

Exegesis

- An arrogant proud king:
 - probable immediate reference is Antiochus Epiphanes, who even called himself "Theos Epiphanes"!
 - language is deliberately vague, king of north, king of south etc, giving a universal significance...
 - will be brought low - destruction of anti-christ figure at end of chapter 11 (v.45)
- Ultimate victory comes from God
 - resurrection of the dead (12:2)
 - to judgement, or to life...
 - those who know Christ will lead many others to life
- Whole thing of **perspective** - immediate reference to Antiochus, future reference to God-hating opposition...

When?

- When will all this happen - ambiguous!
 - Antiochus was 3 or 4 hundred years after Daniel's time
 - Jesus' first coming was 5 or 6 hundred years after Daniel's time
 - and now we are 2,500 thousand years later....

Conclusions

- Encouragement to **stand firm** - because Jesus wins, as we were reminded last week
 - **this is the real reality**
- Call to **"lead many to righteousness"** (12:3)
- Example of Daniel - integrity, courage, prayerfulness, listening to God's voice - what is God saying to me today...

Summary

- **Daniel 1** - whose am I?
 - God's?
 - or am I my own man or woman? Making my own choices?
 - the Lord is still in control - are we willing to resolve to follow him?
- **Daniel 2** - there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries...
- **Daniel 2** - the future is in God's hands
- **Daniel 3** - bow or burn! Where do our loyalties lie when we come under strain?
- **Daniel 4** - Nebuchadnezzar cast low; can we do things ourselves? **No!**
- **Daniel 5** - the writing's on the wall... Are we honouring God with our lives?
- **Daniel 6** - Lions... Daniel's example, a man of excellence, without fault, prayerful, obedient to God - **a man who believed in his God!**
- **Daniel 7** - a prophetic panorama (4 kingdoms/beasts)
- **Daniel 8** - world powers in conflict; ram and goat, Greece and Medo-Persia; purpose in preparing God's people for what lies ahead - are we ready, trusting in God?

- Daniel 9 - prayer and prediction; Daniel reflecting on Jeremiah's prophesy of 70 years of exile; response: **repentance!**
– (exile as preparation, not punishment)
- Daniel 10-12 - this combined, final vision of the future; **Jesus wins!!**

So?

- *Whose are you? God's? or your own? (final image)*
- Dare to be a Daniel!

Standing by a purpose true,
Heeding God's command,
Honor them, the faithful few!
All hail to Daniel's band!

*Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known.*

Many mighty men are lost
Daring not to stand,
Who for God had been a host
By joining Daniel's band.

Many giants, great and tall,
Stalking through the land,
Headlong to the earth would fall,
If met by Daniel's band.

Hold the Gospel banner high!
On to vict'ry grand!
Satan and his hosts defy,
And shout for Daniel's band.

- *Words & Music: Philip Bliss, 1873. Bliss wrote the song for his Sunday school class at the First Congregational Church of Chicago, Illinois. This hymn and was prohibited by the Sultan from use in Turkey.*