

XIX. Daniel in Biblical Perspective
“The Scope Of History”

Daniel 11

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September 12, 2010 – Evening Sermon

We are in Daniel 11 which is a rather lengthy chapter but we'll walk our way through it in this study. This is our 19th study in the book of Daniel. Since it's been a couple of weeks I'd like to mention a couple of things in review. Daniel is probably in excess of 80 years of age by now. Daniel has been given numerous visions and recounting numerous events. Daniel 1 through 6 covers the great events that have happened in Daniel's life and we have called them his Memoirs. Then there are the messages that have been given to Daniel and we've come to the last one in Daniel 11 which is the final vision given to him. One of the odd things about Daniel is that Daniel when he had heard of the restoration, where the people of God would be restored he began to be concerned about what would happen. He went before the Lord in prayer, the Lord informed him they would be restored and the temple would be rebuilt and all of those wonderful blessings. Then the Lord gave him the scope of what would be happening in history. In the midst of that He pointed out that His people would be under great duress and tribulation. That caused Daniel to have great concern and Daniel then went into a period of mourning, fasting and prayer.

God moved upon the rulers of Persia, particularly Cyrus to issue a decree to send the people of God back in fulfillment of the seventy year prophecy given to Jeremiah. The people go back and what's interesting is Daniel doesn't go back with them. This man who was consumed to know about the people's return back to the land, himself did not go back. We ask ourselves the question why? I believe the reason why was twofold. One is there would end up being three decrees that would send the people from Babylon and now under the rule of the Persian empire they would go back but only about 20,000 returned the first time. This is purely speculation on my part but I think the reason Daniel did not go back on that first decree was because Daniel began to pray for the response of the people and what would happen. He entered into spiritual warfare in a very pronounced way, engaging in the weapon of prayer, intercessory prayer. In the context of that prayer he is visited by an angel who then gives him the last vision of what is going to happen in the future to the people of God until the coming of a Messiah. What would occur in their lives? This angel comes and gives Daniel this message and informing Daniel that there has been warfare in the heavens as he has been engaged in that warfare. Daniel has been engaged in prayer and God is moving in a pronounced way.

Now what will happen? At the end of that time of prayer there is recorded for us in Daniel 9 and recorded for us in Daniel 10 is the spiritual warfare going on and then there is a vision given for us in Daniel 11. Follow with me here. This is a rather tedious chapter but it's in God's Word and God's Word is all profitable and there are some interesting things we can learn from it. Let's take a closer look at Daniel 11.

Daniel 11:1 says *I* “*And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.*” Daniel continues as a courtier, a wise man, a chief counselor among these kingdoms where he has served. He has now been through at least six kings and two empires. He is now serving Darius the Mede. As he is serving him,

confirming and strengthening him, now comes this message to Daniel. I'm going to divide the message up into five parts. First, the dating of this is in the time of Darius the Mede in the Persian Empire. Now, what is being communicated? First of all, there is a recount of what has already been declared in three other visions concerning the Persian and Greek Empires.

Daniel 11:2-4 says **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. 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.* This is not unusual. This declaration of the scope of history has been given on three other occasions through visions. There was the Babylonian Empire which brought them into captivity. Then there was the prophecy of the Medo-persian Empire which now is in place and then the prophecy of the Greek Empire and the Roman Empire. This is the reaffirmation of the Persian Empire and its future and then that which will succeed it which is the Greek Empire. He is told that he is now under Darius the Mede but that there will be four kings. The fourth king for all intensive purposes shall be the last king.

What king is that pointing to? Who will be the fourth king moving from Cyrus through Darius to Artaxerxes? That would be the Emperor Xerxes of which the Scripture is prophesying. In other words this fourth king will be very rich and go to war against the Greeks. One of the things you will see in this is an amazing amount of detail in this prophesy. There is so much detail in this prophesy that liberal scholars discount any possibility that this was written under the direction of Daniel because it is entirely too detailed. I don't why they think this. If you believe Jesus died and rose from the grave why you wouldn't believe the resurrection power of Jesus wouldn't also be sufficient to give us the details of what would happen in the future. When God writes prophesy all He is doing is pre-writing history. He is a sovereign God and prophesy is merely God reporting history in some form or fashion for us prior to its occurrence. So the fact that this one is very detailed doesn't demand that this must have been written after its actual occurrence because God certainly in His sovereign power and in His decrees would be able to tell us that which is going to occur in the future either in broad scopes or in detail.

