**A SURE WORD OF PROPHECY**

**Daniel 9:20-27**

**THE BIG IDEA: Because God loves us He has made known to us His plans and provisions to save His people through the atoning work of His Son Jesus Christ.**

**5 TRUTHS THAT ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND:**

***YOU ARE TREASURED BY GOD***

* *“At the beginning of your petitions an answer went out, and I have come to give it, for you are treasured by God. So consider the message and understand the vision:” (Daniel 9:23)*
* **The Lord is near and listens to His children even in the darkest of times.**
* *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:38-39)
* **God’s love for His children, for YOU, is so vast that time and space cannot even contain it!**

***ALL SIN WILL BE DEALT WITH BY GOD***

* *“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city — to bring the rebellion to an end, to put a stop to sin, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy.”* (Daniel 9:24)
* **God is a holy and just God who would violate His very nature if he left sin undealt with.**
* *“But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for judgment. 8 And he judges the world with righteousness; he executes judgment on the nations with fairness.”* (Psalm 9:7-8)
* **Because of the destructive nature of sin, the very fact that God judges sin is a display of His love for mankind.**

***GOD SENT THE MESSIAH JESUS TO ATONE FOR SIN***

* *“After those sixty-two weeks the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.”* (Daniel 9:26a)
* **The atoning work of Christ on the cross is the monumental work that none of us could have accomplished for ourselves.**
* *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* (John 3:17)
* **The ultimate demonstration of God’s love for us was demonstrated in the giving of His Son Jesus to die in our place for our sins.**

***THE ANTICHRIST WILL RISE TO POWER AND GAIN FOLLOWERS***

* *“The people of the coming ruler will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The  end will come with a flood and until the end there will be war; desolations are decreed. 27 He will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and offering.”* (Daniel 9:26b-27a)
* *“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in God’s temple, proclaiming that he himself is God.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)
* **In spite of God giving us the foreknowledge of the Antichrist, people will still be captivated by him and commit to him, to their own peril.**
* *“The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. 4 They worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to wage war against it?’ 5 The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 It began to speak blasphemies against God: to blaspheme his name and his dwelling—those who dwell in heaven. 7 And it was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation. 8 All those who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.”* (Revelation 13:3b-8)
* **The Antichrist will be appealing those who desire to reject the Lord, but in the end he will reveal his true destructive nature.**
* **God demonstrates His love for us once again by giving us the foresight into the antics of the Antichrist so we can avoid falling into his deceptive scheme.**

***GOD WILL DESTROY THE ANTICHRIST AND HIS FOLLOWERS***

* *“And the abomination of desolation will be on a wing of the temple until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator.”* (Daniel 9:27b)
* **There is no person or power in the universe that can stand against the True and Living God.**
* *“’I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.’”* (Revelation 1:8)
* **“A final ruler then exalts himself, imposes his authority, forbids true worship, instigates idolatrous worship and runs into the meat grinder of God’s decree. Predetermined. On target. Certain.” – Dale Davis**
* **In a final display of His love for us God snuffs out His opposition and ushers in His kingdom.**
* **There is no hope in following false leaders who position themselves against the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.**
* *“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)

\*\***CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK\*\***

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does Daniel 9:20-27 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What is the main message of Daniel 9:20-27?
* Knowing the difficulty in interpreting this passage of Scripture, how should we approach difficult passages when we speak on their meaning?

**Digging Deeper:**

* In spite of the difficulties with interpreting Daniel 9:20-27, what are some things that are clear in this passage of Scripture?
* Why must God deal with sin through His righteous judgement?
* How does Daniel 9:20-27 foreshadow the coming Messiah Jesus? What role did Jesus coming to earth almost 2000 years ago have?
* What is you biggest takeaway from this study? What will you do differently going forward?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the church office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule.