

Introduction:

1. We're in our 6th week of our series (**PP**) "**CONTROL** in the midst of **CHAOS**."
 - a. (**PP**) we seek to live **SELF CONTROLLED** because we know & trust that
 - b. (**PP**) **GOD** is **IN CONTROL**
 - i. That is what God is revealing to Daniel in chapters 7-12
 - ii. Through 4 different visions, God is revealing the **CHAOS** that will
 1. Ensnare upon the world
 2. And His people, the Jews specifically
 - iii. But through it all, we're learning that we can
 - c. Live **SELF CONTROLLED** b/c who we know who is in **CONTROL**.
2. This morning in Daniel 11
 - a. We're in the thick of the 4th & final vision of Daniel.
 - i. Chapter 10: the prologue
 - ii. Chapter 11: vision of conflicts for the nation of Israel
 - iii. Chapter 12: the epilogue.
 - b. Today, we'll give an overview of the 1st 35 verses, why?
 - c. Well, let me give you a lens with which to view this chapter.
 - i. Remember Dan 9
 1. The 70wks prophecy where the angel said, "70 weeks of years are determined for your people, and for your holy city."
 2. Dan 11.1-35 are prophecies that fit within
 - a. The 1st 69 sets of 7yrs
 - b. The 483 yrs we've considered.
 - ii. Dan 11.36-45
 1. Events, conflicts that'll happen in Daniel's 70th set of 7's
 2. Better known as the Great Tribulation Period.
 - d. This is a very detailed chapter.
 - i. In the 1st 35 verses there are 135 predictions that have been fulfilled
 - ii. That's INSANE!
 1. They're very detailed, minute, unbelievably specific prophecies.
 2. Dan 11, is an amazing reminder that history is merely His-Story
 3. God, knowing the future isn't any harder than knowing the past.
3. Because this chapter is so specific/detailed we're going to do 2 things
 - a. This is an overview / not in depth... or else we'd be here till Christmas 😊
 - b. Organize our time by looking at the text in 4 sections:
 - i. Israel & Persia (v1-2)
 - ii. Israel & Greece (v3-4)
 - iii. Israel & The Kings of the North & South (v5-20)
 - iv. Israel & Antiochus & Syria (v21-35)
 - c. Why Israel → chosen nation through whom God would send the Messiah.

Text:

(PP) ¹ *I have been standing beside Michael to support and strengthen him since the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede.)* 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. → PERSIA*

1. We pick up in v1 (& really v1 belongs in ch10) it's a continuation of Gab's conversation w/ Daniel
2. Now, we typically don't think too much about angels in our daily life.
 - a. We don't think about them protecting us or ministering to us.
 - b. We don't give angels really much of a thought.
 - i. I do, because I married one
 - ii. But other than that we typically, we typically don't. 😊
 - c. Truth is, God sends angels to those of us who inherit salvation to serve us
 - d. Heb 1 "To serve or minister to those who inherit salvation."
3. Did you know in the Bible out of 66 books
 - a. 34 books mention angels:
 - i. 17 in the Old Testament
 - ii. 17 in the New Testament
 - b. They're spoken about 103 times in the OT, & 165 times in the NT
 - c. As was in Dan 10 they're involved in cosmic warfare.
 - d. Warfare that affects what happens on the earth.
 - e. We should think about that more often.
 - i. A pastor was preparing a sermon for his small congregation
 - ii. And someone said to him, "Why do you work so hard when your message will be heard by so few?"
 - iii. And he said, "Ah, you underestimate how large my audience will be; if angels are looking, nothing that is done is trivial. I'm doing it for the glory of God and in the presence of all those witnesses."
4. Here, we're told that there will be 3 kings followed by a 4th who's going to be very wealthy.
 - a. Now, in history there were more than 4 Persian kings
 - b. But the angel is picking out a section of 4 at a very crucial, key period of time, and then it focuses on the 4th.
 - c. For our time this morning we'll briefly consider the 4th
 - i. You may know him
 - ii. King Xerxes or Ahasuerus.
 - iii. He's featured prominently in the book of Esther.
 - d. Very wealthy and had the largest army in the ancient world.
 - i. He massed an army of 2.5 million men plus naval ships, and with that

- he attacked Greece
- ii. But he was defeated.
- e. History tells us
 - i. He came home a bitter and angry man
 - ii. Sought to find relief for his wounded pride by enjoying his harem.
 - iii. It was at this time that Esther entered the picture.
 - iv. Xerxes was assassinated in August 465.¹

(PP) ³“Then a mighty king will rise to power who will rule with great authority and accomplish everything he sets out to do. ⁴But 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. → **GREECE**

