

Introduction:

1. We're in our 4th week of our series (**PP**) "**CONTROL** in the midst of **CHAOS**."
 - a. (**PP**) we seek to live **SELF CONTROLLED** because we know & trust that
 - b. (**PP**) **GOD** is **IN CONTROL**
 - i. That is what God is revealing to Daniel in chapters 7-12
 - ii. This morning, we'll be in chapter 9, tremendous chapter of prophecy.
2. Last time we were together we considered the 1st ½ of Dan 9.
 - a. Given POWERFUL prayer of Daniel: Praise, Confession, Intercession & Glory
 - b. (**PP**) When we choose to lead lives of prayer that center upon ***praise, confession, intercession,*** and the ***glory*** of God...
 - i. When we pray **upwards, inwards, outwards, & upwards.**
 - ii. We live in **CONTROL** b/c we're talking to who is in **CONTROL**.
3. Here's how we'll spend our time in the text this morning.
 - a. Seek to understand what it's saying, ultimately, how it points us to **JESUS**.
 - b. Then, how it applies to living a life of **CONTROL** in the midst of **CHAOS**.

Text:

(PP) ²⁰I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people, pleading with the Lord my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. ²¹As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. ²²He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. ²³The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.

(PP) ²⁴"A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. ²⁵Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

(PP) ²⁶"After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. ²⁷The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

1. Wow... I don't know about you, but when I read that
2. This comes to mind... (Stranger Things Intro) **(PP)** // Let's Pray! ☺

Exposition:

1. Daniel 9 is INTENSE
 - a. Reminds me of being in a gnarly mathematics course
 - b. Anyone love those classes? Sr. Year... I was in applied Math. / football.
2. Daniel 9 is a technical timetable of the future, deals w/ **Messiah & Israel.**
 - a. It wasn't even easy for Daniel himself to grasp
 - i. **(PP)** Look again at v22, v23, & v25
 1. ²² He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding.
 2. ²³ ... Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.
 3. ²⁵ Now listen and understand!
 - ii. 3x in the text Daniel is told by the angel who gives him this,
 1. "You need to understand this.
 2. Do you understand?
 3. Pay attention, you need to understand."
 - b. This morning, it's exciting...
 - i. If you grasp this section of Scripture
 - ii. It'll arm you with the ability to show how precise & exact God was in predicting coming events. // win skeptics 2 Jesus!
 - c. About ¼ of the Bible is prophecy.
 - i. That is, it's history written in advance.
 1. God knows the end from the beginning
 2. And God can write before it happens what is going to happen as if it were a past-tense event
 - ii. Prophecy is what separates the men from the boys.
 1. You might have all sorts of belief systems, & world religions
 2. But when you deal with this Bible, you're dealing w/ prophecy that no other religion system has or can match.
 - iii. Dan 9, particularly this section, known as backbone of Bible prophecy.
 - iv. B/c everything else in Scrip prophetically attaches to this.
 1. 4 of the verses we've read contain mathematical calculations
 2. Gonna require all of your mental energy this morning. Ready? ☺
 - d. B4 we take a look at how this applies to us as 21st cent Amer. Christians
 - e. **(PP)** Get a sense of Scrip: **Generally / Specifically / Messianically / Futuristically.**

3. **Generally** // 3 things generally to grasp.

