

Title: Thriving Spiritually When Leadership is Diabolical

Text: Daniel 11:2–35

In 1975, Pol Pot came to power in Cambodia. In just four years, his regime killed an estimated two million people—nearly one-fourth of the population.

He emptied the cities. Banned religion. Shut down schools. Executed intellectuals. And anyone caught with a Bible—or even praying—was tortured or killed.

Families were torn apart. Children were brainwashed to report their own parents. Faith communities were crushed.

One survivor said: “*You didn’t just fear dying—you feared living. Because every moment was ruled by someone who hated everything you loved.*” Ben Kiernan, *The Pol Pot Regime: Race, Power, and Genocide in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, 1975–79*, 2nd ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008), 459–465.

Can you imagine trying to hold onto **faith** in a world like that?

A world where the darkness doesn’t just feel close—it feels like it’s winning?

That’s the emotional weight Daniel felt when he saw the vision recorded in chapter 11.

A vision of rulers so cruel, so godless, and so relentless, so DIABOLICAL, that he was sick for days ([Dan. 8:27](#); [10:8](#)).

God was not out of control.

He was pulling back the curtain to show Daniel what was coming.

Evil would rise. Persecution would come. But through it all, God would remain faithful. And so would His people.

Daniel is given a **vision** so detailed, so precise, that secular critics claim it must have been written after the events took place.

But we know it wasn’t. God showed Daniel what was to come: political turmoil, tyrannical rulers, and terrifying persecution.

And in the midst of it all—God’s sovereign hand remains unshaken.

Main Idea: God’s People Will Be Faithful Because He is Faithful

Even when the most corrupt leaders rise to power, God’s faithfulness remains our anchor.

How do we thrive spiritually when leaders are evil, and the world is in chaos?

For Daniel, this is not random chaos but revealed future history.

And it shows us that no matter how **diabolical** leadership becomes—**God remains faithful, and His people remain faithful to Him.**

1. God’s Faithfulness in the Rise and Fall of Nations (vv. 2–20)

As we review [Daniel 11:2–35](#) we will see the future for Daniel but the past for us.

This is called Daniel's Near Fulfillment which focused on the leadership for Persia, Greece, and also Antiochus Epiphanes

Daniel 11:2 ESV

² *“And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece.*

Who are the Persian Kings? (v. 2)

Cyrus (already reigning in [Daniel 10:1](#))

Daniel 10:1 (ESV)

¹ *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel...*

Three more kings:

Cambyeses (530–522 BC)

Pseudo-Smerdis (522 BC)

Darius I Hystaspes (522–486 BC)

The fourth king: Xerxes I (486–465 BC, aka Ahasuerus in Esther)

His failed invasion of Greece (481–479 BC) began Persia's decline.

Rise and Division of Greece (vv. 3–4)

- Greece is represented by the belly and thighs of bronze (2:32).
- Greece is the third beast: a leopard with four wings and four heads (7:6).
- The goat with a conspicuous horn (8:5) represents Greece, and specifically Alexander the Great.

What do we see next?

Daniel 11:3–4 ESV

³ *Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills. ⁴ And as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these.*

v. 3 – “A mighty king”: Alexander the Great (cf. 8:5).

Persia eventually fell to **Alexander the Great** in 331 BC.

v. 4 – After Alexander's death (323 BC), four generals (not his sons) divide his empire:

Alexander's empire didn't pass to his sons because one was illegitimate, and the other was yet to be born.

Just as God told Daniel, *"not to his posterity."*

His four generals—Seleucus, Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Cassander—divided the empire, weakening it and leaving Israel caught in the middle of a geopolitical tug-of-war (BKC, MSB).

Wars Between Egypt and Syria (vv. 5–20)

Focus now shifts from Greece to the **King of the South (Ptolemies in Egypt)** and **King of the North (Seleucids in Syria)**—both in relation to **Palestine**.

The following passage covers almost 200 years of wars between these powers.

MAP

Let me give you a simple way to picture what's happening here: *two superpowers—Egypt (South) and Syria (North)—wrestling for control, and Israel is stuck in the middle.*

v. 5–6 – A political marriage:

Daniel 11:5–6 ESV

⁵ "Then the king of the south shall be strong, but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his authority shall be a great authority. ⁶ After some years they shall make an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement. But she shall not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his arm shall not endure, but she shall be given up, and her attendants, he who fathered her, and he who supported her in those times.