There will be two more kings after Xerxes but they are pretty much inconsequential. The Medo-persian Empire for all intensive purposes comes to a conclusion in the days of Xerxes. Who is Xerxes? Have you read the book of Esther? Xerxes is Esther's husband. So he can be connected back to Esther and that's where the two connections take place there. He will be rich and put together this army. He will go to war against Greece and he will be defeated. The Empire of Greece will be instituted under a strong king noted in Daniel 11:3; **3** *Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills.* This is referring to Alexander the Greek. Years before he will rise up Daniel tells us of his existence but at his death the kingdom will be divided into four parts which of course we're fully aware that it was divided into four directions. These areas were ruled over by kings and not by his seed or inheritors or his authority but according to the kings authority and they go into their own direction. The Greek Empire will eventually be conquered by the Roman Empire. But what will happen

in this Greek Empire as it divides into four parts after Alexander the Great is plucked up dying at an early age? “Plucked up” refers that he will die at an early age in which of course he does.

Let’s look further in Daniel to see what will happen. Remember that the kingdom is divided into four directions and now we begin a focus on the kingdoms and the wars of the southern kingdom and the northern kingdom in the next section. It doesn’t give much attention to the east and west. This will be referring to the Greek Empire (Southern) that ruled over Egypt under the Ptolemy’s and the Greek Empire that ruled in Syria under the Seleucids (Northern) when the Greek Empire was divided. Daniel 11:5-6 says **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.*

That is an amazing amount of detail that is given to us that actually was of course fulfilled. It is referring to King Ptolemy III who sent his daughter Bernice to create an alliance with the king of the North and that was King Antiochus II. As Bernice comes to join this alliance with a marriage, the only problem with this was King Antiochus was already married. His wife’s name was Laodicea and she did not take kindly of this pretty girl showing up from Egypt to marry her husband. So she decided to take matters into her own hands just as the Scripture tells us she would do and did do. Bernice didn’t make it because the wife of King Antiochus II poisoned her and killed her. Then King Ptolemy II dies and one rises up and now instead of these two nations having an alliance they end up going to war with each other.

That war is then described in Daniel 11:7-11 which says **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.* In other words, the king of the South and the king of the North have this war and there is a victory over the king of the North at his capital. It was a place called Antioch which will be a historical event that is already prophesied here. There will be captives from this war and they will cart off their gods to show of their superiority. Then they will eventually return. Now look at what happens in this entire process starting in the next verse.

Daniel 11:10-19 says **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. 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. (In other words, out of Israel will come rebellion as well in the midst of all of it.) 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 (meaning in the land of Canaan or the Promised Land), with destruction in his hand. 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. 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.

What I just covered in Daniel 11:1-19 was 150 years. There are 13 kings during this time period. During this time, back and forth there would be 16 kings fighting in these two kingdoms. Notice when we started off we looked at this scope of history, looking from the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-persian Empire, the Greek Empire and the Roman Empire and we're looking from heaven from a sovereign God. Now we're talking about the North and South. The North and South of what? What is the point of reference? What are we north of? What are we south of? The text tells you. Now we go from looking at the scope of history from a sovereign God, over all of history, to the land of His people, the glorious land. That is the point of reference. So you have the kingdom of the North which is the Seleucids and the kingdom of the South which are the Ptolemys and they keep fighting back and forth. Guess where they do all their fighting? It's all around the glorious land, back and forth. Jerusalem will be occupied, laid siege and fought over. Then they will win and the battle will shift a little further south. Then it will go north and this king will do this and this king will do that.

