

Daniel 7: 2-14

Luke 21: 29-33

In today's Reading we hear, not for the first time, from a prophet sent by God to counsel the Jews to repent and to follow God's laws. God has gifted Daniel with insight through a powerful dream. The 'monsters' that he sees are the three exiles in Babylon that the Jewish nation will suffer before being overrun by a fourth, Rome. In the time of Roman domination will come a "Son of Man," Jesus., who will liberate, not just the Jews but the whole world. This prophecy has been sent both as a form of encouragement and a warning. Those who listen will indeed be liberated, but those who do not will experience dire consequences.

It is the prospect of these consequences that Jesus is referring to in the Gospel. He tells his disciples, as the prophets had done before him, "Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap.....Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man." "His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty, and every empire will serve and obey him."

We are all affected by the cares of life. As always, these words of Jesus are meant for us too!