given us.

-Titus 2:11-14

-How do we do this?

1. Grow in our understanding of God's Word while realizing not all of our questions are going to get answered (v. 3-10).

A. The Bible is true. Jesus believed the Bible.

B. The Bible is authoritative.

2. Tell others about Jesus (v. 3).

3. Stay faithful to Jesus until the end (v. 13, 2 Timothy 4:6-8).