I could walk you through all 13 kings in these wars of 150 years but my guess is that someone would have to wake us up when I got through. So we're not going to get into the tedious nature of the history that's represented here but it is the scope of 150 years and there are 13 of 16 kings being referred to or identifiable within the text in the entire process that happens. The whole point is to tell us that God's people are constantly being assaulted and they from time to time will even engage in rebellion and revolts themselves. He says in the text that Your own people will rise up in revolt in this process where He is referring to Daniel's people. At times they will be on one side and at times they will be on another. A series of people will come out of this who lead the revolts against both the Ptolemys and the Seleucids named the Maccabees. In the Old Testament Apocrypha are the books of the Maccabees. It's not part of the canon of Scripture but it is an Apocrypha that contains some of the heroic deeds of the Maccabees as they would lead rebellions in an attempt to free Israel and the glorious land from these kings that keep fighting over it, dominating it, taxing it, using it and destroying it, particularly the Holy City. It is that scope that is given to you in those verses.

Now we move to a particular part which starts in verse 20. We move to one of those Seleucids called Antiochus Epiphanes, the Antiochus who appears quickly, brightly, unexpectedly. Daniel 11:20-21 says **20** *“Then shall arise in his place (out of the Seleucid dynasty of Antiochus the 1st through the 5th and now the 6th) the 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. 21 In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He (Antiochus Epiphanes) shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. How did someone who was not part of the royal line get control? He was a smart guy. Antiochus Epiphanes had gone over to Rome who was now in control of everything and as he was there he made some alliances. So when he comes back he has all of Rome behind him. He has the power of Rome and the connections of Rome behind him. We call that today networking. All of a sudden this contemptible person comes back and he gains control even though he has no rights in the Seleucid line. He does so by flatteries and these connections. Let's continue.

Daniel 11:22-28 says **22** *Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant. 23 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. 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. 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.*

He will come back to the Promised Land against God's covenant people, His covenant blessings and His covenant works. In other words, Antiochus Epiphanes will go against Egypt and be defeated. He will be defeated by a large army. He will be embarrassed. What will he do? He will do what a lot of people will do. When someone gets embarrassed at work they come home and kick the cat. So he comes back to the glorious land and decides to kick the cat. He will do abominations and destroy Jerusalem. He will plunder and spoil the glorious land.

Daniel 11:29-35 says **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. 31 Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress (the City of David), and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. 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, 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.*

Here Antiochus Epiphanes returns back and desolates and desecrates the temple. Daniel calls it a desolation of the temple. As he desolates the temple something happens among the people. There are some who stand firm for the Lord with wisdom, commitment and bravery even to the loss of their life. There are some who begin to process what today we call discipleship where they take the time to teach the people to put their trust in the Lord. Then there are others who are seduced by his flattery and they apostatize. They leave God's people, the oaths and the covenants and unite themselves in apostasy and treason to this Antiochus Epiphanes.

Having described this man, Antiochus Epiphanes, who made desolation and desecrated the temple, we now turn to a section that very clearly moves beyond Antiochus Epiphanes because it takes strands of who he is and what he has done but it expands them beyond what he actually did in history. In other words, Antiochus Epiphanes, like other kings becomes a type, not a type of the King Messiah, but a type of one who would raise himself up against the Messiah. The Scriptures identify him by the mouth of Jesus and by the mouth of the Apostle Paul as the man of lawlessness and the anti-Christ. Now let's look at how he is beginning to be described in the next several verses.

Daniel 11:36-39 says **36** *“And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. 37 He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.* In other words, he will not only come with a kingdom of darkness for those in darkness but there will be some who by profession are not a part of that kingdom but soon reveal that is where their hearts are and they apostatize and become a part of this rebellion against the Lord.

Daniel 11:40-45 says **40** *“At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. 41 He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. 44 But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. 45 And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.*

This is obviously going beyond Antiochus Epiphanes. It is looking toward another who would raise himself up against God's covenant, His people and His city. Who would that be? I believe the Scriptures are pointing us forward here into understanding the work of the anti-Christ. When the Bible speaks prophetically, many times in a

prophesy there will be an immediate fulfillment, there will be an ultimate fulfillment, and then there will be an Christological fulfillment that leads us into the new heavens and the new earth. I believe this is one of those prophecies that are given. There is the immediate fulfillment of this king who brings desolation among the people of God, an apostasy and destruction and the immediate fulfillment is with Antiochus Epiphanes.

