

PROPHECY OR HISTORY?

This week's chapter, written in apocalyptic genre, seems a bit 'hidden' at first reading. Yet, as you line up the descriptions with future history, it is very accurate concerning what was to come for the Jewish people and Jerusalem. In fact, it is so accurate, that some have concluded that it had to have been written hundreds of years after Daniel's lifetime. But it wasn't.

This amazing accuracy of prophecy begs the questions that we can discuss:

- Does God know the future that accurately?
- If so, why did He reveal some things to Daniel but not all things to us?
- Does God know and yet allow the evil we see?

LET'S LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

If you have walked with us through the previous chapters, you know that God supernaturally preserved and prepared God's people, even though they were in exile in Babylon (and Medo-Persia). In this chapter, an angel is again revealing to Daniel some specific movements in the future that would affect Daniel's people (long after he has passed).

Read through Daniel 11, knowing that each of the statements made has a future fulfillment (now history for us). The following questions may help you understand and digest what is written.

In a very general way, what happens in this chapter?

How are the Jewish people involved or affected in these times of kings and armies?

Since this message was for Daniel and his people, what would they find hopeful? (Be sure to see 12:1-4 also)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

This chapter speaks repeatedly of war, violence, and suffering. What have you learned in the book of Daniel about how we should live in dark times?

What stands out to you from chapter 11? How is this significant to us?

Verse 36 sounds like the conclusion of Judges 21:25: "And the king shall do as he wills." How did this "king" affect God's people? What, perhaps, does God want us to learn from a chapter like this?

The prophecies of this chapter are amazingly accurate. What does this mean to us today?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

God preserved the Bible "to transform us and be the authority in our lives." The chapter we just studied reveals that God knows the future and is sovereign over it. It reveals that the Word of God is 100% accurate and should be trusted. This week, read again the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the person of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." God wants you to fully know Him and allow Him to shape you to become like Jesus. Have you prioritized your days to listen to God in His Word? If so, He will "equip" you for "good works" and "train" you in "righteousness" to be like Jesus.

PLEASE PRAY

- So many of our Church family are suffering throughout the world. Please pray for children and adults, especially those who have lost loved ones due to martyrdom.
- Please ask God for whom you could invite to our Resurrection celebration services (7, 9, 11 am)
- Please pray that the Holy Spirit works through our church family, for our Resurrection celebration teams, and for Pastor Doug as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.