What is going on?

After Alexander's empire fractured, two of the resulting powers dominate this section of prophecy: the **Ptolemies** in the south (Egypt) and the **Seleucids** in the north (Syria). These verses describe both the growing tension and a failed attempt at peace between them.

- **Ptolemy II Philadelphus**, king of the south, arranged a political marriage by sending his daughter **Berenice** to marry **Antiochus II Theos**, the Seleucid king.
- To seal the deal, Antiochus **divorced his first wife, Laodice**—but that betrayal came back to haunt him.
- After Ptolemy II died, Antiochus returned to Laodice. In retaliation, she **murdered Antiochus, Berenice, their infant son, and many of her attendants**.
- Laodice then placed **her own son, Seleucus II Callinicus**, on the throne.

The prophecy describes the collapse of this alliance in chilling accuracy: *"she shall be given up..."*—Berenice's life and political hope are snuffed out in betrayal and bloodshed.

So, for those of you that are upset about our current government, remember this – political intrigue is nothing new.

Daniel 11:7–9 ESV

⁷ “And from a branch from her roots one shall arise in his place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail. ⁸ He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold, and for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the north. ⁹ Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land.

After Berenice’s murder, her brother **Ptolemy III Euergetes** (“a branch from her roots”) rose to power in Egypt and launched a **successful revenge campaign** against the Seleucid king **Seleucus II Callinicus**.

- He **invaded Syria**, defeated the northern army, and **plundered their gods, images, and treasures**—a symbolic and material humiliation (v. 8).
- He then **withdrew peacefully** for several years.
- **Seleucus II** tried to retaliate (v. 9) but **failed and returned in defeat**.

God foretold these exact events, proving His sovereign control over kings and kingdoms.

The Intrigue Continues

v. 10–12 – Sons of Seleucus (Antiochus III “the Great”) continued war:

Daniel 11:10–12 ESV

¹⁰ “His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall keep coming and overflow and pass through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress. ¹¹ Then the king of the south, moved with rage, shall come out and fight against the king of the north. And he shall raise a great multitude, but it shall be given into his hand. ¹² And when the multitude is taken away, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail.

The War Intensifies

The sons of Seleucus II—especially Antiochus III (“the Great”)—renew the northern aggression, amassing a massive army and advancing deep into Egyptian territory (v. 10).

- In response, Ptolemy IV (Egypt) launches a furious counterattack and defeats Antiochus III, temporarily halting his advance (v. 11).
- But Ptolemy grows arrogant from his success. Though he slaughters tens of thousands (v. 12), his victory doesn’t last, and Egypt fails to capitalize on its momentum.

Isn't it amazing how God works in history?

God not only predicted these power swings but reminds us: no earthly victory is secure apart from Him.

Antiochus III doesn't give up so easily.

v. 13–16 – Antiochus III regroups and eventually controls **Palestine** (the “Glorious Land”).

Daniel 11:13–16 ESV

¹³ For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies. ¹⁴ “In those times many shall rise against the king of the south, and the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they shall fail. ¹⁵ Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his best troops, for there shall be no strength to stand. ¹⁶ But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand.

What does this mean?

Years later, **Antiochus III** returns with a larger, well-supplied army (v. 13) and begins reclaiming territory.

- **Internal rebellions** arise in Egypt (v. 14), and some **violent Jews** join in, hoping to fulfill prophecy—but their efforts fail.
- **Antiochus besieges and captures Sidon**, a fortified city where Egyptian forces—including General Scopas—are defeated (v. 15).
- The king of the north becomes unstoppable (v. 16), and **Antiochus enters “the Glorious Land” (Israel)**, bringing devastation with him.

This is a sobering reminder: **when God allows evil to rise, it is never without purpose—and never outside His plan.**

Romans 8:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

What comes next?

Daniel 11:17 ESV

¹⁷ He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of an agreement and perform them. He shall give him the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom, but it shall not stand or be to his advantage.

v. 17 – Antiochus III, seeking to control Egypt through diplomacy, gives his daughter **Cleopatra I** (not the famous one from a later period, associated with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony¹) in marriage to **Ptolemy V**, hoping she'll act as a political pawn and help him undermine the Egyptian kingdom.

- She is called the "**daughter of women**" (likely emphasizing nobility or prominence).
- But the plan **backfires**—**Cleopatra sides with her husband**, not her father.
- His scheme "**shall not stand or be to his advantage**," just as God foretold.

