

Wait, What? Dave Cover | Daniel 10-12 Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To explore how confidence in God's control over all things empowers us to endure the pressures of everyday life.

Icebreaker: In his sermon, Dave shared how God's sovereignty was especially compelling when he became a Christian. Was there a particular point or season in your life when you chose to follow Jesus? What about the gospel message first attracted you?

Discussion:

Introduction: Daniel 10-12 thematically make up one cohesive section that relays a vision Daniel receives. This vision spans from the 6th century B.C. to the end of the world and prophesies future events without specific detail, but with incredible accuracy. In our discussion today, we'll focus on how this vision informs our response to trials and uncertainty.

Transition: Daniel 10 opens by providing readers helpful context concerning date and location. We see that the vision takes place in the third year of Persian Emperor Cyrus' reign, so most likely 536 B.C. Daniel is standing at the banks of the Tigris River when suddenly a heavenly being appears before him.

Read:

Daniel 10:7-8

⁷ I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. ⁸ So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

1. What tends to cause you the most fear? What are the things that feel out of your control in the culture around you?

2. What feels out of control in your own life right now? What makes you feel alone or helpless?

Transition: Repetition is a common tool used in Scripture to draw our attention to a particular theme. Daniel's fear is mentioned multiple times in chapter 10, and is addressed by the heavenly being.

Read:

[Daniel 10:12,14](#)

¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them... ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

3. How does the heavenly being address Daniel's fear? How might his words provide Daniel confidence in this moment, but also in his overall circumstances?
4. How might God address your current fears and uncertainties? How is he speaking into the areas of your life that feel out of control?

Transition: Daniel 11 is strikingly accurate in predicting historical world events. While some scholars say this chapter couldn't have been written in Daniel's lifetime, Dave stated good reasons to believe it was written in the 6th century B.C. Jesus himself holds this view in the gospel of Matthew when he quotes Daniel 11:3.

Read:

[Matthew 24:15-16](#)

¹⁵ "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' *spoken of through the prophet Daniel*—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

5. What do you find amazing about Scripture? What helps you trust biblical claims that seem hard to believe?

Read:

[Daniel 12:1-3](#)

¹ "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

6. How does the future resurrection of God's people encourage you to endure the pressures and fears you're facing?

Sharing and Prayer:

[Hebrews 12:2](#)

² ...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Split into pairs or smaller groups to brainstorm ways we can practice joy as we endure the pressures of this world. End by praying for one another.