

I. Intro

- A. Text: **Dan. 6:10-11**
- B. David (Recap)

The Lord takes seriously the vows made to Him by a teenager. **Psalm 132:6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah (Bethlehem); we found it in the fields of the woods** (David's vow in Psalm 132 to be restless until he found a place for God to rest in corporate communion with His people began, at least in seed form, during his teenage years in Bethlehem) one of the most fundamental things that would carry David's heart through the seasons of life, He actually learned as a teenager: to be faithful in **"hiddenness"**, to meet with God in "smallness" – **1 Samuel 16:8-19 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."** **Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."**

II. Daniel

When we approach the book of Daniel, we see in just 12 short chapters, stories of unwavering boldness and courage (the fiery furnace and the lion's den). We see a story of young Jewish men who, although they and their families were taken as captives to Babylon, thrived in a foreign land, in a land filled with idols; they walked out the purposes of God in their lives even while in the "enemy's camp." We see Daniel's powerful witness of the God of Israel before Kings as he interpreted their dreams. We see in the book of Daniel, some of the weightiest end-time prophetic visions in all of Scripture! Daniel's visions are absolutely indispensable to understanding the book of Revelation and the end time picture.

- A. What we don't see, at least not at a glance, is that the events at the beginning of the book of Daniel were in his teen and young adult years. The visions Daniel received at the end of the book were in his 80's!
- B. The question that I want to ask this morning is "what gave Daniel vision and fuel for the journey with all of its valleys and mountains, all of its challenges and victories? What prepared Daniel's heart to possess the single greatest quality one can have in their walk with God: **Faithfulness**. And how did he get rooted to stay faithful through trial and testing, through disappointment, and through the unknown that lied ahead of him in the journey?"

- III. The first thing that I want to draw from the concept of life's journey in the book of Daniel is this: **get vision for a life of impact not just a season of impact.**

- A. All I want is a life of kingdom impact, I don't want a season of outward success that is fleeting.
- B. Don't give in to the inward pressure to feel like you have to make a lifetime of impact in only a few short months or years. Daniel's "highlight reel" in this book is taken from an over 60 year span. When we stand before God, what we bring with us into the age to come is the testimony of our love for Jesus in this age, our faithfulness to Him, and our history with Him. God is writing a beautifully compelling story about your life, not a momentarily inspiring blog.

IV. The next thing I want to draw from Daniel is Eternal Perspective.

- A. Start from the end and work backward.
- B. The majority of what Holy Spirit is working within us we go mostly unaware of. The glory of that reality is this; it's not up to you to get you to the finish line (**Phil 2:13, Jude 24**)

V. I want to look at three things from Daniel that are critical for sustaining vision and faithfulness in the hour we are living in.

- A. **Fasted Lifestyle**

It is essential that we purpose now to live a sermon on the mount lifestyle, a fasted lifestyle so that we cultivate a heart that isn't allured by other lovers and lesser pleasures.

- Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- B. **Prioritized Prayer Life**

The decree of the land to not pray to any god or petition anyone but the king was only for 30 days. Would we be bothered at all by going 30 days without meeting God in the place of prayer?

- Daniel 6:10-11 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

If we are to navigate the coming storm we must be found praying. If we make prayer our custom *now*, we will be found praying *then!*

C. The Knowledge of God (and of His end time plan)

We must know God intimately so that the lies of the enemy cannot impugn His character or His goodness to us. The knowledge of God is the gold that we must dig for in the word. Of all the problems in the world none bears down upon man with more weight than this one; have we come to know the God who made us for Himself?

To know the heart of God in bridal partnership means that we also must seek to know His ways and His plan for the end of the age. We should not say, "I want to know You, but I'm disinterested in what You're doing."

- Daniel 11:32-35 "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*. "And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet *for many days* they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering...."And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify *them*, and make *them* white, *until* the time of the end; because *it is* still for the appointed time.

Daniel 10:14-15 "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision *refers to many days yet to come*." When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

Searching out the topic of the end times is not just an endeavor of intrigue. It is a deeply pastoral and personal quest. It has to do with the destiny and inheritance of families, cities, nations, the Church, and Israel. Not all of the results are inevitable God has invited us into real bridal partnership by which we can affect the outcome of many things.