

Life Group Notes 12/12/2021 Streamed Week 86
Pastor Mark Daniel Week 11 Chapter 11 & 12

(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!)

CROWD BREAKER: 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.**

From last week's notes: A further note on angels: **Look up Matthew 18:10**

10 See that you do not look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven. ...What does this mean? How important are the little ones? What do their angels do? How do we know the innocent are the apple of God's eye?

Look at Psalm 91:11 11 For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Does this give us enough evidence to say we have a guardian angel assigned to us? Or do we see that angels are ministers who are dispatched to help humans in time of need or to deliver important messages?

What are your thoughts? Mark says, "Today we have the Holy Spirit, our covenant companion, who is with us at all times." How comforting is it to know we have ministering angels sent also?

The end and your salvation:

Daniel 11:1 “And I, in the first year of Darius the Mede, stood up to strengthen and protect him.

Why would Daniel do this?

2 Now then, I will tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. By the power of his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece. (*Scribes note: These kings had names: The Persian kings who followed Cyrus were; Cambyses (529-522) who conquered Egypt, Smerdis (522-521) Darius the Great (521-485), who started the wars against the Persians, and the fourth is Xerxes (Possibly Esther's Ahasuerus) who ruled (486-465 B.C.) and went to war with Greece. Mark skips the history below and goes to verse 36, to examine the antichrist. There are many intriguing commentaries on the history of this chapter, to flesh out names and times, if you're interested in further study.*)

3 Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. **4** But as soon as he is established, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the authority with which he ruled, because his kingdom will be uprooted and given to others. (*Alexander rose, conquered and died in Babylon, and his reign was divided among his generals.*)

5 The king of the South will grow strong, but one of his commanders will grow even stronger and will rule his own kingdom with great authority.

6 After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to seal the agreement. But his daughter will not retain her position of power, nor will his strength endure. At that time, she will be given up, along with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her.

7 But one from her family line will rise up in his place, come against the army of the king of the North, and enter his fortress, fighting and prevailing. **8** He will take even their gods captive to Egypt, with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold. For some years he will stay away from the king of the North, **9** who will invade the realm of the king of the South and then return to his own land.

10 But his sons will stir up strife and assemble a great army, which will advance forcefully, sweeping through like a flood, and will again carry the battle as far as his fortress. **11** In a rage, the king of the South will march out to fight the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be delivered into the hand of his enemy.

12 When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be proud in heart and will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not triumph. **13** For the king of the North will raise another army, larger than the first, and after some years he will advance with a great army and many supplies.

14 In those times many will rise up against the king of the South. Violent ones among your own people will exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they will fail.

15 Then the king of the North will come, build up a siege ramp, and capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will not stand; even their best troops will not be able to resist. **16** The invader will do as he pleases, and no one will stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand. **17** He will resolve to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and will reach an agreement with the king of the South. He will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plan will not succeed or help him.

18Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many of them. But a commander will put an end to his reproach and will turn it back upon him. **19**After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be no more.

20In his place one will arise who will send out a tax collector for the glory of the kingdom; but within a few days he will be destroyed, though not in anger or in battle.

21In his place a despicable person will arise; royal honors will not be given to him, but he will come in a time of peace and seize the kingdom by intrigue. **22**Then a flood of forces will be swept away before him and destroyed, along with a prince of the covenant.

23After an alliance is made with him, he will act deceitfully; for he will rise to power with only a few people. **24**In a time of peace, he will invade the richest provinces and do what his fathers and forefathers never did. He will lavish plunder, loot, and wealth on his followers, and he will plot against the strongholds—but only for a time.

25And with a large army he will stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South, who will mobilize a very large and powerful army but will not withstand the plots devised against him. **26**Those who eat from his provisions will seek to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall slain.

27And the two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for still the end will come at the appointed time. **28**The king of the North will return to his land with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant; so he will do damage and return to his own land.

