

Daniel's Great Vision about the End Times (Dan. 10-12)

INTRODUCTION

Paragraph A. Daniel records four different visions in the book of Daniel. The theme of each one of them in a general sense, is the same. There are differences, but generally speaking, all four visions are about the same subject: the Antichrist, the oppression the Antichrist brings to the nations, and the purification and ultimate victory God's people will have in context to the Antichrist.

Daniel has four visions. Imagine how important this subject is. Daniel, the great prophet, has four visions, and all four visions are about the Antichrist.

Paragraph B. In Daniel 10:8, Daniel says, "I saw this great vision." Then the angel comes to him in the midst of the vision and says, "I have come to you, to make you understand what will happen in the end times." That is what the angel tells him.

This vision is great in its significance to us. It was not just a great vision, it was a dramatic and powerful one. It was dramatic and powerful, and it is great in its significance to us. It was Daniel's most significant vision in terms of what is going to happen to God's people. It is a vision that is very important to the Holy Spirit.

THE PREPARATION BEFORE THE VISION

As people who love God, we want to take some time to grasp this vision. I hope I do not get too caught up in the details without getting to the vision, but the preparation before the vision is so interesting.

Paragraph C. There are three parts to this vision. Daniel 10 is the preparation. That is the part I could really spend time on. It is very intriguing and interesting. Daniel 10—Lou Engle calls it his favorite chapter in the Old Testament—is about Daniel, about how he prepared in prayer and fasting, and the impact his prayer and fasting had on the spirit realm.

The vision is not actually until chapter 11. Chapter 11 is the vision. I do not want to get so focused on chapter ten, that I do not quite get to chapter eleven. I am hoping to obey that exhortation tonight.

Paragraph D. Daniel 10:1, "In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar." That was his Babylonian name. They gave this name to him when he was a boy, because he was taken to Babylon from Israel as a captive. He was a prisoner of war when he was about sixteen years old and they gave him this name: *Belteshazzar*. Now it is seventy years later, he is in his mid-eighties. That is the name by which everybody knows him, but he says in effect, "I am Daniel. In my book, I am Daniel."

KING CYRUS SETS THE CAPTIVES FREE

Daniel says, "The message was true, but the appointed time was long" (v. 1). It was about the end times. Daniel understood the message and he understood the vision.

King Cyrus is a very important person in the life of Daniel. You have to memorize the name *King Cyrus*, if you are going to understand the four visions of Daniel. He was the most powerful man in the world at that time. He was the king of Persia, which is modern-day Iran. He would have been the king of Iran today.

He was the wealthiest, most powerful man on the earth. He conquered the whole Babylonian empire, when Daniel was about eighty-two years old. He came in and conquered Babylon, took it over and changed all the leadership. He was a very powerful man.

Then he did the most dramatic thing. God moved on him, and this heathen king released all the captives. There were hundreds of thousands of Jewish prisoners, who were in work camps for seventy years, because Babylon came and destroyed the nation of Israel and put the whole nation into work camps. They were really oppressed in the Babylonian work camps. Then Cyrus, the king of Persia—modern-day Iran—comes in, defeats Babylon, and says to the Jews in effect, “I free you to go back to your home.” This is unprecedented, it never happens. Ezra says that behind the scenes the Holy Spirit was moving on him.

CYRUS PAYS FOR THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

It was more than that. Cyrus said in effect to the captives of Israel, after being in these work camps for seventy years, “I am going to do more than free you to go back.” They cannot imagine this good news. He says, “You are free, free from captivity. Go back home or you can stay here if you want.” Then he pays the money—it would have been millions and millions of dollars—for them to go and build the house of prayer in Jerusalem, to build the temple.

They went back with gold and silver, which the king gave them, to go and build the building. They literally financed the singers, they put the singers in place, it is clear. It says so several times. They built the house of prayer. This was too good to be true. This heathen king was moved by God, and he financed all this. That is who Cyrus was.

It was in the first year of Cyrus that all these good things happened. Now Cyrus had been king for three years. It was a few years later, three years into his reign, and this message was revealed to Daniel.

THE PROPHET DANIEL: A PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Daniel says, “The message was true.” The reason he is emphasizing its truthfulness, is because this message was so dramatic that when people heard it they said, “Is this really true?” He emphasized the truthfulness because it was so new and so dramatic, though he had already described three visions about the Antichrist earlier in the book of Daniel. This is his fourth and final vision. He says something like, “This is more dramatic than the other three, but it is true. What I saw is true. You can count on it.”

