

Small Group Study Guide: Daniel 11 - Prophecy and the Future



Opening Prayer

Begin your time together in prayer, asking God to open your hearts and minds to understand His Word and how it applies to your lives today.

Introduction

This week we studied Daniel 11, one of the most detailed prophetic chapters in all of Scripture. We looked at how God revealed specific future events to Daniel—events that would span from his lifetime through the intertestamental period and ultimately point to the end times.

Key Takeaways

1. **God knows the end from the beginning** - The detailed prophecies in Daniel 11 demonstrate God's sovereignty over all of history.
2. **Evil doesn't last forever** - Throughout history, oppressive rulers rise and fall "only for a time."
3. **Small minorities can change history** - Political and cultural change often happens through a small number of active people, not silent majorities.

4. **Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadows the future Antichrist** - His actions give us a pattern for understanding end-times prophecy.
 5. **Christ will return and defeat evil** - The sermon concluded with the glorious vision of Christ's return in Revelation 19.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. What stood out to you most from the detailed historical prophecies in Daniel 11? How does this level of detail affect your view of Scripture's reliability?
2. How does understanding the history between the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires help us appreciate what the Jewish people endured during the intertestamental period?
3. What parallels do you see between Antiochus Epiphanes and the future Antichrist described in Revelation?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon mentioned that "history is made by those who are willing to get involved" and that "a loud minority cannot have more power than a silent majority." How does this challenge you personally in your faith, family, or community?
5. When you read about the persecution and suffering the Jewish people endured under Antiochus Epiphanes, what does it teach you about faithfulness during difficult times?
6. The phrase "only for a time" appears repeatedly, reminding us that evil has an expiration date. How does this truth encourage you when facing current struggles or observing evil in the world?

Application

7. The Maccabean Revolt (celebrated during Hanukkah) shows God's people standing firm in their faith despite persecution. What are some modern-day pressures that challenge Christians to compromise their faith? How can we stand firm?
8. Antiochus Epiphanes used political intrigue, deception, and manipulation to gain power. What modern parallels do you see, and how should Christians respond to such tactics in our culture?

9. How does studying end-times prophecy affect the way you live today? Does it create fear, hope, urgency, or something else?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:

Option 1: Be Active, Not Silent Identify one area where you've been part of the "silent majority" (in your home, workplace, church, or community). Take one specific action to speak truth or stand for what's right this week.

Option 2: Study God's Faithfulness Spend time each day this week reflecting on how God has been faithful to His promises throughout history. Journal about how this builds your confidence in His future promises.

Option 3: Share Hope Have a conversation with someone about the hope we have in Christ's return. Use this as an opportunity to share the gospel or encourage a fellow believer.

Option 4: Examine Your Allegiances Reflect on what you truly worship—where you place your trust, time, and resources. Are there any "foreign gods" (career, comfort, politics, etc.) that have replaced devotion to God?

Going Deeper

For Further Study

- Read the entire book of Daniel to see how chapter 11 fits into the larger narrative
- Research the Maccabean Revolt and its significance in Jewish history
- Compare Daniel's prophecies with their fulfillment in historical records
- Study other passages about the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2, 1 John 2:18-22, Revelation 13)
- Read Revelation 19-22 to understand the complete picture of Christ's return and eternal kingdom

Memory Verse

Daniel 11:32b - "But the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits."

Closing Reflection

The detailed prophecies in Daniel 11 remind us that God is sovereign over all of history. Every king, every empire, every political scheme—all of it is known to God and under His control. While evil may seem to triumph for a season, it is "only for a time."

Christ will return. Evil will be defeated. God's kingdom will reign forever.

How does this truth change the way you'll live this week?

Closing Prayer

Close your time by praying for:

- Greater faith in God's sovereignty over current world events
 - Courage to stand firm in faith despite cultural pressure
 - Wisdom to be actively engaged rather than silently passive
 - Hope and anticipation for Christ's return
 - Those who are currently suffering persecution for their faith
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"He shall come to his end and no one will help him... but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits."

