



Series: Daniel, Living for God in a Pagan World

Passage: Daniel 10:18-11:1, Romans 12:2

Title: God's Sovereignty Over the Nations

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 11/03/2024

Discussion Starter – Reflect on a time when you realized God's plans are bigger than those you may have had for your own life. How did that realization affect your perspective and actions? Do your plans fit into God's plans for the world?

Read Daniel 10:18-21

1. Twice in chapter 10, we are told that Daniel was left without strength, (verses 8 and 17). What is God's message to Daniel in response to his weakness, (verse 11 and 19)?
2. Do you think Daniel would characterize his weakness as a positive or negative experience? Why?
3. How did Paul value weakness? Review 1 Corinthians 1:27 and 2 Corinthians 12:10
 - a. Has there been a time in your life that you have felt weak and helpless, and God spoke to you?
 - b. How does God use your weakness to exhibit His strength?
4. Why did the angel come to Daniel (verse 20)? What was the scope of the message that he is bringing?
5. Daniels' initial concern regarded the limited return of the Israelites to Jerusalem and the lagging effort to rebuild the Temple. What does that reveal about Daniel's plan?
 - c. How does our limited vantage point obscure your ability to see God's much larger plans?
 - d. How does knowing that God has a Book of Truth for the nations affect your thoughts about this election season?

Read Romans 2:4 and Romans 12:1-2

6. What does God use to accomplish repentance, transformation, and renewal in us?
 - e. What areas and priorities in your life need repentance, transformation, and renewal?
 - f. Describe a time in your life that you were weakened to the point of feeling like a "living sacrifice"? Were you able to embrace it?

Read Daniel 11:1

7. Darius had "been strengthened" to rule in Babylon three years prior? One of his early actions was to forbid prayer to YAHWEH resulting in Daniel's punishment to the lion's den (Daniel 6). Does Daniel's faithful response to that decree work in harmony with God's larger plan? How?
 - g. How do you maintain faithfulness to God, while remaining subject to the rulers God has put in place?