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| SERIES: | 27 Daniel - I Dare You - 2013 |
| MESSAGE: | I Dare You: Look Ahead! |
| SPEAKER: | Skip Heitzig |
| SCRIPTURE: | Daniel 7:9-14, 26-27 |

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Economists, meteorologists, visionaries, and psychics all share one thing in common: They all try to predict the future to announce what's coming. God's prophets never had to; God revealed it to them and they simply wrote it down or spoke it out. The central highlight of Daniel's vision in chapter 7 isn't the coming kingdoms of earthly men nor of the coming Antichrist but rather the coming of Jesus Christ. Let's look ahead and see what's coming.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. Road signs
- B. Navigate what's coming
- C. *Predictions for the Next Millennium: Thoughts on the 1,000 Years Ahead from Today's Celebrities* by Todd W. Nickerson and David Kristof
- D. The Bible deals with both history and prophecy
- E. God is different
 1. He doesn't have the same time constraints that we have
 2. He's in eternity
 3. Timelines (history class)
 4. Time goes on linearly
 5. Eternity is the line removed altogether
 6. Past and future events in the Bible
 7. God lives in the eternal now
- F. In Daniel 7, you see past, present, and future

II. Four things you can count on that are coming

- A. Fulfilled prophecy is a guarantee of future prophecy
- B. Judgment is coming
 1. God is seated on the throne
 2. A courtroom scene
 3. Daniel has seen the future
 - a. Four kingdoms
 - b. Leaders will come
 - c. All the rulers judged
 4. Since the beginning of time, Satan has tried to deceive us
 - a. About the judgment
 - b. About life and death
 5. The God of the Bible will eventually bring judgment

6. John sees this same scene in Revelation 20
 - a. Imagine nail-scarred hands skimming pages for names
 - b. There will be a judgment for everyone
 7. Followers of Christ will be judged for our service to the Lord
 8. Unbelievers will have their day in court
 - a. Unlike any earthly court
 - b. No debate about guilt—God will make that verdict
 - c. Prosecution and no defense
 - d. Judge and no jury
 - e. Sentence and no appeal
 - f. Punishment and no parole
 - g. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31)
 9. Is it possible to escape this kind of judgment?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Either you or Jesus can take the rap for your sin
 - c. If you place your faith in Him, you will never be judged like this (see John 5:24)
 - d. Know Jesus, know life; no Jesus, no life
 10. *Time Magazine* article "Does Heaven Exist?"
 - a. Do you believe in the existence of heaven where people live forever after they die? 81% said yes
 - b. Do you believe in a hell where people will be punished forever after they die? Only 63% said yes
 - c. Fewer people believed in hell than in heaven
- C. Justice is coming
1. The Antichrist will take over the world and kill people who will not submit
 - a. It is right and just that there is justice
 - b. Often criminals, guilty parties, are freed on a technicality
 - c. There is a longing in us for justice to be done
 - d. Growing up, Nate had an overdeveloped sense of justice; he noticed when things weren't fair
 - e. One day there will be justice—evil will be eradicated
 2. The beast is like a killing machine
 - a. Finally he gets caught, killed, and tossed into the trashcan of hell
 - b. That is fair
 - c. It is described by John in Revelation 19
 3. Purpose of the coming tribulation
 - a. To pour out wrath upon this world
 - b. To prepare Israel for her Messiah
 - i. Look on Him whom they have pierced (see Zechariah 12:10)
 - ii. A time of Jacob's trouble (see Jeremiah 30:7)
 - c. To pummel the Antichrist
 - i. Beat him up for all he has done
 - ii. Fifth angel pours out the fifth bowl (see Revelation 16:10)

- D. Jesus is coming
 - I. Behold
 - a. A Bible word
 - b. Hey, check it out!
 - c. Notice this!
 2. The central focus of chapter 7 is the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ to the earth
 3. Like the Son of Man
 - a. Human form
 - b. 81 times in the four gospels the "Son of Man" is used to refer to Jesus
 - c. He called Himself that
 - d. Jews believed to be the coming Messiah
 4. Verse 13 is the second coming of Jesus Christ
 - a. Second only to the subject of faith, the second coming is the most talked about subject in the Bible
 - b. Mentioned 1845 times
 - c. One fifth of all Scriptures refer to it
 - d. Seven out of 10 chapters in the New Testament refer to it
 - e. For every one mention of the first coming, the second coming is mentioned eight times
 - f. For every one time the atonement is mentioned, the second coming is mentioned twice
 - g. Jesus personally referred to His second coming 21 times
 - h. No less than 50 times in the Bible we are told to be ready for His coming
 5. Why did He have to come and go and then come back again?
 - a. First time, He came to deal with sin
 - b. Then He went to give as many people as possible a chance to believe and get to heaven
 6. His second coming will be different than the first coming
 - a. The first time, He came to deal with sin
 - b. The second coming, He will take over—He's going to rule the earth
 - c. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20)
 - d. Clouds of heaven
 - i. Masses of people coming with Him
 - ii. A white horse, many crowns, robe dipped in blood, armies of heaven (see Revelation 19)
 - iii. "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36)
 7. Many crowns
 - a. No other rivals
 - b. Jesus wears all the crowns
 - c. He's the King of kings and the Lord of lords
 - d. A long way from that crown of thorns

- e. Ian McPherson said, "Where Christ once bore the world's frown,
He will one day wear the world's crowns"
- E. Joy is coming
1. This is the event that will bring an end to wars, violence, terrorism, and anxiety
 2. When Jesus comes, there will be peace
 3. The United Nations building has a Scripture over the door, Isaiah 2:4; it's a prediction of what will happen when Jesus Christ returns
 4. Jesus said, in the parable of the rewards, "Enter into the joy of your Lord" (see Matthew 25:21)
 5. You will be presented faultless and with exceeding joy (see Jude 24)
 6. Heaven is described as a place where God Himself "will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying...no more pain" (Revelation 21:4)
 7. "How Great Thou Art" is a great hymn of the church memorably sung by George Beverly Shea in a deep baritone
 8. The saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom
 - a. "Saints" includes us
 - b. The kingdom is given to us
 - c. We have a job—we are given positions of authority (see Matthew 19:28, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, 2 Timothy 2:12, and Revelation 5:10)

III. Look ahead to the coming of Jesus Christ

- A. His coming means the pain is ending
- B. The secret is to live our temporal life with our eyes on our eternal life
- C. "O God, stamp eternity on my eyes" —missionary Leonard Ravenhill
- D. C.S. Lewis said, "If I find within myself a desire that no experience in this world can satisfy then the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world"

Publications referenced: *Predictions for the Next Millennium: Thoughts on the 1,000 Years Ahead from Today's Celebrities*, by Todd W. Nickerson and David Kristof; *Time Magazine*; "How Great Thou Art" by Stuart Keene Hine

Figures referenced: Ian McPherson, George Beverly Shea, Leonard Ravenhill, C.S. Lewis

Cross references: Isaiah 2:4, Jeremiah 30:7, Zechariah 12:10, Matthew 19:28, Matthew 25:21, John 5:24, John 18:36, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, 2 Timothy 2:12, Hebrews 10:31, Jude 24, Revelation 5:10, Revelation 16:10, Revelation 19, Revelation 20, Revelation 21:4, Revelation 22:20

Topic: Eternity

Keywords: Jesus Christ, kingdom, rule, reign, saints, judgment, joy, end times, peace, crowns, second coming, justice, heaven, throne, Daniel, God, future