I find it very interesting that Daniel, the messenger, worked as a public official. He was not on the full time IHOP–KC staff in his day. Of course they did not have a house of prayer at that time, until Cyrus paid them to go back home and start one.

Daniel was a public official. My point is this, that this man, so beloved of God, who was assigned by God to the marketplace, is one of the classic messengers in the Old Testament. There is no evidence at all that he was a preacher. There is not even a hint that he ever gave a public message one time.

He was a writer. He wrote these four visions. He wrote them. If you really want to look at these visions, you can put each one of them on one side of a sheet of paper. In essence, he wrote tracks. He did not even write a book. He was a guy who wrote tracks. He was one of the premier messengers of all of redemptive history. We have no

knowledge at all that he was a preacher. He was a public official, working long hours in the marketplace, but he was gripped by God and he was a man of fasting and prayer.

DANIEL DID NOT GO HOME TO JERUSALEM

Paragraph E. He was about eighty-five years old. We do not know his exact age, but right around eighty-five. He was living in Babylon, which is modern-day Iraq. In the ancient world, Iraq had just been defeated by Iran. Babylon had been defeated by Persia. The same old conflict is going on today.

Daniel continued to live in Babylon, but there was new Persian government over his city. The capital city Babylon had been taken over by the Persians. He had a new boss, but he liked it.

Paragraph F. I just mention here that two years earlier, Cyrus, the new boss, the king of Persia who took over Babylon, had made the famous decree and said that all the captives of Israel could go back home.

It is interesting that Daniel did not go back home. Daniel loved Israel more than anybody. He spent his entire life praying for it. When it was time to go back home, he did not go. Of course he was eighty-five and it was about a five month walk. That was a little challenging for an eighty-five year old, but I do not think that was really what it was about. I believe that he felt it was more significant to stay in Babylon in that hour, to stay and influence the government as a man in his eighties, as an intercessor, and as a policy maker.

The interesting thing which happened right before this grand vision, after Israel received the permission to leave the work camps and go back home and before this vision happens: the famous Daniel-in-the-lion's-den story takes place.

When Daniel was in the lion's den, somebody could have said to him, "If you had gone back with the Jews to Israel, you never would have been in this trouble in the lion's den." I wonder if that ever crossed his mind. Probably not, because probably he had clarity about staying in Babylon even though his people were free. What was happening, was that the devil was trying to take Daniel out before this vision was given. God spared him in the lion's den.

DANIEL WAS MOURNING FOR THREE WEEKS

Paragraph G. The next event is this great vision in Daniel 10. We will go to the next verses here. Now Daniel is telling the context of what he was doing before the vision came.

Chapter 10:2-3 (paraphrased). He said, "In those days, I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all. I did not take a bath for three weeks—nothing!"

The question we ask is, "What is he mourning about?" Israel had just been liberated three years previously. It took Cyrus about a year to make the announcement and for them to actually walk the five months back to Israel. They had been in the land for about two years.

What was he mourning about? What was happening, was that the Israelites back in the land had built the foundation of the house of prayer, but then the Samaritans, the neighboring political party, came and opposed them and the Persians backed the Samaritans up. So Daniel was stirred up, because back home in Israel they

had laid the foundation of the house of prayer, they had got organized, but had stopped the work. They had ceased the work entirely.

The report came back to Daniel and he was troubled by this. It was as if he said, “That was the whole point of 50,000 Jews going back to the land: that they would build the temple, and start worshiping God in Jerusalem. That was the whole point.”

DANIEL FASTS DURING PASSOVER

The surrounding nations, particularly the Samaritans who were the neighbors, were empowered by the Persian government. They shut the whole thing down and the work of God ceased completely. Undoubtedly, that was one of the things he was mourning about.

The thing that touches me about Daniel is his heart. Here is this eighty-five year old man, who is so captured by this and who so identifies with it. He is fasting and praying about the house of prayer in another city miles away, 700 miles away or whatever the distance. He is in so much anguish. What touches me is how it touches God that Daniel cared that much. It is not that he cared about his own job, but he cared about the purpose of God at that level.

This fast Daniel is involved in—you can read the details—is during Passover. It is during the Passover month right in the middle of the time of celebration. Daniel takes hold of the fast and does not break the fast to enter into the celebration. That was a really lively Passover time, because Israel has just been liberated from Babylonian captivity two years earlier. The nation is really in a place of momentum and excitement. Daniel is so gripped that the purposes of God are stalled and hindered, that even in the midst of the great celebration he continues his fast instead of entering into the celebration of the nation.