1. The mighty king of 11:3 is, none other than Alexander the Great
 - a. He was determined to punish the Persians for Xerxes’ invasion.
 - b. Now we’ve already heard a lot about Alex the Great through out this series, so we won’t say much at this point.
 - i. He amassed a vast army & had a lightning-like conquest of the world.
 - ii. Died at 32yrs old w/out an heir & kingdom divided / 4 of his generals.
 - c. Like I said, we’ve said much about Alex the Great, but consider this:
2. God was in control during the whole experience.
 - a. Alexander’s incredible conquests were part of the sovereign plan of God.
 - b. The spread of the Greek language and Greek culture assisted in the eventual spread of the Gospel and the Greek New Testament.
 - c. Alexander’s goal was not just to conquer territory but to bring people together in a “united empire.”
 - i. His soldiers married women from the conquered nations
 - ii. Alexander’s empire became a “melting pot” for all peoples.
 - d. This too assisted in the spread of the Gospel centuries later.²
3. This is so good for us.
 - a. Ever had something just seemingly turn to ASH. (relationship/job/idea)
 - b. God is in the business of bringing beauty out of our ASHES.
 - c. Using it as an avenue to get you where He wants you.
 - d. Sometimes, the greatest things are what didn’t happen for you.
 - i. Personally, being an attorney
 - ii. Staying in California
 - iii. Staying at Coastline GB
 - e. God is in CONTROL, amen?

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2000). *Be resolute* (pp. 132–133). Colorado Springs, CO: Victor.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (2000). *Be resolute* (pp. 133–134). Colorado Springs, CO: Victor.

4. Now, if you'll look at your Bibles, beginning in v5 all the way to v20 is the longest section in the chapter.
 - a. That's because the kings north & south are kings that directly affect Israel.
 - b. Now, they all indirectly affect Israel
 - i. Alexander took over the world
 - ii. The Persian Empire had taken over the world.
 - c. So, they all affect Israel, because they were in charge of them
5. But in this next section we see that these kingdoms directly affected Israel, because we're dealing with a nation north and south of Israel.
 - a. Israel was stuck the middle between these 2 battling kingdoms
 - b. Thus, they'd get the brunt of all their battles
 - c. There is SO MUCH given in this section.

READER #1 (PP) 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. 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.*

(PP) 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.*

READER #2 (PP) 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.*

(PP) 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. 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.*

READER #3 (PP) 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.

(PP) 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.*

1. **(PP)** Bunny or cute kid?
2. Now, of the 4 generals that took control of Alexander the Great's kingdom
 - a. Seleucus took Syria and Mesopotamia (Northern Kingdom)
 - b. Ptolemy took Egypt--North Africa and Arabia (Southern Kingdom)
3. There are SO MANY dynamics going on here.
 - a. Let me just summarize
 - b. The kingdoms are in the midst of battle for years & ruler rises & falls within each kingdom.
 - i. King of the North, King of the South refers to not 1 king but whoever is the king of the dynasty at the time
 - ii. The southern dynasty grew stronger quickly, but eventually the northern kingdom became very strong
 - c. An alliance was made through marriage → but didn't work.
 - d. The reference to the glorious land, glorious kingdom--refers to Israel
4. Why is so much attention given to this?
 - a. Through all the intrigue, conspiracy, the wars, all of the bloodshed between north and south
 - b. They have Israel in between them.
 - c. So, when one king wants to attack the other king, they have to go through Israel.
 - d. So, for 100's of years Israel would be sandwiched between the hammer and the anvil getting beat up, beat up, beat up by these kingdoms.
5. This happens for years until—until 1 particular king
 - a. And he is written about and given more space than any other single individual in this chapter.
 - b. One northern king in particular
 - c. The 8th in that line or that dynasty of the north
 - i. Antiochus IV
 - ii. Let's read about him in our last section

READER #1 (PP) 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. 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.*

(PP) 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. 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.*

READER #2 (PP) 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. 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.*

(PP) 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. 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.*

READER #3 (PP) 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. 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.*

1. This is Antiochus Epiphanies, a vile person
 - a. He was an illegitimate king--he seized the throne by flattery
 - b. He called himself Theos Antiochus Theos Epiphanos; loosely translated means I am god most gloriously manifest
 - c. The Jews called him Antiochus Epiphanies --the mad one