- a. 1st, this is an answer to prayer.
 - i. Daniel's been reading the writing of Jeremiah the prophet.
 - ii. He falls to his knees, begins to pray.
 - iii. He doesn't even finish the prayer.
 - iv. Can't even get an amen at the end of it out, and it's already answered by a messenger, an angel, Gabriel he is called, in the form of a man.
 1. Gabriel is called the chief prince of the people of Israel.
 2. He's, like, God's bouncer for the nation of Israel.
 - v. The year is 538 BC.
 - vi. Daniel is about 86yrs old.
 - vii. In reading Jeremiah's prediction that Israel will be captive in Babylon 70yrs, he realizes 70yrs is almost up.
 - viii. He begins to pray and God gives him further revelation for the future.
- b. The 2nd general thing → who this is talking about
 - i. Notice it says in verse ²⁴ *"A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city – that is Jerusalem.*
 - ii. Dealing w/ the main player when it comes to prophetic literature, that is, the Jewish people // not all people // the Jewish people.
 - iii. Why is this important to take note of?
 1. Rem all the previous revelations, dreams, & visions in Daniel?
 2. Dealt w/ world powers from Daniel's time to the end of the age.
 - iv. This is about the Jewish nation
 - v. One of the most amazing nation ever. (you **NEED** to go to Israel!)
 1. Genesis 12, God said to Abraham, *"I'm going to bless you and out of you will come a great nation. I will make you a great nation. And whoever blesses you, I will bless; whoever curses you, I will curse. But, Abraham, you're going to be the father of a great nation."*
 2. The world population right now is around 7 billion people.
 - a. 13 million of that 7 billion are Jews.
 - b. That's less than 2/3 of 1%.
 - c. But, did you know that between about 1/3 of all of the Nobel Prizes ever given out have been collected by Jewish people—amazing!
 3. That little nation in the Middle East called Israel
 - a. That tiny little piece of real estate
 - b. One three-hundredth the size of China
 - c. Gets 3x the headlines.
 4. Adolf Hitler managed to kill 6 million Jews

5. Many in the Arab world would like to wipe the rest out,
6. But God has a special plan for this nation.
- c. The 3rd general thing, we're dealing with a set time, a timetable.
 - i. Look at verse ²⁴ *"A period of 70 sets of 7 has been decreed"*
 1. You see the word "decreed"?
 - a. Important to know what that means
 - b. It means divided or cut out of something.
 2. 70 sets of 7 have been cut out of time.
 - a. It's as if God takes the sweep of history from the beginning to the end
 - b. And cuts out a certain period to reveal to Daniel
 - ii. What does this mean → 70 sets of 7's?
 1. In Hebrew it says shabua shibim;
 - a. Literally 70 7's
 - b. Or 70 sets of 7.
 - c. Could be days; could be years.
 2. I believe it's referring to 70 sets of years
 - iii. Here in the west we mark time by increments of 10
 1. And, so, a 10yr period is a decade.
 2. Talk about the 80's or 90's—when music was music— ☺
 3. In Jewish thought it's not decades, but periods of 7—heptads.
 - a. The Jewish people kept a period of 7 in their days & years.
 - b. There is a 6 & 1 pattern:
 - i. Days: 6 days you work, on the 7th day you rest
 - ii. Yrs: 6 yrs you plow & till the ground, 7th yr you let the ground lay rest & eat whatever comes naturally.
 - c. That was God's law: 6 & 1 // 6 & 1.
 - iv. Jeremiah's prophecy is that Israel will be in captivity for 70 yrs.
 1. 70yr captivity was based upon Israel's history of disobedience.
 2. **(PP) 2nd Chronicles 36.20**: *"Those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept the Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years."*
 3. God gives to us the reason for the 70yr captivity
 - a. They disobeyed & didn't let the land to rest in the 7th year
 - b. God says, "You owe me 70 years,"
 - c. Implies that for 490 years Israel had been disobedient & had not kept this 7th year land thing.

