

Spiritual Growth Questions for June 11, 2023

Opener: Why do you think so many people are eager to know what the future holds? Why do you think God doesn't tell us all the details about the future ahead of time?

- I. **Read Daniel 11:1-20.** Make note of the words "arise, strong/strength and broken" are used (vs.2-4). What can we learn about the kingdoms of this world? How long will this pattern continue? Why is this important for us to know?
- II. **Read Daniel 11:21-39.** What are the tools that Antiochus used to achieve his evil goals? List every bad characteristic you can find about this evil king from 36-39. How might you be tempted to use these same means in your own life? **Read Luke 6:43-45 and James 1:13-15.** What do these verses say about the source of our sin? How does God use difficulty to work in his people in Daniel 11? How has He used difficulty to work in your own life? What marks the faithful believers in Daniel 11? How can you imitate their faithfulness to the Lord in your life?
- III. **Read Daniel 12:1-13.** What does chapter 12 say the angel Michael will be doing during the awful period known as the Great Tribulation? What does verse 2 say about the doctrine of resurrection? What will happen to those who are made to "awake"? Verse 3 gives a glimpse of what eternity holds for believers? What lies ahead? How did the "man clothed in linen" respond to Daniel's concern (verses 8-13)? What do you find most significant in the final instructions given to Daniel in vs.13?
- IV. What would you suggest the primary purposes for the message of Daniel in the lives of his people today? The introduction to this study mentions the following as a universal question that is dealt with in Daniel: "How can followers of God maintain their loyalty to him while living in cultures that are hostile to biblical religion?" How has your study of this book enabled you to better answer that question?
- V. **Daniel 1:8** But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food. How does this verse set up the rest of the book? What realities about God, about this world and its future, have most encouraged you as you have read Daniel?

I resolve to live for God no matter what!

Living for God in a Broken World: A Study of Daniel

I resolve to live for God Daniel 11-12

June 11, 2023, Pastor John Lloyd

How do we live for God in ungodly times-like our own. Is it worth standing firm and obeying God when His kingdom seems so far away? How can we live courageously and confidently in nations that do not seek to live under God's rule? How is it possible to be a blessing to our nations and show the power and goodness of our God, even in a time such as ours? This is the context that Daniel found himself in. This story will exalt God as king and His kingdom in ways that will ultimately find their fulfillment in Jesus. In today's passage, we will unpack the concluding vision that God shared with Daniel regarding the future. My prayer is that God would reveal the characteristics of a disciple living in a broken world. Daniel models a resolution to live for God no matter what may happen. May we adopt this same mindset as we live for God.

Big Idea: I resolve to live for God no matter what.

- I. I am _____ to face _____ till the end.

Conflicts between Persians and Greeks 11:2-4

Conflicts between North (Syria) and South (Egypt) 11:5-19

Conflicts that put Israel in the middle 11:20-11:45

A time of great trouble like none other, but also a time of deliverance of Your people-12:1.

Daniel 11:2 "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.

Daniel 11:20 "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. 21 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. 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. (See Daniel 11:36-38, I Peter 4:1)

Daniel 12:1 "At that time shall **arise** Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book

**God is sovereign over human events. God knows the big picture and the details. God cares enough to warn and limit.
I resolve to live for God no matter what!**

II. I believe that I will have the _____ from God to be _____.

Dan 11:32 He will flatter and win over those who have violated the covenant. But the people who know their God will be strong and will resist him.

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.¹ Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" Romans 8:11

**Resurrection is a reversal of the curse of death.
Resurrection life is available to all who call upon Jesus.
I resolve to live for God no matter what!**

III. I resolve to be _____ to _____ till the end.

Daniel 12:3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." Pr.11:30

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Acts 1:8, Luke 24:47

Daniel 12:5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

**The only thing that I can bring to heaven is souls!
I resolve to live for God no matter what!**

IV. I resolve to allow God to _____ to make me more like Jesus.

Daniel 12:8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. **10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined**, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

The wise will be refined to bring God even more glory.
The wicked will be defined.

Daniel 12:11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

God alone knows-and that seems to be the point. God knows that there is an end that he has determined, but we cannot figure it out because we are not supposed to. Leave it to God. Tremper Longman

Trials have an end date. I will plan for my future, but I will live as though this is my last day on earth. I resolve to live for God no matter what!

1:8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food,