

Dan. 12:4 - Looking Over the Horizon (pt 2.5) – Societal

Intro. Predictive prophecy is an amazing feature of scripture. 1000's of times the Bible foretells what will happen to people, cities, cultures & countries. With Biblical insight there are some things believers should expect. Series -*Looking Over the Horizon* – prepare for the predicted. Our Lord told us to be on the alert, to watch, beware & prepare for what is coming down the pike (horizon). He chided His generation for knowing how to interpret the sky for weather predictions but blind to prophesied conditions. He has told us beforehand - be alert to trends that are – Societal, Environmental, Ecclesiastical & Governmental.

The scriptures give us descriptors/predictors about society/culture. There are foretold things that will be trending towards the ending. Sum up today's sermon on some societal trends with which to be aware - There will be an increase in *Mobility & Technology*; a decrease in *Morality & Decency*. It will be days of *Deception & Demonism* comparable to the time of *Noah & Sodom and Gomorrah*.

AN INCREASE IN MOBILITY & TECHNOLOGY

- Dan. 12:4 amazing book full of prewritten history – maligned because Daniel “couldn’t know”
 - The book lays out successive world powers near and far on the timeline of history
 - 12:4 points out two things that are far on the timeline from Daniel’s point in history
- People going *back and forth* (NASB) or, *run to and fro* (NKJV), or *go here and there* (NIV)
 - The end times are mobile times. An increased pace of life & mobility in life
- *Knowledge will increase* the end of the age will be an information age
 - As our world has become more interconnected – shared knowledge/info/tech – explosion
 - Back to Babel - God separated men because “nothing would be impossible for them”
 - From good vaccines to evil altering of nature – humanizing rodents with aborted babies
- But mankind isn’t evolving – he is actually devolving. (Utopia is not possible for fallen people)
 - The increase mobility and technology only increases humanities depravity

A DECREASE IN MORALITY & DECENCY

- 2 Tim. 3:1 the last days will be difficult days culture will be corrupt
 - 3:2-5 is a description of the character qualities at the culmination of history
- Men will be lovers of themselves (#1 descriptor) We live in the age of the selfie (#me!)
 - Song “I wanna talk about me, I wanna talk about I... (3 most important people are...)
 - Walking down lovers lane holding your own hand. Our society encourages *self love*
 - The problem is not that we don’t love ourselves but we love ourselves too much
- Lovers of money Boastful Arrogant Revilers Disobedient to parents
Ungrateful Unholy Unloving Irreconcilable Malicious gossips Without self-control
Brutal Haters of good Treacherous Reckless Conceited Love pleasure not God
- Are any of these traits trending in our society? Instead of love for God and love for neighbor culture will devolve to love of self, love of money and love of pleasure.
- 2 Tim. 3:5 - *Form of godliness...* phony religion/plastic preachers all show no go
 - Culture at the end will be characterized by self love and superficial religion (description?)

DAYS OF DECEPTION & DEMONISM

- The first thing Jesus mentioned, when asked about the signs for the end, was DECEPTION.
 - Matt.24:3-4 (a focus on religious deception but societal deception in view as well)
 - 10+ x's Jesus warns us: *not to be deceived* or, *don't believe that*, or *don't be misled*
- The unified language accepted/spoken (at the final Babel) is the language of lies
 - 2 Thess. 2:10-12 given over to believe the lie because they refused the truth
- Deception will be a hallmark lies will be the language SPIN WILL BE OUR SIN
 - Absolute truth is denied (my truth) Today's "truth" is tailor made for the masses. It is made to persuade and for a certain persuasion. We can find the news we like – suits us
- Our culture is being conditioned to believe the lie. To accept what is demonstrably false
 - Woman of the Year – Bruce Jenner you can put lipstick on a pig....
 - We are pressured to call a he, a she & to call a she a they. The emperor has no clothes but society is forced to say what is false and applaud and say, "look how well dressed he is!"
- A society that tells lies & spreads lies is more apt to believe lies because they have forsaken truth
 - Beware - the new *approved truth* is always changing - quickly devolving deception
- The church must stand for truth in a culture of lies
 - 1 Tim. 3:15 the church is the pillar and foundation of truth
 - God of truth. Spirit of truth He guides us into truth His word is truth
Our Savior is The Truth. All those on the side of truth listen to Him John 18:37
 - Discern the spirit of truth from spirit of error by hearing His apostles – 1 John 4:6
 - Know the truth – sets us free Truth brings freedom but lies bring enslavement
 - Need discernment in age of deception. Stand for truth and don't fall for ½ truth
- 1 Tim. 4:1 Deception and Demonism go hand in hand because Satan is the father of lies
 - Rev. 9:20-21 refused to repent of demon worship/magic arts
 - Prevailing fascination with: magic, witchcraft, sorcery (kid entertainment full of it)
 - Remember that deception and demonism go hand in hand – we need discernment!

LIKE THE TIME OF NOAH & SODOM AND GOMORRAH

- Luke 17:26-30
 - Jesus gives two historical markers with societal similarities that which we should be alert
- Days of Noah we characterized by: marriage gone wild Gen. 6:2
 - Continuous evil imagination - Gen. 6:5
 - Earth full of corruption and violence Gen. 6:11-13
 - Unfazed by a warning of coming destruction
- Days of Sodom were characterized by....sodomy (sodomy on show)
 - Is. 3:9 Instead of wanting to hide it there is pride in it. Flaunted/ Proud /Brazen
 - Jer. 6:15 they do not even know how to blush no shame Ps. 12:8
 - Unprepared for swift judgment
- The days of Noah & Sodom and Gomorrah had distinct sins that will be duplicated in our day but the main characterization is that they both had the prevailing mentality of no accountability.
 - no fear of God no thought of judgment Ps. 10:11 Heb. 4:13
 - peace, peace when there is not peace with God