But there will be a further fulfillment that Jesus informs us of and this is found in Matthew 24. Here Jesus tells us of the end and He informs that generation that they shall not pass away until they see the end initiated. Part of that is a quote from the text that I just read from Daniel 11 – the abomination of desolation. The end will not come until the Gospel is preached to all the world so this is what He says in Matthew 24:15-28; **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.* **22** *And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.* **23** *Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.* **24** *For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.* **25** *See, I have told you beforehand.* **26** *So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.* **27** *For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.* **28** *Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

So this was their question – when will Christ return? He says, “Until I return you need to know something and that is there will be this abomination of desolation that will come here. There will be an apostasy among those who profess to be My people but yet the elect will be manifested for they will be kept, even if necessary days will be cut short.” In other words, God’s providential Hand will hold on to the elect and the truth will keep their hearts and they will be protected by Him.

Where was Jesus pointing to? Obviously, there is something He is pointing to that could fulfill the prophesy back here that is immediately fulfilled with Antiochus Epiphanes but now further fulfilled in the generation around Jesus. When would that be? That would be 66 to 70 AD when Titus under the reign of the emperors of Rome comes in and lays utter destruction and siege to Israel that culminates in 70 AD in the destruction at Masada but initiated in 66 AD. This general then moves throughout the Promised Land, throughout the land of Canaan, destroying those who were there in that generation as Jesus told them that they would see that. Of course he would be guilty of planting a false god, a god of gold and silver to Zues and to the Roman mythologies and pagans right in the temple before He utterly destroys the temple as Jesus prophesied not stone would be laid upon the other.

Notice that when Jesus gives this there seems to be an anticipation even beyond this. For He speaks of it in terms of days in which there will be false christs and false prophets that will arise and they will lead the people astray with great signs and wonders.

Is that not looking to a further anti-Christ? Not only is there Antiochus Epiphanes and Titus under Roman direction and the desecration and desolation of the temple but now into the future which the Apostle Paul seems to anticipate in 2 Thessalonians 2. The people at Thessalonica were asking about the second coming of Christ and had He come or not and this is what Paul says. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11 says *1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word (People were giving false messages and false letters claiming apostolic authority that Jesus had returned), or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Paul is writing this before Titus has come. It's not 66 to 70 AD and that's what he is pointing to and that very well maybe the fact when there are those who say that Titus is the final fulfillment of the anti-Christ but there seems to be something even beyond Titus in his coming because there is something directly related, whoever this anti-Christ is, is not simply one who will come and die a death as Titus the General did. But it is one who will be directly slain by the breath of the coming of Christ Himself. So there seems to be this anticipation not only of this anti-Christ, Antiochus Epiphanes as the type of him, but then Titus as an ultimate fulfillment in the generation of Jesus, but a yet other fulfillment eschatologically before the coming of Christ. We are told that this one will exalt himself as God. It seems to be this one that the book of Revelation is anticipating who has religious, military, economic and political power. He will raise himself up against the One true and living God and call for worship. He would even set himself upon the professing church, the New Testament temple as it were. He will set himself up there to be called upon and worshiped. One of the ways he will deceive professing Christians, not those who are truly elect, is with false signs and wonders because they are drawn to the signs, wonders and experiences rather than a love for the truth because it's the love of the truth that keeps the elect.

I want to give you some takeaways here but I want to stop here for a moment. This has been a great burden on my heart. I have ministered now for over 30 years and I have ministered in the age of the neo-Pentecostal movement. I fully realize I have many Pentecostal brothers and sisters but this is not the movement that has some theological integrity of my Pentecostal brothers and sisters in our discussion of what the evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is a whole other movement. It has stood and made

use of the Pentecostal movement but this neo-Pentecostal that keeps morphing into things that I've mentioned such as the prosperity Gospel and the therapy Gospel. It keeps taking the work of the Holy Spirit and divorcing it away from the preeminence of Christ and the preeminence of experience. I believe this movement is in league with the anti-Christ. I know there maybe believers that maybe in it and I'm not questioning that but I believe the theology that points people in the work of the Spirit to experiences is setting them up for this very thing because what will deceive many professing believers in that day will be false signs, wonders and miracles done with great power.

If you would have been standing there that day those Egyptian magicians threw down those staffs and it didn't look like they became snakes but they did become snakes you may have believed them. False signs and wonders can be done with great power but they are false for they are not of the Lord, from the Lord and to the glory of the Lord. When Moses threw down his staff, it only took one of those staffs to take care of all those other three because it is a true miracle that God does for a purpose and not for entertainment. Today we have so elevated experience.

