



## **Introduction to “Lifting the Curtain”**

Because of the storm last week, we are combining chapters 7 and 8 this week. There’s a lot in both chapters, and I encourage you to spend time reading through each. The difficult part about these prophetic passages is there’s a lot we still don’t know. Even the smartest scholars are often making educated guesses. That being said, there are a few things we can absolutely learn from these chapters, not the least of which is the key point of the chapter 8 portion of the service, that God is ultimately in control, and everything that happens in history is already planned for. I hope your discussion leads you to increased boldness in living out your faith, knowing the one in control is also your Father who loves you unconditionally.

## **Daniel Series Objectives:**

Head: To understand the Book of Daniel.

Heart: To face hardship with courage.

Hands: To make choices that glorify God.

## **Part 8: Lifting the Curtain**

Text: Daniel 8

Big Idea: God gives us everything we need to fulfill our purpose as worshiper-servant-missionaries.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

1. **The Ram and the Goat (8:1-14)**
2. **The Interpretation (8:15-27)**
3. **So what do we do...?**
4. **Challenge:**

### **Getting Started**

In what ways have you seen God's sovereignty at work in your life over the summer?

What's one lesson that stands out to you from the narrative (story-telling, chapters 1-6) portion of Daniel?

What has been your previous experience reading and studying prophecy? Would you say you enjoy it or no?

## **Digging Deeper**

Read Daniel 8. Have someone write out the characters of the vision on one side of the paper, and the interpretations of those characters on the other side, to diagram the chapter.

Why do you think God gives this level of detail here? And why do you think he leaves other prophecies so mysterious?

How do the mysteries of scripture actually support and enhance our faith? Wouldn't it be easier if he gave us the answers when we got saved?

How does past history and the fulfillment of past prophecies inform how we treat prophecies about the end times that have not come to pass yet?

What does it do for our faith to see where God has kept past promises?

Where in your life have you seen God's timing be better than your own?

What are you currently waiting for? What is the value of patience?

What does this chapter reveal about God? How is that helpful for you living out your faith in day to day life?

## Live It Out

**Pray:** Take time to give thanks for God's sovereignty in our lives and the way God works all things, even the challenges, for good, for those who love him and have been called according to his purposes.

**Confess:** What changes --in attitude and actions-- might the Spirit be impressing on your heart as you live the week ahead? How can you live differently, knowing God has it under control?

**Act:** How will you live differently knowing the all-knowing, all-powerful creator God is by your side, taking care of you and calling you to be a disciple (worshiper-servant-missionary) who makes disciples?