ANGELIC VISITATION

Paragraph K. Daniel 10:4–6. Now suddenly, on the twenty-first day of the fast, as he is mourning over the purposes of God, he sees an angel, a mighty angel. It is the twenty-fourth day of the first month. Again Passover has just happened. Daniel has been fasting for the whole twenty-one days.

Daniel 10:4 (paraphrased): “As I was by the side of the great Tigris river...” This is about twenty-five miles from his workplace in Babylon. He is twenty-five miles away. He must have been on some kind of business trip or a prayer retreat, I don't know. To travel twenty-five miles took a long time in those days. He is by the Tigris river. He is with a group of guys—verse 5—he says, “I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man...”

That man is clearly an angel. An angel is called a man many times in the Bible. It is obviously an angelic being, a very powerful angelic being. He goes on to describe this angelic being in seven different ways.

It is interesting that he says, “I lifted my eyes.” Later on in chapter 12, we find out that the angel is standing over the Tigris river. I mean standing over it in the air. Daniel is talking to him. There are angels on each side of the river and the main angel is standing in the middle, in the air, giving him this entire vision.

GREAT TERROR FELL ON THEM

Paragraph M. Daniel 10:7–10. “And I, Daniel, I am the only one who saw the vision. The men who were with me did not see the vision, but they felt the angel's presence and great terror fell on them” (v. 7, paraphrased).

Here they are by the river. You can just kind of picture Daniel, his eyes are big, he is looking up, and his mouth drops. The guys who are with him do not see the vision, but they feel the presence. They are so terrified by the anointing of the Spirit, by the glory of God, that it says here, "They fled to hide." That was an anointed prayer time. No literally, great terror falls on them.

Verse 8 (paraphrased), Daniel says, "I was left alone. They all left." He talks to the angel, but it impacts him in a very dramatic way. He says, "No strength remained in me at all. I had no physical strength" (v.8, paraphrased). So he falls to the ground. Verse 9 (paraphrased), "I could hear the sound of the angel's voice while he was talking to me, but I was in a deep sleep. I was completely out. My face was on the ground."

The angel is talking to him and the angel sees the fact that Daniel is not paying attention. Daniel is not tracking with him. This vision is so significant that Daniel calls it *the great vision*.

THE ANGEL STRENGTHENS DANIEL

The angel bends down and touches him. The angel puts his hand on Daniel, in other words—it says it several times—he is telling him to get up and listen.

Daniel realizes that he needs the power of God to touch him if he is going to be able to recover from the power of God. It is an interesting dilemma, because the power he needs to recover is the power which is completely overwhelming him.

It says in verse 10 that he is down on his hands and knees. He is trying to get up and the angel is touching him to strengthen him. The angel actually touches him three times. He finally gets up. He is standing there, but he can hardly talk, so the angel even touches him to help him talk. The angel touches him three times.

This is quite a scene, because the angel wants him to listen to the intricate message of Daniel 11. It is as if he says, "You have to be able to hear what I am saying and you have to be able to record it. It is very intricate and very, very significant for the end-time people of God."

THE VISION CAUSES SORROW

Daniel 10:14–16. The angel says to him, "I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days" (v. 14). He says in effect, "I am giving you insight into what will happen to Israel in the end times." This is going to affect the whole body of Christ.

If this is so important that God visited a prophet 2500 years ago, we need to know this vision. He tells him, "For the vision refers to many days yet to come" (v. 14).

Verse 16, "I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him ... 'My lord, because of the vision, my sorrows have overwhelmed me'"—*my lord* is the equivalent of saying *sir*.

He is getting the vision, he is getting the message, the anointing of the Spirit is touching him. It is as if He says, "The vision you are giving me is creating so much anguish and sorrow in my heart."

If you read Daniel 11, the first thirty-five verses create the context for the final ten verses, and the final ten verses is where the great sorrow is. Here is what you want to say to yourself if you can read those ten verses and you do not feel any sorrow, “This means I have not understood those ten verses.”

Of course it takes the grace of God for us to connect to it, but as a man of God, I want to feel what Daniel felt, because I want to see what Daniel saw when I read this vision.

