



February 11 & 12, 2017
Valley Church

Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Week 18 – The Rise of the Beast

Introduction to Daniel 11:36-45

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 – Paul summarizing Daniel 11:36-39

Notes on Daniel 11:36-45

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

- In verse 17, “caught up” = Greek *harpazo* – “to seize upon or snatch away by force”
- In Latin Vulgate, *harpazo* is translated *rapere*, the root of the English “rapture”

Three Important Take-Aways:

1. Don't get _____ (Daniel didn't understand everything either)
2. Difference between wrath of _____ and wrath of _____ (we will never be punished...we will be persecuted)
3. Jesus bore 100% of God's wrath against _____, saving us completely from it (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9)

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. In our study of the futuristic prophecy of Daniel so far, how has it impacted you? Has it been inspiring? Confusing? Fear-inducing? Faith-enhancing? Be honest about where you are at personally in wrestling with this subject...

Ponderings:

2. Read Daniel 11:36-39, followed by 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
 - After reading both passages, can you see why many believe that they are describing the same future person? Discuss...
 - If Paul told the Thessalonians said that this "man of lawlessness" was still to come in the future, it would mean that Daniel was not describing Antiochus Epiphanes (who had already come 200 years before Paul). When you look at the current world stage, what are some indicators that a charismatic leader like this could emerge sooner than we think?
3. While the Antichrist is mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments, never are Christians instructed to be overly concerned with trying to identify this person. Instead, we are repeatedly commanded to be looking for Jesus Christ – not Antichrist. Why do you think this is a case?
4. How does belief in the "imminent" return of Jesus (that He could return at any moment) impact that mind-set, motivation and mission of a disciple of Jesus in the modern world? Try to be as specific as possible with your thoughts...

Promptings:

5. If you truly lived as though Jesus might return at any moment, but also acknowledging that He might not, how would this mindset affect your priorities, your sense of urgency for the gospel, your investments and savings, and your current giving and generosity? Discuss...and conclude by praying for one another...