

DANIEL
CHAPTER

11

1. Please read this chapter several times or listen to it read to you with the YouVersion Bible app.

This can be a difficult chapter because it is filled with prophecy for the near and distant future. In chapter 10, we read that Daniel had been praying for three weeks when a messenger from God appeared and spoke words of encouragement to him. The vision gave him a look into the future of his people, Israel. Do not miss the amazing number of details foretold.

2. Quite often throughout Daniel's writing, he has given us dates so the reader can put together a timeline. Chapter 10 opened with a date mentioned. Fill in the blanks.

"In the _____ year of _____ king of _____ a revelation was given to Daniel..."

3. This week we see Daniel 11 also mentioned a date.

"And in the _____ year of _____ the _____, I took my stand to support and protect him."

4. Do not miss the fact it is a messenger from God speaking in Daniel 10:20 thru Daniel 11:1 and revealing future events. After looking at the dates in question 2 and 3, when had the messenger taken his stand?

5. We are told that Michael is the guardian angel of Daniel's people, Israel. Gabriel and Michael have been in a battle with the prince of Persia. Soon they will be back in the battle with the evil force, the prince of Greece. Wicked men may look like they are in control but since we see that it is a spiritual battle, who is truly behind these puppet leaders? What does this tell you about the spiritual battles going on?

6. Read Jude 1:9. We can learn much about proper spiritual warfare from Michael. It is unwise to get into a boxing match with the devil. We are no match for him and would be wise to leave him to God and concentrate on being women of prayer. God is the only one who can do as he wills with Satan.

If the archangel Michael left judgement and condemnation of the devil to the Lord, what do you suppose we should do?

James 4:7 tells us to "resist the devil, and he will _____ from you."

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary definition of the word resist is, literally, to stand against; to withstand; hence, to act in opposition, or to oppose.

Are you taking your stand in opposition to the devil?

Does this change how you think about spiritual warfare?

7. The historical details of Daniel are given to us for a reason. God wants us to know Daniel and the other Israelites have been in captivity for many, many years. King Nebuchadnezzar brought the Israelite captives to Babylon in 605 BC. Nebuchadnezzar ruled from 605-562 BC. When it comes to walking in obedience there are only two ways to go, leaning into obedience or declining in our moral condition. What was the moral condition of the Babylonian kingdom? (If you do not remember, look back to Daniel 5 to see how Belshazzar led the kingdom.)

8. Daniel's prophecy is so spot on, many critics of the Bible claim it was not prophecy at all, but a historical account, written after the events. Why do you believe it is so hard for some people to believe God's word?

9. Those who faithfully follow Christ trust God's word. We call this faith.
The author of Hebrews tells us: "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Has any promise of God's word ever failed?

10. What do we call someone who says what they mean and does what they say they will do?

Has God's Word spoken truth into your life?
Think of a personal experience in which you have seen God's hand of provision, promise, and help?

Please share it in your small group. Dare to be a Daniel, testifying to the goodness of our God. This may be exactly what someone else needs to hear at the exact moment they need to hear it.

11. In Daniel 11:2, the messenger said he is ready to share with Daniel some coming events. The message of the angel is so specific that many doubt the date of Daniel's writing.
Read Isaiah 46:9-10. Is anything too hard for the sovereign God of the universe?
These two verses in Isaiah should give us great confidence. What does Isaiah 46:9-10 tell us about our God?

12. Daniel is told he can trust these words and that they are truth. *"Now then, I tell you the truth:*
_____ *kings will arise in _____, and then a _____, who will be far*
_____ *than all the others."* Daniel 11:2a

The verse goes on to say he will gain power by his wealth.
What will this powerful ruler try to do next?

13. The events going on between these ruling kings and their nations is of grave importance to Israel.
Under Cyrus' command, the Jewish people were granted permission to return to their homeland. Sadly, many of those in Babylon did not return. They have been living in Babylon for over 65 years.
Why do you think they may have chosen to stay in a land not their own?

14. Often the question comes up, why did Daniel stay in Babylon?
Taking into consideration Daniel's character and position, what may have motivated him to stay in this foreign land instead of returning?

15. The journey from Susa to Jerusalem was well over 800 miles. This would be like walking from Dallas, Texas to Chicago, Illinois.

What factors might have influenced him not to make the journey?

16. We know from history, the fourth ruler mentioned in Daniel 11:2 was Xerxes I, (486-465 B.C.) He was also known as Ahasuerus, in the book of Esther.

Do you recall what Haman, the King's second in command, wanted to do to the Jewish people?
Why did Haman harbor such animosity toward the Jews?

If you do not know the story, you might like to listen to Esther read aloud.
Use your YouVersion Bible app...especially, Esther 3:5-6.

17. After Xerxes, there was another great Macedonian king, Alexander the Great. Historically, there is much written about this man. However, here in Daniel II, he is only briefly mentioned. Alexander the Great ruled from 330-323 BC. Upon his untimely death, his kingdom was divided among four of his generals. These four men were Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander, and Lysimachus (also known as Antigonus).