29At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time will not be like the first. **30**Ships of Kittim^g will come against him, and he will lose heart. **Then he will turn back and rage against the holy covenant and do damage. So he will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.** **31**His forces will rise up and desecrate the temple fortress. They will abolish the daily sacrifice and set up the abomination of desolation. **Notice how “the holy covenant” is a cause of rage and intrigue. Compare that with today’s news. How do we know the day is approaching?**

32With flattery he will corrupt those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God **will be strong and do exploits.** **33**Those with insight will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by sword or flame, or be captured or plundered. **Who are the good guys in this passage? How do you “know your God”? Why will their instruction be so important? What is their destiny? Look up Revelation 6:9-10.**

9And when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony they had upheld. **10**And they cried out in a loud voice, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You avenge our blood and judge those who dwell upon the earth?” **Who are the “souls under the altar who had been slain”? Is this parallel?**

34Now when they fall, they will be granted a little help, but many will join them insincerely. **35**Some of the wise will fall, so that they may be refined, purified, and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time. **Why are these two verses so important for the days ahead?**

Look up Hebrews 11:38-39. **35**Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused their release, so that they might gain a better

resurrection. [36](#) Still others endured mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

[37](#) They were stoned, they were sawed in two, [f](#) they were put to death by the sword. They went around in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, oppressed, and mistreated. [38](#) The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and hid in caves and holes in the ground.

[39](#) These were all commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised. [40](#) God had planned something better for us, so that together with us they would be made perfect.

Is the life of faith easy? Has the church overlooked the last verses of Hebrews 11? Is there a difference in acclaim to those who "received back their dead raised to life again, and those who were sawn in two? Did either "lack faith"? How do we help each other remember that God has planned something better for us, yet to be revealed?

The King Who Exalts Himself, the antichrist:

[36](#) Then the king will do as he pleases and will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and he will speak monstrous things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been decreed must be accomplished. [37](#) He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers, nor for the one desired by women, nor for any other god, because he will magnify himself above them all. **What are the distinguishing qualities whereby the antichrist will be known? What will he not do? What will he do? Who is the emphasized center of his attention?**

[38](#) And in their place, he will honor a god of fortresses—a god his fathers did not know—with gold, silver, precious stones, and riches. (*Scribes note: There is a lot said in commentaries about this "God of fortresses." It is often ascribed to a well-known religion that was spread solely by persuasion of conquest, not persuasion of heart.*) [39](#) He will attack the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him, making them rulers over many and distributing the land for a price.

[40](#) At the time of the end, the king of the South will engage him in battle, but the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots, horsemen, and many ships, invading many countries and sweeping through them like a flood. [41](#) He will also invade the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall. But these will be delivered from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the leaders of the Ammonites.

[42](#) He will extend his power over many countries, and not even the land of Egypt will escape. [43](#) He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and over all the riches of Egypt, and the Libyans and Cushites will also submit to him.

[44](#) But news from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will go out with great fury to destroy many and devote them to destruction. [45](#) **He will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful holy mountain, but he will meet his end with no one to help him.**

Did you notice anything? Review Daniel 2:34 [33](#) its legs were iron, and its feet were part iron and part clay. [34](#) As you watched, a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. [35](#) Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were shattered and became like chaff on the threshing floor in summer. **and Daniel 8:25** 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. **What do you think? Why is this a recurring theme in Daniel? Why is it encouraging for us to remember this in today's environment?**

The End Times

[\(Revelation 1:1-3\)](#)

1"At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people, will rise up.

Mark says the war is not that of satan vs. Jesus, but satan vs. Michael the archangel.

Why is that so much closer to the fact? (Scribes note: "Satan" is from the Hebrew *shaitan*, meaning adversary, enemy or accuser. "Devil" is from the Greek *diabolos* meaning deceiver. These are not titles, but descriptions of the serpent's character.)

Daniel 12:1b There will be a time of distress, the likes of which will not have occurred from the beginning of nations until that time.

(Look up Mark 13:19...18 Pray that this will not occur in the winter. **19** [For those will be days of tribulation unmatched from the beginning of God's](#)

[creation until now, and never to be seen again.](#) **20** If the Lord had not cut short those days, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom He has chosen, He has cut them short....**Is Jesus referring to the same tribulation?**)

Daniel 12:1c But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. **What does this promise contain? Delivered how? Why is it important to pray for the peace of Jerusalem? This is the first mention of the Book of Life, with names written in it. What is this book? Discuss what you see. This first verse of Daniel 12 has Michael, the tribulation and the Lamb's book of life all in a single verse. How important is that?**

Look up Revelation 3:5. **5** [Like them, he who overcomes will be dressed in white. And I will never blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and His angels.](#) **6** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches....**How real is this book? Whose name is in it? How do you know? Does the thought make you want to do things any differently?**

Look up Revelation 20:15. ...**14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. **15** [And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.](#) **Does this lake make you nervous?**

Look up Revelation 21:27...**26** And into the city will be brought the glory and honor of the nations. **27** [But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who practices an abomination or a lie, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.](#)

Daniel 12:2 And many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, but others to shame and everlasting contempt. **Compare this verse to what we read in Revelation? How sobering is this verse? How long does "everlasting contempt" last? Think of Daniel's "everlasting contempt." What does that do for the description of the lake of fire of Revelation? Mark says, "We can never be good enough to "make it into heaven." What does "By grace alone through faith alone" mean?**

3 Then the wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever. **Why does the Book of Proverbs**

suddenly become more important than ever? How important is wisdom? (Remember the wise men of Matthew's gospel? They came from where this book was written.)

