

Introduction:

1. We're in our 7th 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 & 12
 - 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 pick up from v36-end of ch 12.
 - i. Remember the lens with which to view this chapter.
 - ii. Dan 9: The 70wks prophecy where the angel said, "70 weeks of years are determined for your people, and for your holy city."
 1. Dan 11.1-35 are prophecies that fit within
 - a. The 1st 69 sets of 7yrs
 - b. The 483 yrs we've considered.
 2. Dan 11.36-45
 - a. Events, conflicts that'll happen in Daniel's 70th set of 7's
 - b. Better known as the Great Tribulation Period.
 - iii. In fact, we'll pick up the reading at v36 and read through 12.3, in this snippet of Scripture, the following events are predicted:
 - a. The rise of Antichrist—11:36–39
 - b. The Tribulation—12:1
 - c. War and invasions—11:40–43
 - d. The battle of Armageddon—11:44–45a
 - e. The return of Christ to defeat Antichrist—11:45b
 - f. The resurrection of the dead—12:2
 - g. The glorious kingdom—12:3
 - c. We have SO MUCH to cover this MORNING, let's just dive RIGHT in! ☺

Text:

(**PP**) ³⁶ "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.³⁷ He will have no respect for the gods of his ancestors, or for the god loved by women, or for any other god, for he will boast that he is greater than them all.

(PP) ³⁸ Instead of these, he will worship the god of fortresses—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.

1. This is the period of time (yet to come) – the TIME of TRIBULATION.
2. The OT & NT speak of a time of great tribulation that is yet to come to the world.
 - a. Dan 9 speaks of a 70 set of 7's prophecy for the nation of Israel.
 - i. 69 of the sets have already taken place.
 - ii. That's what Daniel 11.1-35 is about.
 - iii. The last set of 7 begins when Israel signs somewhat of a protection covenant with a powerful world leader (Dan 7:7–28).
 - b. The Tribulation period will end w/ the return of Christ & confinement of the Antichrist/Satan in the lake of fire (Rev. 19:11–21).
3. Now, v36-39 of Daniel 11 give great insight to ***the rise of Antichrist***
 - a. He doesn't show up like Kayne → I'm here. 😊
 - b. He rises to power as a part of the 10-nation European coalition; he is the "little horn" that emerges from the 10 horns (7:24ff).
 - c. He begins as a man of peace
 - i. "Solves" the Arab/Israeli problem
 - ii. Proves himself to be a master politician.
 - iii. Gradually his evil designs are revealed
 - iv. At the middle of the 7-year period
 1. He will break that covenant
 2. Claim world control
 3. And set himself up as god (9:27; 2 Thes. 2; Rev. 13).
 - d. Here in Dan 11
 - i. Gabriel describes this evil ruler as a selfish, a spellbinding orator who will arrogantly exalt himself.
 - ii. Gabriel uses the phrase that he rejects "*the God of his fathers*"
 1. What does this mean?
 - a. Does indeed refer to the God of Israel
 - b. The phrase can be translated "the gods of his fathers"
 - c. Meaning, he is a man with no religious faith
 2. He's a secularist, an atheist, one who believes in himself.
 - iii. Gabriel also says "*he'll have no respect for the god loved by women*"
 1. What does that mean? → THOR **(PP)** 😊
 2. Some say, ahhh → homosexual... maybe/maybe not.
 3. The phrase may relate to Haggai 2:7
 - a. A title of the Messiah

- b. It was the desire of Jewish women to give birth to the promised Messiah.
- 4. Not only will Antichrist reject all religion in general but he will oppose the Jewish religion in particular, especially the hope their Messiah will return and deliver them from their enemies.
- e. His god is the god of might and of military power.
 - i. When the people of the world worship him
 - ii. They will actually be worshipping Satan
 - iii. He's the one who'll empower the Antichrist.
- 4. Now, it's a bit out of order...
 - a. But in Dan 12.1 we gain insight into the time of *The Tribulation*
 - b. "At that time" means "during the time of the end,"
 - i. The middle of the Tribulation
 - ii. When Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel
 - iii. Seizes the temple & sets himself up as world dictator & god.
 - 1. This is the "abomination of desolation" that Dan wrote about in 9:27; 11:31; & 12:11
 - 2. Jesus referred to in His Olivet Discourse (Matt 24:15; Mk 13:14).
 - 3. The last 3 ½ yrs of Dan's 70th wk – a time of terrible suffering.
 - 4. Jesus said, in Matt. 24:21 – "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."
 - c. But, God will keep His covenant w/ Abraham and see to it that the Jewish remnant will enter into their promised kingdom.
 - d. You know why? → God is in Control! (PP)

(PP) 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."

(PP) 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.

¹² "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. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.

