

A Note from Pastor Nathan

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

Daniel 7:13-14 (NIV, 1984)

An election is upon us. Our ballots feature a spectrum of offices from President of the United States to Greene County Commissioner. I have the advantage of writing before Election Day, so I do not know the outcomes. We may experience a wide range of emotions: disappointment, anger, relief, excitement, joy, anxiety or uncertainty.

You may feel as though our country is heading in a downward direction. Then again, you might not. What criteria do we choose? Some things are better, other things are worse. The bald eagle has made a great recovery but passenger rail service has flopped. Future historians will be better equipped to assess our current national situation than we are today. Nevertheless, it is understandable if you feel discouraged about the state of our nation.

During Wednesday Morning Bible Study, we are diving into the Book of Daniel. Chapters 2 and 7 offer symbolic portraits of the nations of the world, with each chapter giving four specific examples that are representative of all. Earthly nations generally decline in quality and strength while increasing in internal divisions and hostility toward God and His people.

The nations, described in terms of precious and strong metals, are going to be undone by an unimpressive stone. This stone, not cut by human hands, will grow into a mountain filling the whole earth – a kingdom lasting forever.

The nations, vividly portrayed as ferocious beasts, will be given over to "one like a son of man," merely human in his appearance, to whom the Ancient of Days gives all authority, forever, in a kingdom that does not end.

The movement of God's Kingdom is often not outwardly impressive like the kingdoms of this world, and yet this Kingdom is the one that prevails through the Son of Man. The nations and their leaders may look invincible, and might carry out all sorts of atrocities, but the Ancient of Days has a book, and He will open it. The Judge will render verdicts.

Daniel reveals that earthly kings and kingdoms tend to build their power on the basis of lies and self-aggrandizement. Throwing truth to the ground and exalting themselves, these kings cast anyone who opposes them into lion's dens and fiery furnaces. Worldly political leaders quite often behave in these ways, whether overtly or subtly.

But they're all on a watch. Time will soon be up. Even the most impressive kings and kingdoms, at the height of their power, are subject to being rapidly shattered. This is good news if we dread any current political authority, whether foreign or domestic. The unrepentant "bad guys" will assuredly get what's coming to them.

That being said, God would prefer that every one of them repent. He keeps pursuing even the worst of earthly kings by placing dreams, visions, signs, wonders, and His own faithful servants in their lives. Just look at Nebuchadnezzar! God keeps coming after this self-obsessed, spiritually dense, wicked man. After multiple partial-awakenings and a singularly humbling experience, even Nebuchadnezzar seems to come around. I hope his conversion was genuine.

All of this calls us into a hopeful and confident posture of prayer. When we are discouraged about our nation or the world, we remember that the Kingdom of God prevails. When we are disappointed with political leaders, we are assured that each one will answer to the King of kings. We are invited to pray even for the leaders and nations who do the most troubling things *because God is pursuing them, like us, with His love, so that they and we might repent and live.*

Grace and peace,

Nathan

Bloomfield First Baptist Church 500 Lincoln Drive Bloomfield, IN 47424			November 2020		Pastor's Cell: 812-381-8459 Church Office: 812-384-8459 Bright Beginnings Daycare: 812-384-0400 Bright Beginnings Preschool: 812-384-2647	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	2	3 6:30 Trustees	4 9:00 Bible Study	5 6:30 Deacons	6	7
8	9	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY 9:00 Bible Study	12 6:30 Congregational Meeting	13	14
15	16	17	18 9:00 Bible Study	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 9:00 Bible Study	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
29 1 st Sunday of Advent	30					

Sound System

Prayers

Nursery Care

Children's Worship
(2nd & 4th Sundays only)

Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC

Mondays:

Tuesdays:

Thursdays:

Deacon of the Month
Randy Flanagin

Trustee of the Month
Steve Ham

Usher of the Month

Greeters of the Month