

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Date: 3/19/23

Sermon: The Unfolding Drama

Text: Daniel 7

Speaker: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Jerry Shiver

This week Pastor Ted covered Daniel's dream of the four beasts. Daniel provides a bizarre and troubling prophesy of future events. Many have tied this chapter to past and future kingdoms and persons but Ted focuses on how to live in light of the text and the proper lens through which to understand the world.

3 Key Points:

Prepare for Tribulation

Comforted in the Truth

Guaranteed to Triumph

Discussion:

1. Many today believe that the church will be spared persecution and tribulation. After reviewing Dan 7:5, 7, 19-21, 23-25, pick a few of the following verses and discuss your expectations as a Christian as you look ahead (2 Tim 3:1, Acts 14:22, Mk 4:16-17, Jn 15:20, 1 Jn 2:18, Jn 16:33). Does being part of a community of believers impact this? How? What else can, or should, you/we do to prepare for tribulations to come?
2. Ted's second main point is we can take comfort in the truth in two ways. First that God will exercise judgment. Review Dan 7:9-12, 22 and read 2 Thess 2:8. Do you take comfort in knowing God has set a time where he will exercise his justice against all hostility against him? Take a moment to think about the broader implications this might have on you and those around you and discuss.
3. Part two of taking comfort in the truth that Jesus is both Divine (God) and Man. Review Dan 7:13-14 and read Matt 24:30, Jn 8:58, and Isa 42:8,. In what ways do these verses comfort you with regard to Daniel's vision of the future and today? Read Ps 36:2, Matt 17:5, Rm 3:22-33, Jn 16:33 and Heb 4:15. Why does the divinity of Jesus matter? How are these two points of comfort linked?
4. Review Dan 7:18, 22, 27 and read Jn 17:21-23, Jn 1:11-12 and Eph 2:19-22. Ted presented several questions concerning the Saints identified in these verses. Who are they, and why do they get to possess the Kingdom of God? Are you prepared for tribulation?

Verses:

Discussion Question 1:

<sup>1</sup> *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 Tim 3:1*

<sup>22</sup> *strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. Acts 14:22*

<sup>16</sup> *Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Mk 4:16-17*

<sup>20</sup> *Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. Jn 15:20*

<sup>18</sup> *Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 1 Jn 2:18*

<sup>33</sup> *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Jn 16:33<sup>8</sup>*

Discussion Question 2:

<sup>8</sup> *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. 2 Thess 2:8*

Discussion Question 3:

<sup>30</sup> *Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. Matt 24:30*

<sup>58</sup> *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Jn 8:58*

<sup>8</sup> *I am Yahweh. That is my name. I will not give my glory to another. I will not let statues take the praise that should be mine. Isa 42:8*

<sup>2</sup> *In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin. Ps 36:2*

<sup>5</sup> *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matt 17:5*

<sup>2</sup> *This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Rm 3:22-23*

<sup>33</sup> *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jn 16:33*

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Heb 4:15

Discussion Question 4:

<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Jn 17:21-23

<sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. Jn 1:11-12

<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Eph 2:19-22