

SERMON OUTLINE

In Daniel 10:1-12:13 we are shown 3 aspects of Daniel's final vision which concerns the future of God's people.

- I. The vision includes a glimpse of the spiritual battle going on behind the veil.
 - A. The battle begins when Daniel mourns and seeks understanding from God (10:1-4, 12)
 - B. The battle is fought by an awe-inspiring spiritual being and Daniel is greatly afraid (vs. 5-8).
 - C. The battle is described and Daniel is undone (10:9-11:1).

II. The vision describes the future of God's people.

A. In the near future (11:2-5).

B. In the future (11:6-35).

C. In the far future (11:36-12:4).

III. The vision answers questions.

A. How long till the end (12:5-7)?

B. What will the outcome be (12:8-13)?

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 4, 2018

Passage: Daniel 11:2-11:35

Memory Passage: Daniel 10:14 (this verse from last week explains the content of chapters 11 & 12)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 11:2-35.** While these verses were written in the 6th century BC, the events described in these verses span from 536 BC to 163 BC. Though given as prophecy, history confirms their very great accuracy concerning the events they describe. Not all rulers during these years are covered, nor are all story of each mentioned ruler described, but where details are given accuracy is amazing! Much more emphasis is given to the horrible reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (vs. 21-35) than the first 366 years (vs. 2-20). Though I will cover the details in the sermon, I will not use this Discussion Guide as a commentary to fill in all the details (but I'll give an overview next). Instead, we will draw several theological and exegetical ideas from the text.

(b) Verse 2 covers coming Persian kings, vs. 3-4 describe the rise and death of Alexander the Great in Greece and the subsequent division of his kingdom between 4 of his generals (known as the *diodachoi*, Greek for *successors*), and vs. 5-20 describe in some detail the battle between the kings of the south (Ptolemy I and his descendants who ruled Egypt) and the kings of the north (Seleucid I and his descendants who ruled Syria). This chapter focuses on the struggles between Egypt and Syria because the Promised Land sat geographically in the middle. Verse 6 begins telling the story in greater detail in 250 AD with stories of murder, betrayal, marriages between powerful dynasties that backfire, political intrigue, and wars. Then we meet again the nemesis of God's people, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, an antichrist who perpetuated some of the most heinous crimes against God's people and foreshadows The Antichrist of days yet to come (cf. vs. 36-45).

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 11:2-35.** Oftentimes we find repetition in a text, and that repetition helps us see primary themes or teachings. Notice the amount of times (at least 10) in vs. 2-20 the author shows us that human plans are frustrated. We don't need to fully understand the kings and conflicts to see this (note the adversative "but . . ." that so often moves the story forward).

(b) Who is the Author of all of these plot twists and turns?

(c) How does this idea of God's sovereign control of minute historical details (a constant theme in Daniel) bring comfort to Daniel and his people in the 6th century BC? To God's people throughout the ages? To you, in particular, today?

(d) How should this concept guide believers as they rule in their own lives (at home, work, in politics, in church, etc.)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 11:2-35.** As you read today, make note of another form of repetition, namely the use of phrases marking time such as "the time appointed," "appointed time," "the time of the end," "at that time," etc.

(b) How does the repetition of this idea move our story forward?

(c) What does this repeated idea convey to Daniel and his people in the 6th century? What does it convey to us today?

(d) How does it prepare us for chapter 12? For our upcoming study of Revelation? For the challenges in your life?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 11:2-35.** Let's think through the dominant theme of Daniel: God is sovereign over all details of history and He works on behalf of His people as He carries out His plans. If God is in charge of every detail in history (clearly evident in chapter 11!), how does that affect our daily decisions? In other words, if God is this much in control, do the decisions we make matter in any real sense?

(b) What passages of Scripture can you muster to form and defend your answer?

(c) How would you describe your answer to a brand new believer who wonders why they should pray, or what purpose their obedience actually serves? How would you answer a seasoned saint who wonders about the same things?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Daniel 11:2-35.** What other questions do you have concerning Daniel 11:2-35? What other implications can you draw from these verses? Be ready to join in a discussion in your SS class about both your questions & your applications!

DATE: March 4, 2018

PASSAGE: Daniel 11:2-35

A Collision of Kings