2. The south (Ptolemy's) was so sick of Antiochus Epiphanies they called on a new super power to help them, Rome
3. Rome sent a fleet of ships from the island of Cyprus
 - a. Who met Antiochus outside of Alexandria, Egypt
 - b. They warned him strictly, "If you go to battle against this kingdom, you're going to also go to battle with us, Rome. We're going to be allied with them and we're going to take you down."
 - c. History tells us they drew a circle around him in the sand and they said, "You better make your decision before you leave the circle."
 - i. So they publicly humiliate him.
 - ii. He goes back home.
 - d. Now, he's going from south to north
 - i. If he's going back home from south to north, what land does he go through? → Israel.
 - ii. What city does he go through? → Jerusalem.
 - e. In his anger & wounded pride he lashed out
 - i. He placed soldiers around the temple area
 - ii. He forbid people to worship
 - iii. He forbid people to sacrifice
 - iv. He sent his soldiers through Jerusalem to kill as many babies as they could find
 - f. On another occasion, they killed as many women as they could find
 - i. He made idolatry mandatory, he erected a statue of Zeus, killed a pig on the alter of sacrifice, forced the Jewish priest to eat pork, sprinkled the juices of the pig all over the temple
 - ii. He made nudity public
 - g. He was a NASTY guy, and we know from other studies he's the preview of a coming attraction → anti Christ.
4. Now, I love v32b... *"But the people who know their God will be strong and will resist him."*
 - a. Those who trust God is a reference to the deliverers who would come
 - b. Judas Maccabeus and a group of priests
 - i. Drove out Antiochus Epiphanies
 - ii. Reestablished worship in the temple
 - iii. It is still celebrated today--Hanukah
5. Set yourself in Daniel's sandals
 - a. He's like 86 years of age and he's mourning and weeping because Israel isn't the glorious nation and capital like it once was.
 - b. The people have gone back, but only a few, and the work has stopped, and he's praying and mourning and fasting.
 - c. And the angel comes, and he goes, "I've got your answer, Daniel.

- i. You're probably not going to like this
 - ii. But the 70 years of captivity are up.
 - iii. But there are more conflicts yet to come.
 - d. Because after the 70 years will come a Xerxes, and then an Alexander, and then rivals between 2 kingdoms for a couple hundred years till eventually an Antiochus Epiphanies will utterly obliterate your people, and that will happen all the way to the end."
6. Doesn't that leave you wondering...
 - a. "Why would God allow all that to happen?"
 - b. Look at v35. "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.*
 - c. "Daniel, God is going to use this suffering."
7. Would you agree that nothing is as effective in driving people to God like suffering?
 - a. I know we hate it.
 - i. We'd all vote against it if we could
 - ii. Eradicate suffering in all of its forms today
 - iii. But God uses it.
 - b. And that's why Peter said in the New Testament, "*The trials of your faith have come so that your faith—more precious than gold, though refined by the fire—may be proved to be genuine.*"

Conclusion: This morning we've seen that God answers Daniel's prayer with a clear & very detailed description of the suffering the people of God would endure.

Question: Why does God give us all this detail?

1. To highlight the survival of the Jewish people
 - a. Jewish survival is miraculous
 - i. 50,000 Jews were killed in Seleucia
 - ii. 20,000 died by the Syrians
 - iii. 80,000 killed by Antiochus Epiphanies
 - iv. In 70 AD the Romans killed 1,300,000
 - v. The Emperor Constantine outlawed Jews and killed many
 - vi. In the 5th and 6th century Jews were forbidden to hold public office in Europe and over 60,000 were killed
 - vii. Jews are slaughtered by Islam even to this day
 - viii. The crusades in the 11th century killed many Jews in the name of Christ
 - ix. During the black plague, half of the Jewish population died

- x. In 1492 80,000 Jews were pushed into the sea
 - xi. Adolph Hitler exterminated 6 million Jews
 - xii. The Jews exist because there is a **GOD!** Who is in **CONTROL.**
 - b. Queen Victoria said, *"Show me one thing that proves the Bible is true" the Prime Minister said, "The Jew, madam, the Jew"*
2. This is a BLACK and WHITE example of the CONTROL of GOD in the appearance of CHAOS.
- a. 135 prophecies fulfilled
 - b. Every time God fulfills a promise He has made, it should cause us to well up with faith
 - c. I've heard it said, *"Every tomorrow has two handles--the handle of anxiety, the handle of faith"*
 - d. Which will you choose
 - i. Faith grows through knowing/living God's Word
 - ii. Anxiety grows w/out any aid.³

Application: How does this apply to us as 21st cent Amer. Christians?

- 1. Remember, this is history for us
- 2. But for Daniel, this was mystery... it was future.
- 3. If there are 135 prophecies that have been fulfilled here in 35 verses of Daniel 11
- 4. Everything it says about
 - a. The Forgiveness of Sin through Jesus
 - b. The Promise of life after life w/ Jesus
 - c. The Promise that He will right every wrong
 - d. Should lead us to JOY!

Exhortation & Response: the GOSPEL! 😊

³ Much of this message was adapted from Skip Heitzig http://skipheitzig.com/teachings_view.asp?ServiceID=2491&detailednotes=1#detailed