When I was in Charlotte recently I rode by a building where a new church was starting which is fine but then I looked at the sign. It said, "Come join us this Sunday for the experience of your life." With all due respect, I'm not questioning the motivation and the desire to get people to come in and hear about the Gospel and come to Jesus, but worship is not there for my experience. Worship is there for me to worship God. Will there be an experience? Absolutely, which is a consequence but that's not the objective. Christianity doesn't exist to give me experience. Christianity exists to save me from my sins that being delivered I might know the joy of lifting up Christ not experiences. That's what gives great joy and it is this experience oriented Christianity that sets the ground work. Many of us for 30 plus years now have been swimming upstream, affirming that there are experiences, the miraculous and God does great and glorious things but the point of Christianity and the point of focus is the glory of God and you can't know the God of the Word without knowing the Word of God. It is the truth that preserves the elect of God. They know the truth so as not to be deceived.

If you and I begin to try to build our theology on experience we are absolutely wide open to the latest personality with the flash on TV, radio or wherever it is that will lead us astray but if our eyes are set on Jesus through His Word and by His Spirit for the preeminence of Christ, then even the anti-Christ cannot enter in to the temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells within you so that you might follow Him.

I believe that Antiochus Epiphanes has lived and Daniel pointed to him. Then through him he pointed to Titus who came in with the abomination of desolation. Then through him there have been many anti-Christ's that have arisen throughout the ages political, economic, military and religious leaders who have stood against Christ. There have been many false Christ's. I believe there is yet one who will be associated with the coming of Christ but I do know this. My great burden, heart and passion is that you know the Word of God so as to be saved and the experiences of your life will not be used to develop your theology. It is the theology of the Word of God whereby you interpret the experiences of life for the glory of God and the joy of the Lord.

So here are the five takeaways I want to leave you with. Has Daniel just given us an exercise in theology or what is he doing for us? The first thing is the text we have just looked at reminds us that the kingdoms of this world when they exist are viewed as

ultimate but in reality they are all temporal. When I was a kid I thought the Soviet Union was going to eat us up. I heard Khrushchev say “We will conquer you.” Then I woke up one morning the Wall was gone. By the way, the same thing can happen to this country if it abandons its open arms to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The nations of this world will rise and fall. When they are existing we think they are ultimate and can’t be moved whether it’s Roman, Grecian or Persian or whatever it is. In reality they are all temporal. There is only one Kingdom that lasts forever and that’s the Kingdom of God.

Secondly, the people of God are always in danger of being co-opted by the kingdoms of this world either with persecution or deception. They are always endangered of being co-opted. Don’t tie the Kingdom of God to any kingdom of this world. Bring the Kingdom of God to every kingdom of this world beginning with the kingdom we now live in, our country, the United States.

Thirdly, the kingdoms of this age will and must fall since they are built upon the false gods of this age. It was interesting when the text said he defeated him and carted his gods off and then he was defeated and brought the gods back up and these gods kept being carted back and forth, why? False gods and false religions cannot uphold anyone, any family or any nation. It is only the One true and living God who can uphold those who put their trust in Him.

Fourthly, the people of God in the Kingdom of God are always under assault yet they are always secure. It has been granted unto you to suffer. You will always be under persecution and assault. Sometimes it is the assault of a dictator or a political regime that stands against the Lord. Sometimes it is the assault of consumerism through the TV and advertising but you’ll always be under assault to draw your heart away from devotion and consecration to the One true and living God but you are secure because of Christ. Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ.

Fifthly, so what do I do? Stay in His Word, surrender to His Holy Spirit and keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. There will be experiences in the Christian life but we don’t live for them. We live for Him. He is our Savior and Lord and He will keep you to the end because He will be with you to the end. Let’s pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. Thank You for the discipline of this gathering of people who have walked through a rather tedious text. Father, You have not given this text though as something that is peripheral. There are some clear messages as we have jotted those down on paper, would You inscribe them upon our heart? Thank You that we have a King who is victorious and a Kingdom that will never fail. Come quickly King Jesus, I pray in Jesus’ Name, Amen.