4. So, here's Daniel, he's reading Jeremiah and he says,
 - a. "The 70-year captivity based upon 490 years of disobedience is almost up."
 - b. He hits the ground, & he starts praying
 - c. Then he gets further revelation in answer to his prayer from the angel Gabriel, saying,
 - d. "I want to tell you about another period of time coming up even more significant than the 70yr captivity you're in."
 - e. 70 weeks... 70 7's, are determined upon your people."
5. And I believe it refers to 70 sets of 7 years,
 - a. Jewish commentaries say that.
 - b. The Mishnah says that.
 - c. The NRSV says "seventy weeks of years."
 - d. The NCV says, "God has ordained 490 years."
 - e. So we're dealing with a specific time period of 490 years.
- d. Clear as MUD? ☺ // 3 General things:
 - i. This is an answer to Daniel's prayer
 - ii. This is to and for the Jewish people
 - iii. This is a specific time table

4. Specifically

- a. Look again at v24 (won't read it again for the sake of time)
 - i. (PP) ²⁴ *"A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place."*
 - ii. It's a very complex but highly accurate verse of Scripture.
- b. There are 6 things that will be fulfilled during this cut-out period of time that we're dealing with—70 sets of 7... 490 years.
- c. I believe the 1st three, have been fulfilled in the 1st coming of Jesus
 - i. The 2nd three will be fulfilled at the 2nd coming of Jesus.
 1. The 1st 3 are negative, they deal with sin
 2. The next 3 are positive, they deal with the kingdom.
 - ii. The 1st three: *to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt,*
 1. That's what Jesus was all about.
 2. He came to fix the sin problem.
 3. *"There's no other name given under heaven among men by which we must be saved,"* said Peter.
 4. He came to deal with sin on the cross, to make atonement for it.

- iii. (PP) *If our greatest need would have been information, or technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need would have been for money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need would be for pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our **greatest need** was for **forgiveness**, and so he sent us a **Savior**.*
- iv. That's why Jesus came, and these 3 things, I believe, have been fulfilled at the 1st coming.
- d. (PP) But notice the next three, they haven't been fulfilled.
 - i. "To bring in everlasting righteousness"
 - 1. That's how I'd describe the world scene right now, right? ☺
 - 2. But, it will be; Rev 19, Jesus comes from heaven to earth the 2nd time & He enforces righteousness on the earth.
 - 3. He rules with a rod of iron.
 - ii. Then, "to confirm the prophetic vision,"
 - 1. To complete all of the predictions made in the OT & NT
 - 2. A lot of which we're still waiting to have fulfilled.
 - iii. "And to anoint the Most Holy";
 - 1. In Hebrew it means the *Holy of Holies*, literally.
 - 2. And it almost always refers to the temple.
 - a. And I believe it's a reference to Ezekiel 40-46
 - b. Which speak of a future millennial temple that is coming.
- e. So what's the thrust of what we want to glean specifically from this text?
 - i. There is period of 490 yrs in which 6 things must be completed.
 - ii. Got it? ☺
- 5. **Messiancially** (stand, 4 ppl, this is gonna be good, be like Dan, pay attention) ☺
 - a. (PP) Let's look at verse ²⁵ "Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.
 - b. (PP) ²⁶ After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end."
²⁷ The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.
 - c. This is one of the greatest prophecies in all of Scripture.

- i. It tells us that there'll be 69 periods of 7 at the end of which Messiah will show up and will die.
- ii. "The Anointed One will be killed," it says
- d. In other words, "Daniel, there's going to come a commandment that says you can go back and restore and rebuild Jerusalem, and from that command until the Messiah there will be 69 sevens, or 483 years."
- e. So, did you notice there's three periods of this, three periods?
 - i. Period #1:
 - 1. Seven 7's, that's 49 years.
 - 2. During that time the city of Jerusalem, including the streets, the walls, will be built up in the temple.
 - ii. Period #2:
 - 1. 62 7's or 434 years.
 - 2. At that time Messiah will come, Messiah will die, the city of Jerusalem will be attacked, leveled, destroyed.
 - iii. Period #3:
 - 1. There's one 7: seven years.
 - 2. A pact will be enacted according to verse 27, & in the middle of that 7yr period, that will be broken.
- f. When does all this begin?
 - i. When does the timetable that the angel gives to Daniel, when does it start? Notice what it says, verse 25, "*from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem*"—stop there.
 - ii. There were 4 commands for the Jews to go back to Jerusalem.
 - 1. 3 of them are seen in the book of Ezra.
 - 2. None of those 3 talk about rebuilding the city; they all talk about rebuilding the temple.
 - iii. The only one that fits this prediction is the one in Nehemiah 2.
 - 1. Remember Nehemiah's story?
 - 2. He heard that Jerusalem was devastated, the walls were broken down, the gates were burned with fire, and he goes to the king and he says, "Let me go back and rebuild my city."
 - 3. So, Nehemiah goes back & builds the streets, walls, & temple.
 - a. By the way, it took 49 years to accomplish that.
 - b. So, that specifically was predicted. (that 1st period)
- g. Here's an AMAZING thing... we know who gave the command, and we know exactly when the command was given.
 - i. On March 14, 445 BC the Persian monarch Artaxerxes Longimanus gave the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem.

