

The Sovereignty of God Over All Nations

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Daniel 1:1-12:13
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We get to do an overview this morning of the book of Daniel, and Daniel is about the sovereignty of God over all nations, the sovereignty of God over all nations. My name is Dave Jordan. I'm a pastor in Purcellville, Virginia, of Grace Bible Church, and my wife and I and three children live there. Another little-known fact in an addition to what Kyle said is that I used to be at the same church as Dale in San Clemente many years ago and we didn't even know each other. So God has been overlapping our time together for many years.

I have to tell you; Daniel stands out as a masterpiece in scripture. I've had the privilege of preaching through every book of the Bible, doing an overview of every book of the Bible that is, and I would say Daniel is unmatched in two ways. One, it's unmatched in displaying the sovereignty of God over all the nations and over all people. Then in addition, it just has these amazing prophetic visions and stories and just how God is involved in every single detail of life. So I think you are really going to enjoy the men preaching through Daniel over the next few months. Through it all, we're going to learn how to trust God like Daniel did. If you're like me, you want to trust God more and more and more. So I think we're going to see that in Daniel.

So imagine with me, if you will, a time in history where the culture just goes crazy. Think really hard about some time, somewhere where the culture goes off the chain. The leaders are off the chain, not all of them, but the majority of them, and things just get out of control. The vast majority of people say one thing and then do the opposite. They do another. Some people even deny God who gives them breath. They deny that he exists and they get really upset with those who claim God exists.

Now, you might know of a time in history like that, but I'm speaking of 2,600 years ago in Daniel's time. That's about the time when the events took place, and I'll go over that in a minute, but I think we're really going to see God coming through in spite of all of the things going on, and then we're going to see how God is directing everything as well. So if you would, would you please stand with me as I read the word of God from Daniel 1:1 if you're able?

Start at the ESV Daniel 1:1, "In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it and the Lord gave Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into his hand with some of the vessels of the house of God, and he brought them to the land of Shinar to the house of his God and placed the vessels in the treasury of his God." Verse 3, "Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful and all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding, learning and

competent to stand in the king's palace and to teach them the literature and the language of the Chaldeans."

Verse 5, "The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years and at the end of that time, they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah of the tribe of Judah and the chief of the eunuchs gave them names. Daniel, he called Belteshazzar. Hananiah, he called Shadrach. Mishael, he called Meshach, and Azariah, he called Abednego." Thank you. You may be seated.

Besides being a magnificent list of future baby names, we meet most of the people throughout the book of Daniel in this. We learn the setting. We learn many things about what these youths are supposed to do, and they're supposed to teach not their culture and not about their God. They're supposed to learn the Babylonian culture and teach that culture. That's what these young men from Judah are supposed to do. In fact, speaking of the scope of the book, you can look in verse 21 there of chapter 1, and you see Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Now, park that name in your mind, King Cyrus. That's going to be significant all throughout this series of Daniel. Daniel is going to serve King Cyrus at the end of his life. That's actually chapter 6 where we see the lions' den. Just a question, how old do you think Daniel was when he got tossed to the lions? Well, he was about 80 to 85 years old at that time. He was no young spring chicken. He was an older person. Let's just apply this right now so that we don't get off on the track thinking that Daniel is just going to be a bunch of facts today.

No matter what your age is, God can use you in magnificent ways. If you're wearing a gray crown of glory this morning, God can use you. If you're 12 years old or 15 or 16 or 18, God can use you and what we need to do is to look at Daniel and say, "How was Daniel submissive to God, submissive to God's plan? How did he know and understand God's word and how did that protect him in life?" You're going to see that from Daniel as a teenager in great power, all the way until he's an elderly man and he's going to consistently... With a man of great integrity, he's going to consistently follow God.

Well, to understand Daniel, I'm going to do an overview this morning. I'm going to tackle it in three sections, kind of like Pastor Jon did through the book of John, and the first is going to be introductory matters. So all the Bible nerds out there, you're going to love this message. The rest of you are going to just take notes, get your fingers ready. There's going to be lots of details and stuff, so just get ready for that. The second thing is going to be the major themes, and then after that, the chapter overview. So let's get after it this morning.

