

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 4/30/23

Sermon: Stand Firm

Text: Daniel 11-12

Speaker: Ted Rastatter

Questions: John Brewer

Daniel Chapters 11 and 12 cover a great expanse of prophecy through time. Chapter 11 verses 1-35 are widely accepted as having already been fulfilled, from our historical perspective, by *an* antichrist, Antiochus Epiphanes, who desecrated the Temple. The remainder foretells *The* Antichrist and the “time of the end.”

Main Point: Hard Things Are Coming. We Have To **Stand Firm**.

3 Ways We Stand Firm

- Observe And Understand The Chaos And Confusion Around Us
- Keep Our Eyes Fixed On Christ Through Biblical Truth
- Hope In Salvation

1. Ted stated that we can stand firm by first observing and understanding the confusion and chaos around us. Read Genesis 3:1-5, John 8:44, and 1 Corinthians 14:33. Where do confusion and chaos come from? Are we surprised by what we see happening in our culture?

2. Ted posited that one way we should stand firm is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus by resting on Biblical truth. Read John 8:31-32.

Jesus’ statement that “the truth will set you free” implied that the hearers were somehow captives that needed to be set free. From what did the hearers (and every other human) need to be set free?

3. Read Daniel 11:32 and 34. History tells us that after the death of Alexander the Great, there was a great effort to “Hellenize” (“Greek-ify”) the Jewish people (and other conquered peoples). While some resisted, others conformed to the ways of the occupying forces in the name of progress. Some were allowed to hold positions in the Greek government and military. Jews even welcomed Antiochus Epiphanes into Jerusalem, the one who would later desecrate the temple.

In what ways are we as believers prone to buying into the delusions the devil is sowing into our culture? What are some practical ways we can hold fast to Biblical truths? Consider Hebrews 10:24-25 as one option.

4. Ted reminded us that we can stand firm in our hope in salvation. Read Daniel 12:2 and John 5:25-29. Who will be resurrected? What are the two possible options after resurrection?

In John 17:15 Jesus prays “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” If the world is full of Satan-induced chaos, judgment is coming, and we are headed for eternity with God, what is our purpose in this present age as believers?

Exercise: Consider some sticky topics or questions that would horrify you if someone brought them up and asked your perspective as a Christian. Consider practicing how you might present the Gospel in those topics in a Biblically true AND Biblically loving way. Don't just rant. Really consider how you could use these to spread the Gospel. Remember, the most vehement and hateful atheist is made in the image of God. You, Christian, were once an enemy of God before Jesus rescued you. The Gospel was likely presented to you by a number of believers before you submitted to His will.

Examples of questions you might hear:

- “Why don't Christians think people in homosexual relationships should have the same opportunities in ‘marriage’ as heterosexual couples? “
- “What's the harm in a man deciding he's a woman?”