

Study Guide: Daniel 8 – “What Does It Mean That Jesus Is Lord?” *(Sermon by Pastor Missy Carfield – Bay Point Church)*

Main Theme

God’s sovereignty reigns over all earthly kingdoms, which rise and fall. Only His eternal kingdom endures. Daniel’s apocalyptic vision reminds us to find comfort and hope in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, especially amid trials and uncertainty.

Key Scripture: Daniel 8 (Selected Verses)

- **Daniel 8:1-14** – Daniel’s vision of the ram (Media-Persia), the goat (Greece), and the little horn that desecrates the sanctuary.
- **Daniel 8:19-22** – Interpretation: “I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.” The ram represents the kings of Media and Persia; the goat, the king of Greece (Alexander the Great).
- **Daniel 8:27** – Daniel’s response: “I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days... I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.”
- Supporting scriptures:
 - **Psalms 103:19** – “The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.”
 - **Daniel 2:44** (cross-reference) – God’s kingdom “will never be destroyed.”
 - **Matthew 28:18** – Jesus declares, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - **Revelation 19:16** – “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Core Message & Application

- **The Question That Matters:** “What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?” Not a surface-level answer, but a deep, life-shaping conviction that Jesus holds absolute authority.
- **Kingdoms Rise and Fall:**
 - The ram (powerful but defeated).
 - The goat with the prominent horn (Alexander the Great – conquered vast empires by his 20s, died at 33).
 - Four horns and a little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes – future persecution forewarned).
 - **Quote:** “The horns breaking is typifying the brittle and ultimately fragile nature of political might.” (Joyce Baldwin, referenced in sermon).
- **God’s Sovereignty:** Earthly powers may seem invincible and do “as it pleased” (v. 4), but they are temporary. God limits persecution and will reconsecrate His sanctuary (v. 14).
- **Purpose of the Vision:** To forewarn Israel of coming trials and assure them that God is sovereign and faithful. This brings comfort — the same God who spoke to Daniel in the 6th century BC is sovereign today.

- **Our Response:** Reject lukewarm faith. Dive deep into Scripture. Come under Christ's lordship rather than chasing easy "nuggets." Trust that God's kingdom is the only everlasting one.

Quotable Quotes from the Sermon

- "Kingdoms will come and kingdoms will go. They will rise and they will fall... except for one."
- "God does not give his glory to anyone. He owns it. It belongs to him."
- "Only God's kingdom is the everlasting kingdom."
- "Let us not be consumed with calendars, but consumed with the very message and heart and comfort of our God who is sovereign, of Jesus Christ, who is Lord."

Questions for Further Thought & Discussion

1. **Personal Lordship:** What does it practically mean in your daily life that "Jesus is Lord"? How does this change how you respond to personal trials or cultural pressures?
2. **Sovereignty in History:** Think of modern examples of kingdoms/empires rising and falling. How does Daniel 8 encourage you when evil seems to prosper?
3. **Comfort in Apocalyptic Texts:** How can we apply the hope of God's limited persecution and ultimate victory (as in Daniel 8:14, 19) to our own fears about the future?

Prayer Focus: *Father God, you who are sovereign over all, help us know deeply what it means that Jesus is Lord. Reveal Your comfort and glory to us. Amen.*