Section one, Introductory Matters. *Who Was the Author of Daniel? Daniel*, right. It's not a trick question, but where does it say that? You look in there, you're like, "Well, Paul always said 'I, Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God to the saints at...'" Right? Well, we don't see that here. So one way we know this is written by Daniel is later in chapters 7-12 where we see this phrase, "I, Daniel... I, Daniel did this. I, Daniel went here. I, Daniel was brought before the

king." So we know that the narrator, the person telling the story is actually the person who wrote it.

In addition, we learn other things about Daniel. Jesus believed Daniel was a real person. Jesus believed Daniel was a prophet, and Jesus actually quoted from Daniel in Matthew 24:15. He says, "When you see or hear about the abomination of desolations spoken of by the prophet Daniel," you know what that does for us? That tells us that Jesus thinks the book of Daniel is the word of God. That these words that we have before us today are truly from a man who was a prophet, who spoke the very words of God. We have the written word of God here. That's encouraging.

Daniel is hundreds of years before Christ, and now we have Jesus who is bringing what we call attestation or verification of this book. It's not just some collection. So if you believe what Jesus said, then you have to believe Daniel. You can't throw out one and keep the other, these two have to be in tandem and you're going to see lots of cross sections that are going to actually bring together the entire Bible just by studying Daniel, and I'll show you that hopefully a little bit this morning.

Well, Daniel wasn't the only prophet alive during that time. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk and Zephaniah were also alive. Daniel was a prophet who served under four different kings and two kingdoms. He served under King Nebuchadnezzar. That's chapters 1-4. Then he served under his son, Belshazzar, maybe grandson, but son. Belshazzar, who was more wicked than his father whom God made eat grass. So you can just imagine what his son was like. Then after him comes Darius, who was a pretty good guy, but he was full of himself because he told people, "Don't pray to anyone," but who? "But me." So he had to throw his friend at the lions. Not the best king.

Then King Cyrus, who then by decree of God moving in his heart, sends the Israelites back to the promised land. So Daniel had this big section of kings, and why this is important is that if you just pick out one Old Testament prophet who wrote about these kings, specifically Isaiah picks out King Cyrus. 150 years before King Cyrus was even born, the prophet Isaiah is saying that there's going to be a king who is going to open doors for God's people to return. So we have prophecy, prophecy from 700 B.C. Prophecy that connects all the way to the gospels, prophecy that connects to Daniel's time and here's the thing, now we're starting to stretch back into some more books.

So you got Isaiah, Daniel, the gospels, and all these are starting to point to the same truth. It's amazing because God wants to verify his word to us and when you connect these prophecies together that the pastors will explain in detail, you realize the Bible is simply miraculous. A little bit more about Daniel. He was taken from his homeland in Judah as a teenager. He was forced to learn the culture, all those things you saw in chapter 1 in the Babylonian way, and he outlasted unhinged kings. He was unmatched in the power that was given to him, even as a teenager. He was maybe 18 when he was second in command of the most powerful nation on the planet. All this should make us stand in awe, not of Daniel, but of Daniel's God. God can use anyone and

you may have come here this morning wondering, "Can God do anything in your life? Can God use you?" If you're breathing, God can use you. God can use you.

So the Author is Daniel from the Tribe of Judah. So where's the *Location of Events*? Where was it written? Well, it was written in *Babylon* and Babylon is in modern day Iraq. So this is across the Syrian Desert, about 600 miles east of Jerusalem as the crow flies is Iraq. And ancient Babylon, which you can look up on your Google Maps and you can look around at the land today, is about 70 miles south of Baghdad.

Now, this is important. Do you remember the rivers that were named in Genesis? Well, two of those were the Tigris and Euphrates and here we have the Euphrates River going by Iraq, going right by Baghdad, going right by ancient Babylon and the Euphrates is about 1,740 miles long. It's a long river. Turkey, Syria, Iraq, very long. You say, "That's really neat. Why do we care?" Right? Okay, so here's why you care. In Revelation, before Armageddon, there's a river named Euphrates that is going to be purposefully backed up and once that happens, that might just be the trigger that launches Armageddon. Okay? So Daniel, Iraq, that area, it's not going away in the history of mankind. It is going to come on the scene again. So it's going to play a significant role in our future.

