

GOD IS IN CHARGE, NOW AND FOREVER

Daniel 7-12

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Have you ever read Daniel's dreams in Daniel 7-12?
- What does it mean to believe that God is in control?

The second half of the book of Daniel records Daniel's dreams. However, Daniel cannot interpret his own dreams and he has to ask God to explain them to him. Like the dreams themselves, God's explanation is not always clear to Daniel, but each interpretation reinforces a common theme: God is in control and His kingdom will last forever. In the middle of his dreams and God's interpretations, Daniel is compelled to confess the sins of his people and ask God to restore them. Like Daniel, we do not always get all of the details we may want about the future, but we have enough to trust in faith that God is in charge, now and forever.

Listen: [*God is in Charge, Now and Forever*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why do you think some Christians are drawn to trying to predict the future or identify a literal interpretation of Daniel's dreams? Where do you typically fit—do you think there is a literal interpretation or are you more comfortable identifying the odd symbols and numbers as symbolism and accepting the mystery?
- As hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss in segment 2, Daniel's prayer in chapter 9 marks the first time we hear any Israelite confess Israel's communal sin while in exile. Daniel is likely guilty of some of these sins, but he also probably confesses sins he didn't personally commit. What do you think about the idea of confessing your community's current and past sins? How does that make you feel? What do you think might be achieved by doing so?
- Why do you think Daniel's dreams and God's interpretations motivated Daniel to respond with repentance and petition for himself and his fellow Israelites? Do you think Daniel's experiences in exile (Daniel 1-6) bolstered his confidence in God's mercy? Why or why not?
- In segment 3, Darrell and Scott describe us modern Christians as living in our own kind of exile. What do you think they meant by that? Do you agree or disagree? Why? Is there another way you would describe what it is like to be a Christian in the world today?

Related Passages

- **Mark 13:32-37**
- **Deuteronomy 20**

- **1 Kings 18:20-40**
- **Leviticus 18**
- **Psalms 103**
- **Hebrews 2:5-9**
- **Hebrews 11:14-16**
- **Hebrews 12:1-3**

Conclusion

The stories in Daniel 1-6 and Daniel's dreams in Daniel 7-12 point us to our Sovereign God and affirm that we can put our trust in him through all the ups and downs of life. Do you think you believe and live like God is in control with the same confidence that Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael do throughout the book of Daniel? What helps you trust in God's sovereignty despite your circumstances? What encouragement do you need to build more trust and confidence in God's mercy? Reflect on and pray about your answers. Be honest with God about what you want to believe and what help you need for your unbelief.

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