

Life Group Notes 11/21/2021 Streamed Week 83  
Pastor Mark Daniel Week 8 Chapter 8

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(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**) The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the second bar. Please enjoy!)

**THANKSGIVING CROWD BREAKER: Look up and read aloud: 1 Thess. 5:18 ...17** Pray without ceasing. **18 Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19** Do not extinguish the Spirit.... **How does this apply to the holiday? What would obedience to these exhortations do to the discussions around the Thanksgiving table in your home? What is the best news you heard this week? —The scribe**

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to fearlessly proclaim the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by Pastor Mark's message from this Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

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**Can you describe the Antichrist? What can you know of him?**

**Look up Matthew 24:15 What can you glean from this?**

**9** Then they will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. **10** At that time many will fall away and will betray and hate one another, **11** and many false prophets will arise and mislead many.

**12** Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. **13** But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. **What can you glean from these verses? What can be said about your own love? What does it take to "persevere to the end"?**

**14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. **What can you glean from this?**

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## **The Abomination of Desolation** ([Mark 13:14–23](#); [Luke 21:20–24](#))

**15**So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination of desolation,' described by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand), **16**then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17**Let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve anything from his house. **18**And let no one in the field return for his cloak. **What can you glean from this?**

**19**How miserable those days will be for pregnant and nursing mothers! **20**Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on the Sabbath. **21**For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again. **22**If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short. **What can you glean from this? What does this warning add for insights? Can you guess what causes the misery? What do you think "saved" means here? Is he talking about salvation? ...or survival?**

**23**At that time, if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There He is!' do not believe it. **24**For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders that would deceive even the elect, if that were possible. **25**See, I have told you in advance. **What can you glean from this? How much of this can you say has already been fulfilled?**

Mark asks, **"Is this just information? Or does this impact my life? How will I be different because of this" Answer his questions?**

**What is the difference between "fascination" and "awareness" when it comes to the Antichrist?**

**1**In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one that had appeared to me earlier. **2**And in the vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa, in the province of Elam. I saw in the vision that I was beside the Ulai Canal. (See the notes on Susa below. Note: this vision is two years after that in the last chapter.)

**3**Then I lifted up my eyes and saw a ram with two horns standing beside the canal. The horns were long, but one was longer than the other, and the longer one grew up later. **4**I saw the ram charging toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and there was no deliverance from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

**5**As I was contemplating all this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came out of the west, crossing the surface of the entire earth without touching the ground. **6**He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and rushed at him with furious power. **7**I saw him approach the ram in a rage against him, and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him, and the goat threw him to the ground and trampled him, and no one could deliver the ram from his power.

**8**Thus the goat became very great, but at the height of his power, his large horn was broken off, and four prominent horns came up in its place, pointing toward the four winds of heaven. **9**From one of these horns a little horn emerged and grew extensively toward the south and the east and toward the Beautiful Land. **10**It grew as high as the host of heaven, and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the earth, and trampled them. **11**It magnified itself, even to the Prince of the host; it removed His daily

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sacrifice and overthrew the place of His sanctuary. [12](#)And in the rebellion, the host and the daily sacrifice were given over to the horn, and it flung truth to the ground and prospered in whatever it did. **Do your best... Interpret the visions before reading on.**

[13](#)Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long until the fulfillment of the vision of the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host to be trampled?"

[14](#)He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be properly restored." **Who is talking? What are they talking about?** (Scribes note: It is permissible and often advisable to say, "I do not know!")

[15](#)While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. [16](#)And I heard the voice of a man calling from between the banks of the Ulai: "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man."

[17](#)As he came near to where I stood, I was terrified and fell facedown.

"Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."

**Why cannot Daniel interpret what he sees? How much help does Gabriel bring?**

[18](#)While he was speaking with me, I fell into a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. **Why is this interesting? Is this why people fall asleep in church, do you think?**

Then he touched me, helped me to my feet, [19](#)and said, "Behold, I will make known to you what will happen in the latter time of wrath, because it concerns the appointed time of the end. **Why can the "time of the end" have a double meaning? Does Jesus' words above confirm a double meaning? Why? Look up 1 John 2:17-19**

[17](#)The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever. [18](#)Children, it is the last hour; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour. [19](#)They went out from us, but they did not belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But their departure made it clear that none of them belonged to us....**How does this put the concept of "antichrist" in focus? Is there a "The Antichrist"? What do we know he will look like? What examples of antichrist have we already had? Why is "The world is passing away with its desires" GOOD NEWS to remember in times like these?**

[20](#)The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. [21](#)The shaggy goat represents the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king. [22](#)The four horns that replaced the broken one represent four kingdoms that will rise from that nation, but will not have the same power. (Alexander's son was born after Alexander died. He was poisoned as he grew and became a threat. His empire was divided among his four generals. This, too, is history.)

