

THE REDEEMER LIVES



SMITH MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor, John T. Jicka

March 22, 2020

9:45am & 11:00am

**Livestream services available at
Smithmemorial.org**

GUESTS

We are so glad to have you worship with us through our online services! If you are a first-time guest, please consider contacting our Deacon of the Week, or a Decision Counselor. We'd love the opportunity to get to know you, and to welcome you to our church when we're able to return to corporate worship services.

Deacon of the Week

Richard Dorman – 540-383-1773

If we can minister to you this week, please call.

Decision Counselors

Bob Marquis, Steve Cobb, Greg Mullins, Robert Brady

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

All events, gatherings, and activities for SMBC remain canceled or postponed until further notice. We pray that we can return to fellowship face-to-face very soon. Please let us know how we can be praying for you, and meeting any needs that you and your family may have in the meantime.

Beyond 2020 Campaign

Pledges to date: \$786,855.

Actual Contributions through March 15, 2020: \$747,120.

Notate "Beyond 2020" on your envelope.

THINGS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR

Tithe and Offering

Many in our church family have taken the initiative to mail letters of encouragement along with their weekly giving! We're so very grateful for a community of believers that understand the impact their faithful giving has on our mission to share the gospel of Christ's love throughout the world.

In many ways, the world that we have known has ground to a halt. SMBC is forging ahead, because we know the mission God has for us, and that time to reach the lost is getting short. Thank you for being cheerful, generous givers, in times of uncertainty. We see the significance of 2nd Corinthians 9 through you!

If you are running low on tithe envelopes, feel free to call the office at 757-565-0476. You may also continue your weekly giving through our secure online giving option. Just go to smithmemorial.org and click the green **GIVE** button!

“Sacred Marriage” Small Group Study

SMBC is excited to announce a new small group study entitled “Sacred Marriage”. If you desire to see your marriage reflect a greater measure of holiness, mutual respect, and love between you and your spouse, consider setting aside time each week to participate in this marriage-affirming study. Author Gary Thomas helps us understand one of the marriage-union's greatest purposes – leading couples in a closer relationship with Him.

Study begins April 19 at 6PM, weekly through May 24.

*Contact Shawn or Dawn Lemon for more information and to sign-up.
757-254-1061*

EASTER EVENTS

Nothing was going to stop the death, burial, and triumphant resurrection of the Son of the Most-High God! He has conquered death and the grave once and for all; and for all those that have and ever will accept His pure and holy sacrifice, we know we will live in community and harmony as a fellowship of saints.

Because He lives!

The day is also coming when we will rejoice at the reunion of our church family after this unfortunate time in our country, and throughout the world. This Easter, we may not be able to celebrate the Risen Savior in the traditional ways that we often have. But rest assured, your church family sees this as an opportunity to sing a new song before the Lord (Psalm 96:1); and with that, we're devising some pretty creative ways of making this Easter unique and special for all!

How to Join the Family of God

If you are interested in trusting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, or if you would like to talk with someone about a spiritual decision, we invite you to contact a decision counselor, or the deacon of the week. Their contact information is listed on the first page of the bulletin. Someone will be happy to pray with you about your next step in faith. You may also call the deacon of the week to set a time to meet and answer any questions you may have.

How to Show Your Faith: Baptism

If you have trusted Christ as your Savior and would like to make a public confession of your faith by participating in baptism, please come forward at the end of the service to let the pastor know.

We can help you prepare for your baptism.

How to Join the SMBC Family in Membership

We are excited to know you have been our guest here at SMBC and now you feel God leading you to become a member of this fellowship of believers and serve Him here.

To become an official member, we ask that you contact the church office. A trained member of SMBC will share with you our beliefs and enjoy hearing about how God has worked in your life. We look forward to talking with you about membership.

If you have questions or comments for the Elders, they can be reached at the following email: elders@smithmemorial.org

A Note from Pastor John

Would you like to go to the Holy Land in early 2021? Talk to me.
Pastor John

Daniel 10

Notes

Daniel chapters 10-12 are one long, last vision. Let's look at how it begins—One Long, Last Vision (Part One).

I. Why so Sad? (Daniel 10:1-3)

Daniel is an emotional mess in this chapter, and he has reasons to be. *“In the third year of Cyrus King of Persia,”* (10:1) Daniel might be as old as 88 years. Daniel 1:21 tells us that he remained in the kings' service *“until the first year of King Cyrus.”* So, he's 2-3 years into his retirement from government work. What's he doing?

In 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 (and Ezra 1:1-4), King Cyrus, himself, tells us that God has caused him to get the temple in Jerusalem rebuilt. In his first year, he made a decree that any and all of the Israelites could go home and begin rebuilding.

Daniel was in Babylon for over 70 years. He was the chief intercessor and spiritual leader for his people (and the kings who ruled over them). When it was finally time to go home, he was left behind. No doubt, God led him to stay. But that didn't make it any easier. Why was it God's will for him to remain in Babylon?

