

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

February 1, 2015

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is the Owner of All Things

Job 41:1, 8-11: "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook? Or press down his tongue with a cord?... Lay your hand on him; remember the battle; you will not do it again! Behold, your expectation is false; will you be laid low even at the sight of him? No one is so fierce that he dares to arouse him; who then is he that can stand before Me? Who has given to Me that I should repay *him*? *Whatever* is under the whole heaven is Mine."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Job 1:21

+We Adore Him

Hymn #4, "All Praise To God, Who Reigns Above"

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty God, You are rich in mercy to all who call on You; hear us as we humbly confess our sins. We have allowed higher priorities than You in our lives. We have not fulfilled our vows as we ought. We have used our time selfishly. We have been disrespectful of our superiors. We have tolerated hate and malice in our hearts. We have allowed lust, theft, false witness, and covetousness a place in our lives. For these sins of thought, word, and deed we are deeply sorry and we earnestly repent.

O Lord, grant us cleansing through the blood of Jesus, and resurrection power to offer new obedience. By Your Spirit let grace reign through righteousness in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #81, "O Love Of God"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication Ps. 24:1-6

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #510, "Thou Hidden Source Of Calm Repose"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Job 23:12

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #294, "The Golden Gates Are Lifted Up"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

Sweet and Sober Truths for Bitter Providences, Pt. 11a

Daniel 11-12

Study Notes for February 1, 2015

I. Introduction

Marion Harvie: An Example of the Tribulation Christians Receive in this World

The closing chapters of Daniel were given to prepare us unto that end! Recall...

...God's people were left to ask some difficult questions: How shall we then live? Our God has proven either to be weak, indifferent, uncaring, or just mean... so what now? If the God of Israel is real, what would He have us to do in exile? The Book of Daniel was written to answer these questions NOT just for Daniel's generation, BUT for ours as well!...

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| A. Our God is Great and so Rules Kings and Nations, Dan. 2. |
| B. Our God is Holy and therefore has a Plan that is Beyond our Ability to Understand, Dan. 3. |
| C. Our God Reigns and so Holds the Heart of the King in His Hands, Dan. 4. |
| D. Our God is Jealous and so will not allow Himself- and so the Believer- to be Mocked, Dan. 5. |
| E. God's Way is Infallible and so makes no Mistakes when it Comes to the Child of God, Dan. 6. |
| F. In the End, God's People Win, Dan. 7. |
| G. Until the End, God's Kingdom will Suffer Violence, Dan. 8. |
| H. God is Faithful to His Promises and so His People, Dan. 9:1-19. |
| I. God's Purpose and Plan for all things are Realized in Christ, Dan. 9:20-27! |
| J. There is much More to this Life than Meets the Eye, Dan. 10. |

II. Sweet and Sober Truths for Bitter Providences, Dan. 2-12.

K. Life is a Veil of Tears which God's People Overcome in Christ, Dan. 11-12.

1. A Tumultuous Future, Dan. 10:14, 13; 12:10, 13.

a. The Future for God's People was Anything but Peaceful, Dan. 10:14; 9:26.

Dan. 10:14: Recall that the "vision" referenced here is the content of Dan. 11 & 12 which, as we'll see, details (1) the conflict that would occur between the Seleucid and Ptolemy empires during the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC and (2) the conflict that would occur beyond this involving God's people up to the very end. The thing you must see is that both chapters detail a world of suffering for the people of God...

Dan. 9:25: The Good News

Dan. 9:26-27a: The Bad News

Accordingly, there would come a time in the future when Jerusalem, its temple, and its people once again would be the object of attack. The consequence would be "war and desolation" and the destruction of Jerusalem!

Implication

1. I'd like to say that this was all in the past and that today we have confidence that no bad things ever again would befall or strike the people of God. Yet Scripture speaks to the contrary (Phil. 1:29; Heb. 13:12-14; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jn. 16:33b)...
2. Truly, Life is a Veil of Tears through which we pass as we sojourn on our way to the Promised Land!

b. The Trial/Conflict would Ever and Always be Directed Against God and Christ, Dan. 10:13.

There is a war raging all around us. Consider...

Ezk. 28:15-16

Is. 14:13-14

-I will ascend to heaven

-I will raise my throne above the stars of God

-I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds

-I will make myself like the Most High

Acts 4:26

Rev. 12:4

Mt. 4:1-3

Rev. 12:13

...and so we read of Satan (1) tempting Adam and Eve, Gen. 3. (2) perverting the word of God, Mt. 4, (3) opposing God's work in Zech. 3, (4) hindering God's servants in 1 Thes. 2, (5) hindering the gospel in Mt. 13 and 2 Cor. 4, (6) deceiving the nations, 1 Kng. 22; Rev. 16, 20, (7) walking about as a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, 1 Pet. 5, (8) accusing the brethren, Rev. 12, and (9) holding the power of death, Heb. 2.

Mt. 5:11-12

When we come to Dan. 11-12 we note that the conflict spoken about here concerning the future involved the persecution, tribulation, and conflict of the people of God- because of God!

Implication: Life is a Veil of Tears through which we pass as we sojourn on our way to the Promised Land! But it is so because Satan has it out for God! And because we represent God on earth, we will continue to be in the cross-hairs and so the object of the scorn and hatred of the worldling and their master (cf. 2 Cor. 4:8-9).

c. The Genuine Child of God Most Certainly will Endure in Christ, Dan. 12:10, 13!

Dan. 12:10: Daniel here is talking about the big picture... a picture which can only be gleaned from the word of God and only appreciated by the child of God. Though Satan may rage and the world may fall apart all around us, nevertheless our God reigns and so is bringing to pass His perfect plan in Christ (Rev. 11:15)!

Dan. 12:12: If we "wait on the Lord," though we live in the wilderness and so know the trials and struggles of life, nevertheless we will be "blessed"- which in Hebrew is, "to be envied."

Truly, the picture of the child of God in this life is one of expectation, confidence, joy, and trust! Far from an Eeyore-perspective, the child of God will rejoice in and through all things... for he knows the Lord (2 Tim. 1:12; Rom. 8:37)!

Dan. 12:13: This wasn't just Daniel... this is the hope and promise given to everyone in Christ! That is why Paul could say the things he did in 2 Cor. 4:8-11

Implication

John Newton wrote, "I doubt not, but you will have your share of trials; but when the love of God is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit, it sweetens what bitter things the Lord puts into our cup, and enables us to say, 'None of these things move me!' ... How happy to have such views of God's sovereignty, wisdom, love, and faithfulness as will enable us to meet every painful dispensation with submission, and to look through the changes of the present life to that unchangeable inheritance to which the Lord is leading us, when all evil shall

Marion Harvie wrote on the eve of her execution, "I desire to bless the Lord for my lot... It was but little I knew of Him before I came to prison; but now He has said to me, because He lives, I shall live also... Kind has He been to me since He brought me out to witness for Him... I have found Him in everything that hath come my way, ordering it to Himself for His own glory. And how I bless Him that thoughts of death are not terrible to me. He hath made me as willing to lay down my life for Him as ever I was willing to live in this world." (*The One Year Christian History*, January 26, p. 52)

Marion discovered that to which Daniel testified in our passage this morning: God never takes from us anything that He doesn't fully replace in Christ. It is ours therefore to seek the Lord in all things! If we do, the valley of weeping will become a spring! That is the point of this last section in Daniel and so must be that which we keep in mind as we walk our way through these chapters!