

## EMPIRES & EXILES

*PT 7 – An Enduring Kingdom*

### INTRO

- What do you like best about living in a big city like Toronto? What do you like least?
- What do you like best about your job or school?
- What do you think is the biggest challenge facing our city?

### READ

Revelation 21:1-3

Jeremiah 29:7

Daniel 7:13-14

### REFLECT

Cities have always been a part of God's plan. What started in a garden will culminate in a city.

Dr. Timothy Keller outlines 4 purposes of cities and 4 ways that sin has distorted them.

1. Places of refuge and safety → A place of racism, classism, and violence
2. Places of justice → A place of injustice and oppression
3. Places of cultural development → A place of pride, arrogance, excess, overwork, and exhaustion
4. Places of spiritual seeking and finding → A place of false beliefs & false saviors

We are called to redeem cities. Here are some practical ways to do so:

#### SAFETY in the city

- Live in the city or support those who do
- Create authentic community for those who have no family

#### JUSTICE in the city

- Help tutor children who need help
- Bring food next Sunday for #boxesoflove

#### CULTURE in the city

- Rethink the purpose of your job.
- Support cultural initiatives in our city

#### SPIRITUAL in the city

- Get to know people and be a good neighbour
- Bless those around you

In Daniel's visions of beasts and empires that will come and go, he also saw the son of man and the Ancient of Days who will always be in ultimate control. Although we need to get to work and do our part in the restoration of our city, God is the one ultimately at work. As was mentioned, he barely needs us!

### RESPOND

- In which of these ways are you currently involved?
- In which of these ways could you be involved?
- What other ways not mentioned where you could be a part of city restoration?

### PRAY

- Pray for Toronto. Ask God to deepen your love for this city.
- Pray for one another for strength to withstand the negative aspect of city life.
- Pray for wisdom and clarity to know what part in city restoration God is you us to.