

March 2024

Newsletter



PASTOR'S PEN *by Graeme Shanks*

'Don't be Fooled by your Smartphone' (Daniel 7:1-28)

Own a smartphone? If you do, here's a fun fact for you. The smartphone went from introduction to more than 50% ownership in just five and a half years in the United States. That uptake made it the fastest adoption of any technology in human history. Why so quick? Amongst other things, the smartphone has come to epitomise the Information Age. Think about it - you've got instant access to all the information that you could possibly want in a pocket-sized device. We love the idea of being all knowing. And yet many have rightly observed that our generation, despite being information rich, is wisdom and knowledge poor. **The bottom line is that despite all the advances in technology we simply don't know what tomorrow holds.** I mean who mean who saw the recent COVID pandemic coming.

Well God did. You see one of the wonderful things about **the God of the Bible is that he is omniscient.** He is all knowing. He knows the end from the beginning. He's the Alpha and the Omega. He's the God of the big picture and the God of the small details. There is wonderful strength for the people of God to be found when they rest in the knowledge of an omniscient God. That's the message of Daniel 7.

Before we get into the details notice one striking thing about Daniel in this chapter. Daniel is no stranger to dreams. The book's been full of them thus far. However, Daniel has always been interpreting someone else's dream. However, notice that now the dream is Daniel's. That's code for the fact that the message of Daniel 7, and indeed the remainder of the book, has shifted

from being news for the world to being comfort for the souls of God's people. There's a **shift in the intended audience**.

Remember that God's people are at this point living in Babylon feeling like cannon fodder for the superpowers of the day. Who's really in control of the politics and power carousel?

Kings & Kingdoms will rise and fall...

We read that Daniel's dream featured **four great beasts** emerging from the sea. The sea in this day represented chaos and evil. A lion, bear, leopard and a horned animal? The angel explained that the four beasts were not literal animals but literary ones (v. 7:17). In other words, the four beasts are intended as symbols of Kings and Kingdoms. The first beast appearing from the great sea sounds a lot like Babylon. The second beast, as it replaced Babylon, is the Medo-Persian empire. The third beast, with hindsight, we can understand to be the Greek empire. The fourth beast can be understood as being Rome. This Kingdom, in contrast to the rest, will be exceedingly strong and speak things against the Most High (7:25). Into the bargain it will inflict pain on God's people.

The interpretation of the visions boils down to this: while ungodly and arrogant Kings will continue to succeed one another on the world's stage, don't be anxious and alarmed. God wanted Daniel to know that God's ultimate victory over evil, though a long time coming, is certain.

The Ancient of Days will fall and rise...

Another figure emerges on the scene of Daniel's dream. One described as the **Ancient of Days (7:13)** and the **Son of Man**. To him will be given dominion, glory and a Kingdom (7:14). Peoples and nations will serve him (7:14). Crucially, his Kingdom will be an everlasting Kingdom and shall not be destroyed. What a contrast to the Kingdoms of four beasts. The Ancient of Days will kill the beasts, even though their powers will extend for a season. Salvation will come.

It's fascinating that Jesus powerfully employs the title Son of Man for himself. In Mark 4:62, for example, during his trial before the High Priest, Jesus speaks of his authority and coming reign. Ultimately, it is at his ascension, having

triumphed over the powers of evil and death through his cross and resurrection, that Jesus is declared to be the Son of God in power (Romans 1:3). It is at his ascension that God declared to the world that he has seated Jesus as his King on his Holy Hill (Psalm 2). It is at his ascension that God bestowed on Jesus the name that is above every other name (Philippians 2:9). God will see to it that his people receive an everlasting Kingdom through the final word of the Ancient of Days.

The late Billy Graham is recorded to have said this to his listeners;

*"I've read the last page of the Bible,
it's all going to turn out all right."*

That's a simple yet profound truth. The crucified, risen and ascended Jesus, as the Ancient of Days, rules over all things. Despite appearances often to the contrary this is the truth. **The difference between now and the day of his return is that then we will behold his reign no longer by faith but by sight.** Despite all the advances in technology we simply don't know what tomorrow holds. However, our omniscient God does. Rest in that truth next time you look at your smartphone.

OUR SERVICES IN MARCH

Breaking of Bread

The Breaking of Bread service is at 10am each Sunday in the upstairs hall.

All Age Service : 11am each Sunday at the church and on YouTube.

	Speaker	Leader	Subject
3 March	Graeme Dodds	Graeme Shanks	John 18: 1-18
10 March	Archie WI	Jonathan Thomson	John 18: 19-40
17 March	Ian Naismith	Al Mackintosh	John 19: 1- 16a
24 March	Jonathan Thomson	Graeme Shanks	John 19: 16b-42
31 March	Graeme Shanks	Kaete Wiese	John 20: 1-18

Those at the church will take communion on the morning of 3 March.

Evening Service: 6:30pm in the upstairs hall.

