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Week 4: Visions of Hope and Restoration

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Jeremiah 29:4-7**

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

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**Day 2: Matthew 24:15-16**

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

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**Day 3: Daniel 12:12-13**

Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. “As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.”

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**Day 4: Proverbs 11:30**

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.

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**Day 5: Zechariah 9:9**

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

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Discussion Questions:

**1.** The Declaration of Independence mentions that all men are “endowed by their Creator” with unalienable rights. What does this statement tell us about the founding fathers' beliefs? How does this compare to the way Israel’s leaders once viewed God’s sovereignty?

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**2.**  Pastor Bob highlighted in his sermon how Israel turned to other gods because they wanted to be like the nations around them. What are some ways that we, as a society or individuals, may be tempted to "be like the world" rather than remain faithful to God?

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**3.** Pastor Bob used the metaphor of viewing life like a parade, comparing our perspective with God’s all-encompassing view. How does understanding that God sees everything from a higher perspective change the way we view our own lives and challenges?

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**4.** Daniel receives a vision about future events, some of which have already been fulfilled and some that are still to come. How does it impact your faith knowing that God reveals parts of His plan in His perfect timing?

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**5.** Pastor Bob emphasized that the goal is not to know history before it happens, but to trust the God who knows history. Why is it important to shift our focus from trying to predict the future to trusting God with it? How can we develop greater trust in God’s sovereignty in our daily lives?

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6. How do you respond when faced with uncertainty or difficult circumstances? What does it mean to “rest from your questions and worry” as the sermon encourages us to do? How can we practice this in our own lives?

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7. Proverbs 11:30b says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." How can we apply this wisdom in our everyday decisions, especially in how we engage with others about faith?

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8. Reflecting on the idea that God is in control even when life feels chaotic, what are some areas of your life where you need to surrender more fully to God's sovereignty?

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9. Considering the themes of hope, trust, and God’s promises, how can we support each other in our LifeGroup to grow in trust and encourage one another in difficult times?

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