Now look at...

Daniel 11:18–19 ESV

¹⁸ Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands and shall capture many of them, but a commander shall put an end to his insolence. Indeed, he shall turn his insolence back upon him. ¹⁹ Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

v. 18–19 – Antiochus tries to conquer **Greece** but is defeated by **Rome** (Lucius Scipio). He dies while attempting to loot a temple.

Daniel 11:20 ESV

²⁰ "Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom. But within a few days he shall be broken, neither in anger nor in battle.

v. 20 – Seleucus IV Philopator (Antiochus' son):

After Antiochus III's military failures, his son **Seleucus IV Philopator** inherited a weakened empire—and a massive debt to Rome.

To raise funds, he sent tax collectors across his kingdom, including to **the "Glorious Land" (Israel)**, which brought distress and resentment against him.

The phrase "*exactor of tribute*" likely refers to his official treasurer **Heliodorus**, who was tasked with squeezing money out of the provinces—including from the temple treasury in Jerusalem (cf. [2 Maccabees 3:7–40](#)).

Seleucus's reign was short-lived. He **didn't die in battle** or public revolt—he was **mysteriously assassinated**, likely by Heliodorus himself (BKC).

¹ Crossway Bibles. 2008. [The ESV Study Bible](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

His sudden, quiet death sets the stage for the rise of one of the most wicked rulers in history—**Antiochus IV Epiphanes**, who would usher in great suffering for God’s people.

200 years of drama, murder, death, power, and intrigue. 200 years! Was God out of control?

From verse 2 to 20, this is not random history—it’s orchestrated sovereignty.

Each king, each war, each alliance plays a role in God’s unfolding plan.

Don’t ever forget this truth from Proverbs...

Proverbs 21:1 ESV

¹ The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Only a sovereign God could orchestrate centuries of global history with this kind of precision.

What we hold in our hands is not just a history book—it’s the living **BOOK** of God.

Imagine attending a symphony where every musician is playing a different instrument, each with its own part. To the untrained ear, it might sound like chaos—horns here, violins there, drums pounding in the back. But at the center is a conductor. He sees the whole score. He knows when to bring in each section, when to build tension, and when to resolve it.

That’s what [Daniel 11](#) shows us. From our finite point of view it might look like world history is spiraling out of control—but God holds the baton. Every rise and fall, every war and alliance, every kingdom and king is following His sovereign score.

When national headlines shake you, remember this chapter. God is never in a panic room. He is not retreating. He is not running in fear.

His faithfulness spans generations and governments.

Trust Him—Even when you don’t understand what’s happening in Washington—or around the world—God isn’t confused.

When you are afraid of the future - Recite this verse.

Psalms 56:3–4 ESV

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

Will you do this? It will change your spiritual life!

Nations rise. Nations fall. But God remains faithful.

And because God is faithful over nations, He is faithful to His people.

We’ve seen God’s faithfulness in world affairs—now let’s look at how that affects His people directly.

What happens when that faithfulness is tested by direct opposition?

2. God's People Will Face Opposition (vv. 21–31)

The Rise and Reign of Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 11:21–31)

Antiochus IV Epiphanes: a man of flattery, fury, and desecration.

He Gains Power by Deception

Daniel 11:21 (ESV)

In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Antiochus IV wasn't the rightful heir. The throne belonged to his nephew, Demetrius I, who was imprisoned in Rome.

But Antiochus took advantage of the situation, bribed powerful allies, and seized the throne through deceit and manipulation.

Though he styled himself "**Epiphanes**" (meaning "God Manifest"), many mockingly called him "**Epimanes**"—the madman.

Antiochus' coin

He Crushes Opposition and Targets the Priesthood

Daniel 11:22 (ESV)

"Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant."

Antiochus proved to be a powerful military force. But he also turned against God's people. He had **Onias III**, the high priest of Israel—likely "the prince of the covenant"—murdered. This marked the beginning of his direct assault on Israel's worship.

He Pretends to Help but Plots for Power

Daniel 11:23–24 (ESV)

And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people. ²⁴ Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time.

Antiochus made a deceptive alliance with **Ptolemy VI** of Egypt to help him reclaim his throne. But this wasn't genuine support—it was a tactical move.

With only a small force, Antiochus gained territory and power, **even distributing money** to win loyalty (cf. 1 Macc. 3:30).

