



October 30, 2016
Celebration · 9:00 am
Elevation · 11:00 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Politics, Culture, Kingdom | Daniel, Jeremiah

First: Know our God is sovereign and in control

- Proof: Isaiah 44:28-45:7, Daniel 4:34-37
- Even when leaders oppose Christian people and values

Second: Respond with your heart and actions like Jesus

We live as citizens of a higher and greater kingdom. 1 Peter 2:11-12

Therefore...

- Be faith filled and obedient to God regardless of the circumstances. Daniel 1:3-8- 9; 1 Samuel 2:30
- Be involved and engaged regardless of the opposition. Daniel 1:19; 2:46-49
- Be hopeful, regardless of the outcome. Jeremiah 29:4-14
- Be prayerful seeking God's will according to His Word for our church and community.
Daniel 9:1-5; Jeremiah 25:11-13; 29:10-14
 - How we can engage with people to share Jesus Christ?
 - Learning how to be relevant in a changing world
 - Strengthening our marriages and families
 - Defending life, whether in the womb, disabled or in need
 - Finding reconciliation across racial lines
 - Reaching the Muslim population
 - Pursuing godly love and biblical sexuality in marriage

Digging Deeper

This election is agonizing at times as we hear and see lies, deceit, arrogance, crudeness and ideology we oppose. God knows that His people will live in such conditions because most of the history in the Bible tells a similar story. So, how should we then respond? As we learn how Daniel responded to the politics of his day, we can follow his lead and respond also according to God's design.

Some background: In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and took Daniel and his companions as hostages back to Babylon. Here they were indoctrinated and attempts were made to force a denial of their faith in God. Then in 597 BC, Nebuchadnezzar attacked Judah again and took 10,000 more Jewish hostages which included Ezekiel. Finally in 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem again and destroyed the city and the Temple. Most of the Jews that were not killed were deported to Babylon.

Lifegroup Discussion

1. What do these two passages teach you on your "citizenship" and responsibility in living out your life? Where should your primary allegiance fall? Philippians 3:20, 21 and 1 Peter 2:11-12.
2. Peter wrote to a group of believers that were suffering for their faith, often because of the political authorities over them. What are some practical ways we should respond as Peter declares, "the end of all things is near" because of their circumstances. List how he invites us to respond in 1 Peter 4:7-11. How well are you doing? Where can you grow? What is the hardest for you to obey?
3. When you get frustrated with a person that is elected or feel life is hopeless, read what God recorded in Daniel 4:34-37. What do you learn about God and political leaders?
4. When Daniel was overwhelmed by the circumstances of politics, he would pray. Read his prayer in Daniel 9:1-19. What aspects of that prayer will you pray as you seek God's will for your life and the world around us? How should you pray according to 1 Timothy 2:1-6?

Next Steps

1. **Vote on Election Day, November 8.** To learn about the importance of voting, go to myfaithvotes.com
2. **Research the propositions and people and vote for those that are consistent with God's Word and will.** To find the California Voter Guide provided by the Faith & Freedom Coalition, visit calvarylife.org/public
3. **Join Calvary's Faith and Public Policy Ministry today at 12:30 pm for the California Proposition Forum in W-209 (upstairs Worship Center).** Calvary's Faith and Public Policy Ministry meets to discuss ideas and plan ways to engage our church family in the public square, providing California voter guides, ways you can pray, and more. You have heard a lot about our Presidential Race, but do you know there are 17 propositions on this year's California's ballot? The outcome of these propositions will impact our local communities in major ways and as followers of Jesus, we are called to help shape, serve and protect the common good of our neighborhoods, cities, counties and culture. calvarylife.org/public