5-Day Devotional: God's Sovereignty in History and Hope



Day 1: The God Who Knows the End from the Beginning

Reading: Daniel 11:1-4; Isaiah 46:9-10

Devotional: The detailed prophecies in Daniel 11 reveal a stunning truth: God knows history before it unfolds. From Persian kings to Greek generals, every detail Daniel recorded came to pass exactly as predicted. This isn't just about ancient empires—it's about your life today. The same God who orchestrated world history holds your future in His hands. When circumstances feel chaotic or uncertain, remember that nothing catches God by surprise. He sees the beginning from the end. What feels like confusion to you is already resolved in His eternal plan. Take comfort today knowing that the God who predicted Alexander the Great's rise and fall is intimately aware of every detail of your journey. Trust His perfect knowledge and rest in His sovereign care.

Day 2: Evil Has an Expiration Date

Reading: Daniel 11:21-35; Psalm 37:1-11

Devotional: Antiochus Epiphanes represents one of history's cruelest tyrants, yet the prophecy repeatedly says "only for a time." Evil never gets the last word. Though Antiochus desecrated the temple, murdered thousands, and declared himself god, his reign ended. This pattern echoes throughout Scripture and history: wickedness may seem to prosper, but it's temporary. Perhaps you're facing injustice, oppression, or the triumph of evil around you. Don't lose heart. God has set appointed times for every dark season. The Maccabean Revolt reminds us that God raises up His people to stand against darkness. While we wait for ultimate justice at Christ's return, we can trust that no evil regime, personal attack, or spiritual opposition lasts forever. Hold fast—redemption is coming.

Day 3: Standing Firm When Compromise Surrounds You

Reading: Daniel 11:32-35; Daniel 3:16-18

Devotional: "The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits." When Antiochus corrupted many with flattery and forced compromise, some remained faithful—even unto death. These believers understood something profound: knowing God intimately produces unshakable courage. Today's culture pressures believers to compromise core convictions through subtle flattery, social acceptance, or threats of exclusion. Like the Maccabees who refused to eat unclean meat or abandon their faith, you're called to stand firm. This doesn't come from willpower alone but from deep relationship with God. Spend time truly knowing Him—not just knowing about Him. When your identity is rooted in who God is rather than cultural approval, you'll find supernatural strength to resist compromise. What area is calling you to stand firm today?

Day 4: The Abomination and the Ultimate Victory

Reading: Daniel 11:31, 36-45; Revelation 19:11-21

Devotional: Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadows the future Antichrist, who will also desecrate God's temple and exalt himself as god. Yet both meet the same fate: total defeat. The parallel between Daniel's prophecy and Revelation's fulfillment shows God's consistent pattern—evil rises, but Christ conquers. As we approach the end times, darkness may intensify, but so does our hope. Jesus returns as King of Kings, destroying every opposing force with the word of His mouth. This isn't passive hope; it's confident expectation. You may face spiritual battles that feel overwhelming, but remember Revelation 19: Christ rides victorious, and His army follows. You're on the winning side. Let this truth fuel your perseverance today. The final chapter is already written, and it ends with Jesus reigning eternally.

Day 5: From Tribulation to Restoration

Reading: Daniel 11:35; Revelation 21:1-5

Devotional: Daniel's prophecy ends with tribulation, but God's story doesn't end there. The refining, purifying, and making white "until the time of the end" points toward ultimate redemption. After Christ defeats the Antichrist, the millennial kingdom arrives—earth restored to Edenic glory with Jesus reigning from Jerusalem. This is our hope: not escape from earth, but earth's complete renewal. Every broken system, every tear, every injustice will be made right. God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David finds fulfillment when Christ sits on the throne. Your current suffering isn't meaningless—it's part of the refining process preparing you for that glorious kingdom. Whatever trial you face today, it's temporary. Hold onto this vision: a new heaven and new earth where God dwells with His people forever. Your redemption is closer than you think.