Date	Speaker	Leader	Subject
3 March	Pizza and Prayer * 5.30pm		
10 March	Jon Gemmell	Archie WI	Wake Up! Zephaniah -1: 1-2:3
17 March	Jon Gemmell	Aaron Lockhart	Wake Up! Zephaniah -2: 4-15
24 March	Jon Gemmell	Stuart Thomson	Wake Up! Zephania h- 3: 1-20
29 March	Good Friday Service * 7pm		
31 March	No Evening Service – Origin Resurrection Event		

REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN MARCH

Monday

Grove 92 bible study: 11.30am in Room 1.

Prayer meeting: 8pm on Zoom.

Wednesday

Baby & Toddler Group: 10am in the upstairs hall.

Friday

Foodbank+: 10am to 12:30pm.

Coffee@Bruntsfield: 1st & 15th March at 2pm, upstairs hall.

Friday Fun Zone: 6pm upstairs hall for primary age children.

Sunday

Creche, The Field, Kids Church & Embassy : during the 11am service.

Other activities:

Women's Brunch Saturday 2 March 10.30am

Coffee before Service Sunday 3 March, 10.30am

Membership Class Monday 4 March, 7.15pm on Zoom

Elders' meeting Tuesday 5 March, 7.30pm

Women's Bible Study Wednesday 6 March, 7.30pm, Room 3

Growth Groups w/c 11th & 25th March - various evenings

Care Van The BEC team are serving on 20 March

Safeguarding training Sunday 24 March, 12.30pm

Visiting Team Meeting Monday 25 March, 7.15pm on Zoom

Easter Fun morning Saturday 30 March, 10am -12 noon

COFFEE @ BRUNTSFIELD



Friday 1 March

Coffee and fellowship followed by a short devotion from Ian Naismith.

Friday 15 March: Easter crafts. Speaker to be confirmed.

We meet in the upstairs hall at 2pm – everyone is most welcome.

WOMEN @ BEC

Grove 92: Monday at 11.30am in Room 1

Monthly Bible Study: The next study is on **Wednesday 6 March** at 7.30pm in Room 3 and the theme is 'Freedom from Fear... freedom for Faith.'



Women's Brunch: Saturday 2 March at 10.30am in the upstairs hall. Sheila Macleod will share her testimony.

For more information, please contact Kaete Wiese, Women's Ministry Leader:
Kaete@bruntsfield.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM

The next Membership class will take place on **Monday 4 March at 7.15pm** on Zoom.

There is a Baptism Class on **Monday 6 May** at 7.15pm on Zoom and a Baptism Service on **Sunday 26 May**.

Please contact Graeme Shanks if you would like to find out more about membership and baptism: graeme@bruntsfield.org.uk

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Julia and Kyle Lathem on the birth of Isla on Sunday 18 February.

EASTER SERVICES & EVENTS



Friday 29 March 7pm

Good Friday Service in the church.

Saturday 30 March Easter Fun: 10am-12 noon.

We're planning a fun morning of Easter activities for all ages including a bouncy castle, crafts, games and food. **We're still looking for people to help with a number of tasks including welcome, serving refreshments, crafts and bouncy castle supervision!** Please contact Peter if you're able to help:

Peter@bruntsfield.org.uk

Sunday 31 March 11am

All Age Easter Service, followed by egg rolling on the Links.

There is no evening service on Easter Sunday however Resurrection by Origin Scotland is on at the Usher Hall at 7.30pm. Although the event is free, you need to book tickets: <https://www.originscotland.org/4/events.php>

MISSIONS UPDATE

Dani continues to study in Thailand, and is particularly enjoying two modules on missions. This semester's reading and assignments are challenging, especially the Systematic Theology course. She plans to visit Thailand from 7 March.

Derek and Heidi continue to support Christian publishing in the Middle East, producing a book a month on average. They are encouraged that local Christians are taking increased responsibility now there are fewer overseas workers in the country.

Ferrywell Youth Project is looking forward to the appointment of an additional staff member, who is expected to join the team after Easter.

Heber & Fiona Gallitto in Paraná, Argentina, continue the food kitchen and weekly services in the housing scheme where they live, as well as their ongoing outreaches in Estación Parera and Antonio Tomas. Give thanks for those who have trusted the Lord and been baptised.

PODCAST RECOMMENDATION

TABLE TALK

Raising Confident Kids in a Confusing World... Let's talk to Ed Drew



I usually recommend podcast shows in their entirety but in a slight break from the norm I thought it would be especially good to point out this specific episode - Table Talk's most recent offering.

Table Talk is hosted by Jack Timpany and Graeme Johnstone who, as far as I can tell, are just pretty ordinary young men. But they always do an excellent job of finding remarkable guests and interviewing them on their chosen subject in such a way that engages Christians and non-Christians alike.