So when do all these things happen? Well, the *Date is around 650 B.C to 530 B.C.* About 605 B.C. to 530 B.C. Daniel probably wrote these things around the end of his life, but he's in the first wave of deportations that happened in the land of Judah. Okay? So Judah's in the south by modern-day Jerusalem. You have Judah and Benjamin. The northern 10 tribes had all been taken captive already, and Nebuchadnezzar conquers them, conquers Judah as well and deports them and you can read about their return in other books later like Nehemiah. So this is a long history, but it all begins here.

So we ask the question, why? Why does this happen? That's really the question we want to know many times in life, isn't it? "Why, God? I worked for this job. Now it's gone. Unjustly. Lord God, I just became good friends with this person and now we're arguing, now we're having a terrible time. Lord God, why is my marriage going so poorly right now? Why?" We are always asking why? Like Job. Job wanted to know why. His friends thought they knew why. They were wrong, of course and Job never learned why, but in Daniel, we learned the why. We learned why all of this happened.

Turn into chapter 9:11. We read this, "All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside." As a nation, as a people group, a chosen people called out for God's name, they had transgressed the law of God. What does that tell us about you and me and our relationship with God? That God cares how you live. Just because you are saved and are born again by the grace of God, you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you believe that he died for your sins, rose again according to the scripture and is seated at the right hand of God that doesn't give us a license to sin and there's this guy, this good friend of mine named John Benzinger, and he preached a sermon series on Galatians that talks about how we're no longer under the law, but now we're under grace, and yet that still doesn't give us a license to sin.

The Israelites thought they were good. "We've got Abraham as our father." You can hear it all throughout the New Testament too. They still didn't get it. Galatians 5:24 says this though, "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." If you belong to Jesus Christ, you're not trying to crucify the flesh. You're not considering thinking about doing it one day. You already have. See, when you submit yourself to Jesus Christ, he gives you the grace and the mercy to crucify the flesh. He gives you a new nature. He changes you. Your desires become for Christ, your passions become for Christ and while you may have played a sport before and you still play a sport, now the sport is secondary. The hobby is secondary. Everything in life is secondary to knowing and loving Jesus Christ, right? We want to know, love and serve Jesus. That has to be and remain supreme all the time.

The Jews didn't get it. They were warned by Isaiah. They were warned by Jeremiah. They were even warned by Moses back in the book of Deuteronomy in chapter 28, but they ignored all that. They ignored all that. So God sends another nation to judge them. Does that stick? Does that match with your theology? That God's the one who did that? That God is the one who sent a foreign nation that doesn't believe in him, doesn't serve him, to conquer, take over and deport his own people?

You see, God is not a tame God and he will not be trifled with. When he calls us to be holy, even though he gives us the grace and strength to live for him, when we ignore that, he steps in and tries to course correct for us. So far, we've considered the who, the where, the when, and the why? This takes us to our next section, the what? That's our major themes here. The first theme that we should consider is ***God's Sovereignty Over All the Nations***, right? It's just all throughout. So we see this theme and it's the major theme. So turn back with me if you would, to Daniel 1:2, and you thought we were making progress. Go back to verse 2.

Who gave the king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar? The Lord. The Lord did. See, we just think, "All I get from God is just good things," and we don't understand how when life comes upon us, that it is a mercy of God to chastise us, to discipline us, to bring us back to him. The Lord says he disciplines those whom he loves. He doesn't just do punishment for no reason. He wants to woo us and to bring us back and if so, be it, he's going to use any and all means to do that.

