

Daniel 10-11

Week 10 (Nov. 19): The Last Vision

Introduction

- Open your time in prayer and read the passage together.
- Give everyone 15 minutes to answer the five following questions: Write your answers after each question.
- Take one question at a time and have people share their answers.
- End your time by sharing and praying for one another.

Passage:

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

²In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. ³I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. ⁴On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) ⁵I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. ⁶His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. ⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. ⁸So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. ⁹Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

¹⁰And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹²Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. ¹³The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me,

for I was left there with the kings of Persia, ¹⁴and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

¹⁵When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. ¹⁶And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. ¹⁷How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."

¹⁸Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." ²⁰Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. ²¹But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

11 "And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

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. ³Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills. ⁴And 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.

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. ⁶After 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.

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. ⁸He 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. ⁹Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land.

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. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²And when the multitude is taken away, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail. ¹³For 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. ¹⁵Then 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. ¹⁶But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand. ¹⁷He 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. ¹⁸Afterward 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. ¹⁹Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

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. ²¹In 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. ²²Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of

the covenant. ²³And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people. ²⁴Without 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. ²⁵And 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. ²⁶Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. ²⁷And 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. ²⁸And 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.

²⁹“At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before. ³⁰For 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. ³¹Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. ³²He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. ³³And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. ³⁴When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, ³⁵and 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.

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. ³⁷He 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. ³⁸He 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.

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.



-What stuck out to you in the passage? This might be something significant (facts, details), it might be the way something is talked about (as a simile, metaphor or image) or a literary device used (lists, repetition, contrasts, comparisons, quotes, etc.).



-Do you have any questions from the passage? Notice anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord.



-How do you see Jesus in the passage? How does this passage relate to the person, nature, character, or work of Jesus?



-How can I apply this passage to my life?



-Who is one person that could benefit from you sharing what you learned in this passage today?

Close your time by sharing prayer requests and praying.

Daniel 10-11

In Daniel 10, an angelic being appears before Daniel, bringing news of a celestial conflict and the challenges this angelic messenger faced from other spiritual forces. Despite the resistance encountered, this angelic being arrives to reveal forthcoming events to Daniel. Daniel's unwavering dedication is evident as he observes a three-week period of mourning and fasting. During this time, he experiences a vision in which the angelic being explains the spiritual battle taking place in the heavenly realms. The delay in the angelic messenger's arrival was due to opposition from the "prince of Persia," but with the assistance of Michael, another chief angel, the angelic messenger conveys a message outlining future events and conflicts among nations.

In Daniel 11:2–45, we encounter a remarkable vision that provides a selective yet intricately detailed overview of historical events, spanning from Daniel's time in the late sixth century B.C. through to the ultimate climactic conflict and God's eventual victory at the end of the world. Some scholars have debated whether this vision was written after the fact due to its remarkable accuracy, but it aligns with the biblical assertion in Isaiah 44:6–7 that God has the ability and purpose to declare future events to showcase His power and sovereignty.

For Daniel and his contemporaries, this vision held profound significance. At the time, Judah was on the cusp of being restored from exile, yet it would remain under the rule of the Persians, followed by the Greeks under Alexander the Great. Subsequently, it would find itself caught between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic successors of Alexander's empire. This geopolitical complexity left faithful Jews pondering how these circumstances aligned with God's care for His people and His plan to use them for a broader global purpose. Therefore, the vision in Daniel 11 serves as reassurance and a reminder of God's ultimate control over history, offering solace to those who remained faithful in turbulent times. (Adapted from ESV Study Bible)

God Hears: In Daniel 10:11-12, we see that God heard Daniel's words and sent a messenger in response. How does this assurance that God hears our words and responds to our prayers impact your perspective on prayer and communication with God? How can we draw comfort and encouragement from knowing that our words reach the ears of a loving and attentive God?

Spiritual Warfare: In Daniel 10:12-13, we witness a spiritual battle where an angelic messenger sent to Daniel is delayed by the "prince of Persia" and requires the assistance of the archangel Michael. This imagery highlights there are spiritual battles taking place in the heavenly realms. How does recognizing the existence of a spiritual battle influence your spiritual life and prayer practices?

Loved & Guided: How does the idea that Daniel was "greatly loved" by God and that the messenger was sent in response to his prayers and meditation impact our understanding of God's relationship with individuals and His willingness to provide guidance and encouragement in times of distress and uncertainty?

Assurance of God's Plan: In light of the assurance of God's sovereign control of history, consider the challenges faced by pious Jews in Daniel's time. How might their bewilderment about God's concern for His people and their role in blessing the world resonate with our own moments of doubt or uncertainty in our faith journeys? How can the reassurance of God's sovereignty in our lives impact our faith and outlook, particularly during times of confusion or when we face questions about God's plan?