In this particular episode, they interview Ed Drew - from Faith in Kids - about his recent book *Raising Confident Kids in a Confusing World*. Ed is refreshingly honest about the challenges of parenting and especially the trepidatious experience of giving birth/being a parent for the first time. Given this is a live episode it also includes an audience Q&A covering such helpful topics as: disobedient children, loneliness, parental failure and societal pressure.

And while this is obviously essential listening for parents it is genuinely helpful for anyone who ever interacts with Children (which, given we're a church, ought to be all of us).

Top Tip: *Some podcast episodes include really helpful notes in their description. For example, Table Talk will always highlight other similar episodes in their descriptions.*

Archie Winnington-Ingram

HEART FOR GOD WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2024

'Psalms for all Seasons': Saturday 16 March 9.30am – 4.30pm,
Paxton House, Paxton, Berwick upon Tweed.

A day of shared Christian worship in Paxton House's inspiring Regency Picture Gallery. Meet for song and workshops and the chance to listen to some inspiring speakers. **Kaete Wiese is the main speaker at this event.**

For more information speak to Kaete or email: astbhfg@gmail.com and you can access the booking form [here](#)



Bible Teaching Day
for Women

Saturday 16 March 2024
Fairfield House Hotel
12 Fairfield Road, AYR KA7 2AS

£37.50 day rate plus £25 for dinner
(Times to be confirmed)

Speaker: Elaine Duncan, Scottish Bible Society

'In a world of fear, share hope'

For more information please contact
riseupscotland@yahoo.com or 01324 410046 (answer machine)

FOODBANK DONATIONS



Food donations are always welcome, in particular items such as tinned soup, pasta sauce, tinned meat and tinned fish. There is a collection box in the foyer and items can be brought to church on a Sunday.

CARE VAN: APPEAL FOR HATS, GLOVES & SOCKS

If you would like to donate any hats, gloves or socks to support those in need, please pop them in the box marked 'Care Van' located in the foyer and we can take them when we're next out on the van. Men's items are preferred.

GROWTH GROUPS

Our Growth Groups meet regularly to gather around God's Word together and to apply it more specifically to everyday life.



Groups meet at different time and locations across the city – you can find out more at <https://bruntsfield.org.uk/growth-groups>

If you would like to join a group or would like to find out more information, please contact Graeme in the first instance. (graeme@bruntsfield.org.uk)

A black poster for a 'RESURRECTION' event. The word 'RESURRECTION' is in large, bold, white, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, in a smaller white font, is 'celebrate the greatest event in history'. The date and time 'sunday 31st march 7.30pm' are in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below that, in a smaller white font, is 'usher hall edinburgh'. At the bottom, in a smaller white font, is 'Free (suggested donation) tickets available from www.originscotland.org or call 0131 541 0117'. There is a faint, stylized cross or starburst graphic in the background.

CONNECT WITH BEC



There are a number of ways to get connected with what's going on and to connect with people in the church.

Weekly and Monthly Newsletters

A newsletter email is sent out via Mailchimp on a Monday detailing what's going on in the life of the church that week. From time to time, we may also send emails to the church with urgent prayer requests.

We also produce a Monthly newsletter which can be found on the website, via a link in the weekly newsletter and paper copies are available in the foyer.

WhatsApp Group

We would like to create a church wide WhatsApp group. This will be used for broadcast messages only and only Admins of the group will be able to post. You will be able to receive a link to the weekly newsletter and urgent prayer requests. You can opt out at any time.

Online directory

We have an online directory called 'Planning Suite'. You can opt to join various mailing groups to receive targeted updates e.g kid's events, women's ministry info. You can find out more about Planning Suite [here](#)

If you've already signed up to the database, it's important to ensure your details are up to date especially if you move house. Please can we encourage you to check your details are correct.

Paper directory

We're creating a paper directory for those who prefer this format. It will contain names, email address and mobile or home phone number for those who have given permission for their details to be published.

How to get connected

You can use the link below to receive the weekly church newsletter, sign up for the online and/or paper directory and sign up for the WhatsApp group.

Connect with BEC Form: <https://forms.gle/uNCyM5DaZffz8BDe8>

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

A large majority of the Church's income comes through donations from its members and others. There are a number of ways you can give to the church:

- Standing Order or Bank transfer to Church bank account.
- Place your donation in the blue box in the foyer.
- Use the contactless/chip & pin machine located in the foyer.

If you pay tax, please consider completing a Gift Aid declaration. You can do this at <https://forms.gle/E8VSVXL1Y9r2TcGW7>

Please speak to Ian Naismith for further details:

Ian.Naismith@bruntsfield.org.uk

HEART OF THE MATTER SCHEDULE

- 3 March: Christine Hallett, Missionary in Mozambique/South Africa
- 10 March: Rev. Alister Cowper, Penicuik
- 17 March: Pat Lomax, Author/Photographer
- 24 March: Members of The Edinburgh Easter Play
- 31 March: Easter Day Programme

www.heartofthematter.biz

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Bruntsfield Evangelical Church SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation no. SC049393

<https://bruntsfield.org.uk/>

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