He Lies at the Table While Nations Bleed

Daniel 11:25–27 (ESV)

²⁵ And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him. ²⁶ Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. ²⁷ And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be at the time appointed.

Antiochus launched a campaign against Egypt, fighting his own nephew. Ptolemy VI was betrayed by his counselors and defeated. The two kings then met to form an alliance—but it was built on lies. Both sought only their own advantage. Neither trusted the other. Their cooperation failed, and Egypt remained divided between Ptolemy VI and his brother Ptolemy VIII.

He Returns Home Enraged—and Jerusalem Pays the Price

Daniel 11:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will and return to his own land.

On his way back from Egypt in **169 B.C.**, Antiochus passed through Jerusalem and found unrest. He responded with **brutal force**— 80,000 Jews slain, 40,000 taken prisoner, and 40,000 sold as slaves, plundering the temple, and desecrating sacred objects (cf. 2 Macc. 5:11–14). His rage was no longer just political—it was personal and spiritual.

Rome Embarrasses Him—So He Turns on God’s People Again

Daniel 11:29–30 (ESV)

²⁹ “At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before. ³⁰ For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant.

In **168 B.C.**, Antiochus tried again to conquer Egypt. But this time, **Rome intervened**. A Roman commander, **Gaius Popilius Laenas**, met him outside Alexandria, handed him a decree from the Senate, and famously drew a circle around him in the sand: *“Decide before you step out.”*

Humiliated, Antiochus withdrew—but his fury found a new target: **Jerusalem**. He sent **Apollonius**, his tax collector, who entered the city peacefully but then slaughtered civilians and enslaved others (1 Macc. 1:30–32).

He Commits the Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 11:31 (ESV)

“Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress... and they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.”

On **December 15, 167 B.C.**, Antiochus committed his greatest offense:

- He stopped daily sacrifices.
- He erected an altar to **Zeus** on the Jewish altar.
- He **sacrificed a pig**—unclean and unthinkable.
- He banned circumcision, Scripture reading, festivals, and Sabbath worship.

This was the “**abomination of desolation**” (cf. 1 Macc. 1:54), and it foreshadowed the **future desecration by the Antichrist** (cf. Matthew 24:15).

Picture the temple—once full of song, sacrifice, and sacred light—now echoing with the silence of abandoned worship. A pig lies on the altar. An idol of Zeus towers above the Holy Place. For faithful Jews, it was spiritual terrorism. But Daniel saw it coming. And God was still in control.

We should not be shocked when Christians are ridiculed, rights are removed, or when truth is exchanged for lies.

The darkness isn’t winning—it’s just following the script.

Opposition is certain. Persecution is painful. But faithfulness is possible.

The God who predicted persecution also provides power to endure it.

From the rise of rulers to the rise of opposition, we see God’s sovereign hand. But how do we remain faithful when the fire intensifies?

That brings us to the faith-fueled endurance of God’s people.

3. God’s Faithfulness Empowers His People to Persevere (vv. 32–35)

v. 32–34 – Two groups of Jews respond:

Daniel 11:32–34 ESV

³² He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. ³³ And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. ³⁴ When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery,

Verse 32 says, “*The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.*” In the face of persecution, some will compromise—but others will remain bold and faithful.

Some compromised. Verse 32 says that Antiochus “*seduced with flattery those who violated the covenant.*” These were apostate Jews—those who traded faithfulness for comfort. He offered them protection, privilege, and peace—if they would abandon the Law of Moses, forsake the covenant, and conform to Greek culture. And many did. They were seduced by comfort and corrupted by compromise.

But **not all bowed.**

Verse 32 continues: “*But the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.*” These were the faithful ones—referred to historically as the **Hasideans**, a pious group who loved God's Word, resisted compromise, and were willing to suffer for the truth.

Among them was a priest named **Mattathias**, who refused to sacrifice to a false god.

Mattathias, the priest who launched the revolt, belonged to the **Hasmonean** family.

When a fellow Jew stepped forward to comply Antiochus, Mattathias struck him down and declared: “*Whoever is for the Lord, follow me!*” (cf. [1 Macc. 2:27](#)).

That act ignited the **Maccabean Revolt** in 166 BC.

His son, **Judas Maccabeus**—whose name means “*the Hammer*”—emerged as the military leader of the resistance.

Against all odds, Judas and his ragtag army pushed back the Seleucid forces.

