

***1 Daniel 10-12 “Visions of the End”**

***2 Daniel 10** ¹ In the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) had another vision. He understood that the vision concerned events certain to happen in the **future—times of war and great hardship.** ² **When this vision came to me, I, Daniel, had been in mourning for three whole weeks.** ³ All that time I had eaten no rich food. No meat or wine crossed my lips, and I used no fragrant lotions until those three weeks had passed. ⁴ On April 23, as I was standing on the bank of the great Tigris River,...

***2a** By this time, the first wave of exiles had returned under the leadership of Ezra (Ezra 1-2). David Guzik

***3 Daniel 10** ⁵ I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothing, with a belt of pure gold around his waist. ⁶ His body looked like a precious gem. His face flashed like lightning, and his eyes flamed like torches. His arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice roared like a vast multitude of people.

This certainly sounds like Daniel is seeing Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate majesty (before He was born a man in Bethlehem). The description is almost identical to what John saw in Revelation: ***3a Revelation 1:12–16 (NASB95)** ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

***4 Daniel 10** ⁷ Only I, Daniel, saw this vision. The men with me saw nothing, but they were suddenly terrified and ran away to hide. ⁸ So I was left there all alone to see this amazing vision. My strength left me, my face grew deathly pale, and I felt very weak. ⁹ **Then I heard the man speak, and when I heard the sound of his voice, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground.**

***4a John 12:27–30 (NLT)** ²⁷ “Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came! ²⁸ Father, bring glory to Your Name.” Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to My name, and I will do so again.” ²⁹ **When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to Him.** ³⁰ Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine.

Acts 22:6–9 (NLT) ⁶ “As I (Paul) was on the road, approaching Damascus about noon, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shone down around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ “‘Who are you, lord?’ I asked.

“And the voice replied, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, the one you are persecuting.’⁹ The people with me saw the light but didn’t understand the voice speaking to me.

Daniel 10¹⁰ **Just then** (with surprise) **a hand touched me and lifted me**, still trembling, to my hands and knees.¹¹ And the man said to me, **“Daniel, you are very precious to God** (“man greatly loved”), so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you.” When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling. ***5**¹² Then he said, **“Don’t be afraid, Daniel.** Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer.¹³ **But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way.** Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.

This is an angel who lifts Daniel after he fell down before Jesus. If it was Jesus Himself – the “battle” with a fallen angel even though he was the “king” of Persia wouldn’t have taken 21 days! (See Rev. 19-20!)

***5a** **We can’t pass this over lightly. An angel was dispatched because of Daniel’s prayer.**
Hebrews 1:14 (NASB95)¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

***6** **Michael (Rev. 12:7-9) seemed to be an angelic guardian of Israel, battling against the demonic representative of Persia or any other who opposed God’s people. On earth, Israel seemed lowly and weak; but in the heavens, Israel had the mightiest representative of all.**

The word prince has the idea of a ruler or authority. This fits in well with the New Testament idea that angelic ranks are organized and have a hierarchy (Ephesians 1:21, Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 1:16, Colossians 2:15). These angelic ranks seem to include both faithful angels and fallen angels. Apparently, this was a demon of high rank that opposed the answer to prayer. On three occasions, Jesus referred to Satan as *the prince of this world* (John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11). David Guzik

There is a tremendous spiritual battle raging for the souls of men and women! Prayer is a mighty force in the battle for “Middle Earth”! ***7** **Ephesians 6:10–12 (NLT)**
¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places...¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

***7a** **Matthew 16:18 (ESV)**¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

If we have such authority on earth and power in our prayers then why would our prayers take a long time to be answered or seemingly not answered at all?

1. Spiritual battles in heavenly places – evil can't win but it can slow things down!
2. We need to go through circumstances to build our faith and draw closer to God, before He will answer. (Endurance)
3. People we are praying for may be acting like a horses or a mules and God needs time to work on them.
4. We may have wrong motives and so be asking for the wrong things.
5. The answer may not be what we are looking for and we don't see that He *did* answer! **There are other reasons!

