

Week of April 26, 2020

Daniel 10-11:34

Q: (vv.32-35) History describes the Jewish revolt by the “people who know God” (led by Hasmonians/Maccabees) against Antiochus for profaning God’s holy Temple. How do times of persecution “refine, purify and make white” the church of Jesus Christ? How do times of persecution (or trial) help you reflect more and grow closer to God?

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Q: From our side of history, there is a lot of very specific fulfilled prophecy. How would this have encouraged those believers (in Daniel’s day and after) **seeing those events played out just as God described to Daniel?** How does this strengthen your trust in the reliability and trustworthiness of God’s eternal Word?!

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Q: How might the worldwide Christian Church today be in the midst of God’s pruning and purification? What evidence do you see in our world of God using this current pandemic to draw people closer to Himself?

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*PRAY: Lord thank you that because of Jesus Christ, we can now with humble hearts, (Heb 4:16) “come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” Thank you for fulfilled prophecy. Your Word is eternally True. Help me to trust in You always and daily help me to read and understand your Word. Show me ways to practically demonstrate your love to those around me. Draw many unsaved into your eternal Kingdom, for your glory, in Jesus’ name, Amen!*

In chapter 9, Daniel receives an amazing prophecy, detailing when the promised Messiah would arrive, be put to death and (by rising again), ending the need for further sacrifices and offerings in the Jewish Temple. Here in chapter 10, Daniel receives another vision in 536 BC, when he is around 90 years old. 2 years earlier, king Cyrus of Persia would make a decree to allow Jews (God’s people in the Old Testament) to begin returning to Jerusalem to rebuild their Temple. The Jews faced opposition there and at the time of this chapter, the work had ceased (perhaps the reason for Daniel’s mourning?). This takes place around the time of the restored Passover feast (the first in Jerusalem in over 50 years). We get a glimpse into the spiritual warfare going on as well as more historical prophecy fulfilled in amazing detail. God’s Word is trustworthy and true!

Q: (10:2-3) Describe Daniel’s mood and what he was doing.

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Q: (vv.5-6) Describe the “man” that Daniel encounters?

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Q: (v.7-9) Some say this “man” is the pre-incarnate Jesus (see Rev 1:12-16; Ezek 1:26-2:2). Others say this is a high ranking angel sent by God (v.13) (see Ezek 1). Either way, how did Daniel (and the men nearby) respond?

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Q: (vv.10-12) How did the angel comfort Daniel? (note vv.11, 19)

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Q: (v.12) How did Daniel’s prayer lead to God’s response? How might our humble heartfelt prayers lead God to respond as well? (see James 4:2-3; 1 John 5:14; John 15:7)

Q: Describe a time when you prayed to God and wondered why there was a delay in the answer. Did you feel God didn’t hear your prayer or felt that He was distant? How did God comfort you during that time? Describe your experience.

Q: (vv.13-14, 20) Knowing there are unseen spiritual battles going on around us, how should that motivate us to pray more?

Q: (vv.15-18) How does the Lord give us strength when we are weak? (Isa 40:28-31) Why is it very key to remember daily that in Christ as God’s children, we are deeply loved by God?

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*(11:1) Ever since the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem in 538BC., God’s messenger here was working behind the scenes. Now he begins to share with Daniel the various nations and leaders that were yet to come. Chapter 11 has some of the most precise prophecies, confirmed by history, leaving some skeptics to think this must have been written after the fact (after 164 BC). The truth is that God through Daniel, described these future events around 536 BC!*

*(v.3) History confirms the “3 more kings” (which mirror the “3 ribs” in the mouth of the bear (Dan 7:5) describing Persia) are the 3 kings that arose after king Cyrus. Then Greece attacks (v.4; also 8:21-22) with a “mighty king” (Alexander the Great). After he dies and his kingdom is divided into four parts, each area led by its own king. (v.5) the “king of the south” (Egypt—one of the four regions) rises in power but one of his “princes” is stronger (Syria). The land of Israel would fall right in between these areas. There would be various battles and future kings would rise and fall until (v.21) a “contemptable person” (not of royal decent) would arise, without warning, to lead Syria. Historians tell us this person is Antiochus IV Epiphanes (the “little horn” described in Daniel 8:9, 23-25)..*

Q: (vv.22-24) how do these verses describe his success as a leader?

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*(vv.25-31) His unsuccessful military campaign against the king of the south (Egypt) caused Antiochus to take out his frustration on the Jewish people in Israel. He profanes their temple in Jerusalem (in 167BC) by setting up an idol to Zeus in the holiest place in the temple, and sacrifices a pig (an abomination). (see also Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14). The Law God gave to Moses strictly required holiness, especially in regard to the Temple sacrifices and worship, to remind the people to be holy (separate from ungodliness, living pure to the Lord) as God is Holy (Leviticus 11:44).*

Q: Today Christ has made us pure and holy to the Lord (all Christ-followers are the “temple of the Holy Spirit” 1 Cor 6:19). Christ continues to help us grow to live our lives holy/pure to God (Heb 10:14). Those who don’t know the Lord, don’t know the importance of living a holy life, pleasing to the Lord (1 Cor 2:14-15). As we continue growing in our journey with Jesus, becoming more like Him each day, how can we show God’s perfect love to those around us (even those who are against us)?

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