If you can read the last ten verses of Daniel 11 and feel nothing—this is not a criticism—it means the Holy Spirit has more. It is as if He is saying, “I have much more to tell you, because if you can see what Daniel saw, you would feel what Daniel felt.” Daniel says, “I have great sorrow” (v. 16, paraphrased).

A REVELATION OF GOD’S LOVE

In verse 11, the angel strengthens Daniel with a revelation of the love of God. This is a very tender passage here. Daniel is trembling, because he is encountering the glory of God, and because he is feeling the awesome, terrifying presence of God, by being in the presence of the angel. The angel says in verse 11 (paraphrased), “O Daniel, you have to know, you are greatly beloved of God.” How would you like to have a mighty angel say that to you?

Well, I can do better than that. Jesus has said it to us. He said that He loves us in the way the Father loves Him. That is better than a mighty angel telling you that you are greatly beloved.

The angel says, “You are greatly beloved. Understand the words I speak to you. I am giving you this vision in Daniel 11 and you have to understand it. You have to comprehend what I am telling you. In order to comprehend it, you have to grasp how God feels about you, because the vision is so vast” (v. 11, paraphrased).

When we read the vision, we could be offended at God. We could be offended that God is allowing this to happen. When we touch the love-of-God dimension, the offense, which we naturally have in our heart toward God because of the judgment side of His purposes, is greatly diminished.

BE STRONG

Finally he says, “Understand the words I speak to you. I want you to stand upright. I need you to be listening. I need you off your knees. I need you standing fully upright. I need you to be fully paying attention” (v. 11, paraphrased).

“So I stood wobbling” (v. 11, paraphrased). I can just see him saying, “I am standing.”

The angel has to touch him again. He tells him in verse 19, “O man, greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you.” He says, “I want you to be strong right now. Yes, be strong” (v. 19, paraphrased). What a statement. Here he is, just trembling under the glory of God. The angel is saying in effect, “Get a hold of yourself, I need you to be a messenger. I need you to grasp it, be strong!”

Daniel might have looked up and said, “What? Do you know who you are and how much power is on you?”

The angel says in effect, “Yes, be strong. Yes, I meant what I said” (v. 19, paraphrased).

Daniel says, “When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, ‘My lord, speak now, give me the message. Because you have strengthened me, I am now able to comprehend it and listen to it’” (v. 19, paraphrased).

I want you to leave tonight with the conviction that Daniel 11 is a must-understand chapter in the Bible. You are going to start with the final ten verses and work your way back. The first thirty-five verses create the context for the final ten. The final ten is the real message.

GOD HEARS DANIELS PRAYERS

The impact: Daniel 10:12 (paraphrased). “He”—this angel back from verse 5—“said to me, ‘Do not fear, Daniel.’” He said, “Here is what I want you to know, Daniel: from the first day you set your heart to understand”—this was twenty-one days ago; he is on a twenty-one day fast—“from the first day you set your heart to understand, from the first day you set your heart to humble yourself before God...” (v. 12, paraphrased).

Fasting and prayer is a posture of humility. When you add fasting to prayer, it intensifies it. What you are saying is, “I am so desperate for an answer that I am posturing my heart in the humility of fasting.”

Verse 12 (paraphrased): The angel said, “From the first day, your words were heard, I have actually come because of your words”—that must be one of the most dramatic statements that a human being can hear from an angel—“I have come. I was dispatched from the throne of God, the presence of God, because your words were heard in heaven. So the Father sent me to you because of your words, when you started saying, ‘O God, I need insight. O God, help me understand, because my heart is sorrowful because of what is happening in Israel, and I want to know what your purposes are concerning the Daniel 9 vision.’”

His third vision was still troubling him although he had it two years earlier. He still wants understanding about what is going on. He is fasting and praying because the building of house of prayer in Jerusalem has stopped, and because the vision—his third vision, his most recent one two years earlier—was still troubling his heart. He wants understanding of it, so he set his heart to understand.

Beloved, there is a time to set our heart, but when we set our heart, God sends His angels. That does not mean we always see them. There are more angels in this room, all over the body of Christ, and in the whole world where the saints are gathered—there is more angelic activity than we can imagine. If the veil were pulled back, we would see the multitude of demonic and angelic activity.

INSIGHT INTO THE SPIRIT REALM

He said, “Because of your words, I have come, but”—verse 13—“the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.”

What an interesting verse, verse 13. There is much insight in verse 13 into the spirit realm. There is significant information about the spirit realm and how it interacts with the prayer ministry—the angels and the demons.