8 Daniel 10** ¹⁴ ***Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people (Israel) in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come. ¹⁵ While he was speaking to me, I looked down at the ground, unable to say a word. ¹⁶ Then the one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing in front of me, "I am filled with anguish [has the thought of twisting or writhing pain. It is used in several places in the Old Testament for labor pains in childbirth] because of the vision I have seen, my lord, and I am very weak. ¹⁷ How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe."

Do we take our spiritual life as seriously as Daniel???

Daniel 10 ¹⁸ Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning. ¹⁹ **"Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. ("man greatly loved") Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!"** As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, "Please speak to me, my Lord, for you have strengthened me." ²⁰ He replied, "Do you know why I have come? **Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and after that the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece will come.** ²¹ Meanwhile, I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one helps me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit prince.)

"The heavenly warfare is to be directed against first Persia and then Greece, because each of these in turn will have power over God's people." (Baldwin) This demonstrates that what happens in the spiritual realm is behind what men see in the physical realm. Alexander was coming but first the god of this world and his demons would come –bringing men with them! Daniel's prayers affected this whole battle!

***9 "Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God.** ("man greatly loved") So this man put God first in everything He did, trusted God with his life, who prayed habitually and often – ultimately became the object of God's love; and God considered him precious – "greatly loved".

***9a** Daniel was **“Precious” to God**: NAS “of high esteem” (margin: “desirability, preciousness”); Spanish Bible *“muy estimado”*; CEV “God thinks highly of you”; NLT “very precious”; HCSB “treasured”; ESV “greatly loved”; KJV, NKJV, RSV, AMP “greatly beloved”; GNT “God loves you”; NCV “God loves you very much”; French Bible *“bien-aimé”*.

Do you realize that you are precious to God? You are the object of His love! He died to save you from the power of sin in your life *and* the wrath to come as God judges the evil in this world. He loves you and wants to send His Spirit to fill (saturate) you with His love, until it flows out of you, affecting those around you! Jesus said it would be “Rivers of Living Water”.

We don’t have to work to be the objects of God’s love! We are the beloved and because of God’s Spirit in us we live differently than others. We can live like Daniel – keeping close to Jesus and keeping ourselves in the love (Jude 1:21) He has so freely given us! ***9b Jude 20–21 (NASB95)** ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Evil principalities and powers could not separate Daniel from God’s love and they can’t separate us either! ***11 Romans 8:35–39 (NASB95)** ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Stay close to God – read and obey His moment-by-moment commands, commune with Him in the Spirit, freely give His love to others, and seek to understand how much He loves you! DO NOT BE AFRAID!

Daniel 11 has enormous theological value:

***11** The reality of the God of the Bible is demonstrated. Campbell relates: **“In the first 35 verses there are at least 135 prophecies which have been literally fulfilled and can be corroborated by a study of the history of the period.”** Since no human being can know the future (apart from divine inspiration), there must be a God in heaven who revealed these matters. **The divine omniscience and omnipotence of the Lord is set forth.** God foretells future events and therefore must have supreme knowledge and power over history.

***12** The fulfillment of these amazing predictions evidences that the Holy Scriptures are truly a product of supernatural revelation. **Therefore this section of the Book of Daniel**

is not an unimportant record of historical events but a rich testimony to the believers' glorious God and the trustworthiness of his Word. Stephen Miller ¹

***12a 2 Peter 1:20–21 (NIV84)** ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

***13 Daniel 11** ¹ I have been standing beside Michael to support and strengthen him since the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede. (Septuagint reads "Cyrus the Great") ² "Now then, I will reveal the truth to you. **Three more Persian kings will reign, to be succeeded by a fourth, far richer than the others. He will use his wealth to stir up everyone to fight against the kingdom of Greece.**

***14** The angel first announced that three more kings would arise in Persia. Since the prophecy was given in the days of Cyrus, the reference must be to ***14a Cambyses (530–522 B.C.), Smerdis (522), and *14b Darius the Great (521–486 B.C.)**. "Then a fourth king" would amass enormous wealth and with it launch an invasion against "the realm of Greece." ***14c** The reference is to Xerxes (486–465 B.C.) who is also known in the Bible as Ahasuerus. In 480 B.C. Xerxes attempted to avenge the Persian defeat at the battle of Marathon (490 B.C.) when his predecessor invaded Greek territory. **Xerxes was delayed by the Spartans at Thermopylae** and finally defeated at the battles of Salamis and Plataea. The invasion of the Hellenistic homelands was the pretext of Alexander's invasion of the Persian Empire in the fourth century. James Smith ²

