

Daniel – Pt 8: An Intimate Relationship with an Unchanging God

Tim Wilson

Scripture

Daniel 9:1 – 11:1

Introduction

On Sunday we continued our sermon series exploring the book of Daniel with Tim speaking on chapters 9 and 10

Overview

Daniel 9-10 continues in the writing style of apocalyptic, using complex and mysterious images and visions to communicate the end of this present age and the ushering in of the new. As with chapters 7-8 there have been many interpretations over history regarding the visions, particularly the vision of the 'Seventy Weeks' and whether it has been completed or not, whether the number of years is to be taken literally or not and whether the sub-divisions of time are continuous or whether there are breaks in between them.

The focus of the talk was on Daniel's intimate relationship with God with the visions viewed in that context and the encouragement to imitate Daniel to deepen our relationship with our Unchanging God and to know him more deeply which then helps us to face a changing world.

1. How does Daniel Interact with God?

The context of how Daniel interacts with God in the two chapters is both his regular disciplines as well as how he responds to crisis situations. Daniel:

- Reads God's Word and his response to what he reads is to pray
- There is a breadth and depth to his prayer life as he recognises who God is, he confesses his and the nation's sin and he petitions God to keep his promises
- Fasts in different ways alongside his prayers
- Is intentional in his desire to deepen his understanding of God and his purposes

2. How does God Respond and Reveal Himself to Daniel?

In both chapters God's response is via angels or heavenly beings. For us God will reveal himself to the same ends through the Holy Spirit and to some extent through each other. God:

- Assures Daniel he has been heard
- Gives Insight and Understanding
- Brings Comfort and Encouragement
- Reveals his Holiness, Glory and Power

3. The Fulfilled Promise that Enables Us to Have an Intimate Relationship with God

As an outworking of his intimate relationship with God Daniel has the privilege of receiving a vision now fulfilled by the anointed one, Jesus, who has finished transgression, put an end to sin, atoned for iniquity and brought in everlasting righteousness by his death and resurrection.

Questions

1. Whilst our initial response is likely to be that we would like to develop and grow in all aspects of how Daniel interacts with God, is there any in particular we know we are weaker in and would like to specifically develop – if others in the group feel stronger in some aspects, then give the opportunity for them to share to encourage others with examples.
2. How can we develop a greater culture of encouragement amongst us?
3. Is there a specific aspect of God you would like the Holy Spirit to reveal to you more – this should naturally lead in to praying for one another for this.