

"The Rise & Fall of Empires"

Sunday, August 14, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

Daniel 11:2-12:3

BIG IDEA: History and prophecy reveal God's sovereignty over the Nations.

*"Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth take their stand,
and the rulers conspire together
against the LORD and his Anointed One."
Psalm 2:1, 2 (CSB)*



Prophetic HISTORY, ALREADY fulfilled. (v2-35)

- The time of AHASUERUS. (v2)
- The time of ALEXANDER, THE GREAT. (v2-9)
- The time of ANTIOCHUS, THE GREAT. (v10-20)
- The time of ANTIOCHUS, EPIPHANES. (v21-35)



Prophetic HISTORY, YET TO BE fulfilled. (v36-12:3)

- The time of ANTICHRIST. (v36-12:1)
- The time of RESURRECTION & REWARD. (v2 & 3)



LESSONS (So, what am I going to do about it?):

- FUTURE prophecies will be FULFILLED with the same EXACTNESS as those PROPHECIES already FULFILLED.
- God KNOWS all ABOUT it.
- THINGS are going to get WORSE before they get BETTER.
- Know EXACTLY where you PLACE your TRUST.

BIG IDEA: History and prophecy reveal God's sovereignty over the Nations.

Read: Daniel 11:2-12:3

Think: Consider the astonishing detail revealed in this extended prophetic passage, and then ask yourself the following questions: *What is your initial response to the exacting detail revealed in these prophecies? What lessons do you take from the "rise and fall of empires" described in this passage: pride going before the fall, abuse of power, lack of honor among thieves, futility of war, illusions of security, any other lessons? How are you struck by the phrase "at the appointed time" (v27, 29, 35)? In what does the Antichrist trust (v38-39)? What fierce battles does this evil figure wage (v40-45)? To what extent is he successful? How will he meet his demise? What is the "good news/bad news" dynamic of 12:1-3?*

Do: What does this passage teach you about the Christian's responsibility toward human government, good or bad? How do Christians and Churches and nations "honor a god of fortresses"? How do we rid ourselves of such a fortress-mentality? What is your hope in life and death?