

Daniel's Fourth Look Ahead, pt 1

"Visions and Dreams" part 7, from Daniel 10

Pastor Bob Johnson, March 21st, 2021

Daniel's S _____	v1-3
Daniel's S _____	v4-6
Daniel's S _____	v7-9
Angel's S _____ (Isaiah 14:12-15, Revelation 12:7-9)	v10-14
Daniel's S _____	v15-19
Angel's S _____	v20-21

Insights Related to Mourning w/ God:

(Matthew 5:4)

1. God promises to B ...

(Psalm 23:4, Psalm 34:18)

2. God's best are the B ...

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Hebrews 2:18; 5:8-9)

3. We are less likely to B ...

(James 4:4, 1 John 2:15)

Insights Related to Battling w/ the Devil:

1. Put on your ...

(Ephesians 6:10-17)

2. Pray in the ...

(Ephesians 6:18, 1 John 4:4)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our last week (week 10) of our first small group season for 2021!!

Our next 10 week small group season will begin the week of Sunday April 18th. 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. In this small group season we have been 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 10, we read that Daniel was sad because only 50,000 people (as noted in Ezra 1:64-65) out of 3 million people of Israel decided to return to the land of Israel when given the opportunity in 536 BC.

Speaking of long road trips, what is a memorable 'long trip' that you can remember that you are glad you said yes to? What made it special and memorable and worth it?

In 536 BC, most of the people of Israel chose to stay settled in Babylon when given the opportunity to pack up and return to their homeland. When have you gotten too settled or comfortable and found it difficult to transition to something new when you felt God's prompting? There are times when God does more than whisper to get us to get us to move out of our comfort zone to the next season of ministry, challenges and relationships he has for us. When has God prompted you through circumstances that it was time to transition from one season to another?

In Daniel 10:4-6, we read about the special angelic visitor that God sent to Daniel. This special visitor had some special articles of clothing.

Speaking of unique or special pieces of clothing, what is something you like to wear or put on? When do you typically take it out of your closet and enjoy wearing it? What is a fun memory of you getting 'really dressed up' for a special occasion? What made the occasion special or memorable?

Reading through Daniel 10, we were reminded that there are some realities (fallen angels as described in Daniel 10:13-14) that are very real even though we cannot see them. Speaking of things that are real but go unseen, what are some of your favorite examples of things you cannot see but appreciate the benefits of?

In Daniel 10:7-8, we read that Daniel was alone when he was given this special vision and when this angel, sent from God, gave him increased understanding and helped him regain his strength.

When have you been away from others and had a special moment from God that refreshed you? What made this alone time with God special or memorable?

Quick Review:

Let's look over Daniel 10:1-21 and our notes from Sunday. From this passage and Sunday's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

In Daniel 10, Daniel was reminded (as we were) that there is a spiritual battle going on in the heavenly realm. Not only are there angels like Gabriel and Michael that are attempting to help encourage God's people and advance the plans and purposes of God, there are other angels (demons) that are trying to discourage God's people and hinder as much ministry as possible.

In Ephesians 6:10-20, the Apostle Paul wraps up his letter to the church in Ephesus with some insights on how to battle well against forces of evil. Let's read, reflect and share some insights from this passage with each other.

In 1 Peter 5:8-9, Peter gives us some more encouragement related to spiritual battles. One of the encouragements is to 'be watchful'. Similarly, back in Ephesians 6:11, Paul encourages us to be aware of the devil's schemes. Being watchful and aware of the devil's strategies to deceive and discourage is helpful.

Let's read the following passages related to the devil and his schemes and see if we can identify some of his schemes or strategies.

Job 1:9-12, Job 2:1-6
Matthew 5:35-37, Matthew 13:19, 38-39
Luke 4:1-13
John 8:44
John 10:7-10
Acts 10:36-38, Acts 13:10
2 Corinthians 11:3, 12-15
Ephesians 6:12, 16
1 Timothy 3:6-7, 2 Timothy 2:24-26

After reading the above, let's reflect on and be grateful for what is said in 1 John 4:4

In Isaiah 14:12-15 that describes the downfall of the devil, it is clear that he had a serious "I" problem. Whenever our lives are more isolated and have too many "I's" instead of "We's", we get in trouble. At GPC, we believe that we are better together and according to Scripture we were made for authentic community with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

How has this past small group season we have experienced together helped you, matured you, encouraged you, stretched you, challenged you, blessed you?

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