

BABYLON

WEIRD DREAMS & IDIOTIC SPECULATION

DANIEL'S PROPHECIES:

• Daniel's Literary Structure:

Daniel 1-6 = **Stories** of God's protection

Daniel 7-12 = **Prophecies** of God's protection

• Daniel's Main Goal:

To show God's **power** and **protection** even in the darkest of times

• A Sample Prophecy: (Daniel 7)

Four Beasts = Four Kingdoms

Babylon → **Medo-Persia** → **Greece** → **Rome**

• Two Things Worth Noting:

❶ Daniel didn't understand the **details of his own prophecies!**

Daniel 7:15 & 12:8-9/1 Peter 1:10-12

❷ They all predict **great trouble** followed by **God's deliverance**.

Daniel 7:9-13, 17, 22-27/ 12:1-3

BIBLICAL PROPHECIES: Some Guidelines & Cautions

❶ Prophecy Has Two Main Purposes

Daniel 7:16-18/1 Thessalonians 4:13-18/ John 13:18-19/ Matthew 11:2-5/ Revelation 13:11-18

- To provide **hope** and **confidence**.
- To provide **recognition** (NOT to **satisfy our curiosity**).

❷ Learn From The Past

1 Peter 1:10-12/ Mark 9:31-32 & Luke 24:44-48

- No one **got it right** the first time!

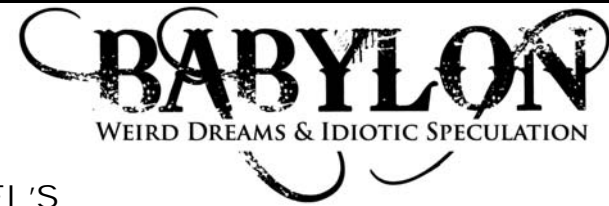
❸ Avoid Speculation

Deuteronomy 29:29/ Proverbs 30:5-6/ Matthew 24:36/ 1Timothy 1:3-7/ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- It makes Christians **look foolish**.
- It's more likely to produce **arrogance** than **godliness**.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is there any change you sense God is asking you to make in light of Christ's return?
2. Did your understanding of prophecy and its role in our lives grow or change from the sermon or homework? If so, how?



DANIEL'S PROPHECIES:

• Daniel's Literary Structure:

Daniel 1-6 = _____ of God's protection
Daniel 7-12 = _____ of God's protection

• Daniel's Main Goal:

To show God's _____ and _____ even in the darkest of times

• A Sample Prophecy: (Daniel 7)

Four Beasts = Four Kingdoms

_____ → _____ → _____ → _____

• Two Things Worth Noting:

- 1 Daniel didn't understand the _____!
Daniel 7:15 & 12:8-9/1 Peter 1:10-12
- 2 They all predict _____ followed by _____.
Daniel 7:9-13, 17, 22-27/ 12:1-3

BIBLICAL PROPHECIES:

Some Guidelines & Cautions

1 Prophecy Has Two Main Purposes

Daniel 7:16-18/1 Thessalonians 4:13-18/ John 13:18-19/ Matthew 11:2-5/ Revelation 13:11-18

- To provide _____ and _____.
- To provide _____ (NOT to _____).

2 Learn From The Past

1 Peter 1:10-12/ Mark 9:31-32 & Luke 24:44-48

- No one _____ the first time!

3 Avoid Speculation

Deuteronomy 29:29/ Proverbs 30:5-6/ Matthew 24:36/ 1 Timothy 1:3-7/ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- It makes Christians _____.
- It's more likely to produce _____ than _____.



Thank you for your many calls to help people in need because of the fires. We are presently assessing the needs and how we can effectively direct people and resources to them. We will be posting service projects and opportunities on our website.

We also continue to have our ongoing community service project commitments. On our website you can find general information about projects as well as dates the service projects are needed. Please sign-up online or contact Melissa Wiederspan at the church office (mwiederspan@northcoastchurch.com).

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 4, 2007

NOTE: The goal of this week's sermon was to provide us with guidelines and cautions as we look at the big picture of biblical prophecy. It didn't attempt to answer all the questions about prophecy because nobody has all those answers. Keep this in mind as you work on this homework and participate in your Growth Group.

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back over your sermon notes from *Weird Dreams and Idiotic Speculation*, what was most challenging, helpful, or interesting to you?

MY STORY

1. Some people get really excited talking about prophecy while others know very little about it. Which of these statements best describes your attitude related to prophecy, end times and the second coming of Christ?

- I don't know much about any of it
- I'm very interested in it and have studied it a lot
- I find it confusing
- I'm not very interested in it
- I'd like to know more
- I find it too theoretical and not practical enough
- What I know about it came from reading the *Left Behind* series or *The Late Great Planet Earth*.
- Other

2. If you could know certain things about your future (like when you're going to die, who you will marry, major illnesses you'll have, etc.) would you want to know that information? What would be some benefits and drawbacks from knowing that information?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. There are a variety of opinions about many of the as yet unfulfilled prophecies in the Bible. However, there are a number of future events that are clearly spelled out in Scripture even if we don't understand all the details about them. Read the following passages and identify the events yet to happen in each one.

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2 Corinthians 5:10

Does reading these passages bring you a sense of hope, fear, a desire to change, or something else?

What do you look forward to the most from these passages?

2. We heard this weekend about avoiding speculation when it comes to prophecy. Perhaps the most speculated-about event in the Bible is when and how Christ will return. Over the last 2000 years various people have unsuccessfully predicted that it would happen in their lifetime. How does 2 Peter 3:3-9 address the question of why it's taking so long for Christ to return?

How could 2 Timothy 2:24-26 relate to the delay in Christ's return?

3. Even though we don't know for sure when Christ will return, the fact that He will return sometime should affect how we live. What kind of lifestyle does 2 Peter 3:10-14 encourage us to live in light of Christ's return?

Are there any motivations you see in this passage for living out this lifestyle?

What could be some of the benefits to yourself and others for living this kind of life?