

Series: Daniel 8 – Thriving in Exile

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 11/08/2020

Daniel 8 – “What to Do When You Know Things Will Get Worse” by Drew Hunter

Overview

The book of Daniel shows us how to thrive in exile. Christians are exiles in this world. Our true citizenship and hope is with Jesus in heaven, and the new creation to come.

Specifically, Daniel 8 shows us that living as exiles will often be hard. God’s people will at times be persecuted for their faith. And Daniel 8 gives Christians great hope when the future looks fearful. It answers this question: What do you do when the future for God’s people will get worse? And what do you do when you don’t just *think* it will get worse, but you *know* that it will?

1. The Ram (8:2-3, 20) – the Medo-Persian empire
2. The Goat (8:5-7, 21) – the king of Greece, Alexander the Great
3. The Horn (8:8-12, 22-25) - Antiochus Epiphanes
4. The Response (8:27)
 - a. Trust in God’s sovereign rule over all things
 - b. Prepare now for suffering as Christians
 - c. Be appalled at human evil and persecution
 - d. Serve for the good of our culture
 - e. Keep your hope fixed on Jesus

Understanding & Application

- 1) Read *Daniel 8*. Spend some time recalling the historical details about the ram, the goat, and the horn. How did Daniel have such insight into historical events that were hundreds of years away? Since God is sovereign over the macro lens of human history, what does it look like to trust in him on a micro level?
- 2) Read *Daniel 2:20-23*. Spend time praying for God to deepen in each of us this perspective of resolute faith in God’s sovereign rule.
- 3) Read *Daniel 8:27*. Much could be said about Daniel’s response to this vision. One thing is for certain – God’s people have regularly experienced persecution and should expect to continue to suffer in these ways. How has God helped you prepare for seasons of difficulty or suffering in your own life?
- 4) Read *Daniel 8* again. The rule and power of the ram, goat, and horn have all come and gone. Every kingdom rises and falls, but Jesus will rule forever. How has God helped you keep hope in him in these current tumultuous times? How have you struggled? And how do you plan to fight to persevere, whatever may come tomorrow?

Quotations

Heidelberg Catechism

Q28. *How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?*

A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love. All creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.