

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Live a faith that stands out in a culture shutting God out.

⁴⁴ "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. Daniel 2:44-45 (NIV)

Interpretation: God's kingdom will one day humble <u>all</u> kingdoms.

²⁴ "This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: ²⁵ You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."

Daniel 4:24-25 (NIV)

Interpretation: <u>Humbly</u> come under God's kingdom or be humbled.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! ²⁶ I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." Daniel 6:25-27 (NIV)

- The God of the Bible is the only <u>living</u> God.
- The Kingdom of God is <u>unmatched</u> and unshakeable.
- God saves.

¹³ "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed... ¹⁷ 'The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever'... ²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

Daniel 7:13-14,17-18,27 (NIV)

Interpretation:

- All arrogant kingdoms will be destroyed. The Kingdom of God will <u>never</u> end or be destroyed.
- The true <u>King</u> has all authority, power, and glory.
- The Kingdom of God will be enjoyed by all God's people, and they will be stewards of the Kingdom of God.

²⁷ I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding. ^{9:1} In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. Daniel 8:27-9:3 (NIV)

Daniel turned to <u>scripture</u> to find hope and to guide his beliefs and actions.



TEACHING BIG IDEA:

A Daniel Generation has hope because it seeks <u>first</u> God's kingdom by remaining <u>faithful</u> to God's word.

Humans are wicked when they don't keep God's kingdom first.

God's Kingdom is an inheritance to those who are faithful to God and His word.

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life... ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:24-25, 33-34 (NIV)

Because of this <u>hope</u>, we live a faith that stands out in a culture shutting God out.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Hope is motivating and life-giving. Hope is what keeps us believing, keeps us persevering, and keeps us joyful. Hope is why we remain faithful.

God's Kingdom is the hope for the brokenness in our world. God is faithful and will establish His kingdom. He is Sovereign and Most High, and He will have no other kingdoms before His.

The Book of Daniel has a thread through it that we need to be aware of: God's kingdom will one day humble all kingdoms and humble all who do not humbly submit to His authority.

Also, God will save and lift up all who humbly put His kingdom first. Those who God saves will inherit the Kingdom of God and enjoy God forever.

This is the hope for a broken world. God rescues all who remain faithful to Him by keeping His kingdom first and remaining faithful to His word. Because of this hope, we live a faith that stands out in a culture shutting God out.

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TALK-IT-OVER:

In what ways do you see the world not getting their Hope from the Kingdom of God?

Are there areas of your life where you struggle depending on Scripture for guidance? What are they?

What areas of life would you like biblical guidance?

What is a next step you can take to find your hope more deeply in the Kingdom of God?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) 2 Kings 19:14-15 Day 2) Mark 1:14-15; Luke 17:20-21 Day 3) John 3:3-7 Day 4) Romans 14:17 Day 5) Ephesians 2:4-9, 19-22 Day 6) Jeremiah 10:9-11