4But you, Daniel, shut up these words and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam to and fro, and knowledge will increase." **How much has travel increased? How much has knowledge increased over the last 100 years? Does anything compare? Paul says "Knowledge puffs up. Love edifies." How does this apply? Jesus says, "Because iniquity will abound, the love of many will grow cold." How does this apply?** Mark says this digital age imparts no life. It takes and it takes. **Do you agree? How can we help each other survive this age? Why, when knowledge increases, should Daniel "seal up the book until the time of the end? Who is this book written for? Are you ready for that answer?**

Mark's point, "If God's grace is irresistible, and only for certain elect, then there is no reason to share Jesus with anyone." **What is your answer? Have you ever heard this discussion before? Look up Romans 10:14.** **14**How then can they call on the One in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? **15**And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ...**What is the importance, according to Paul of our willingness to share the gospel? How will anyone hear if we do not? Look up Philippians 2:12-13**

12Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in presence, now even my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. **13**For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose....**Does Paul contradict himself here? Can you "work out your own salvation" if you have never heard? If the "Word is the seed," how does the seed get planted in the first place? After the seed gets planted, whose is the life of that seed? Look up Titus 3:4-7** **4**But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, **5**He saved us, not by the righteous deeds we had done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **6**This is the Spirit He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7**so that, having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs with the hope of eternal life. **How much of this is our "work?" How does this demonstrate what Paul told the Philippians above, that God is at work within us?**

Mark asks, "If you have been born again, how do you become "unborn" again? He says, there is something that should compel us to reach those who do not know Jesus. He has given the responsibility to carry this gospel to our neighbors. If we know there is a real lake of fire, we should be determined to be certain that friends and family do not wind up there...Discuss this.

He goes on to discuss blaspheming the Holy Spirit, the "unpardonable sin." Look up Matthew 12:31 **31**Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Mark says when you wake up every day, acknowledging any sins, forgiving and receiving forgiveness, and offering the day to God as His servant, you have no worries. But if you walk away, and live in rebellion against God, you will be facing consequences. **What do you think? If Jesus says, "I never knew you," what does this say about a relationship? As we pray for our family, their hearts become more open to receiving the gospel. What will bring the word to them? How important is it that you be in your friend's life?**

Mark says, "People are going to be looking for hope. They're going to be looking for answers. What answers do they need? How will they find these answers??"

How important is it to take time to pray for one another? What could you do to add to your prayer? Does fasting work? Pray now. Testify to the results.

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

The rest of the story: **5**Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing there, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. **6**One of them said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long until the fulfillment of these wonders?" **Who are these? How many are there total? Why three? Why is one above the waters?**

7And the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by Him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, and times, and half a time. When the power of the holy people has finally been shattered, all these things will be completed." **What happens when the "power of the holy people has been shattered? What happened when Jesus' power had been finally shattered?**

8I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these things?"

9"Go on your way, Daniel," he replied, "for the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. **10**Many will be purified, made spotless, and refined, but the wicked will continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked will understand, but the wise will understand. **Who are the wise who understand? Do you?**

11And from the time the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation set up, there will be 1,290 days. **12**Blessed is he who waits and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. **How many times has the number of the days of tribulation been mentioned?**

13But as for you, go on your way until the end. You will rest and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days." **How interesting is this last comment?**

Scribe's historic footnotes: There are many commentaries on Daniel, all around the net. Many make claims that are as interesting as they are dubious. Undertake the study of future events in partnership with your partner and teacher, the Holy Spirit. Don't avoid the commentaries. Don't read them without prayer and an attentive regard to the Spirit Himself. Mark says it best, "We should not be worried about once saved always saved or losing our salvation. We should concerning ourselves with following God with our whole hearts day by day...so that our own family and our neighbors see the Jesus Who very really is in us"