



The Book of Daniel

Daniel 8

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter Daniel is given a second vision about the events that must take place prior to the coming of the Son of Man. We are left to feel hopeless as the “little horn” seems to overtake God’s presence and people. However, we know that Christ does come and God wins in the end.

DISCUSSION

1. What was your understanding of Daniel 8 (if any) prior to Sunday’s message? Has your view change? Why or why not?
2. What does the striking accuracy of Daniel’s vision say about the power and control of God throughout human history?
3. Daniel’s vision is meant to leave us feeling hopeless. However, the angel who interpreted God’s seeming absence is the same angel who would later announce God’s literal presence in Christ. How does this give us hope today for times when God feels absent in our lives?
4. Many of us struggle with the sins of our past, either sins we’ve committed or sins committed against us. Where does our hope lie in overcoming this struggle?
5. Much of Israel was guilty of abandoning the Law of God for the Law of the Greeks. The Greeks made much less moral demands than the Law of God. Many Christians are often guilty of the same thing. Discuss this quote for Orlando Costas: *[Many Christians are looking for “a conscience soothing Jesus, with an unscandalous cross, an otherworldly kingdom, a private, inwardly limited spirit, a pocket God, a spiritualized Bible, and an escapist church. Its goal is a happy, comfortable, and successful life, obtainable through the forgiveness of an abstract sinfulness by faith in an unhistorical Christ.”*

APPLICATION

Many of us bear the burden of the sins of our past, whether it is sin we committed or sin committed against us. How should biblical community share in this burden and grieve with us, yet with hope?

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another for things drawn out of the discussion