

Life Group Notes

Sunday 5th December 2021

Speaker: Blessing Makumbe

Title: Daniel: Death Where Is Your Sting?

Passage: Daniel: 12:1-4

Dan 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

This verse speaks of death losing its sting over those who believe in Christ (I Cor 15:5). This prophecy points forward to the resurrection of all people, as Jesus declared in John 3:16; so to everlasting life, other to everlasting judgement.

In Matthew 27:50-52 we see the connection between the death of Jesus and the resurrection of all people. The crucifixion of the Son of God, and the tearing of the curtain in the temple from top to bottom (not from bottom to top), removes the barrier between the Immortal and the mortal, and makes it possible for us to access everlasting life.

Dan 12:3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Throughout the Daniel story we have observed how wisdom, courage and spirituality cause exiles to shine in a dark world, like stars in a dark sky. We have been challenged by the example of Daniel and his friends to stand out, to bear witness to our faith, to “shine.”

Dan 12:4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Daniel is encouraged to seal up the words of this prophecy until a later date. In Revelation 5:4-5, we witness John weeping bitterly because no-one is found who is able to open the seal. And then we witness Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, who is considered worthy to open the seal. So we see a connection between Daniel and Revelation, and see these prophecies fulfilled in Christ.

Questions:

1. What does it mean for death to lose its sting? What are you expecting to happen when you die?
2. Is anyone here afraid of death? How can we pray for you/help you around this fear?
3. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus give us eternal life?
4. Have you had any opportunities to “shine” recently?
5. We have talked a lot about wisdom, spirituality and courage. In which of these areas do you need to grow, and why?
6. What have you learnt from these verses, and what are you going to do about it?