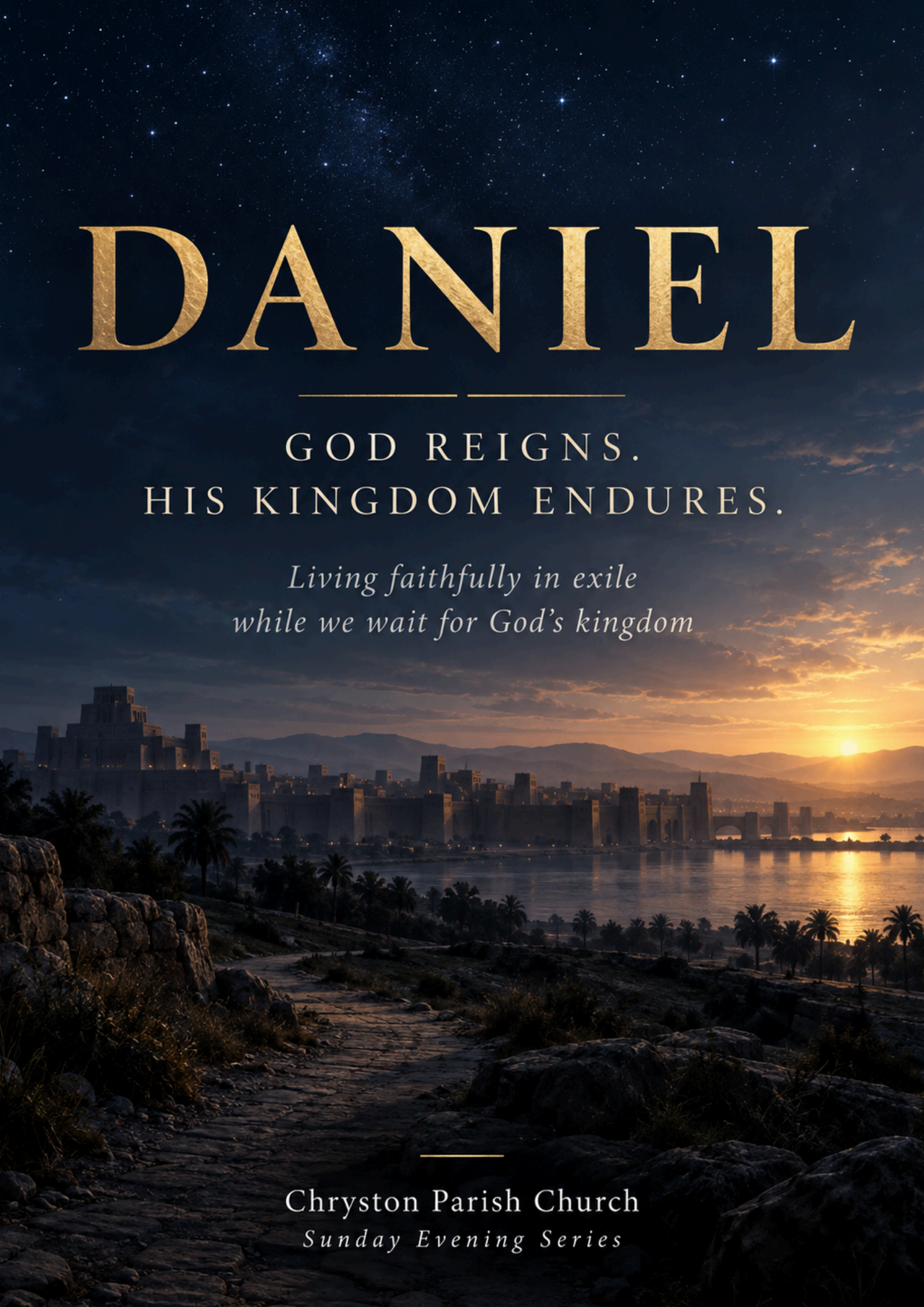




DANIEL

GOD REIGNS.
HIS KINGDOM ENDURES.