***15** "After his [Xerxes'] great army (estimated by Herodotus at a million men) had subdued virtually all of Greece down to the Isthmus of Corinth and the city of Athens had been reduced to ashes, Xerxes' navy was thoroughly worsted by the united Greek fleet at the **Battle of Salamis in 480 B.C.** ***16** This unexpected setback prompted him to beat a hasty retreat to Asia. The one-hundred-thousand-man land army he left behind under the command of Mardonius was completely crushed in the following year by the allied forces of the Greeks at the battle of Plataea." Gleason Archer

***17 Daniel 11** ³ "Then a mighty king will rise to power who will rule with great authority and accomplish everything he sets out to do. (Alexander the Great 356–323 B.C.) ⁴ But at the height of his power, his kingdom will be broken apart and divided into four parts. It will not be ruled by the king's descendants, nor will the kingdom hold the authority it once had. For his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

¹ Stephen R. Miller, *Daniel*, vol. 18, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 312–313.

² James E. Smith, *The Major Prophets*, Old Testament Survey Series (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1992), Da 11:2–20.

***18** The mighty king who arose and did as he pleased proved to be Alexander the Great. He was, of course, Greek. His invasion of the Persian Empire was in large part retaliation for Xerxes' attacks against his people. He first attacked the Persians at the Granicus River near Constantinople in 334 B.C. and finally overthrew the Persian yoke near Nineveh in 331 B.C. His conquest of the ancient world took only five years (334-330 B.C.). Tom Constable

***18a** Alexander died at 32 years of age of a fever after a drunken party in Babylon. The ancient historian Josephus records the interesting arrival of Alexander the Great to Jerusalem, and how he was shown the Book of Daniel by the high priest (whom Alexander had previously seen in a vision). Alexander was so impressed that he spared Jerusalem and granted it religious toleration. David Guzik

***19 – Alexander's Empire *19a – Divided into 4 parts**

Daniel 11 ⁵ "The king of the south will increase in power, but one of his own officials will become more powerful than he and will rule his kingdom with great strength.

***20** Two generals of Alexander and their descendants! The Ptolemaic and Seleucid kingdoms received special attention in the prophecy because of their proximity to the people of God. (Remember; this is all about Israel!) Palestine was a prize coveted by the successive rulers in both of these kingdoms. The Ptolemies wanted to control Palestine as a buffer against invasion by the rival Seleucid kings. The Seleucids wanted control of Palestine as a staging area for invasions into Egypt. The people of God were brutalized by both regimes. The prophecy focuses on four pairs of rival rulers. James Smith

***21 – Chart of Kings 1. The first pair (11:5).** The first "king of the south," i.e. Egypt, was ***21a** Ptolemy Soter, one of Alexander's generals. He ruled from 322–305 B.C. ***21b** Seleucus (later called Nicator) was forced to flee from his claimed territory in Syria. He temporarily cast his lot with Ptolemy. From the Egyptian point of view, Seleucus was one of Ptolemy's princes. Ptolemy helped Seleucus gain control over Syria in 312 B.C. He ruled his kingdom until 281 B.C. The Seleucid dynasty eventually came to surpass that of the Ptolemies in Egypt (11:5). James Smith

Daniel 11 ⁶ "Some years later an alliance will be formed between the king of the north and the king of the south. The daughter of the king of the south will be given in marriage to the king of the north to secure the alliance, but she will lose her influence over him, and so will her father. She will be abandoned along with her supporters.

2. The second pair (11:6). The successors of Ptolemy and Seleucus became bitter rivals. Thirty-five years after the death of Seleucus, Ptolemy Philadelphus (285–246 B.C.) and Antiochus II Theos (261–246 B.C.) attempted to work out an agreement which would keep the peace. The accord was sealed by the marriage of Philadelphus' daughter Bernice to Antiochus II. Two years later, however, Antiochus abandoned his Egyptian wife [and took back his former wife Laodice.] Shortly thereafter Antiochus was assassinated by [Laodice] his wife. Bernice and her child by Antiochus were also murdered. James Smith

Daniel 11 ⁷ But when one of her relatives becomes king of the south, he will raise an army and enter the fortress of the king of the north and defeat him. ⁸ When he returns to Egypt, he will carry back their idols with him, along with priceless articles of gold and silver. For some years afterward he will leave the king of the north alone. ⁹ "Later the king of the north will invade the realm of the king of the south but will soon return to his own land.

