

Sermon Notes: November 6, 2022

Focus: Daniel, Saints and Dreams

Lectionary

All Saints' Day and remembering the saints -- Remembering the dead is neither creepy nor vaguely heretical. Remembering the dead (who are alive in God) strips away an artificial split that we create between life and death. I am going to talk about the Book of Daniel today. This book was not written to be a weird hallucination but was written to comfort a particular people suffering in a particular way. I will also look broadly at dreams. I want to explore how we understand dreams today, how the ancients understood them, and how we might use them more effectively for our own future.

Daniel embeds hope in a political landscape. Daniel was **not** written in the time of Belshazzar or Nebuchadnezzar as the book describes. It was written barely 200 years before Jesus. You might have read another Halloweenesque book in the Bible – Revelation. That book was a reimagination of Daniel. These books are only separated by 300 years and both hint at unimaginable suffering.

When Daniel was written, Rome was splitting into different regions. However, the regional rulers did not forget to terrorize the Jews under their charge. The Jews became well acquainted with the brutality of the Seleucid monarch - Antiochus Epiphanes IV. In a similar spirit, Revelation was written to indict the great Satan of Roman leadership 300 years later. Both focus on comforting the oppressed and speaking in hidden language not meant to be understood by the powerful.

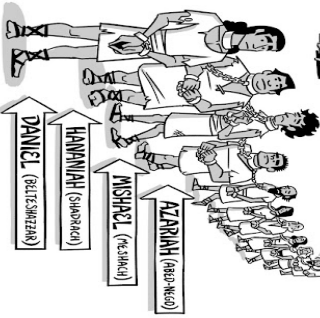
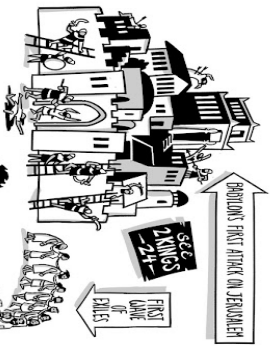
Dreams The vision / dream described in **chapter 2** was: The Golden Bear of Babylon, The Silver Lion/Leopard of Media Persia; and the Bronze Greek super beast. All beasts were seen as but a list of doomed rulers with only God's sovereignty being constant. The whole book is meant to convey (with coded language) that no matter how bad things were or how bad Antiochus IV was, God was still in charge.

Daniel has and interprets a dream of hope about a good ruler coming after a bad ruler like Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. An Ancient of Days **chapter 7** is seen on the throne calling the oppressed into the holy kingdom that shines brightly (in v 9, not read in the lectionary today). The light is undimmed by any dark ruler like Antiochus or the other beasts. Daniel is a reflection on centuries of sorrow. It is a meditation on how God enters our lives and leads us from darkness to light - no matter our earthly circumstance.

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.” CS Lewis - Weight of Glory

We live in a course of empires rising and falling even today. Putin and other Antiochuses will rise and fall, but the Ancient of Days continues. We will continue forever in God's presence. Oppression of the weak may be common, but it is *unreasonable*. It is *unreasonable* to treat any immortal saint of God (you, me, and everyone) less than holy.

I have included a broad overview of the Book of Daniel on the next page. [This link is a video](#) to accompany graphic. **Todd**



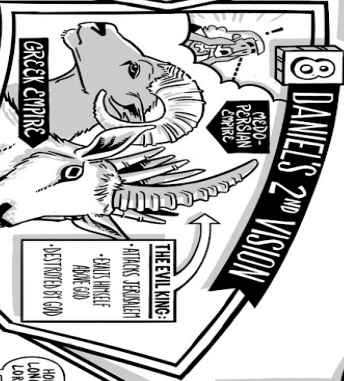
4:1-6
STORIES ABOUT DANIEL & HIS FRIENDS
VISIONS OF DANIEL
ch. 1-12

DANIEL

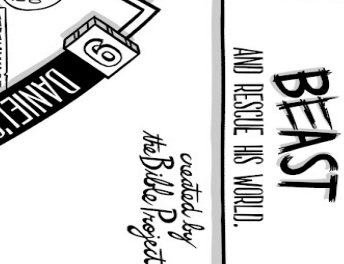
HOPE THAT MOTIVATES FAITHFULNESS



THE POINT OF DANIEL:
a Pattern
& a Promise
FOR ALL GENERATIONS



WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN TO YOU?
 EXPLOITS OF THE SYRIAN KING ANTIODOSUS IN THE 100s-80s. ROMAN EMPEROR DESTROYED IN 70 AD.
 3 THINGS YET TO HAPPEN WHEN JEWS RETURN IN A SENSE, THEY'RE ALL RIGHT
 • THE KING OFFERS HOPE TO ALL THOSE GENERATIONS
 • JOHN (AUTHOR OF REVELATION) ADAPTED DANIEL TO DESCRIBE COME & ALL THOSE THINGS



HUMAN BEINGS BECOME BEASTS WHEN THEY DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S KINGDOM
 GOD WILL ONE DAY CONQUER THE BEAST AND RESCUE HIS WORLD.

curated by
the Bible Project

IMAGERY FROM GENESIS 1:2 & PSALM 8
 HUMANS: THE RATIONAL IMAGE OF GOD
 but...
 CAPABLE HUNTERS, KILLERS & MAKE THEMSELVES GOD. THEY BECOME BEASTS

HERREVEL

ARWANGIC

HERREVEL