




**Daniel 10:1-6:**

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. 2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.




4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His 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. (**Daniel's response verses 7-9**)

**Daniel 10:10-14:** 10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And 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. 12 Then 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.**

13 The 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,** 14 and 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." (**Daniel's response 15-17**)

**Daniel 10:18-21:**

18 Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And 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."



20 Then 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. 21 But 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."




Thoughts/Takeaways:

1. The significance and reality of prayer and spiritual warfare!

There are strongholds, personal and much broader and bigger!

"...I have come because of your words." - Verse 12




Dale Davis: *"(God) moves his servant to pray for his people, then in response to the sweat and struggle of prayer He begins to bring help to his people. 'I have come because of your words (vs 12).'* Daniel prayed, and angels went to war."



Thoughts/Takeaways:

1. The significance and reality of prayer and spiritual warfare!

2. Don't get overly caught up, nor casually dismiss.



Dale Davis: *"What are we to make of this? One must not sensationalize the text yet not mute its testimony. The teaching seems to be that unseen evil powers influence and control the kingdoms and governments of this world in order to inflict harm and havoc on the people of God. There is what we see on the surface, but then there is this whole unseen arena; an invisible war is going on behind the 'seens.'"*



1) Those are who Exploring:




2) Those who are Christians:

a) Christians who are prone to dismiss...



“Church Militant and Church Triumphant”




Ephesians 6:10-12: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*



b) Those who are Christians:

- a) Christians who are prone to dismiss...
- b) Christians who might be overly caught up...




Summary: What to do when you feel like the world is falling apart?

Engage the spiritual battle and fight on your knees in prayer.



Daniel 10-12: What to do when it feels like the world is falling apart?

2. (Chapter 11) Fight back against the dread of thinking that “evil is going to win” by getting perspective on the FUTILITY of the nations and God’s sovereignty.



Daniel 11: The rise and fall of kings and kingdoms, the growing attack on God’s people:

1. Persia (v2)
2. Greece (v3-4)
3. Kings of the North and South (5-20)
4. Antiochus Epiphanes (21-35)
5. A future “Antiochus Epiphanes- like” ruler (36-45)



Greece (after Alexander the Great):

4 Generals divided up the kingdom:

- 1) Cassander took Macedonia and Greece
- 2) Lysimachus took Thrace and portions of Asia Minor
- 3) Ptolemy took Egypt and Israel (**South**)
- 4) Seleucus took Syria and Mesopotamia (**North**)




The South (Ptolemies in Egypt)

- Ptolemy 1 (323-285BC): Soter
Ptolemy 2 (285-246BC): Philadelphus
Ptolemy 3 (246-221BC): Evergetes
Ptolemy 4 (221-203BC): Philopater
Ptolemy 5 (203-181BC): Ephiaphanes
Ptolemy 6 (181-145BC): Philometor




The North (Seleucids in Syria)


- Seleucus 1 (312-280BC): Nicator
Antiochus 1 (280-261BC): Soter
Antiochus 2 (261-246BC): Theos
Seleucus 2 (246-226BC): Callinicus
Seleucus 3 (226-223BC): Ceraunus
Antiochus 3 (223-187BC): Magnus
Seleucus 4 (187-175BC): Philopater
Antiochus 4 (175-163BC): Ephiaphanes




Daniel 11: In this long and detailed chapter, note the **futility of the nations and rulers: one rises and falls to another that rises and falls, and so on...**



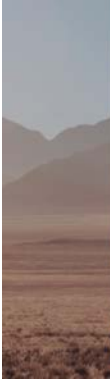
Verse 4: And as soon as he has arisen (Alexander), his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these.




Verse 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.




Verses 11-12: 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. 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.**



Verses 18-20: 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. 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.** 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.**



Iain Duguid: *"On one level, it is the continual story of wars and rumors of wars, as one human ruler and empire after another seeks to gain power by cunning or force. Yet though the tide in the affairs of men comes in and goes out, in the end it accomplishes precisely nothing. The balance of power in earthly politics may shift but it never comes to a permanent rest. ..."*




"On the one hand, Daniel 11 shows us the fallen world pursuing the wind and finding it elusive. What do power and politics gain for all their toil?"



Takeaway:

The futility of the powerful and evil kings and kingdoms **comforts** but also **challenges** God's people who are often caught in the crossfire.



(Comfort) Dale Davis: *"We must understand what massive comfort this view of history provides for the people of God. For how often God's people worldwide must feel they are caught in the gears of vicious regimes and that the corpulent heavyweights of this age simply mash them at will. But our text teaches that our Lord brings judgment not only at the climax of history but also within history as he injects futility into the designs of the self exalting, saint ignoring rulers of this world, so that their schemes end in shambles."*



Challenges:

God's people do not put their ultimate hope in any earthly rulers and kingdoms.

Are we putting our false hope in power and politics?



One more thought:

Although God is not explicitly mentioned in chapter 11, this doesn't mean that God is not engaged or absent.

- Remember the spiritual battle (chapter 10)!

- God's sovereignty is reflected in the following phrases: "the appointed time" (vs 27, 34); "the end" (vs 40, 45). *Evil has an expiration date.*



(Summary) What to do when it feels like the world is falling apart?

Fight back against the dread of thinking that "evil is going to win" by getting perspective on the futility of the nations and God's sovereignty.



Daniel 10-12: What to do when it feels like the world is falling apart?

3. (Chapter 12) Persevere with the understanding that suffering and evil will not triumph but God will!



Antiochus Epiphanes and a future "Antiochus Epiphanes-like" ruler...

Just as there are people in the bible in whom Jesus is the "true and better" type, here we see a type of the "worse and more evil."



Chapter 12: Perseverance because God will triumph!


- 1) Security (1-4)
- 2) Certainty (5-7)
- 3) Tenacity (8-13)

*This breakdown is taken from Davis' book.



1. Security when things are at the worst.

Daniel 12:1-4: 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. ...**




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. 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.



2. Certainty in the most difficult of trials.

Daniel 12:5-7: 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.**



3. Tenacity instead of wilting under fear or pressure.

Daniel 12:8-13: 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. 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.**

The end of the book of Daniel.



What to do when it feels like the world is coming to an end?

Prayer that engages in spiritual battle!

Get perspective on the futility of the nations
(Comfort and Challenge)

Persevere because Jesus wins! (Security,
Certainty, Tenacity)