So who was this Nebuchadnezzar? Well, let's just say he was an egomaniac with all the power to back it up. Okay? Daniel says he killed whom he willed and he kept alive whom he willed. That's Daniel's boss. You thought you had a bad boss, right, and I know if you're laughing a lot, you think that, right? But his boss killed people just because he didn't like them. So in chapter 2, we learn that his boss has a request. He has this frightening dream. Maybe you've had a dream that's just really scary and you don't know what it means and you don't know what it's about. Maybe even wake up thinking you're saying something and it comes out as gibberish and scares whoever's in the room. The king has one of those dreams and he says, "Tell me what it means or die?" So he brings in the Chaldeans. They're the astrologers. He brings them in. He brings the

wise men in and he says, "Tell me what the dream means?" They say, "No problem, king. Nebby, we got you. Just tell us the dream and we'll tell you what it means."

Well, he knows that they're all a bunch of liars. So he says, "Oh no, I know what you are and I know who you are. You have to go home and have the dream yourself and then come and tell us what it means." "Now we've got a problem, king, because no one among flesh can do that. Only that wisdom is among the gods." Now you've got a pagan nation with a pagan king and all of his wise men recognizing that there is wisdom beyond them. You see how God did that? We think, wow, this person or that person, they're never going to understand the wisdom of God or to know the power of God, and yet God has done this over and over again throughout history. So of course, Daniel, God gives him the dream and he understands its interpretation.

Turn to Daniel 2:19, if you would. So Daniel was not born with the ability to interpret dreams. This is all new for him. So he goes back and he says, "Hey fellas, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we got to pray. We're in dire straits here. Pray that God gives me the dream and the interpretation," and that happens and here's his response. "Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel." Daniel 2:19. "It was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night." That is a vision is a vivid illustration. It looks like a story that's happening in real life, but you're dreaming. "Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven, and Daniel answered and said, 'Blessed be the name of God forever and ever to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons. He removes kings and sets up kings and he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.'" Did you hear the sovereignty of God in Daniel's prayer?

Daniel's not saying, "Oh Lord God, thank you. You spared my life." His prayers are all about God. "Look what God is doing. Look what God is bringing about in the world," and he's praising God while he's still in Babylon. God changes the times. God changes the seasons. God sets up kings and God removes kings. Now, when you think about all the kings of the world, it's a little confusing like, "Lord, why would you let this king of that nation be in power?" But yet Daniel said, "God is the one who does that."

Now, you may think, hey, we should just go seek visions and dreams, right? Well, no, we're given the more sure word, which is called the prophetic word in Second Peter 1:19. So we don't go, see, Daniel did it, so I'm going to try it. Don't do that. Don't go jump in the zoo cage. Okay? So we don't live like that. So Second Peter 1:19 says this, "And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention." God even tells us where our attention should be, "As to a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Knowing this, first of all, that no prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation." Wouldn't that shut a lot of TikTok accounts down? "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

You see, we pay attention to what God wrote and that gives us all the direction we need. The Holy Spirit illuminates our minds and hearts to understand it. If you don't understand scripture, you pray and you ask God, "Please help me to understand," because it's a grace and mercy that

God brings. So over and over again, we're going to see the sovereignty of God come through. Remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Daniel had impeccable timing. He was nowhere around when his buddies were getting tossed into the fiery furnace and remember, they didn't get singed. They didn't even smell like smoke. What do we learn about that, about God's sovereignty?

Listen, no human king can even make God's people smell like smoke without God's permission. Do you see the detail? Do you see how God is in and through all of the details of life, protecting and keeping alive and allowing his people to continually serve him in all of these things? We'll see it in chapter 5 with Belshazzar, his son who has this wicked drunken party and he thinks it's a good idea to go and get the vessels from the temple that they stole and brought over to Babylon, the ones we read about in chapter 1. He says, Hey, let's drink out of those. That would be good. Well, I hate to do this to you, but he didn't really see the writing on the wall. You're going to get that when you reach chapter 5.

So then some fingers of a human hand come and they write on the wall, and of course, no one, once again, can understand it, except Daniel whom God gives wisdom, now they're all thinking, "How are we going to understand this? Then Daniel brings forth the truth and he tells Belshazzar, "You've been weighed and found wanting." That night, God took Belshazzar's life. He used another ruler to come in and he had to have a meeting with God that night.

