







Invitation to the *telos*: “the end”

Why does Daniel sound like this?

Symbols, stories: code for

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

215 BCE – 164 BCE



Why does Daniel sound like this?

Central Theme: The Jews under persecution, not
the activities of empires.....



Daniel's Final Vision (ch. 10-12)

Chapter 11: the people of God in the middle of a mess

11:1: Daniel sees from the point of view of ancient Babylon

11:2: the angel tells the historical narrative

11:14: some will use violence against the political leaders,
but it won't prevail

11:31: Persecution of Jews (abomination of desolation:
violence against God's Temple)

11:32-35 Beautiful description of those who resist the
persecution, although they lose a lot and some get confused

11: 36-45 Destruction of other nations/groups are all
around, but the end eventually comes for the violent
political leaders

Matthew 24: 3-14 :

Christians, and clarity in the middle of their political mess

24:3: The disciples ask for an apocalyptic answer to the current political problem

24:4-12: Jesus uses this language, but simply states that we can be surrounded by political confusion and Christians can get just as confused as the Jews were

24:13-14 Christians can remain sure of the hope that God gives, that being faithful is worth it. We work at enduring, then let God work

Two ways for us to read this:

1. The past 2. The present and future

in both: 2 questions

Was it us and we have to repent?

Was it them and God has to act?



The past: Politics goes on around believers,
sometimes influencing their lives,
sometimes just generating fear from afar

The past: how to identify with the persecuted as Christians today?
Flip our minds to the *empathetic* understanding of persecuted Christians, rather than directly identify.



1. Was it the Judahites bad decisions? Repent?
2. Was it that they suffered innocently, and God is about to act sovereignly to help?

TIME



The **present** and
the **future**: did
we do this? and
should repent?
OR Are we not
responsible but
only must trust
God to act?
BOTH

telos “end”: our goal and mature state



The present and the future:

Jesus words, *Tikkun Olam*

Regeneration, preservation of the earth.

This too is politics and history in the
biblical Christian tradition.

“..for God to judge the world meant that he would, in the end, put it all to rights, straighten it out, producing not just a sigh of relief all round but shouting for joy from the trees and the fields, the seas and the floods.”

N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*.



What is the quality of the world as we
work with God toward “the end”?

It’s UP? it’s DOWN?

Or

It’s GOOD



