

Daniel's Second Look Ahead

"Visions and Dreams" part 3, from Daniel 8
Pastor Bob Johnson, February 21st, 2021

1. A Vision's S _____ (8:1-2)
2. A Ram's S _____ (8:3-4, 20)
3. A Goat's S _____ (8:5-8, 21-22)
4. A Horn's S _____ (8:9-12)
5. A Rebuilt S _____ (8:13-14)
6. Insight is S _____ (8:15-19)
7. A Futile S _____ (8:23-25)
8. A Faithful S _____ (8:26-27)

Insights in Light of Daniel's Dream:

- **Live M ...**
(Colossians 3:1-4)
- **Live M ...**
(Daniel 8:27, Ephesians 5:15-18)

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 6 of our first small group season for 2021!!

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 10 weeks and wrap up the week of March 21st. We are currently studying and discussing the last half of the Book of Daniel. God gave Daniel some visions and dreams that were helpful back then and are still helpful for us today as we strive to understand more of God's larger story He is inviting us to be part of.

Getting Started:

In Daniel 8, God gave Daniel a second dream that involved future events. We looked at the first dream in Daniel 7 a few weeks ago. As we look back at this second prophetic dream and also look back at history, we see that some historical figures were described. (i.e. Alexander the Great, and Antiochus Epiphanes IV.)

Speaking of historical figures, what people of history do you admire?
What character qualities come to mind when you think of them?
How do you think you can further develop those particular qualities in your life?

This might sound a bit morbid, but we all will die one day (if the rapture doesn't happen first :).

Imagine you were attending your own memorial service.
What would you hope to hear from those who are looking back on your life?
Put another way, what would you want to be remembered for?

Quick Review:

Daniel 8 is another chapter that contains a lot to digest.

From this chapter and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

After reflecting on the details of this second prophetic dream, Bob highlighted two ways we can live in light of what we studied.

The first encouragement was to 'live mindful of heaven' or 'live our daily lives in light of what God says is still ahead'. In Colossians 3, Paul encourages us to 'set our minds on things that are above'. Read Colossians 3:1-4.

What are some practical ways we can practice what Paul is encouraging?

Paul gives us a few ways to remain 'heavenly minded' in Colossians 3:16-17.

What are the practices Paul points out?

Which ones are easier for you? Which ones are more challenging?

Along with 'living mindful of heaven', the second practice that was mentioned last Sunday was to 'live moment by moment ... here.'

He said, 'some are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good'.

What was the point Bob was trying to make with this second encouragement?

Just as Daniel 'rose up and went about the king's business' (Daniel 8:27) after God gave him a prophetic look ahead, we are called to be about our King's business while we wait for the future prophetic events to unfold.

Back in Colossians 3, Paul gives us some practical examples of how to be faithful here while we wait for heaven.

Read Colossians 3:5-15.

What practices stand out to you as what God might be prompting you to focus on?

Read Colossians 3:23-24. How can these two verses help us as we strive to live our lives for God's glory?

The last passage Bob shared from Sunday was Ephesians 5:15-18.

What is the connection between 'wise walking' and being 'filled with the Spirit'?

A helpful Biblical summary related to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is, "One baptism, many fillings". What do you think that means?

When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we are baptized (brought into the family of God) and the Holy Spirit begins to do His work in and through our lives. After accepting Christ, when we follow the Holy Spirit's promptings, we are continually filled 'fueled' by His presence and power. Let's pray that we would all be mindful to recognize God's promptings and be faithful to trust God enough to follow.

As we wrap up, how else can we pray for each other?