***21c** 3. *The third pair (11:7–9).* To avenge his sister's death, Ptolemy III Euergetes (246–222 B.C.) carried out a military expedition against Seleucus II Callinicus (246–226 B.C.). He executed Bernice's murderers. At the same time Euergetes captured paraphernalia connected with the gods of Syria. About 240 B.C. Callinicus attempted to retaliate by invading Egypt, but with no success.

Daniel 11 ¹⁰ However, the sons of the king of the north will assemble a mighty army that will advance like a flood and carry the battle as far as the enemy's fortress. ¹¹ "Then, in a rage, the king of the south will rally against the vast forces assembled by the king of the north and will defeat them. ¹² After the enemy army is swept away, the king of the south will be filled with pride and will execute many thousands of his enemies. But his success will be short lived. ¹³ "A few years later the king of the north will return with a fully equipped army far greater than before. ¹⁴ At that time there will be a general uprising against the king of the south. Violent men among your own people will join them in fulfillment of this vision, but they will not succeed.

Daniel 11 ¹⁵ Then the king of the north will come and lay siege to a fortified city and capture it. The best troops of the south will not be able to stand in the face of the onslaught. ¹⁶ **"The king of the north will march onward unopposed; none will be able to stop him. He will pause in the glorious land of Israel, intent on destroying it.** ¹⁷ He will make plans to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will form an alliance with the king of the south. **He will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom from within, but his plan will fail.**

4. *The fourth pair (11:10–19).* Under the sons of Callinicus, Seleucus III Ceraunus (226–223 B.C.) and Antiochus III (223–187 B.C.), the Seleucid dynasty began to grow in power. The latter king enjoyed great military success. He took Phoenicia and Palestine and fortified himself at Gaza. Antiochus raised a huge army in preparation for an Egyptian invasion. Ptolemy IV Philopator (222–205 B.C.) attacked and defeated Antiochus in the battle of Raphia. Antiochus suffered enormous losses. Philopator did not, however, press his advantage. He was more interested in self-indulgence than in conquest (11:10–12).

Thirteen years after the battle of Raphia, Antiochus III was ready for another attempt to settle the score with the Ptolemies. Philopator was dead, and his four-year old son Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204–180 B.C.) was on the throne. Jews who were in league with Antiochus worked from within to overthrow Ptolemaic rule of Palestine. Soon they would realize that switching from Ptolemaic to Seleucid rule was like being cast from the proverbial frying pan into the fire. The showdown finally occurred at Sidon. There Scopas, chief lieutenant of

Ptolemy, was defeated by Antiochus. After the battle Antiochus stayed for a time “in the beautiful land,” i.e., Palestine, “with destruction in his hand.” The Jews now realized that one tyrant is no different from another (11:13–16).

Daniel 11 ¹⁸ “After this, he will turn his attention to the coastland and conquer many cities. But a commander from another land will put an end to his insolence and cause him to retreat in shame. ¹⁹ He will take refuge in his own fortresses but will stumble and fall and be seen no more. ²⁰ “His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. But after a very brief reign, he will die, though not from anger or in battle.

***21d** Antiochus next attempted to gain control of Egypt through political means. He married his daughter Cleopatra [This was not the most famous Cleopatra from ancient history, but this was the ancestor of the more famous Cleopatra.] to the seven-year old Ptolemy. The plan failed, however, because Cleopatra constantly took the side of her young husband against her father. Meanwhile Antiochus campaigned against the islands and coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. At the instigation of Hannibal (the famous general from Carthage who had been defeated and had taken refuge in Syria), Antiochus invaded Greece. There he was defeated by the Romans. Antiochus retreated to Asia Minor where the Romans crushed him at Magnesia. He was forced to pay huge indemnity as well as surrender his navy and elephants. The Romans also took hostage his son, later known as Antiochus Epiphanes, and kept him in Rome for twelve years (11:17f.).

