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The Wilson family



#### **2017 MESSAGE SERIES**

38 ESSENTIAL PASSAGES IN UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORY, THEIR STORY, & YOUR STORY.

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### 1<sup>st</sup> half Intermission





## What can we learn from those years that will help us live out our faith on a daily basis?

#### What happened?

#### \*God is actively silent for 400 years!

"The intertestemental period is called the silent years because after Malachi the prophets of God go silent." Caleb Louden

## What do you do when it seems God goes silent?



"O God, do not remain silent; do not turn a deaf ear, do not stand aloof, O God."

Ps. 83:1

God's silence does not mean he is not ACTIVE.

His ACTIVITY is grounds for our LOYALTY.

## What do you do when it seems God goes silent?



#### A TRUTH TO BELIEVE:

#### GOD is actively working in all events, both BIG and small, to bring about his purposes for our lives.



"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law,..." Gal. 4:4-5







Babylonian

Medo-Persian

Greek

Rome

"In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign he had a dream that troubled his mind and he could not sleep... 'I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means."

Daniel 2: 1;3













#### Babylonian

Medo-Persian

Alexander The Great! Rome

"Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece. Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. After he has arisen, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others."

God used these nations the following way:

- 1. Dispersed the Jewish people causing them to build synagogues.
- 2. A universal spoken and written language
- 3. Safe travel by sea and newly establish road systems
- 4. A longing for God's Messiah-God's perfect solution

"As one looks through the big picture lens of human history we can clearly see the hand of God setting up of the perfect social context for the arrival of his Son, and the sending of the Church into the world."

#### A TRUTH TO BELIEVE:

#### GOD is actively working in all events, both BIG and small, to bring about his purposes for our lives.

#### A TRUTH TO BELIEVE:

"What good and wise thing is God working out, that doesn't seem good and wise?" <u>Two errors</u> we must avoid:

#### **Cultural Separation**

and

**Spiritual Contamination** 



#### Antiochus IV Epiphanes





#### Pharisees

#### Sadducees

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, (Sadducees)

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. (Pharisees) Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

"American culture is shifting into a different era in which Christianity is not necessarily seen as a social good; it is seen as socially awkward at best, and subversive at worst.

For a long time the church assumed the culture wanted to live up to its conception of the good life. The church needs to see that if those days ever existed, they are no more!" -Russell Moore

"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." A <u>task</u> we must be about:

# Showing and telling the gospel of Jesus with those in our Neighborhoods and Nations.





#### Jesus-

#### "Behold, I am coming soon!

#### Behold, I am coming soon!

#### Yes, I am coming soon!"

Rev. 22

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not for from any one of us." Acts 17:27-28