Let’s look at it again, verse 13. He said, “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia...” Persia, like every nation, has a natural king. The king of Persia was Cyrus, but in the spirit realm, there was a demonic king who was over Cyrus.

ANGELS MOVE WHEN THE SAINTS PRAY

There are demons that are influencing the kings of the earth. There are demons over each of the kings of the earth to thwart God's purposes in their lives, and to stir them up to go against God. For every king of the earth, every nation, and every city, there are also angels. The angels will push back the demons if the saints pray. If the saints pray, the demons are pushed back out of their position of influence. If the saints do not pray, the demons have far more influence over the kings.

Over every city, every nation, there is a demonic hierarchy. There is a demonic infrastructure over the whole globe called *powers and principalities, hosts of darkness, powers of wickedness*. Ephesians 6:12 describes five different categories of demonic powers in the hierarchy. There are some demons that have far greater authority than other demons, but as there is a demonic hierarchy over all the cities of the earth in the nations, there is also an angelic hierarchy.

The angels move when the saints pray. The saints pray, we pray our weak and broken prayers, we offer our prayers in weakness, but beloved, they ascend before God in power, because of the blood of Jesus. We offer our prayers in weakness, "Oh God, help! Please help or do something, please!" Those simple little prayers—I am talking about weak prayers—we offer them in weakness, but they ascend in power before the throne of God. When our prayers go forth, God the Father releases angels to drive back the demons in the spirit realm.

THE PRINCE OF PERSIA

The angel says in Daniel 10:13 (paraphrased): "The demonic prince in the spirit realm who is over the entire kingdom of Persia, and who is a very powerful demonic prince, he stood against me." This angel is a very powerful angel. All these guys fled just when this angel appeared to Daniel, because he had so much of the glory of God on him.

And the angel said, "He withstood me twenty-one days" (v. 13). It was as if he was saying "Daniel, do not stop praying. Keep praying, Daniel." Daniel kept praying and God the Father sent Michael to go and help that angel. He said, "Michael, go and help to drive back this prince of Persia from his place of influence."

Michael came—one of the chief princes, one of the top angelic princes, the Scripture also calls him an archangel—"He came to help me" (v. 13). What an interesting passage. Angels are helping angels.

Paragraph Q. The prince of Persia—Iran—he is still effective and powerful today. You can see the stirrings of the prince of Persia, because the king of Iran is being stirred towards evil purposes. Demons are stirring his imagination and he gets emboldened in wicked plans.

Angels can push those demons out of the way and the grace of God can even touch an unsaved person. That does not mean they are saved. They still have to be born again into their own personal relationship with God, but the glory of God can touch an unsaved king and that king will make a totally different decision.

A MESSAGE THE END-TIME PEOPLE OF GOD MUST GRASP

Daniel 10:20 (paraphrased), the angel says to Daniel, "I want you to know this. Do you even know why I came to you? Do you know what my purpose is? I have a message to give you."

He has not given the message yet. The message is chapter 11, the full message. Daniel is already grasping some of the message because he is already feeling the sorrow. This is not because the angel is anointed with power, but he is already grasping some of the message. The full message has not been given yet.

The angel says, “Do you know why I have come? I have a message that the end-time people of God must grasp.” That is the summation of why he came.

Then he says, “Now I have to go and fight with the prince of Persia”—the demon over Persia. “When I have gone forth, when the battle is over and I have gained a victory over the prince of Persia and the demonic prince is pushed out of his place of influence, the prince of Greece is coming next” (v. 20, paraphrased).

That is exactly what happened in history. Two hundred years later, Greece defeated Persia and the Greeks were then persecuting Israel. It is as if this angel said, “I know what is happening next. I am going to be warring against the prince of Greece, because he is next in line to come and stop the purposes of God.”

THERE WILL BE A GREAT END-TIME CONFLICT

Verse 21, “But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of truth.” He says, “I want to tell you what is noted”—or emphasized. He says, “In a moment, I am going to give you a vision—Daniel 11—and this is what the Scripture emphasizes, this is what is noted in the Bible. There will be a great end-time conflict” (v. 21, paraphrased).

I do not think it is an accident that much of the Body of Christ is completely disconnected from this purpose. It is noted in the Scripture according to this angel—this message of Daniel 11— it is emphasized in many places. Though it is only in Daniel 11 in its unique sense, the theme of it is emphasized in the Scripture in many places. But much of the Church is totally disconnected from it even in this day. We are approaching the hour, and the decades are unfolding where the Body of Christ needs to note or emphasize what the Scripture of truth is noting or emphasizing.