In 164 BC, they recaptured Jerusalem, purified the desecrated temple, and **restored worship to Yahweh** (*this is where the Pharisees came from*).

These “*wise ones*” (v. 33) survived and they disciplined others. They taught the Scriptures. They withstood the sword, the flame, captivity, and plunder.

And through it all, they demonstrated what it means to know God—and to stand firm because of Him.

The Hasmonean revolt didn’t just secure a military victory—it preserved the worship of Yahweh. And that’s why, to this day, Jews celebrate **Hanukkah**, the rededication of the temple, rooted in the faithful stand of men like Judas Maccabeus.

v. 35 – God uses this persecution to **refine** His people.

Daniel 11:35 ESV

³⁵ *and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.*

This wasn’t wasted pain. God allowed His faithful ones to endure persecution—not because He had abandoned them, but because He was **refining them**.

Isaiah 48:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ *Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.*

Like gold in a furnace, their suffering was the fire that burned away impurities and revealed genuine faith.

These were not flawless people—but they were faithful people. And God was using the fire of affliction to make them shine brighter.

The words “*refined, purified, and made white*” picture a progressive work of sanctification—God using suffering to deepen holiness, increase dependence, and prepare His people for what was to come.

Then the verse says, “*...until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.*” This is a **turning point** in the prophecy. Up to this point, everything has been historically fulfilled.

But this phrase signals a **shift toward eschatology**.

It stretches the vision beyond Antiochus to a **future figure**—the Antichrist—whose rise in verses 36–45 mirrors Antiochus in terrifying ways.

In other words, **God is not only refining that generation—He’s preparing all generations.**

The persecution under Antiochus is a preview of a greater tribulation still to come.

And the endurance of the faithful then points us to the perseverance required in the last days.

These verses are a call to spiritual grit.

Not through willpower, but through knowing God. Those who truly know Him won’t fold under pressure—they’ll rise in obedience and disciple others. Do you believe this??

Imagine being a Jew under Antiochus’ rule. Your Scriptures are banned. Your Sabbath is outlawed. Your altar now bears the name of Zeus. Your neighbors have bowed. And yet—you refuse.

Now fast forward to today. In Iran, a woman risks her life to be baptized publicly in a river. In China, a pastor preaches the gospel under surveillance, not in fear, but in faith.

The faithful haven’t gone silent—they’ve grown stronger.

You don’t need to know everything about prophecy to stand strong in persecution.

But you do need to know the God of prophecy.

The people who “*know their God*” will stand firm (v. 32).

Knowledge of God’s character produces courage in God’s people.

Stand for Christ in everyday conversations, even when it’s uncomfortable.

Pray before your meal at a restaurant.

Refuse gossip at work or at church (Angie)

Speak up with gentleness when truth is under attack.

Stand up when everyone is bowing down!

God's faithfulness doesn't eliminate the fire—it enables you to endure it.

In every generation, God raises **faithful** people who thrive spiritually under **diabolical** leadership.

No tyrant will rule longer than God permits.

No persecution will last a second past God's timetable.

Your suffering has a stopwatch in God's hands.

Conclusion

Newsflash! You can't control world events—you need to know the One who does.

Your job isn't to predict every prophetic detail—it's to remain **faithful** to your King, no matter who's on the earthly throne.

Richard Wurmbrand, who endured 14 years in Communist prisons, once said, "God will only allow what we can handle, and what He allows, He will use."

That's exactly the message of [Daniel 11](#): God didn't just predict persecution—He prepared His people through it.

Imagine being part of a people like Israel—hunted, hated, and harassed—yet never destroyed.

From Pharaoh to Antiochus, from Hitler to the Antichrist, Satan has tried to crush God's chosen people.

The church has followed that same road—facing persecution, marginalization, and opposition across centuries and cultures.

But imagine us—ABC—thriving in the midst of pressure.

Not blending in.

Not backing down.

Not bowing to the fear of man.

Imagine a church so rooted in the character of God, so anchored in His promises, so surrendered to His purposes—that **no persecution can shake it, no ruler can silence it, and no deception can derail it.**

Why? Because we don't serve just any king. **We serve the King of kings.**

And so today, as His people, let's recommit:

To *know* our God deeply.

To *stand* for truth boldly.

To *pray* like Daniel—fervently, faithfully, and fearlessly.

To *endure* whatever may come—not in our own strength, but in His.

Let's ask God to make us that kind of people... for His glory, and for the good of the generations who will follow.