Over 40,000 brave and faithful Israelites left to endure the hardship of beginning again in Judah. They had a pioneer/missionary spirit for sure. It was going to be tough! More than two times that many Israelites were unwilling to go back. They had become comfortable in their captivity. They were making money. They had assimilated into the culture. Cyrus said they could all go back and rebuild the place

God ordained to make Himself known in the world, and they said, “Nah. We’re good.”

Daniel has a lot of reasons to be hurting. He stood at the place of departure and hugged his beloved countrymen for the last time. His closest friends and family were dead or departed. When he looked around to see who and what was left, all he saw was loss and compromise.

Daniel fasted from luxuries and choice foods for 21 days. His fast ended on “*the 24th day of the first month*” (10:2-3). That means that his fast was connected to the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread. Think about that.

Passover was a celebration of another time in Israel’s history when they were captive in a foreign land. At that time God compelled a pagan king to let His people go. Daniel saw God do it again with Cyrus two years before his fast! At the time of the Exodus from Egypt, no one stayed behind. Three million Israelites and many Egyptians, Libyans, Cushites, Midianites, and maybe even some Phoenicians and Philistines joined them (Gen. 12:38). They saw the finger of God in the plagues and the Passover. They saw that He spared everyone who obeyed His Word and covered their homes with the blood of the lamb. They decided to follow YaHWeH wherever He would lead. Wouldn’t you have? Have you? I have. My family has joined the exodus and wherever He leads, we’ll go.

In Babylon, most of the people didn’t go. Daniel fasted and prayed for 21 days. In response to his prayers, God gave him one long, last vision.

II. Who You Have to See (Daniel 10:4-13)

There’s a lot in this world we cannot see. We can’t see the power of a word spoken to a heart and its impact to define, destroy, or save. We can’t see the COVID-19 virus even though it’s turning the world upside down. The most powerful things in the universe are things we currently cannot see with our human eyes.

Daniel sees someone in 10:4-9. Who is it? He's wearing a white, linen robe. He has a golden belt or sash. His eyes were like "blazing fire" or "flaming torches." His arms and legs gleamed like "burnished bronze." His voice was like "a multitude" or "the sound of rushing waters" (if you make this sound with your mouth you can hear how they sound alike). All of these descriptions are found here in Daniel 10 and Revelation 1:13-18. They are describing the same being and, in Revelation 1, the one described says, "*Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*" Daniel saw Jesus.

Daniel saw Jesus while he was standing on the bank of the Tigris river. Genesis 2 tells us that the Tigris is one of the 4 rivers that flowed out of Eden. Eden is where God walked and talked with a man and a woman.

Daniel's companions couldn't see Jesus but they were terrified by what they sensed and they ran and hid. Saul of Tarsus was blinded by Jesus on the road to Damascus. His companions couldn't see Jesus either (Acts 9:4-7).

When Ezekiel saw the Lord, he "*fell face down*" (Ezekiel 1:28). Paul "*fell to the ground*" when he saw Him too. John fell down "*as though dead.*" Daniel said he "*fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground*" (10:9). Psalm 130:3 says, "*If you O Lord kept a record of wrongs, who could stand?*" Daniel was a good and godly man of obedience and prayer. He couldn't stand. No "good man" is going to stand in Christ's presence and there is no good standing before God outside of Christ's forgiveness. God does keep a record of wrongs but Psalm 130:4 says, "*But with you there is forgiveness...*"

We have to see Jesus. We also need to know about something else we can't see (Daniel 10:12-13,20). There are battles being waged by unseen combatants in the heavenly realms. The messenger angel, who woke Daniel up, was "*resisted*" by the "*prince of the Persian kingdom*" for 21 days (10:10-13). He needed some help to break

through and bring his message to Daniel. Help came. Michael, “*one of the chief princes*” (see Daniel 12:1 and Rev. 12:7 for more about Michael) got him through. In verse 20 the angel makes another statement about returning to “*fight against the prince of Persia*” and the imminent arrival of the “*prince of Greece.*”

The devil is the “*prince of this world*” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; and Eph. 2:2) and he has his “*princes*” positioned in territories around the world. These fallen angelic beings are tough and we are warned not to meddle with them. The Bible makes it clear that we are not to practice sorcery, witchcraft, divining, or anything along those lines. These beings are much more powerful than we are. But then, there is prayer. When we pray in the name of Jesus, God deals with these beings. Jesus sent 1000 of them fleeing into a herd of pigs (Mark 5:1-20) and at the sound of His name they tremble (James 2:19). When we pray we are affecting the battle among the angels. Remember, “*Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*” (Eph. 6:12).

III. What You Have to Know (Daniel 10:15-18,21)

It’s all been written. Daniel chapter 11 is the prophecy/history of the events that took place from Daniel’s time until the end of time. Most of it has already happened now. Some of it is still to come. One thing is certain though, it’s all been settled. The messenger angel came to give the aged Daniel one last message. He came to tell him what was “*written in the Book of Truth*” (10:21).

Daniel had fear and sadness. The powerful vision of Jesus just about did him in. Because of what’s been written in heaven and because of Who wrote it, AND because God considers him “*highly esteemed*” he can now know “*Peace!*” and “*Be strong now; be strong,*” (10:19).



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