Then he says—this angel is still talking about Michael; this is so interesting what is happening in the spirit realm—he says, “No one upholds me against these demonic princes except for Michael your prince” (v. 21, paraphrased). He says in effect, “Michael is your angel.” He is the archangel over the Jewish people and he has the unique assignment to help the nation of Israel.

Chapter 11:1 (paraphrased), he says, “As a matter of fact, two years ago, in the first year of Darius, I even stood up to help Michael. Two years ago, Michael needed my help. Now I need his.”

We know that this angel who is visiting Daniel is a mighty angel. He is mighty enough to actually strengthen Michael in warfare.

THE VISION IN CHAPTER 11

Roman numeral II. We are going to look at the vision itself. There are several parts to this vision. Chapter 11:1-20 is not what you are going to emphasize initially. You are going to work your way back. First you are going to start in chapter 11:36–12:3. You are going to start with the last ten verses of chapter 11 and then the first three verses of chapter 12. Those thirteen verses are the core truth. That is the truth you want to grasp. Then you are going to work your way back to the other parts, which are foundational to it.

Just for a moment here, in chapter 11:1-20, the angel is giving many details of what is going to happen in the next couple of hundred years. He is laying it all out. The reason is that when these prophecies from chapter 11:1-35 actually come to pass with detailed accuracy, and we understand them, then our faith is greatly built up. We will know that if the first part of Daniel 11 is accurate, then the last part of Daniel 11 will be accurate too. That is the point.

We want to start with the last part of Daniel 11, but just remember that the first part of Daniel 11 is also a part of what Daniel called the great vision. Though you may not focus on that in the immediate future, you want to one day learn the first thirty-five verses of Daniel 11, not just the last half of Daniel 11. That is just a note to myself.

THE CORE OF THE VISION

Daniel 11 is the most detailed prophecy in the Bible. There are 135 fulfilled prophecies in thirty-five verses. It is clearly the most detailed prophecy in the entire Bible. As we grasp those 135 fulfilled prophecies, we look at history and find out they are fulfilled 100 percent. So we know that the last half of Daniel 11 will be fulfilled, because the first half was fulfilled with such precision.

This is core: the last half of Daniel 11. This is the core vision which made Daniel sorrowful and it made him tremble. When we read it, we do not feel much. It is as if the Holy Spirit is saying, “Stay with it, because I want you to feel what Daniel felt, and because I want you to see what Daniel saw.”

My purpose tonight is just to kind of make you aware that this prophecy exists. It would take months to really mine every detail. It would take many, many messages to break it down. My goal is that you leave this building tonight and you say, “There is a very important, great vision about the generation in which the Lord returns and it could be in my lifetime. I want to know these details.”

Of course it is my very strong opinion that it *will be* in your lifetime. It will actually happen in the lifetime of people in this room, in my opinion. If that is true, then these last ten verses of Daniel 11 are very significant and it is necessary to study them.

THE ANTICHRIST

He says in verse 36, “The king shall do according to his own will. He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god. He will speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and he will prosper, until the wrath has been accomplished.”

Verse 37 (paraphrased), “He shall regard neither the God of his fathers, nor shall he regard the desire of women. Nor shall he regard any god, for he shall exalt himself above every type of religion in the earth.”

We learn many things about the Antichrist. Of course this king is the Antichrist. He will do his own will. He will have no regard for the consequences at all. He will have an emboldened, brazen arrogance. He will do what he wants. No nation can stop him, and no government will be able to stop him.

This is not like someone saying in a general way, “He does what he wants anyway.” No, this man will do what he wants. He will cast all religions away. He will change all the laws. He will change the calendar. He will murder people in vast numbers. He will have no regard for the consequences from men, nations, or from God.

He will have no fear of consequences from God. There will be a brazenness in his arrogance that we will not be able to comprehend. That is why the book of Revelation calls him *the Beast*. He will be cruel in his inner man and there will be no ability to reason with him. He will do whatever he wants at the most extreme level. No governments, no collection of nations will be able to stop him. He will exalt himself above every religion, every god of every kind, anything that is worshipped in any way and anything that is esteemed by man. He will take the first place on a global level above anything that is esteemed. That will be his desire.