In his last days Antiochus the Great could no longer think of expansion. The best he could do was to maintain his own territory. He was killed in 187 B.C. by fierce tribesmen in Elamais where he had gone to seize treasure to help pay his debt to the Romans. Seleucus IV Philopator (187–175 B.C.) succeeded his father. He dispatched Heliodorus the prime minister to appropriate a part of the Temple treasury in Jerusalem. Seleucus died mysteriously. Poisoning is suspected, possibly at the hand of Heliodorus [or Antiochus IV] (11:19f.). James Smith

***22 Daniel 11** ²¹ “The next to come to power will be a despicable man who is not in line for royal succession. He will slip in when least expected and take over the kingdom by flattery and intrigue.

***22a** “It was Epiphanes’ policy to throw his intended victims off guard by offering them his friendship and alliance. Then he would maneuver for an advantageous position till he could catch them by surprise.” Gleason Archer

***23 Daniel 11** ²² Before him great armies will be swept away, including a covenant prince. ²³ With deceitful promises, he will make various alliances. He will become strong despite having only a handful of followers. ²⁴ Without warning he will enter the richest areas of the land. Then he will distribute among his followers the plunder and wealth of the rich—something his predecessors had never done. He will plot the overthrow of strongholds, but this will last for only a short while.

Daniel 11 ²⁵ “Then he will stir up his courage and raise a great army against the king of the south. The king of the south will go to battle with a mighty army, but to no avail, for there will be plots against him. ²⁶ His own household will cause his downfall. His army will be swept away, and many will be killed. ²⁷ Seeking nothing but each other’s harm, these kings will plot against each other at the conference table, attempting to deceive each other. But it will make no difference, for the end will come at the appointed time.

***24** The defeat of Antiochus Epiphanes at his second campaign against Egypt was important, because Egypt beat Antiochus with the help of Rome. At the end of it all, Antiochus Epiphanes and his kingdom were under the dominion of Rome. In a famous battle, the Roman Navy defeated the navy of Antiochus Epiphanes. After the battle, a Roman general drew a circle around Antiochus in the dirt and demanded to know if he would surrender and pay tribute to Rome – and demanded to know before he stepped out of the circle. From that point on there was no doubt: **Antiochus Epiphanes took his orders from Rome and was under Roman dominion.** David Guzik

Daniel 11 ²⁸ “The king of the north will then return home with great riches. On the way he will set himself against the people of the holy covenant, doing much damage before continuing his journey. ²⁹ “Then at the appointed time he will once again invade the south, but this time the result will be different. ³⁰ For warships from western coastlands will scare him off, and he will withdraw and return home. ***25** But he will vent his anger against the people of the holy covenant and reward those who forsake the covenant. ³¹ **“His army will take over the Temple fortress, pollute the sanctuary, put a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration.** ³² He will flatter and win over those who have violated the covenant. But the people who know their God will be strong and will resist him.

***25a** This was fulfilled when Antiochus Epiphanes returned from Egypt, bitter from defeat. Antiochus Epiphanes set up an image of Zeus at the temple altar. He demanded sacrifice to this image, and later desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig on it. **“It was in truth an abomination, which brought a desolate condition to the Temple, for now no one would come to worship at all.”** (Wood)

***26** In his attack on Jerusalem Antiochus IV is said to have killed 80,000 Jews, taken 40,000 more as prisoners, and sold another 40,000 as slaves. He also plundered the temple, robbing it of approximately \$1 billion by modern calculations. David Guzik

Daniel 11 ³³ “Wise leaders will give instruction to many, but these teachers will die by fire and sword, or they will be jailed and robbed. ³⁴ During these persecutions, little help will arrive, and many who join them will not be sincere. ³⁵ And some of the wise will fall victim to persecution. In this way, **they will be refined and cleansed and made pure** until the time of the end, for the appointed time is still to come.