- ii. That should mean that I'm able to count from March 14, 445 BC, forward 483 years, or 69 sets of 7yrs, & arrive at the time when the Messiah shows up.
- h. There's a great book out, by Sir Robert Anderson called *The Coming Prince*.
 - i. He was the head of criminal investigation for Scotland Yard.
 - ii. The queen knighted him for his work.
 - iii. His book of calculations is based upon Daniel's prophecy.
 - 1. He checked all his dates with the Royal Observatory in London
 - 2. And he calculated 483 years from March 14, 445 BC in days.
 - iv. He said that it was equal to 173,880 days.
 - 1. So he began counting from March 14, 445 BC,
 - 2. "One, two, three—hundred— thousand—173,880 days."
 - 3. And he arrived at the end of that with this date:
 - 4. April 6—listen—AD 32.
- i. Here's the question, what happened on April 6, AD 32?
 - i. Well, it was in the Jewish calendar the 10th of the month Nissan.
 - 1. That was the day that the lambs were selected by the families to be given a few days later as a Passover sacrifice.
 - 2. On that day April 6, AD 32, exactly 173,880 days after March 14, 445 BC,
 - ii. Jesus ascended the Mount of Olives
 - 1. Stopped, and he said to his disciples, "Hey, get me a donkey."
 - 2. Not b/c he was just, like, into donkey rides ☺
 - 3. He was fulfilling Zech 9, "*Behold, Jerusalem, your King is coming to you on a donkey.*"
 - 4. As he was riding that donkey the crowds were shouting,
 - a. "*Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*"
 - b. And he is presenting himself as the Lamb to the nation.
 - c. By the way, kings in ancient times
 - i. In times of peace rode on a donkey
 - ii. In times of war they chose a horse.
 - d. Puts Rev 19 into context as Jesus comes back on a horse.
 - i. He came on a donkey the 1st time
 - ii. Coming on a horse the 2nd time.
 - iii. He came in peace the 1st time
 - iv. He comes to enforce righteousness the 2nd time.
 - iii. As he's coming down, he stops, and he does something very unusual.
 - 1. He breaks down & audibly weeps in over the city of Jerusalem.
 - 2. I'll read you that account out of Luke 19.

3. It's mentioned by all of the Gospels in some form or fashion.
"Now, as he drew near, he saw the city and he wept over it, saying, 'now, listen carefully, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.' "
4. *"If you had only known, in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."*
5. He continues, *"For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, and surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another."*
 - a. He's predicting what will happen in AD 70, a few years from that time when the Romans will come in and decimate the city.
 - b. But listen to how he closes it, *"Because you did not know the time of your visitation."*
- iv. What is Jesus saying?
 1. He's saying in other words, "You should've known, but —you didn't; you refused to see it."
 2. And he predicts the fall of Jerusalem
- v. But there's more—it says in verse 26 of Daniel, chapter 9, *"After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing,"—*
 1. The Hebrew word for killed means to kill by piercing.
 2. Interesting.
- vi. V26 continues: *and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.*
 1. Now, we don't have to guess what that is.
 2. We know from history in AD 70
 - a. That Titus Vespasian the Roman general sacked Jerusalem
 - b. Killing over 1million Jews
 - c. Starving out within the city 100,000 Jews.
 - d. Josephus says they were so desperate within that city that parents began to eat their own babies.
 3. Horrible, horrifying, predicted.
- j. One last thing about the Messianic implications of this text
 - i. When Daniel wrote , there was no temple in Jerusalem
 1. It had been burned by the Babylonians.