5. In Dan 11.40-43 we gain insight into the *Military invasion* that'll happen.
 - a. When Antichrist moves into the land of Israel
 - i. He sets up his image in the Jewish temple
 - ii. He declares himself the ruler & god of the whole world
 - iii. But, not everybody will bow down to his will.
 - b. Here in Dan, says that the kings of the north and the south will oppose him
 - i. Bring their armies to Palestine.
 - ii. In previous prophecies in Daniel, the king of the south has been Egypt and the king of the north has been Syria
 - iii. But those designations may not apply to the nations in the end times.
 - iv. Some say what's described in Ezekiel 38-39
 1. Is what's happening here.
 2. It may be a northern confederacy headed by Russia
 3. And a southern confederacy headed by Egypt and its allies.
 - c. The Antichrist will overcome his enemies & acquire great wealth as a result.
6. Anyone remember this movie? (**PP**) *Armageddon*
 - a. Well in Daniel 11.44-45 we see the non-Hollywood story *Armageddon*
 - b. Throughout the 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period
 - i. Nations will submit to the rule of Antichrist
 - ii. But there will be growing opposition
 - iii. As v44 says, it will culminate in a fight / "the battle of Armageddon"
7. In v45 we see the return of Christ.
 - a. 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.*
 - b. Get the setting
 - i. As the huge army from the east gets positioned to attack the forces of Antichrist in Israel
 - ii. Matt 24.29-30 tells us the sign of the returning Son of Man will appear in the heavens & the opposing armies will unite to fight Jesus Christ.
 - c. But the Lord will descend from heaven with His armies
 - i. Defeat both armies
 - ii. And take captive Satan, Antichrist, and the false prophet and cast them into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:11-21; see also Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-3).
 - iii. That's what Dan. 11:45 is talking about... "He [Antichrist] shall come to his end, and no one shall help him".
 - d. Here's the really cool thing...

- i. Daniel doesn't reveal this truth
- ii. But the Prophet Zechariah promises
 1. That the nation of Israel will see their Messiah as He comes from heaven, recognize Him, repent of their sins, and trust Him,
 2. And the nation will be cleansed (Zech. 12:10–13:1).
- iii. Jesus will stand on the Mount of Olives (14:4; Acts 1:11–12),
 1. "and the Lord shall be king over all the earth" (Zech. 14:9)
 2. And will establish His glorious kingdom for a 1,000 yrs (Rev. 20:1–7).

8. Now in v2 & 3 we see a description of the KINGDOM that is to come.

(PP) ² Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. 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.

1. In v2 we see a clear description of *Resurrection*
 - a. Resurrection is not "reconstruction"
 - i. God doesn't put back together the body that has turned to dust (Gen. 3:19), for that dust has become a part of other bodies as people eat food grown in the soil.
 - ii. The resurrection body is a new and glorious body.
 1. The relationship between the body that's buried
 2. And the body that's raised is like that of a seed to the mature plant (1 Cor. 15:35–53).
 3. There is continuity (the plant comes from the seed)
 4. But not identity (the plant is not identical to the seed).
 5. The burial of a body is like the planting of a seed, and the resurrection is the harvest.
 - b. Let me see if I can simply explain what can be complex here:
 - i. When Jesus returns in the air to call His church
 1. The dead in Christ will be raised 1st
 2. Living believers will be caught up with them to be with the Lord (1 Thes. 4:13–18).
 3. We call that the RAPTURE of the church.
 - ii. When Jesus returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation
 1. He will bring His people w/ Him to share in the victory & glory.
 2. At that time, the OT saints & Tribulation martyrs will be raised to enter into the kingdom.
 3. However, those who died without faith in Christ will not be raised until after the Kingdom Age, and they will be judged

(Rev. 20:4–6, 11–15).

- iii. As Daniel says, some will awake to enjoy the glorious life with God, and some will awake (a 1,000 years later) to enter into shame and everlasting contempt—and everlasting judgment.
 - c. Hell is called “the second death” (Rev. 20:14).
 - d. *If you have been born only once, you can die twice; but if you have been born twice—born again through faith in Christ—you can die only once.*
2. Daniel not only talks about resurrection here, but *Reward* in v3.
- a. How we have lived & served will determine the rewards the Lord will give us at the judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:9–12; 2 Cor. 5:6–10).
 - b. Every cup will be full in heaven
 - i. But some cups will be larger than others.
 - ii. We will share in the glory of Christ
 - iii. And those who have sought to win others to Christ will shine like the stars in the heavens.
 - c. There is a special application here to those who have faithfully witnessed during the Tribulation period, when it will be a costly thing to identify with Christ & His people (Matt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9–17).
3. Here’s the reality
- a. Faithfulness to God today, will lead to reward & responsibility in the future kingdom. (Matt. 13:43; 19:27–28; 25:14–30; Lk 19:12–27; Rev. 2:26–27; 5:9–10).
 - b. During Jesus’ physical reign on earth
 - i. We will share in whatever work He has for us to do
 - ii. But only according to how we have lived for Him & served Him here on earth.
 - iii. Believers who have suffered in their service for Christ will be more than compensated as they share in His glory (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:7–18).