***27 NOTE:** Antiochus' (died insane in Persia in 163 B.C.) persecutions gave impetus to the Chassidim (“the godly, pious, loyal ones”) movement that was already underway in Israel. The Chassidim advocated strict adherence to the Mosaic Law and the traditions of Judaism. The Maccabean revolt likewise fueled this movement since it was a political and military manifestation of the Chassidim conservative philosophy. **The Chassidim movement really resulted in the spiritual survival of Israel until Jesus’ time. Some of the Chassidim became the sect of the Pharisees (“separated ones”), which appears in the Gospels.** Later a smaller group of Chassidim became the isolationist Essene community that lived at Qumran beside the Dead Sea. **The Essenes repudiated the rationalism of the Sadducees and the materialism of the Pharisees.** All these groups had their roots in “the people who know their God” (v. 32). Tom Constable ***27a – Modern Hassidim**

***28 Daniel 11** ³⁶ “Then the king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and **claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods.** He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place.

***28a** Antiochus Epiphanes is important, but mostly as a historical preview of the Antichrist. Here we shift from what *was* fulfilled in the Ptolemies and the Selucids to what *will* be fulfilled in the Antichrist, the final world dictator. Daniel was told that this revelation pertained to *the latter days* (Daniel 10:14), and Daniel 11:36 begins to look more towards this final world dictator, who is sort of a “last days Antiochus Epiphanes. **No commentator claims to find precise fulfillment in the remainder of this chapter.**” Walvoord

***29 Antiochus Epiphanes put a statue of Zeus in the temple, not of himself.** This statement will be far more precisely fulfilled in the Antichrist, who *sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God* (2 Thessalonians 2:4). ***29a 2 Thessalonians 2:4–12 (NIV84)** ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God...⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,¹⁰ and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

***30 Daniel 11** ³⁷ He will have no respect for the gods of his ancestors, or for the god loved by women (Lit. “the desire of women”), or for any other god, for he will boast that he is greater than them all. ³⁸ Instead of these, **he will worship the god of fortresses** (War)—**a god his ancestors never knew**—and lavish on him gold, silver, precious stones, and expensive gifts. ³⁹ Claiming this foreign god’s help, he will attack the strongest fortresses. He will honor those who submit to him, appointing them to positions of authority and dividing the land among them as their reward.

The identity of “the desire of women” is also problematic. It may be a reference to the Messiah. Supposedly the supreme desire of every godly Jewish woman in Daniel’s day was that she bear the Messiah. Another view is that the reference is to Tammuz (Adonis), a pagan goddess in Daniel’s day that women found very attractive. Others believe that the meaning is that this king will have no desire for women. Some even speculate that he will be

abusive toward women. In other words, he will be devoid of natural affection. I tend to favor this third view. Tom Constable

Daniel 11 ⁴⁰ "Then at the time of the end, the king of the south will attack the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out with chariots, charioteers, and a vast navy. He will invade various lands and sweep through them like a flood. ⁴¹ He will enter the glorious land of Israel, and many nations will fall, but Moab, Edom, and the best part of Ammon will escape. ⁴² He will conquer many countries, and even Egypt will not escape. ⁴³ He will gain control over the gold, silver, and treasures of Egypt, and the Libyans and Ethiopians will be his servants. ⁴⁴ **"But then news from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in great anger to destroy and obliterate many.** ⁴⁵ He will stop between the glorious holy mountain and the sea and will pitch his royal tents. **But while he is there, his time will suddenly run out, and no one will help him.**

Some of this is difficult to pin down because we haven't been to the future! ☺
God knows.

Note: Ezekiel described a great military force descending on Israel from the far north in the future (Ezek. 38–39; 38:15). Ezekiel did not mention a power from the South. Part of the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy is probably the same invasion Daniel recorded here. This aspect of the fulfillment will probably occur in the second half of the Tribulation, when Israel is suffering intense persecution. Tom Constable

Note: A few commentators see a fulfillment in the life of Herod. "At the "end time," i.e, the last period before the appearance of Messiah, this king would become allies with "the king of the south." **The famous Cleopatra was the representative of the old Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt. She, Mark Antony and Herod joined together to capture the Roman province of Syria.** James Smith)

***31 Daniel 12** ¹ "At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over **your nation**, will arise. **Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence.** (69-70 A.D. and/or the time of the Anti-Christ and the End of the Age) But at that time every one of **your people** whose name is written in the book will be rescued.

