**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *Do you tend to avoid apocalyptic sections of the Bible? If so, what about it causes you to do so?*
* *Kingdoms and leaders are often marked by statues and monuments to their greatness. What images litter the landscape in our time? Are they symbols of power? If so, how does that power affect you?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 7:1-28***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* If Daniel’s vision feels familiar, that’s because we have got a glimpse of this vision before in Daniel chapter 2. Let’s compare these two chapters.
	+ Daniel 7:4-6 reveals the first three beasts. Compare this to Daniel 2:31-32. Chart out and compare the beasts to the metals of the statue.
	+ The fourth beast is revealed in Daniel 7:7. This beast is unidentifiable as an animal and more terrifying than any of the previous kingdoms. What do you think this beast represents?
	+ Daniel 2:36-45 gives us the first interpretation. How does this help you understand what each beast represents?
* After seeing the similarities between these two chapters, why did God give Daniel such a similar vision. What is the difference between the two?
* Last week we saw how Daniel’s story mirrors so much of Jesus’ story. It is no wonder that Jesus takes the time to reference Daniel in his interactions with the religious leaders. Read Mark 14:62-64. What verse in Daniel is Jesus referencing? What is He claiming?
* Read Philippians 2:6-11. How does this verse fulfill what we read in Daniel 7? How does this verse encourage you today?

***DISCUSS:***

* To what extent does the picture of earthly political states in Daniel 7 accord with your own experience today?
* Reread verses 9-10. How does reflecting on this image move you to praise God?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

180 Day Guided Tour of the Bible

**Reading Plan for Week of October 22th**

Day 16: Exodus 10-11: The Ten Plagues

Day 17: Exodus 14: Miracle at the Red Sea

Day 18: Exodus 20: The Ten Commandments

Day 19: Exodus 32: The Dream Dies

Day 20: Leviticus 26: Legal Matters

GOD’S VIEW OF HUMAN HISTORY

Daniel 7:1-28

Wave Church SD | Oct. 22, 2017

***Daniel 7:1-8 (ESV)*** *1**In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. 2Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. 4The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. 5And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’ 6After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

**GOD’S VIEW OF HUMAN HISTORY**

* **HISTORY IS GOING TO GET WORSE**
* **THE HUMAN NIGHTMARE IS PROGRESSIVE EVIL WE CANNOT DEFEAT.**

***Daniel 7:9-14 (ESV)*** *9“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. 11“I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. 13“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

* **GOD’S ANSWER TO THE HUMAN NIGHTMARE IS AN ETERNAL KINGDOM THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

***Daniel 7:15-28 (ESV****) 15“As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 17‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’ 19“Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. 23“Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.  25He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’ 28“Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”*

* **THE HOPE OF GOD IS NOT A FUTURE EVENT BUT A PRESENT REALITY**