*Living faithfully in exile
while we wait for God's kingdom*

Chryston Parish Church
Sunday Evening Series



FAITHFUL IN EXILE

Daniel begins with God's people far from home. Jerusalem has fallen. Daniel and his friends have been taken to Babylon. They are surrounded by a culture that does not share their faith, pressured to compromise, and ruled by kings who appear to hold all the power.

Yet from the very beginning, Daniel shows us that appearances can deceive.
Babylon may look strong, but God still reigns.
Kings may make decrees, but God still rules history.
God's people may be far from home, but God has not abandoned them.

Throughout the book, Daniel and his friends are called to live faithfully under pressure. They refuse compromise. They pray. They trust God. They stand firm when obedience is costly. And behind every story and every vision lies the same great truth: *"the Most High rules the kingdom of men"* Daniel 4:17.

Daniel is not mainly a book about remarkable people being brave. It is a book about the sovereign God who remains faithful to his people when the world around them seems uncertain.

That is why Daniel still speaks so clearly to the church today. We too are called to live faithfully in a world that does not always share our loyalties. And Daniel keeps reminding us:

God reigns. His kingdom endures. So his people can remain faithful.

FAITHFUL IN EXILE

S A M E G O D . A D I F F E R E N T L A N D .

1 DANIEL 1 — REFUSING TO BE SHAPED BY BABYLON.

Daniel and his friends are given new names, new education and a new culture. Yet Daniel resolves not to defile himself.

Faithfulness begins with knowing whom we belong to.

2 DANIEL 2 — A KINGDOM THAT WILL NEVER END.

Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a great statue representing earthly kingdoms.

Every human kingdom eventually falls. But God will establish:

“a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.” Daniel 2:44.

3 DANIEL 3 — FAITHFUL IN THE FIRE.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to bow to the king's image.

Their confidence is not that God must rescue them, but that God is worthy of obedience whatever happens.

4 DANIEL 4 — THE MOST HIGH RULES.

Nebuchadnezzar learns that earthly power is never ultimate.

Pride brings him low until he recognises that heaven rules.

5 DANIEL 5 — WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING.

Belshazzar treats God with contempt. That very night his kingdom falls.

Human arrogance has an end.

6 DANIEL 6 — FAITHFUL IN PRAYER.

Daniel continues praying even when prayer becomes illegal.

God shuts the lions' mouths.

Daniel 1–6 teaches us that faithful living is often ordinary before it is dramatic: trust God, pray, refuse compromise, and keep obeying.

HOPE BEYOND HISTORY

From Daniel 7 onwards, the book changes. Daniel is shown visions of beasts, kingdoms, conflict, persecution and judgement. The imagery can be difficult, but the message is remarkably consistent.

1 DANIEL 7 — THE SON OF MAN RECEIVES THE KINGDOM

Beast-like kingdoms rise from the earth.

But then Daniel sees: *“one like a son of man”* Daniel 7:13.

He receives an everlasting dominion that will never pass away.

Jesus later uses this title for himself.

2 DANIEL 8 — EVIL HAS LIMITS

Daniel sees a ruler who attacks God’s people and defies God.

But his power is temporary.

3 DANIEL 9 — LONGING FOR HOME

Daniel prays with confession, humility and confidence in God’s mercy.

God promises a rescue greater than simply returning from exile.

4 DANIEL 10 — THE BATTLE BEHIND THE SCENES

Daniel learns that what we can see is not all that is happening.

There is an unseen spiritual conflict, yet God remains sovereign.

5 DANIEL 11 — FAITHFUL IN THE CROSSFIRE

Kings fight, empires clash, and God’s people suffer.

Yet: *“the people who know their God shall stand firm”* Daniel 11:32.

6 DANIEL 12 — SHINE UNTIL THE END

Trouble will come. God will deliver. The dead will rise. The wise will shine.

And Daniel is told: *“go your way till the end.”*

WHAT DANIEL HAS TAUGHT US

SIX TRUTHS TO CARRY WITH US

1 GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Kings rise and fall, but God rules over history.
Nothing in Daniel happens outside his knowledge or authority.

2 EARTHLY KINGDOMS PASS AWAY

Babylon, Persia, Greece and every other human power are temporary.
God's kingdom alone endures.