- 2. But he's predicting things that'll happen after a temple is rebuilt
 - a. Messiah will come
 - b. Messiah will die
 - c. The city and the temple will be destroyed...
- ii. This means according to the Jewish prophet Daniel that the ONLY time in which the Jewish Messiah could arrive on the scene is sometime before AD 70.
- iii. That's a powerful piece of witnessing material for your Jewish friends.
- k. What's important to remember Messianically
 - i. This could only be talking about the historical character Jesus of Naz
 - ii. And it's CREEPY, GOOSE-BUMPY, POWERFUL!!!
- l. (**PP**) Considered: generally, specifically, messianically

6. **Futuristically**

- a. There is still something of the Daniel 9 prophecy that has yet to happen.
- b. (**PP**) It's in v27, for the sake of time I will not read it again.
- c. But, in verse 27 we're dealing with that final 7-year period which is somewhere in the future toward the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.
- d. You say, "Well, how do you know that?"
 - i. Look at what we've learned this morning.
 - ii. Remember the list of the 6 things that have to be accomplished during this period.
 - 1. Have they been done yet?
 - 2. Is there everlasting righteousness?
 - 3. Have all the prophecies of the OT & NT been fulfilled?
 - 4. Is there a temple in Jerusalem that is anointed and dedicated?
- e. No, those things haven't been done.
 - i. So, we're dealing with now 69 sets of 7's, 483 years fulfilled.
 - ii. Now, there is this huge, long gap in time... the time we are living in now, called the church age.
 - iii. And at some point in the future the calendar kicks off again with that last 7-year period.
- f. That's implied even in the text.
 - i. After the 69th week, then the Messiah will be cut off
 - 1. Not during it, but... Afterwards.
 - 2. It implies a gap... It implies a stopping of the time watch.
 - ii. And then at the last 7-year period there's going to be some pact, some covenant broken in the midst of that covenant, 3 ½ years.
 - iii. And when it's all done there will be everlasting righteousness...
- g. Jesus himself in Matthew 24 looking into the future said this,

- i. *"And when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' as spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, you who are in Judea flee to the mountains. For then there will come great tribulation, such has never been before on earth, from the beginning even till now, nor ever shall be."* And he continues to talk and then he says, *"You will see the Son of Man coming in power and great glory."*
 - 1. That has not happened yet.
 - 2. We are waiting for that; that is yet future.
- h. So, we're dealing here with a future 7-year time called Daniel's 70th Week.
 - i. In between the 69th & 70th, it's us, it's the church
 - ii. God reaching out to the world thru the grace & mercy of Jesus Christ.
 - iii. But at some time in the future there will be a 7-year tribulation period where this time-table kicks up again.¹

Conclusion:

- 1. WOW! Daniel 9, we're given a POWERFUL prophecy.
- 2. When we consider all of the
 - a. General & Specific Implications
 - b. Messianic & Futuristic Implications of this AMAZING text
- 3. Overwhelmed
 - a. Grandeur of God!
 - b. REALNESS of the historicity and accuracy and reliability of our FAITH.
 - i. This isn't just about SPIRITUAL truths
 - ii. But SPIRITUAL truths that are TRUE b/c it's rooted in HISTORICAL, SENSIBLE, VERIFIABLE truth.
 - c. Jesus doesn't bypass the mind to reach the heart, He can and will supersede it, but never bypass it.
 - d. He's GOOD!
 - e. This leads us to be able to
- 4. (PP) live **SELF CONTROLLED** because we know & trust that
- 5. (PP) **GOD** is **IN CONTROL**

Application: How does this apply to us as 21st cent Amer. Christians?

