



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ezekiel, Daniel Sermon Series
Supports Session 12: Future Seen
Sermon Title: "When Prophecy Gets Personal"
Passage: Daniel 7:15-16,28

Connection to Daniel 7:1-14

Prophecies about God's eternal kingdom can become very personal for believers the more we live in uncertain times.

Introduction/Opening

The Son of Man and the Ancient of Days are two expressions used in Daniel 7 to describe what will happen in the future. How did these expressions strike you? Do you remember your reaction when you encountered them for the first time? Perhaps you're encountering them for the first time today. How do they connect with you personally?

Biblical prophecy alerts us to the reality that God has a plan for His creation and that He is working that plan. The plan includes assurance of victory in Him. But prophecy has enough mystery in it to affect us personally. The more we study prophecy, the more we sense the personal impact that it is making on us.

Daniel reveals to us how he reacted to the glorious prophecy regarding God's kingdom. His reaction gives us an opportunity to explore our own responses to biblical prophecy.

Outline

1. Prophecy can shock us (v. 15).
 - a. When we encounter biblical prophecy, we can be stunned by it, especially at first. Daniel shows us that even a seasoned believer can be distressed by what God's Word says about what He's going to do in keeping with His plan to bring in His kingdom.
 - b. We do well to respond to the distress that biblical prophecy can render by relying on the promise that Jesus will never leave us (John 14:18; Matthew 28:20). Also, the Holy Spirit graces us with the certainty that we belong to Him (Romans 8:16).
2. Prophecy can perplex us (v. 16).
 - a. The more we study biblical prophecy, the more difficulty we may have in understanding it. Like Daniel, we find ourselves confused or puzzled over what it means and how it applies to us. We may be absolutely bewildered regarding where we should proceed in our effort to grasp it so we can live by faith in the Lord.

- b. We can trust the Lord to help us so we can make sense of His prophetic messages. Like Daniel, we can ask Him for insight. While an angel helped Daniel in his day (7:17-27), we can rely on God's Word and His Spirit to give us what we need in our day so we can move from perplexity to certainty as we encounter prophecy (Hebrews 4:16).

3. Prophecy can worry us (v. 28).

- a. Once we're given clarity about the prophetic messages in God's Word, we can be overwhelmed by the mind-blowing immensity of them. Like Daniel, the terrible description of the enemy's determination to destroy God's kingdom can worry us and leave us unable to speak or even to breathe.
- b. The Lord reminds us that He does not intend for His people to live in fear (2 Timothy 1:7). Daniel's account teaches us the necessity of trusting the Lord as we behold prophetic details that can leave us speechless. Jesus encourages us with His assertion about the worrisome aspects of the future with His assertion that He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

Conclusion

Daniel's prophecies can give us the assurance we need so we can face the future in a way that pleases the Lord. At the same time, our troubling personal reactions to the insights we gain as we study biblical prophecy can get in our way.

What can we do when we find ourselves reacting like Daniel? We can follow Daniel's example by trusting the Lord enough to place our lives in His capable hands.

If you're a Christian who's troubled about the mysteries in the future, taking that step requires you to surrender to Him. Give the Lord your doubts, fears, and worries about the future, and take hold of your faith in Him and look forward to the victory.

If you're not a Christian, take that life-changing step by believing in Christ today.

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