

When the World Gets What It Wants

Daniel 8; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 6-5-2022

Introduction

God will, at times, give sinners what they want so we can see the results. (4, 12; Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6; 21:25; Proverbs 12:15)

I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, *but he did as he pleased* and magnified *himself*. (4)

1. You reap what you sow.

The Fruit of the Godless Society: Deceit and destruction and a trampling tyranny is the fruit of a godless society. (12, 24; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5; Matthew 7:16; Galatians 6:7)

And on account of transgression the host will be given over *to the horn* along with the regular sacrifice; and it will *fling truth to the ground* and perform *its will* and prosper. (12)

“His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power, And *he will destroy to an extraordinary degree* And prosper and perform *his will*; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people. (24)

2. We were made to worship, so someone must fill the void.

The God Void: When the true God is rejected, men who pretend to be God will step in to fill the void. (11, 25; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5; Genesis 3:1-6; Matthew 12:43-45)

It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. (11)

“And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify *himself* in his heart, And he will destroy many while *they are* at ease. *He will even oppose the Prince of princes*, But he will be broken without human agency. (25)

3. History will be repeated.

Repeated Horrors: Horrendous things of the past will be repeated in the future because the nature of man has not changed. (11; Matthew 24:15, 37; Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:15)

It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and *it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.* (11)

4. Darkness precedes the dawn.

Darkness before the Dawn: It will look like Satan has won the victory just before the Seed of the Woman crushes the serpent. (10, 12, 13, 24; Luke 18:1-8; Romans 16:20)

“His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform *his will*; *He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.* “And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; *And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease.* He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But *he will be broken without human agency.* (24-25)

5. If we want no God, we get no good.

No God, No Good: When we demand to live without God, we find out that we have chosen to live without good. (25; Romans 1:22-25; James 1:17)

“And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; *And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease.* He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency. (25)

6. Why is there good in the world?

Indignation Expiration Date: God is defied and dishonored every day, but He is merciful and ready to forgive, until the day of salvation comes to a close. (19; Psalm 7:11; Psalm 86:5; Matthew 5:43-48)

He said, “Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur *at the final period of the indignation*, for *it* pertains to the appointed time of the end. (19)

Conclusion

It all comes down to trusting God and loving people. Hope is trusting God for what He promises in the future even when the present seems to contradict His promises! (15-17; Romans 15:4)

What should this chapter do for us?

- Grieve:* It should sicken us! (27)
- Comfort:* It should remind us of God’s sovereignty over all. (16; Habakkuk 3:16-19)
- Sober:* It should remind us of what sin unrestrained does. (12, 24)
- Warn:* It should remind us of the longsuffering of God in not judging and in warning sinners of the fruit of their ways. (19; Luke 18:9-14)

What do you want?

We can demand that God give us what we think we deserve. Or we can ask God for mercy. God will give us justice (what we deserve), if that’s what we want. God will give us mercy, if that’s what we want (through faith in Jesus)!