

Daniel 11

"War"

February 13/14/2010

1. Anyone doing the 21 day challenge? How's it going?
2. What's the darkest place you have ever been? How did you like it?
 - The teaching in the Bible about The End tells us that **it's darkest right before dawn**—right before Christ returns. In much of chapter 11 (2-35), we are given more prophecy about the Persian and Greek empires. The vision focuses on the conflict between two of Alexander the Great's generals/dynasties, the Ptolemies (South- Egypt) and the Seleucid Dynasty in the north (Syria, Babylon). Israel, the Beautiful Land, sat right between them and suffered greatly at their hands.
3. Imagine being a devout Jew when Antiochus IV desecrated the temple and hearing the prophet Daniel read especially 11:32b-35. How would these verses encourage you to stand firm 'til the end?
4. Verses 36 and following continue to prophecy concerning Antiochus IV. Or, does it? Daniel 12:1-2 gives us a clue that maybe the prophecy just jumped ahead to The End when someone like Antiochus will oppose God and His people. What clues are there from 12:1-2 that this is likely where 11:36-45 is going?
5. Antiochus IV points us to the Antichrist. What do we know about him from Daniel 11:36-45. After recording your observations, go to the NT and see what it says about the Antichrist (1 John 2:18), called the man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 or the beast in Revelation 13. Note the connections to Daniel 11. What is the final end of the beast Revelation 19:11-21?
6. Do you see any examples today where evil is deceiving God's people so that they are doing and following things that aren't of God? If so, what? What does it mean to resist evil and evil ones? Look up James 4:7 and I Peter 5:8-11.
7. Read Jesus on this matter Matthew 24:4-31. How does Jesus prepare His followers to stand firm 'til the end? How prepared are you to suffer for the name of Christ? What do you need to do to prepare for that day or any hard days that come into your life?

Close in prayer, ask God to strengthen you. Ask Him to show you where evil is deceiving you. Remember to pray for those who are suffering for Christ today!

Resources: ESV Study Bible notes give great historical detail on Chapter 11. See also Tremper Longman's Commentary on Daniel published by Zondervan.