

Daniel 11:1-29 / Psalm 131 - IDK

Intro – Daniel is an amazing & challenging book...I find chapter 11 especially so. It is amazing because it contains amazing details about Daniel's future (and ours), but I also find it extremely challenging to know how to communicate these details. That is because I don't have a good grasp on these things myself so how do I convey what I don't know? ^{IDK}. There is a temptation for a pastor to preach more than he knows & to try and cover that by saying it with *gusto*. ^{"IDK, so say it with gusto"} I need to avoid trying to craftily say nothing of value just to cover my ignorance on a matter. That is why I read Ps. 131. Today I will try to point out a few things from Daniel 11, but I also want to use this occasion to deal with the difficulty of *difficult texts*. As we read our Bible, we will all hit bumps in the road, limits to our understanding and waters too deep to fathom. So, what do we do when we come to hard passages? *FUMBLE FULFILLMENT FAITH*

FUMBLE

1. If you don't have a good grasp on something you will fumble it
 - a. We can fumble more than footballs in life
2. We can, and will, fumble the scripture...but should train not to 2 Tim. 2:15
 - a. Some parts of the Bible are easier than others. Different terrain - desert/mountain/meadow
3. Being humble will help you when you fumble.
 - a. Ps 131:1 some things are beyond us - trust God's provision & wisdom (2 Tim. 3:16 / 1 Cor. 8:2)
 - b. Ask for help in the hard places.
 - i. Pray - Ps 119:18-19 John 14:26; 16:13
 - c. Many scholars were trailblazers/pioneers that paved an easier path for us.
 - i. Use study helps & Study Bibles - NIV/MacAuthur
 - d. 1997-piece puzzle Bible = 31,100-piece puzzle of King Jesus
4. We should rest in the wisdom that is higher than us
 - a. Ps. 131 Ps. 139:6 Job 42:3

FULFILLMENT

- Daniel is given many details about the future in this final vision (chapters 10-12)
 - Daniel 10:1 a true message about great conflict (NASB)/warfare (NIV)
 - 10:14
- The angel discloses details of the next 300 years (+)
 - Persian empire - successive rulers until Xerxes 11:2
 - Greece - Alexander the Great how his empire was divided 4 ways 11:3-4 8:21-22
 - Lots of conflict between North (Syria/Seleucid) & South (Egypt/Ptolemies) Israel in-between
 - Notable figures in ancient history - Bernice / Cleopatra / Philip of Macedonia / Hannibal / Scopas / Scipio
 - Political intrigue 11:21 11:23 11:27 (political marriages- 11:6;17)
- As it is written so let it happen Book of Truth - 10:21 Eph. 1:11
 - *Fulfill the vision* - 11:14 *appointed time* - 11:27 *appointed time* - 11:29

- Thank God for the historian's pen and archaeologist's spade which chronicles and verifies the Creator's page. ^(10:21)
- "for the right understanding of some parts of scripture, it is necessary that heathen authors be consulted, which give light to the scripture, and show the accomplishment of what is there foretold; we have therefore reason to bless God for the human learning with which many have done great service to divine truths." M. Henry

FAITH

- ❖ Skeptics say there is no way Daniel could have written Daniel...it's too accurate
 - The Bible's divine origin & fulfilled prophecy spurs unbelief in some
 - They refuse to believe that God pre-writes history so they accuse Daniel of being written after the fact and deceptively claiming divine revelation.
- ❖ The Bible's accuracy should generate faith.
 - When the Bible declares what the future will be...we should listen
 - It has already proved its accuracy with 1000's of fulfilled prophecies.
 - Faith is not "blind faith" Faith is a leap into the light
 - 2 Peter 1:19-21
- ❖ LXX
 - The Hebrew Bible (OT) was translated into Greek around 3rd century BC.
 - Daniel was translated into another language before all the prophecies happened.
 - Jesus and the apostles used a translation....Septuagint/LXX
- ❖ God is to be trusted. We should take Him at His word
 - Faith = believing God (including what He says about the future - Promised Son/ Heaven / Hell)
 - God cannot lie Titus 1:2 Numbers 23:19
 - *Have I not told you beforehand?* Matt. 24:25 John 14:29
 - The Book of Truth - ^{Dan. 10:21}
 - God has given ample evidence to believe Him in the things we don't understand by displaying so much we can understand and verify ^{Ps. 12:6 Prov. 30:5}
- ❖ John 6:66-68
 - Some "disciples" leave when Jesus' word gets hard to understand.
 - God challenges us with hard sayings to encourage to believe in hard things
 - We don't have to have a good grasp on it all to believe it all
 - Where else can we go? Jesus has the words of eternal life.

*Holy Bible Book Divine, Precious treasure thou art mine;
Mine to tell me whence I came; Mine to teach me what I am.*

*Mine to chide me when I rove, Mine to show a Savior's love;
Mine thou art to guide and guard, Mine to punish or reward.*

*Mine to comfort in distress, Suffering in this wilderness
Mine to show by living faith, Men can triumph over death.*

*Mine to tell of joys to come, And the rebel sinners doom;
O thou holy book divine, Precious treasure thou art mine.*