***31a** Jesus quoted this passage in **Matthew 24:21: Matthew 24:15–21 (ESV)** ¹⁵ "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.**

***32 Daniel 12** ² **Many of those** (Your nation/people) **whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace.**

***32a** “The Bible never speaks of sleep in reference to the soul, for sleep is not an activity of the soul. Rather, **the Bible always speaks of sleep as an activity of the body** (see Matt. 9:18–25; Mark 5:35–42).” Daniel Feinberg

The Bible clearly teaches two resurrections, one for the saved and one for the damned (John 5:29, Revelation 20:4–6, and Revelation 11–15). **If we really believed every one of us would live forever, it would profoundly change our life. David Guzik**

***32b** Revelation 20:10 also certainly describes *eternal* punishment for the Devil and the Antichrist. “**There would be no way possible in the Greek language to state more emphatically the everlasting punishment of the lost than here in mentioning both day and night and the expression ‘forever and ever,’ literally ‘to the ages of ages.’**” (Walvoord)

***33 Daniel 12** ³ Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and **those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.** ⁴ But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until **the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.**”

***33a** **Philippians 2:14–16 (NLT)** ¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. **Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.** ¹⁶ Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ’s return...”

***34 Daniel 12** ⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing on opposite banks of the river. ⁶ One of them asked the man dressed in linen, who was now standing above the river, “How long will it be until these shocking events are over?” ⁷ The man dressed in linen, who was standing above the river, raised both his hands toward heaven and took a solemn oath by the One who lives forever, saying, **“It will go on for a time, times, and half a time.** When the shattering of the holy people has finally come to an end, all these things will have happened.”

***34a** **This three and one-half year period is well known in other passages of Biblical prophecy. (Daniel 7, 9, Revelation 11–13)**

Daniel 12 ⁸ I heard what he said, but I did not understand what he meant. So I asked, “How will all this finally end, my lord?” ⁹ But he said, **“Go now, Daniel, for what I have said is kept secret and sealed until the time of the end.** ¹⁰ **Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined by these trials.** But the wicked will continue in their wickedness, and none of them will understand. Only those who are wise will know what it means.

Daniel 12 ¹¹ **“From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days.** ¹² And blessed are those who wait and remain until the end of the 1,335 days! ¹³ “As for you, go your way until the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days, you will rise again to receive the inheritance set aside for you.”

The 1,335-day period is 45 days (one and a half months) longer than the 1,290 day period just mentioned (v. 11). Evidently this period will end after the Tribulation has ended, namely, after the millennial reign of Christ has begun or at least after He has returned to earth. We can only speculate about what these 45 days following the Tribulation will hold for people living on the earth then. One view is that Jesus Christ will appear in the clouds at the end of the Tribulation (Matt. 24:30), and 45 days later He will descend to the earth. (Pentecost) A better option, I think, is that it may take 45 days for Jesus Christ to accomplish the necessary judgments and set up His kingdom after returning to the earth. (Archer, “Daniel,” p. 156; Walvoord, *Daniel . . .*, pp. 295–96; Showers, p. 58; Feinberg, p. 187; Whitcomb, p. 168; Campbell, p. 143; Wood, pp. 328–29. Some interpreters favor the view that these 30 and 45-day periods reflect the use of different calendars from the one that earlier prescribed the length of the three and one-half years as a period of 1,260 days (Goldingay, pp. 309–10)). **Whatever the explanation, clearly this verse will encourage believers living during the Tribulation to remain faithful to the Lord. It encourages us likewise. Tom Constable**

“these shocking events” The end of this age, the “age of grace” will be followed by tragic world events. During this time of tribulation, God will deal with the Jewish people. Through the tribulation, the deception of the anti-Christ and wars the people of Israel will come to know their Messiah and will mourn at past events when they rejected Him. God will save them, because they are greatly beloved by Him.

Those of us who love the Lord and are sealed by His Holy Spirit will be with Him in heaven as the events of the last week of Daniel unfold. If you are not “sealed” with God’s Holy Spirit this am, we would like to pray with you to receive Jesus Christ into your heart, so that you can find forgiveness for your sins. Peter was preaching Jesus on the Day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:37–39 (ESV)** ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, **“Brothers, what shall we do?”** ³⁸ And Peter said to them, **“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”