HE WILL PROSPER

He will blaspheme the God of gods, which is the true God. He will blaspheme Him. We cannot imagine the words the Antichrist will speak about the gospel and the Word of God. We cannot imagine the bold blasphemies he will speak against what we consider dear. This will embolden millions to speak the same words with him. His boldness will embolden many.

He will prosper. That will be troubling to many people and that is what will deceive many people. He will actually prosper, but he will only prosper *until*... We praise God for the word *until*. There is a day when he will suddenly be cut off, but he will prosper. His army will get bigger, his financial systems will get bigger, his authority will get bigger, his power will get bigger. He will prosper in everything *until*...

Verse 37, “He will have no regard for the God of his fathers.” Many commentators take that verse to mean that he is Jewish or he has Jewish lineage, because the God of his fathers is a specifically Jewish phrase. You cannot prove that he is Jewish from that verse, but many suspect he will be Jewish or part Jewish.

He will have no regard for his religious heritage. He will have no regard for the desire of women. He will hate women. I know it is no surprise, but demons hate women. Look at history and the way women have been treated through history. There is a hatred the Antichrist will have against women, though he will fool and deceive many. In his spirit there will be a hatred beyond any perversion of hatred, which is in many men across the earth today. This is inspired by demons.

THE GOD OF FORTRESSES

Chapter 11:38, “But in their place he shall regard a god of fortresses.” This is an interesting phrase, *a god of fortresses*. A god of fortresses is a combination of military power and demonic power. He will honor, finance, and emphasize fortresses, and war, war which is combined with the demonic realm. That is where he will put his attention and that is what will excite him. He will honor a god of fortresses.

This is a god which his fathers did not comprehend at all. They did not know this god. It does not mean that they were unfamiliar with it, but they would not have been able not comprehend the insight he would have into how the spirit realm—the demonic host—would be involved with him in world strategies of military aggression.

He will honor this god of fortresses with gold and silver. He will put untold billions of dollars, possibly trillions of dollars, into it. In other words, there will be war, but it will not just be war. It will be war that will be inspired and empowered by demonic activity.

Verse 39, “Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god.” *A foreign god* means a combination of demons working together with the military. That is what he is going to be focused on. He will

acknowledge its glory. “And he shall cause them”—his own military leaders—“to rule over many men, many nations of the world, and he will divide up the lands of the earth for gain”—meaning, he will give them the spoils of war, he will give these spoils as rewards to his evil generals, he will give them the nations of the earth (v. 39, paraphrased). He will say in effect, “If you conquer *that*, you will get *this*.” He will use money to back up his political aggression at a level that has never been seen before.

HE WILL BE BASED IN ISRAEL

Chapter 11:40-45: “At the time of the end”—verse 40—“the king of the South—Egypt—shall attack him.” Praise God for Egypt. Egypt is right next to him in the Middle East.

He will be based in Israel, as we will see in a moment. One of the main capitals of the Antichrist, one of his main centers of operation, will be Israel.

Egypt will rise up and say, “No, we do not like this guy.” That is why we need to be praying for Egypt constantly. “And the king of the North”—Syria—“shall also come against him. He will come against him like a whirlwind with chariots, horsemen and many ships; and he”—the Antichrist—“will enter many countries and overwhelm them and he will pass through those countries” (v. 40, paraphrased). He will just dominate those countries.

Verse 41 (paraphrased), “He will also enter the Glorious Land”—Israel—“and many countries shall be overthrown by this man.” He will enter Israel. In verse 45 it says that he is going to set up his palace in Israel. At that point he enters Israel and many countries will be overthrown by him.

Verse 42 (paraphrased), “He will stretch out his hand against the countries and he will stretch out his hand against the land of Egypt. The land of Egypt will not escape.” He will attack the land of Egypt for attacking him. Verse 43 (paraphrased), “He will take over all the treasuries of gold and silver and the precious things of Egypt.”

Verse 44 (paraphrased), “But news from Asia will trouble him—news from the east.” There will be a response coming out of Asia which will be against him. Again, praise God for Asia. I believe there will be a prayer movement in Asia that will be behind this. News out of Asia will trouble him, because Asia is his big spoil. He wants to control their intellectual abilities, their economic powers and all those things. Asia will say, “No! No!” This will trouble him.

Also, “News from the north will trouble him. When he hears this news, he will go forth with great anger and fury. What Asia will say to him will so infuriate him that he will annihilate other nations in his rage, because of the way in which Asia is resisting him” (v.44, paraphrased).

