

**Sermon Notes:** November 3, 2019 **Focus:** Book of Daniel and All Saints' Day.

**Lectionary readings:** [https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC\\_RCL/HolyDays/AllSaintsC\\_RCL.html](https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/HolyDays/AllSaintsC_RCL.html)

**All Saints' Day and remembering the saints** -- Remembering the dead and the dying is a discipline and practice that is neither creepy, nor vaguely heretical. As we perform baptisms, it is quite fitting to remember enduring life through baptism; new life through death; and new life in the resurrection. Remembering the dead (who are alive) strips away an artificial split that we create when we worship life, power, youth, and health. It is an antidote to what we see as weakness and repulsion worthy. Daniel is highly appropriate to think about this day.

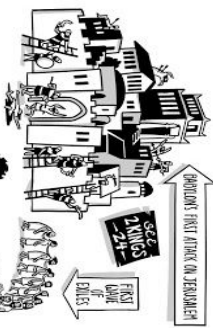
**Daniel - on the back is a summary graphic of Daniel** -- Daniel embeds hope in a political landscape. His vision is an answer to one oppressive horror after another. The "Bear" Babylon, The "Lion" Media, The "Leopard" Persia, and the "Greek" superbeast all treat the Hebrews like yesterday's garbage. Daniel receives in this vision a hope for the true ruler. An ancient of days is this answer and Jesus will often be imagined as this ancient One later. Daniel 7 can be seen shining bright despite the shadow of the ruler Antiochus Epiphanes casts when the text was likely written (AE is the Seleucid Greek ruler of Judea from 175-164 BC) If you put the pieces together Daniel 7 is a powerful meditation on 500 years of sorrow. It is a meditation on how God enters our lives to conquer that sorrow.

We live in a course of Empires rising and falling today. Trump, Putin, and Erdoğan will be long gone as powerful actors on the world stage soon enough, while the ancient of days will continue. This is where "all saints" as a liturgical day gets a little edgy for me. Oppression and stepping on the weak may be common, but it is *unreasonable*. It is *unreasonable* to treat immortals like yesterday's trash.

**Prayers of the People and my grandma** -- I said this last All Saints -- but my grandma and many others are alive and well to me. My grandma and her mom had the face of an Indian, because they were largely Choctaw. Great grandma tried unsuccessfully to hide it for a time, and she experienced incredible hardship. My memory is foggy trying to recall stories of grandma's photo books, but my great grandma and great grand dad were often pre-judged and labeled "d\_mn drunk Indians," but they made a living in the American depression by managing a small grocery store. Oppressing these immortals was and is *unreasonable*

I imagine the Daniel 7 vision is as alive to 500 years of native history as it was for Daniel himself. These daughters of the Ancient One were/are strong and kind, and were able to love a very awkward kid who became an awkward priest. As we remember the cloud of witnesses (the people past, present and yet to come) may our loved ones strengthen us to be hopeful that God is not finished, and that the Ancient of Days still steps into the middle of our mess.

**Final thought / quote** "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. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption." CS Lewis - Weight of Glory  
— Video to accompany graphic on page 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cSC9uobtPM>



AZARIAH (RESH-HEDE)  
 MISPAEL (MISHAI)  
 HANANISH (SUSANNA)  
 DANIEL (BELTSHEZAR)

41-6  
 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 FAITH GENERATIONS

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

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**1 RECRUITED TO SERVE IN BABYLON**

PASSAGE TO GIVE UP  
 HUMAN IDENTITY  
 FAITHFULNESS OF THE KING  
 LEADS TO EXALTATION

**2 THE KING'S DREAM**

PART OF  
 KING'S DREAM  
 DON'T KNOW  
 CAN'T ONE DAY TRUST  
 ALL KNOWLEDGE

**3 THE FIERY FURNACE**

GOD'S PROTECTION  
 FAITHFULNESS OF THE KING  
 KING'S DREAM

**7 DANIEL'S DREAM**

THE KING'S  
 DREAM  
 A KING DREAM  
 WHICH SHOWS GOD'S  
 KINGDOM COMING  
 DANIEL'S DREAM  
 WHICH SHOWS  
 GOD'S KINGDOM  
 COMING

**6 THE LION'S DEN**

GOD'S PROTECTION  
 FAITHFULNESS OF THE KING  
 KING'S DREAM

**4 NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PRIDE**

KING'S DREAM  
 GOD'S PROTECTION  
 FAITHFULNESS OF THE KING  
 KING'S DREAM

**5 BELSHAZZAR'S PRIDE**

KING'S DREAM  
 GOD'S PROTECTION  
 FAITHFULNESS OF THE KING  
 KING'S DREAM

**8 DANIEL'S 2<sup>ND</sup> VISION**

THE FOUR BEASTS  
 THE FOUR BEASTS  
 THE FOUR BEASTS  
 THE FOUR BEASTS

**9 DANIEL'S PRAYER**

DANIEL'S PRAYER  
 DANIEL'S PRAYER  
 DANIEL'S PRAYER  
 DANIEL'S PRAYER

**10-12 DANIEL'S 3<sup>RD</sup> VISION**

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**10-12 DANIEL'S 3<sup>RD</sup> VISION**

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IMAGERY FROM GENESIS 1-2 & PSALM 8  
**HUMANS:**  
 THE IMAGE OF GOD  
 ...but...  
 LAMEN HAVEN, KNEEL & PRAY  
 BEFORE GOD, THE BEASTS  
**BEASTS**

HEBREW

ARAMEAN

HEBREW