What do we learn from that? Here's what we learn. We don't want to spend our last day mocking God. We don't want to spend any day mocking God. Some people say, "Oh, well, I'll get saved right before I die." Well, how do you know when that is? We need to be right with God now, and I don't know how many of you are right with God and how many aren't, but I want to encourage you to get right with God right now, to stop trusting in yourself if you don't know God and to trust in his sovereign word. Look in the historicity of Daniel. See the prophecies that come true over the centuries and consider that this book might really be from God and beg God for understanding, that you need to give your life to Jesus Christ, that he sent his son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for your sin so that you might know God. So you might come out of under the wrath of God, that you might be saved from your sin.

You say, "Oh, well, God can't use me. I've done too much." That is a shot at the sufficiency of the cross. Jesus Christ was the perfect willing sacrifice who paid for your sin so that you could know God. You say, "Yeah, dad..." No, "Yeah, Dave," not your dad. "Yeah, Dave. But you're telling me a story about how God's people get deported and you want me to become one of those deported people who God just brings in foreign armies to attack? That doesn't sound like a good deal." Well, let me just tell you why that's a mercy from God. Is it better to spend 70 years deported to Babylon or an eternity in hell? You see, God was after the heart of his people who were rebelling. God doesn't come and just be rude and unkind and mean and just to show that he is in control. He's after their hearts. He's after their hearts. He wants them to come to him. He wants them to know him and later, we'll learn that God is going to move in the heart of King Cyrus to even send his people back into the land.

So the summary so far, that was just the first theme, God's sovereignty over all nations. The second theme is the *Prophecy of Future Kingdoms*, the *Prophecy of Future Kingdoms*. So back to Daniel 2 and old Nebby's dream. Right? He has this dream and this statue and things are crumbling and what happens here is that Daniel comes and explains that this is a prophecy of future kingdoms. So one kingdom is stronger than the one before and comes and takes over, and that's going to occur. What do we see throughout this time of history? We see the Babylonian empire getting conquered by the Medo-Persian empire, and then the Greeks and then the Romans. You've probably heard of the Roman leader, this guy named Alexander the Great.

So Daniel is getting a vision and he's telling these people who don't know God what is going to happen and then he looks into the future past that and interpreting this dream tells about a coming Messiah in chapter 2. In fact, turn to chapter 2:44 who does this sound like? Daniel 2:44, this is after those four kingdoms. "And in the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces, all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever." See, that looks forward to someone who doesn't die. It looks forward to someone who lives forever because their kingdom lives forever, just to say the mortality rate is sticking at 100%, right? Everybody dies at some point. So this person cannot be a normal human. This points to the divine. Simply amazing.

So far, the first theme is God's sovereignty over the nations. The second theme is the prophecy of future kingdoms. And the third theme is why we are here, and that is the *70-year Jewish Exile in Babylon, the 70-year Jewish Exile in Babylon*. I'm just going to summarize this a little bit for you because we've been talking about it as well. But in Daniel 9:2, Daniel says this, "Daniel perceived in the books the number of years that according to the word of the Lord, to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of desolations of Jerusalem, namely 70 years."

So Daniel is connecting what Jeremiah the prophet said. So Daniel thinks Jeremiah, that he should take his prophecy. Literally, that's important. Jesus thought we should take Daniel's prophecy literally, that's important and that this 70 years is a real length of time. Then you go to chapter 9:11, "All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice and the curse and oath that are written in the law of Moses, the servant of God have been poured out on us because we have sinned against him."

So you remember I said it was going to connect all the dots here? So now we're all the way back to Moses, whom Daniel takes literally. He takes Jeremiah literally. He took Isaiah literally because of King Cyrus. Jesus takes Daniel literally and we're going to see in a little bit a connection to Revelation. So you've got almost the totality of scripture coming into play just by these references that are all packed into Daniel.

Now, this takes us to the next section, the chapter overview. Does God have a plan? Is it just, "Israelites bad, need punish, then go back to the land?" Is that the grand plan of God? Well, no. The grand plan of God is called the redemptive plan of mankind. You could say that God created the world, man sinned in the world. Jesus redeems those who are His out of the world. And then

God is going to bring everything under Jesus' feet at the end, the consummation at the end in his return. So this is a grand plan of redemption from start to finish.