JESUS WILL DESTROY HIM

Verse 45, “And he will plant the tents of his palace between the seas”—those are the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea—“and the glorious holy mountain”—Jerusalem. He will plant his palace there.

As Daniel was hearing this, he may have thought, “Oh no!” The angel says, “Don’t worry, he shall come to his end. He will suddenly be destroyed and nobody will be able to deliver him” (v. 45, paraphrased). This is what it

means that no one will help him. Nobody will be able to effectively deliver him, because Jesus Himself will face him off around the city of Jerusalem, face to face. Jesus will destroy him.

It says in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (paraphrased): “By the brightness of His appearance, He will stand before the Antichrist and consume him by the gaze of His face.” Nobody will be able to stop that from happening.

We have come to the final three verses of the vision. Chapter 12:1 (paraphrased), “And at that time—when he sets up his palace in Israel, when this great reign of terror is happening—Michael the archangel will stand up.” He will help Israel. This is the Michael from chapter 10, the same vision. It is as if Daniel is saying, “Good, I have confidence in Michael. I saw how powerful he was just a few minutes ago.”

The great archangel, the great prince, is going to stand up. He is the angel who is assigned to the land of Israel, to bring protection or to strengthen.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Every nation, every city, every governmental infrastructure has demons and angels assigned to it. The devil assigns the demons and God assigns the angels, obviously. The angel, this mighty angel tells Daniel, “There shall be a time of trouble” (v. 1).

This is the verse Jesus quotes and He names it *the Great Tribulation*. Jesus actually quotes Daniel 12:1, where the angel said to Daniel, “There will be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.” In Matthew 24:21 (paraphrased), Jesus quotes this passage and says, “There will be a time of trouble like never before in history. A great tribulation.” That is where we get the word.

“At that time”—at the end of the Great Tribulation—“Israel will be delivered” (v. 1, paraphrased). Israel will make it through and there will be a remnant. One third of the nation will be radically saved.

In verse 2 (paraphrased), the angel says, “About those who died, about the God fearing people who died in the process, do not worry.” The angel says, “If they die as martyrs along the way, do not worry, because the people who sleep in the dust of the earth are going to wake up. They are going to be raised from the dead and they will be given a new body. Some will be raised up to everlasting life, but you better make sure you are lined up with the Lord, because the other group will be woken up too, and they too will be waking up to a resurrected body, but they will have shame and everlasting contempt” (v. 2, paraphrased).

THOSE WHO ARE WISE WILL SHINE

Then the angel ends the vision with this exhortation. “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, when they get their new bodies, they will shine like the stars forever and forever” (v. 3, paraphrased).

Let's end with this: those who are wise and those who turn people to righteousness. Turning people to righteousness does not only mean we lead them to the Lord initially. I have heard this verse quoted through the years and it is almost always quoted in context to soul winning. That is great. That is fantastic, but turning people to righteousness does not end when they give their heart to the Lord. There is great labor involved in turning the church to righteousness. As those who are wise, you will take a stand to commit your life to turning people to righteousness by preaching on true holiness and getting people ready for the end-time scenario, so

they will have allegiance to Jesus and cast off this false gospel—this false grace—that is being preached by many people around the nations right now.

TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

The angel says, “Be a person who turns people to righteousness, not to the false grace message which empowers compromise” (v. 3, paraphrased). Whoever does this, will pay the price to stand for righteousness. It will be more troubling to stand for righteousness in the church, because they will have more Bible verses against righteousness than the unbelievers do. The unbelievers may say, “I do not get all the arguments.”

There will be a stronger and stronger conflict over the subject of true righteousness. The angel says, “If you turn people to righteousness, and if you are wise, if you grasp, if you understand these things...” (v. 3, paraphrased).

Wise does not just mean spending your money wisely, having a day timer, and having good investments. It is not talking about the general wisdom in life, though that is a good thing. It is talking about insight into this vision. That is what wisdom means in this context. Wisdom is actually in context to grasping what this vision is about, the contents of this vision. We are not just talking about general wisdom practices in the way you administrate your life. We are talking about the people who grasp the contents of this vision. They will shine. They will bring brightness to many others.

So as God's people, we look at this vision. This vision is so big. We are only looking at the last half of Daniel 11. The first half has many points to it, but again, it is a huge challenge the Lord is giving us. It is as if He says, “I want to feed you along the way and I want you to feel what Daniel felt. I am going to show you what I showed him. I am going to let you feel some of the things he felt.” Amen.