

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Daniel 8
Ted Rastatter 3.27.23

When it comes to how you feel about studying the end times, how would you best describe yourself?

- a) It's like going to the dentist. It has to happen but I'm not excited about it.
- b) I've meticulously studied prophecy and I've prepared bug out bags for my family. We also own a bunker in rural Idaho.
- c) The only dragons I care to study are in Lord of the Rings.
- d) Anyone know a good Netflix show I can binge later?

There are good reasons to be jaded about end times studies. It's confusing and can sometimes be divisive among Christians. However difficult, it would be sinful to neglect any of God's word to us. We ought to *receive* what God has *revealed*. Although we may have different views and feelings about how the end is all going to play out, we can be certain of this: Jesus will return, Jesus will win, and *his enemies will be scattered* (Ps. 68:1).

In chapter 8 Daniel has another vision that follows the same pattern as chapter 7. In verses 1-14 he has the vision and in verses 15-27 he receives the much needed interpretation. See the table below.

Vision	Biblical Interpretation
Vs. 3-4 The ram with two high horns.	Vs. 20 Kings of the Medes and Persians
Vs. 5-7 - The Shaggy Goat Fight	Vs. 21 The King of Greece
Vs. 8 - Broken horn – Four more horns	Vs. 22 Four New Kingdoms
Vs. 9-12 - The Little Horn	Vs. 23-25 The Bold-Faced King

Our first point from Sunday's sermon was that the Bible gets the future right. What Daniel prophesied has come to pass through conquerors and kings like Alexander the Great and Antiochus IV. Still, God has revealed future events to us through his word and gives us a great example in Daniel on how we ought to respond. Daniel fell facedown (Vs. 17). He got sick over what he heard (Vs. 27). He went back to work doing the king's business (Vs. 27).

Discussion Questions:

1. Go to Biblehub.com and search the word “facedown”. Read a couple of the verses you find. Discuss what we can learn about God from the posture people take when they come into contact with him or his messengers/angels. When was the last time you were facedown before God?
2. We should *lament* and *repent* the depravity around us, but we can’t stay there forever. We may lament the world’s deficiency but we are called to declare God’s excellency (1 Pet. 2:9) How do we strike a balance between lamenting the depravity around us but continuing to be faithful to the calling God has given us?
3. Daniel goes back to doing the king’s business. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What are similarities between Israel in that time and us today? What are some applications we can take from this?
4. When you reflect on Daniel’s responses to the future, how is Jesus an even better Daniel?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11 and let each person in the group identify one personal take away from these verses.