



Daniel: A Faithful Life in a Hostile Culture
Daniel 2:24-30
From Sermon: 9.6.26

Read *Daniel 2:24-30*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Having humbly sought God and received the details and meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel is now ushered into the throne room to relay the interpretation. It's yet another test. Daniel doesn't know how this irrational king will respond. And Daniel could have fully taken credit for the understanding and leveraged it for self-promotion. He does not. Daniel—true to his character—gives all the credit to Yahweh and trusts God for his welfare.

1. What character trait of this drama's players (and our culture) separates them from God and prevents them from hearing from God directly? Pride

See also *1 John 2:16*

1a. Who is the author and promoter of pride? Satan. See *1 Timothy 3:6*

2. What character trait of Daniel is on display, and part of the reason God reveals so much to him? Humility. See *James 4:6 & 10*

3. What percentage of Scripture is prophecy? 27%

3a. What does that tell you? God wants His people to know Him, His nature, and His Redemptive Plan. See also *John 15:15*

4. God has graciously revealed all we need to know about the future and the redemptive plan. Then why is there so much debate, distortion, and neglecting the prophetic portions of the Bible? Various Answers. But include: Just as Israel and Judah did in their day, the world doesn't like what the Bible says, God's plan, and their lack of control.

5. Discuss "Preterism" and how we (New Heights) differ from most of our Reformed Theology brothers and sisters in the church world. Preterism = All/most of prophecy/Revelation was fulfilled in the 1st Century. We hold to his long, extended era or dispensation called the Age of Grace or the Age of the Church. Revelation and much of Old Testament prophecy is futurist in understanding. Israel remains Israel. The Church is the Church.

5a. Why do we reject the preterist view? It just doesn't fit. It doesn't make sense nor reflect God's character in prophecy. It forces a meaning on the text and fully clouds the intended purpose. It leads to "Replacement theology" which is absolutely subjective. It picks and chooses that which will be literal and that which is figurative.

6. What do we mean when we say that God has revealed His plan/redemptive plan progressively? It didn't all come at once. He gave bits and pieces to various men over long periods of time. Sometimes, it was given in symbolism that was only explained later in Scripture.

6a. Why do you suppose that was/is? For God's own sovereign reason. But He fully knows we can't handle it all. And that whatever He reveals to us is also revealed to the Enemy. Discuss