- a. In too many ways to number...
 - b. But here are few things I'd say...
2. **#1 PRAY**
- a. Remember, this is an answer to prayer.
 - b. This is what happens when you pray.
 - i. He's reading something

¹ I am DEEPLY indebted to Pastor Skip Heitzing and his teaching on this passage. Most of this content is directly derived from his notes:
http://skipheitzig.com/teachings_view.asp?ServiceID=2483&transcript=1#transcript

- ii. He prays about it
- iii. Now he understands more than ever before.
- c. You know, Daniel's prayer, though it looks long to read
 - i. Only takes 3 minutes to read, 3 minutes.
 - ii. Have you ever gotten up in the morning and say, "I don't have much time to pray; I've only got 5 minutes"?
 - iii. "Okay." "Well, that's not long enough."
 - iv. "Why?"
 - v. "Well, b/c if I was really spiritual I'd pray for 3hrs like Matt Parenzan does." ☺
- d. Just take those 5 minutes; this was 3 minutes.
 - i. He didn't even finish the prayer
 - ii. Didn't even say amen
 - iii. And he got more than he could handle.
 - iv. Use that time and engage with God—prayer.
- e. What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
And what a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
- f. Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

3. #2 PROVIDENCE

- a. Ever heard that term, "the providence of God"?
 - i. God moves history,
 - ii. God moves circumstances—supernaturally; naturally
 - iii. Using the natural world.
- b. The best definition I've ever heard of providence is "*it's the hand of God in the glove of circumstance.*"
- c. God moves the players of history on his chessboard to get his will done.
 - i. So people like Titus, Vespasian, Artaxerxes , Cyrus...
 - 1. They might be powerful rulers
 - 2. But they're pawns on God's chessboard.
 - 3. He moves them around to get his stuff done.
 - ii. He's in charge here.
- d. Prayer, providence...

4. #3 PRECISION

- a. I have a question for you:

- i. The God who can make these kind of accurate, precise predictions about the Jewish people and the coming of the Messiah...
 - 1. Can you trust your life to him?
 - 2. Will you entrust your future, your family, your ambitions to this kind of precise God?
- ii. That's what he's calling us to do.
- b. Heard a story this week
 - i. About a father who came home from work just bone tired, and he just dreamed of just reading for an hour, chilling for an hour.
 - ii. Kicked his shoes off, grabbed the ipad, sat in his big easy chair, pulled it back, and sighed.
 - iii. Just then his five-year-old boy came bounding out of the bedroom and said, "Daddy, let's play!"
 - iv. Last thing he wanted to do was play.
 - v. So, he had to figure out something, and he thought very quickly.
 - vi. He found an old magazine laying around,
 - 1. And it had a full-page ad showing a big picture of the earth.
 - 2. So, dad gets scissors, cuts the earth up in little puzzle pieces.
 - 3. Gives the handful of the cut pieces to his son with tape, and he says, "Go put this puzzle together.
 - 4. Put all the earth back together, and when you're done with that game, then come back and we'll play."
 - vii. Dad thinks, "What, I got 30 minutes, 1 hour?"
 - 1. 5 minutes—son is back, earth beautifully taped together
 - 2. Dad says, "How did you do it so quickly?"
 - 3. Boy says, "Easy, on the back is a picture of a man, and when I put the man together, the whole world came together."
 - viii. When you get Jesus Christ right, the whole world comes together.
- c. So, we're sort of left in the position of that little boy holding the pieces of the puzzle.
 - i. You put the man together, the whole world comes together.
 - ii. You put Jesus Christ in his proper place in your life, you entrust your life into the hands of this precise God who gave His Son to die on cross for you, and your whole world will come together.

Exhortation & Response:

- 1. Trust in Jesus
- 2. Know that He's in Control!