Daniel teaches us to trust God no matter what's going on. Remember, start to finish. Even in November of this year when you go to the polls and you have to vote for whoever you think is the best person. Remember, no matter who gets elected, God is in control. It could be for a judgment on a nation, it could be for a blessing on a nation. It could be just to set up the next person. But we have to know that God is in control and he's after something. He's after something.

Well, chapters 1-7 could be called the *Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles*, The *Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles*. The Gentiles are just anyone who aren't Jews, Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Greeks, Romans, anyone who's not a Jew. So this is the plan. It's prophecy about the kingdoms that come through, check history. It happens in that sequence, and it leads to a kingdom that will never end, which is spoken of in Daniel 2. Even in Isaiah 9, he said, Jesus is going to be a light to the Gentiles, right? A light has dawned. So God is going to call the Gentiles to turn to him through Jesus Christ and you're going to see that here.

The second overview that we can notice here is chapters 8-12. So 1-7 is the Gentiles, 8-12 is a *Prophetic Plan for the Jews*. Remember how I said God is after something here? Let me read to you Jeremiah 24:7, and it tells us what God is after. Jeremiah 24:7, it says this, "I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart." See, Christians aren't better than anyone. We are the biggest sinners on the planet, but we just have a great savior who forgives us of all of our sin. It's not that I'm better or smarter than anyone else, it's that God has reached down and by his grace, he has changed my heart and mind. He has drawn me to himself.

Look what it says there in the Old Testament. In Jeremiah 24, "I will give them a heart to know that I'm the Lord." That is God's initiative. That is God's doing, and that is real change in the life of these people, and they're going to see it from their side that they have once turned to him. But God said, "I'm doing the work." See, it's not just about a physical return to Jerusalem. It's about a heart turn. A heart turn is called repentance. Have you repented of your sin? Have you turned from sin to serve Jesus Christ? Our plans are not better than his. Our idea of the world is not better than his. He has sent Jesus Christ to be tortured because of our sin, to pay for that sin. He wants you and your heart, all of it. I just ask you, have you given everything to Jesus Christ?

Well, Daniel is going to give this stirring description as we work to close here of one who's coming. It's in Daniel 10:6. This one who is going to arrive to bring about what God has decreed, this repentance, this turning to God, says one whose face is, "Like the appearance of lightning, eyes like flaming torches and whose words are like the sound of a multitude." You know where that is also repeated, here's where Revelation comes in. Revelation 1:14, the guy who shows up to tell John on the island of Patmos about the visions of the churches through 1-3, and then the tribulation all the way to the end, and the second coming, he also in Revelation 1:14 has eyes that

are like flaming torches. He also has a voice like the sound of rushing multitudes. So there's this connection now all the way to Revelation.

It's almost like God wrote this. I think we are really going to love Daniel. Through it all, I think we will come to realize that God is beyond us. He is more amazing, more wonderful. It is a joy to serve God. We don't hear Daniel complaining ever in any of these circumstances. You see, God is in the heavens and he does what he pleases. He doesn't need our permission, but he wants you to come to him. He wants you to serve him, to know him and to love him. Have you come to the point where Jesus is on the throne of your life? That's what we need to think about.

If not, if you don't know Jesus Christ, I pray that you give your heart and your life to Jesus today. Just tell Him, "Look, I know I'm sinful. I don't know how this works. I don't know how to move forward, but I know I need Jesus and I know I'm guilty of sin. I know I'm not perfect and I need to be forgiven. Lord Jesus, just forgive me." He says, "All who come to me, I will not cast out." If you know God, if Jesus is your Lord and Savior, I pray that the preaching series through Daniel would inspire you to draw closer to our amazing sovereign God. Let's pray.

Father God, I thank you for every single person you brought here today to hear your truth. Lord, help us to love one another. Help us to love those who know you and don't know you. Lord, I just thank you for all that you're doing in the life of this church, and I pray this series as we get into it. This was just a drop in the bucket this morning. I pray this will be a blessing, Lord, to all who hear. In your precious Holy name, Amen.