

### **UNKNOWN TO US BUT NOT TO GOD**

God's people have always wondered about the future. There is much that is known to God but not us. This final chapter in Daniel reveals the important "end" for us, but not the middle. What are some questions that you have about the future and "end times" that are still puzzling or worrisome to you?

### **LISTENING TO GOD IN HIS WORD**

We are in the final words to Daniel before he dies. God revealed this last vision (chapters 10-12) so that Daniel could instruct and give hope to his people. As we read this final chapter, we need to remember four aspects to this final vision:

- It was given to Daniel concerning his people and Jerusalem
- The visions overlap. That is, visions were given in chapters 2, 7 – 12 have bearing throughout
- Most of the visions were understood by Daniel and gave him/them hope and understanding
- Some of the visions were judgment because his people had and would continue to reject God

Four insights might be helpful before we read the chapter:

- 1) This chapter, again, includes both promises and prophecies
- 2) Some of the prophecies given to Daniel were not to be understood until later (see 12:4)
- 3) The interpretation and understanding of the prophecies vary among scholars
- 4) All scholars agree on the essentials but some differ in the timing of fulfillment

Let's read chapter twelve and consider a few questions.

What was the bad news to Daniel and his "people" regarding the future of Jerusalem / Israel? (1)

What is the good news for Daniel (and us) in the chapter? (2, 3, 10)

This chapter contains the prophecy of 'dual resurrection.' What are the options? What are the qualifications?

Which questions from Daniel weren't answered?

God's final words to Daniel contain a command and a promise (v.13). What do you feel when you read this?

Many think that the apostle Peter's words in 1 Peter 1:10-12 were a direct reference to Daniel. What do you understand from this passage?

In summary, what are the major promises and themes that impacted you in the book of Daniel?

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

What questions from Daniel weren't answered? What kinds of questions do we have that are not answered? Why do you think that God withholds the answers?

One of the final words in this message from God is the word "Blessed" (v. 12). What do you understand this word to mean in the context?

Are God's final words to Daniel (v. 13) also a command and a promise to us?

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

A repeated theme in the book of "Daniel" is that God has a master plan for His people. To follow His plan, we need His words of instruction (the Bible), His Spirit to teach us (the Holy Spirit), and His people to pass along truth and examples. Do you avail yourself of all three? And, are you a part of God's work to help other people know, love, and follow Jesus? Perhaps step aside with Jesus and ask Him what you could do to help you grow in knowledge, understanding, and love for God. Ask Him if He wants you to meet with someone to guide you in the process of growing in Him. And then act on it.

### **PLEASE PRAY**

- Please pray about and consider who you will invite to our Easter services (at 7,9, 11 AM)
- Please pray for our teams of hospitality, follow-up, worship, kids, and Pastor Doug
- Please pray for the other churches in the Inland Empire as we proclaim the resurrection of Jesus