Only two are talked about in this chapter: Ptolemy, the King of the South (Egypt) and Seleucus, the King of the North (Syria). Daniel II covers hundreds of years of history. It is not merely two men we are seeing referred to, but their kingdoms. These two dynasties fought continually. The years were marked with wars, marriages, alliances, victories, and defeats.

All the while, where is precious Israel located?
You might like to look at a map showing Egypt, Israel, and Syria.

18. The King of the South is mentioned first in Daniel II:5 as the strongest of the four rulers. Very quickly we see great friction between the King of the South and the King of the North. After some 100+ years of warring, a marriage is arranged that is hoped to bring peace.

What happened in Daniel II:6?

19. In this chapter, Daniel describes a time of constant betrayal, retaliation, and revenge. Have you ever been caught between two parties who were at odds?

How did you handle it?

Maybe it was a boss and his counterpart; what was it like working under them?

When parents are constantly battling each other, how are the hearts of their children affected?

What might it be like for those living on the same street with quarreling neighbors?

What do you think it was like for the Israelites with the King of the South and the King of the North constantly fighting each other?

20. Daniel II:7-26 describes more wars, more retaliations, conquering and takeovers, but none of it will last. What do you learn about the two kings in Daniel II:27?

21. This brings us to the ruler Antiochus IV. This pride-filled ruler declared himself to be Antiochus Epiphanes, which means "Antiochus, God manifest". The Israelites referred to him Antiochus Epimanes, which means "madman." This ruthless ruler was anything but an illustrious one. He was vile in his treatment of others. Make a list of all you learn about this man's character, from verses 21-27?


22. What do we learn about the man in Daniel II:28, making him detestable in God's eyes?

DAY | FOUR

23. Read Isaiah 41:8-11
How does God feel about his people and those who oppose Israel?
24. In Daniel 11:29, Antiochus Epiphanes tries to invade the South. However, this time the outcome is different. This ruthless, heartless leader was sent home in defeat. As he travels through Jerusalem to his home country of Syria who does he turn his fury on?
25. Read verses 30-31. Who befriends him?
26. What happened while he and his troops were in Jerusalem?
27. The tools of this evil tyrant are force and flattery.
Read Daniel 11:32. What was the response of those who had a personal relationship with Jehovah?
28. Read Daniel 11:33-35. This will be a time of great persecution. What were some of the terrible persecutions they endured?
29. Antiochus was a madman. He declared himself to be a god. He chose to do whatever suited his fancy. He treated others with contempt, hardly giving a thought to what was fair or right. He supposed his great wealth made him right. God has a way of humbling even the toughest of men.
Read Hebrews 9:27. What does God's word tell us about justice for evil men like this?
- What event lies in their future?
30. History records Antiochus IV ordered coins to bear his image on one side with Zeus or Apollo's image on the other side. The coins were inscribed "Theos Antiochus, Theos Epiphanes," which means "Antiochus, God Manifested." No wonder many have confused this man for the antichrist. He is a foreshadow of the antichrist to come.
What facts have you read in Daniel 11:36-39 that might lead us to believe this man is a picture or a foreshadow of the antichrist?
31. Apostasy to some degree has always existed. Apostasy is the abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion. Do you believe we are seeing some of this today?
We cannot know the day or the hour these things will take place. It would be wise to be prepared. We must carefully consider our relationship with Jesus Christ.
I have said it before, but it bears repeating. 'Heaven and hell are real, and eternity is too long to be wrong.' If you are not sure, I would love to talk to you. My email is kathypatton16@gmail.com.

DAY | FIVE

32. From this point on in the chapter, the predictions shift away from Antiochus IV and begin to focus on the end of days. Daniel has mentioned this ruler in his vision in Daniel 7:8, 20-22. He is a little horn that grew and became powerful and large. Antiochus was considered the king of the North.
According to Daniel 11: 40 who will engage him in battle?
33. Read verses 40-44. Where will this vicious ruler focus his destructive attention next?
34. Will any of the nations be able to resist his control?
35. The last thing we see in this chapter is this audacious and blasphemous ruler, pitching his tents on the beautiful holy mountain. We can see many similarities between the two rulers, Antiochus Epiphanes and the Antichrist to come. We must remember both wicked rulers were in the future; neither would come in Daniel's lifetime. Antiochus Epiphanes would not come on the scene for several hundred years.
Read Daniel 11:45. What end do these two leaders have in common?

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36. What will become of the plans of these evil men?
What do you see in Daniel 11:27 and 35 concerning God's calendar of events and the futility of men's plans?
 37. This has been a very full chapter. We may not have all the names and places down in our memory.
What is your greatest take-away from the time you have spent in this chapter?
 38. What did you see about the character of our God?
 39. Do you feel a renewed sense of urgency to talk to others about things of eternal consequence? Have you taken your concerns for this person or these persons to God in prayer?
 40. I have committed to do a fast, like Daniel's, for the next three weeks. God spoke to my heart when I read about Daniel giving up delicacies to focus on seeking God concerning a specific prayer request. This has helped me remember, over and over, to pray; believing God is already at work answering my prayer.