3 FAITHFULNESS MATTERS

Daniel and his friends are not called to control Babylon.
They are called to remain faithful within it.
Prayer, courage, obedience and refusal to compromise matter.

4 GOD IS WITH HIS PEOPLE

Daniel never promises an easy life.
There are furnaces, lions, persecution and conflict.
But God does not abandon his people in the fire.

5 EVIL HAS AN END

Again and again rulers appear unstoppable.
Again and again they fall.
Daniel teaches us never to confuse temporary power with ultimate power.

6 HOPE LIES BEYOND DEATH

Daniel ends with resurrection.
"many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake"
Daniel 12:2
The final hope of God's people is not simply surviving difficult circumstances.
It is resurrection, everlasting life and God's kingdom fully established.

So Daniel teaches us to look beyond what appears
powerful now and trust the God who already knows the end.

THE PROMISE AND THE KING

1 DANIEL POINTS TO FULFILMENT IN JESUS

Daniel was written centuries before the coming of Jesus, but its hopes find their fulfilment in him. Daniel sees an everlasting kingdom.

In Daniel 2, every earthly kingdom eventually falls. In Daniel 7, the Son of Man receives everlasting dominion. Jesus announces the kingdom of God and identifies himself as the Son of Man. He is the King whose reign will never end.

2 DANIEL LONGS FOR FINAL DELIVERANCE

Daniel's people need more than rescue from Babylon.

Humanity needs rescue from sin, judgement and death.

Jesus accomplishes that greater rescue through the cross.

3 DANIEL LOOKS FORWARD TO RESURRECTION

Daniel 12 promises that those who sleep in the dust will awake.

The New Testament announces: *"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

1 Corinthians 15:20.

Daniel had the promise. In Jesus, resurrection has already begun.

4 DANIEL CALLS GOD'S PEOPLE TO PERSEVERE

Jesus does not promise his followers an easy road.

But he says: *"take heart; I have overcome the world."*

John 16:33.

Our hope is therefore not finally in our ability to remain strong.

Our hope is in the Christ who died, rose, reigns and will bring his people safely home.

The same God who revealed the future to Daniel has kept his word in Jesus. Our hope is real, our King reigns.

WHAT DOES DANIEL ASK OF US?

*Daniel does not call us to escape the world.
He teaches us how to live faithfully within it.*

1 KNOW YOUR GOD.

Daniel 11 says: “*the people who know their God shall stand firm*”.
Faithfulness begins not with greater confidence in ourselves,
but with deeper confidence in God.

2 KEEP PRAYING.

Daniel prays when life is calm. He prays when kings threaten him.
He prays when he is confused.
Prayer is not Daniel’s emergency measure. It is his way of life.

3 REFUSE COMPROMISE.

Daniel and his friends know that some lines cannot be crossed.
Faithfulness may sometimes cost us.
But belonging to God matters more than fitting in.

4 DO NOT PANIC WHEN EVIL LOOKS STRONG.

Daniel repeatedly shows us rulers who appear unstoppable.
None of them lasts. God does.

5 LIVE WITH THE END IN VIEW.

Daniel 12 does not encourage endless speculation.
It encourages endurance. We may not understand everything God is doing.
We do not need to. God gives us enough to trust him.

*So: Wait faithfully. Walk steadily. Shine until the end.
Keep trusting Christ. Keep praying. Keep serving. Keep standing firm.*

SHINE UNTIL THE END

Daniel has seen kings rise and kingdoms fall. He has watched empires boast, rulers rage and God's people suffer. And at the end, Daniel still does not understand everything. But he knows enough.

Trouble has a limit. God will deliver his people.
The dead will rise. The wise will shine.
And one day Daniel himself will stand.

God's final word to him is:

*"But go your way till the end.
And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place
at the end of the days."*

Daniel 12:13

Daniel had the promise. We know the risen Jesus.
Daniel looked forward to God's kingdom. We know its King.
Daniel was promised that he would stand.
Because Christ lives, his people will live also.

So as we come to the end of Daniel:

**GOD REIGNS.
HIS KINGDOM ENDURES.
SO STAY FAITHFUL UNTIL THE END.**

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