Now, Gabriel gives some final instructions to Daniel... let’s wrap this up.

(PP) 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.” 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?”

(PP) 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.”

(PP) 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.

(PP) 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."

1. Okay, there's a mention of a book here (v4)... what's this about?
 - a. In the ancient world, official transactions were ratified with 2 documents,
 - i. 1 that was sealed and kept in a safe place
 - ii. 1 that was kept available
 - iii. It's like God
 1. Looked upon Daniel's book as
 2. The "deed" that guaranteed that He would faithfully keep His promises to the people of Israel.
 - b. To close up the book & seal it didn't mean to hide it away, because God's message was given so His people would know the future.
 - i. The book was to be treasured
 - ii. Protected and shared with the Jewish people.
 - iii. However, the book was "sealed" in this sense:
 1. The full meaning of what Daniel wrote would not be understood
 2. Until "the time of the end" (see Matt. 24:15).
 - c. Daniel didn't fully understand all that he saw, heard, & wrote! (Dan. 12:8)
 - d. Crazy, book of Daniel & Revelation allude & shed light upon one another.
2. There's another phrase here that's worthy of note:
 - a. "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased"
 - i. Isn't a reference to planes, trains, & automobiles
 - ii. Nor the advancement of information/education.
 - b. But, here's what it is:
 - i. It's in reference in the study of God's Word in the last days
 - ii. Especially the study of prophecy.
 - iii. Kinda creepy-cool... you're fulfilling it right now. ☺
3. Now, in verses 5-7
 - a. 2 more angels arrived on the scene
 - i. 1 on each side of the Tigris River.
 - ii. The man clothed in linen refers to the awesome person Daniel saw at

the beginning (10:5–6), probably Jesus Christ.

- iii. When one of the angels asked, “How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?”
- iv. The Lord replied “for a time, times, and a half,”
 1. That is, 3 ½ yrs
 2. The last half of the Tribulation period
- b. Here’s the thing, the key to God’s timing and timetable is the purpose He fulfills for “the holy people,” the nation of Israel.
- c. Throughout the Book of Daniel
 - i. The emphasis is on the nation of Israel
 - ii. And the only reason other nations are mentioned is because of their relationship to the Jews.
 - iii. While the Tribulation period is a time for
 1. Punishing the Gentile nations for the way they have sinned against the Jews (Joel 3:2–8)
 2. It’s also a time for sifting and purging Israel and preparing the Jews for the return of their Messiah (Amos 9:9–12).
4. In v8-13, we see a description of THE END.
 - a. Daniel humbly asked God for the wisdom that he needed.
 - b. Here’s the interesting thing about this thing w/ God.
 - i. We’re on a “NEED TO KNOW BASIS” w/ Him.
 - ii. But, we can trust Him b/c **GOD** is in **CONTROL**. 😊
 - c. I like what Warren Wiersbe says about this: **(PP)** “*The significance of the 1,290 days & the 1,335 days isn’t clear, but there is a blessing attached to the second number. The starting point is the middle of the Tribulation, when the abomination of desolation is set up in the temple. Since there are 1,260 days (three and a half years) before the Tribulation ends, the 1,290 days would take us 30 days beyond the return of the Lord, and the 1,335 days 75 days beyond the end of the Tribulation.*”¹
5. Although God taught Daniel many things and revealed to him many mysteries
 - a. He didn’t reveal EVERYTHING to Him.
 - b. I think there’s a lot of wisdom in that.
 - c. It was not for him to know everything before he died.
 - d. He needed to know that even though there was **CHAOS**... God was and is in **CONTROL**. Amen? 😊

Conclusion: This chapter concludes the 70 sets of 7’s prophecies and shows that God history really is HIS-STORY!

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2000). *Be resolute* (pp. 139–157). Colorado Springs, CO: Victor. Much of this sermon is derived from W’s book.

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

1. There is SO MUCH to learn and live from the book of Daniel.
2. I mean this book radically sets into perspective the CHAOS around us
 - a. There's a plan
 - b. We can read how much of it has already come to pass
 - c. We can trust that what's said about the future will come to pass.
3. In the book of Daniel we see
 - a. The blessings of trusting God
 - i. Daniel & his friends when 1st in captivity / eating fruits & veggies
 - ii. Daniel interpreting mad-man Neb's dream
 - iii. Daniel's friends trusting God through the fire
 - iv. Daniel trusting God through turnover & turmoil
 - v. Daniel trusting God through gossip & backbiting
 - vi. Daniel trusting God in the lions den
 - b. The power of PRAYER
 - i. Remember he's praying for 3 min & b4 he gets out an amen
 - ii. BAM! Daniel 10.
 - c. The Power of the Word of God → all this fulfilled prophecy
 - d. The reality of spiritual warfare
4. Ultimately: I can live **SELF-CONTROLLED** b/c **GOD** is in **CONTROL**. 😊

Exhortation & Response: the GOSPEL! 😊