[23](#)*In the latter part of their reign, when the rebellion has reached its full measure, an insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne. [24](#)His power will be great, but it will not be his own. He will cause terrible destruction and succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men along with the holy people. [25](#)Through his craft and by his hand, he will cause deceit to prosper, and in his own mind he will make himself great. In a time of peace he will destroy many, and he will even stand against the Prince of princes. **Yet he will be broken off, but not by human hands.*** (These actions are ascribed to Antiochus Epiphanes, descendant of one of Alexander's generals, and tyrant of Judah)

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and Jerusalem who desecrated the temple. ***But how many traits described here in the italicized portion can be attributed to what we are seeing today? Who empowered him? Who is the "Prince of princes?" Who do you suppose Daniel thinks He is? Why is it encouraging to know that "he will be broken off, but not by human hands?"***

***26***The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been spoken is true. Now you must seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future." ***Why "seal up the vision?" Look at Revelation Chapter 10: 3-4: 3*** Then he cried out in a loud voice like the roar of a lion. And when he cried out, the seven thunders sounded their voices. ***4***When the seven thunders had spoken, I was about to put it in writing. But I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

***Why tell us about the thunders and then seal up what they said? Why does God do this? Do you suppose we might know one day?***

***27***I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was confounded by the vision; it was beyond understanding. ***Your reaction to Daniel's reaction? How difficult is this news? What do we learn and how do we prepare? Look up 1 Corinthians 13 4-8*** ***4***Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ***5***It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. ***6***Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. ***7***It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

***8***Love never fails.

***List what you know the Antichrist is not.***

***Look at what Paul says of these days in 1 Thessalonians 5: 1*** Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. ***2***For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ***3***While people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ***What is the warning here? Who is saying "Peace and security?"***

***4***But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief. ***5***For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ***6***So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober. ***7***For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ***8***But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation. ***What encouragement can be gleaned from Paul's words? What armor do we put on here?***

***9***For God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ***10***He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. ***11***Therefore encourage and build one another up, just as you are already doing. ***How important is it that we learn to encourage one another? What happens if we do not?***

***Look up 2 Thessalonians 2: 1*** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you, brothers, ***2***not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has already come. ***3***Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness—the son of destruction—is revealed. ***4***He

will oppose and exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship. So he will seat himself in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

**5**Do you not remember that I told you these things while I was still with you? **6**And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. **7**For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way. **8**And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival.

***Look above at verse 25 above that we just read: "He will be broken off, not with human hands." How does Paul evoke Daniel's prophecy?***

**9**The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, **10**and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them. **11**For this reason God will send them a powerful delusion so that they believe the lie, **12**in order that judgment may come upon all who have disbelieved the truth and delighted in wickedness.

***What has not happened yet? How will we recognize The Antichrist? How will he differ from those who were before him? What signs? Where are "signs and wonders" coming from in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? What is the difference between "follow the signs" and "follow the 'science'"? Who is in control of the "signs"? Who is in control of "the science?" Are those "signs" happening as we speak? Are we being deceived by "the science?"***

***Who is "refusing to love the truth?" Why is that significant?***

***What are we being called to do in these days? How do we protect ourselves from being deceived? Look at the Gifts of the Spirit as Paul lists them in 1 Cor 12. How do they protect us? What are our first steps?***

***How important is it to take time to pray for one another? Do it now.***

***What is your biggest takeaway from this message? What is your next step? –the scribe***

**Scribe's notes:** Not to confuse, but to bring light to history, Daniel is said to have lived from 620 to 538 B.C. The Medo-Persian rule extended until Alexander the Great of Macedonia and the Greeks (the one-horned goat, King of Greece, in the vision) conquered in 331 B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes, one of the four "replacing horns" that came after Alexander was the most evil of the Seleucid antagonists of the Jewish Temple, as Mark described him, and he died in 168 B.C., roughly four hundred years after Daniel.

Susa, not Babylon, is the capital of Persia, home to Darius, Ahasuerus...Esther and Mordecai, among others. The Ulai canal can be found on the north side of a map of ancient Susa.

(Trivial pursuit note, too: The province of Elam is named after a son of Shem, the son of Noah. So is Eber...the father of the Hebrews. Many of the names of the nations of the Middle East Aram (whose language, Aramean, Jesus spoke), Assyria, Egypt (called Mizr in Arabic) are derived from the sons of Noah. These names all go back to Genesis 10.

***What does that tell you of the history of the flood?)***