

DANIEL

Lesson 20: Daniel 11:21-35 Despicable, Part 2

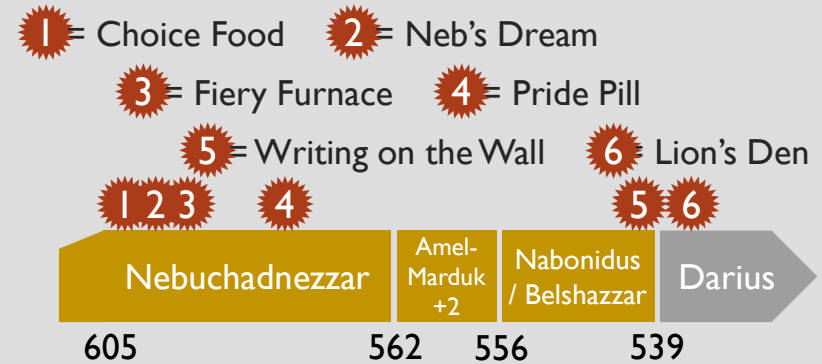
- I have been looking forward to the next 5 sermons. In fact, this material (from the latter half of Chapter 11 and all of chapter 12) has been a primary target from the start.
- Something unprecedented is coming.
- Maybe you see the clouds of this gathering storm.

- This part of Daniel will help you understand what's coming and how to prevail.
- Daniel 10-12 is the last vision recorded by Daniel before he was instructed to take his rest.
- So far, we have examined the parts of this fourth vision that have been precisely fulfilled in what is for us, history.

- In these final five sermons, we focus on the part of his vision that identifies events yet future.
- Today, we will take a second look at the section we last considered (11:21-35).
- Then we will take three weeks to consider the 23 verses to follow (11:36-45; 12:1-13).
- Finally, we will create a composite view.

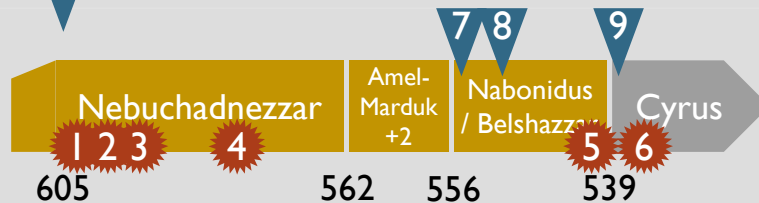
- It's been awhile, so let's remember the big picture.
- Daniel (chap 1-6) highlights key bio moments and we can draw inspiration from his example.
- (Chap 7-12) He also looks into the future! On five occasions, God gave him a glimpse of things that will happen **after** his life.

Narrative Chapters (1-6):



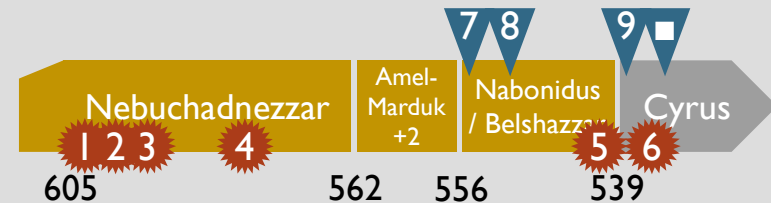
Six Prophetic Chapters (7-12)

- 7 = 4 Beasts ► **Super-Horn** ► **Son of Man**
 8 = 2 Beasts ► **Little Horn** ► **Broken**
 9 = 69 "Sevens" ► **Last "Seven"**



Six Prophetic Chapters (7-12)

- Chapter 10-12 = Cyrus ► 60 historical events
 ► a despicable king ► **the despicable king 2.0** ► **final distress** ► **rescue.**



What was Daniel shown in his last vision (chapters 11-12)?

Daniel is Here!



- Daniel 11:1-20 = 360 years
- Daniel 11:21-35 = 11 years
- Daniel 11:36-12:13 = Last years

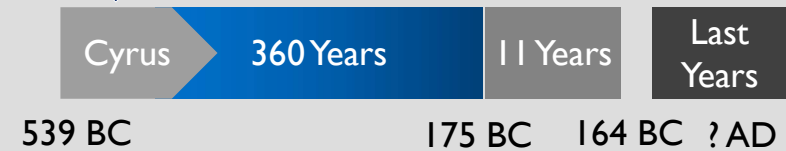


This look into the future is intended to show us how to prevail in the crucible.

Daniel is Here!



- Perfect Insight – Trust Me!
- Round 1 – Winners & Losers
- Last Battle – What to Expect!



- In Part I, we observed how Daniel 11:21-35 provides another precise checklist of 30+ future events that pertain to the eleven year rule of a single leader named Antiochus Epiphanes.
- But, this passage also adds a second layer of content not found in Daniel 11:1-20.
- We discover relevant challenges and counter-strategies!

- What methods did Antiochus use against God's people? How did some people do poorly? How did others do well?
- Watch and learn. In the event we were to encounter a future Antiochus, how can we effectively resist Him?
- Last sermon, we looked at the key historical events of the reign of Antiochus IV.

2 ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES' 11 YEARS

- The Rise of Antiochus Epiphanes (21-24) – a despicable schemer from the start.
- Antiochus's First Campaign (25-28) – against Egypt, secures Palestine. (Land of Israel)
- Antiochus's Second Campaign (29-30) – no joy
- Antiochus's Rage Against Israel (31-35) – introducing a new religion / death to the old

3 REPEATED

- According to Jesus, the Antiochus Epiphanes challenge **was not a one-off**.
- 4 • In Daniel 11:31, we read: *And they will set up the abomination of desolation.*
- In 167BC, Antiochus IV replaced worship of God with worship of himself using an idol placed in God's house as his centerpiece.

REPEATED

- 5 • Matthew 24:15–16 – *“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.”*
- 6 • **Jesus, the perfect prophet, is predicting that another round is coming!**

REPEATED

- Another despicable person is coming who will adopt the Antiochus model of replacing worship of God with worship of himself using an idol as his centerpiece.
- His presence represents a clear and present danger to Jesus followers.

SECOND PASS

- 7 • So let's take a second pass through Daniel 11:21-35.
- Let's examine every detail of how some in Israel got it right and how others blew it, knowing that we need to be ready should it be our turn.
- **Is this imminent?**

IS THERE HOPE?

- History is replete with wake-up failures: Pre-flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, Egypt (at time of Exodus).
- Nineveh at the time of Jonah stands out as an exceptional and unexpected revival.
- Jonah issued a 40 day warning.

IS THERE HOPE?

- 8 • Jonah 3:8-10 – *“But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.”*

IS THERE HOPE?

- 8 • *“When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.”*
- I acknowledge the possibility of something like this delaying God's judgment.
- But short of a Nineveh revival, the clock is ticking. Brace for impact!

PAY ATTENTION

9 • Daniel 12:10: *None of the wicked will understand **(byn)**, but those who have insight **(sakal)** will understand **(byn)**.*

- Most will be totally in the dark! I want you to understand what is coming!
- Byn = connections; Sakal = convictions

PAY ATTENTION

10 • Daniel 12:3 – *Those who have insight **(sakal)** will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven.*

- I want you to be wise and to shine when things go dark.
- (Dad humor: Wise and shine.)

THE CORE CHALLENGE

- Antiochus used a self-centered religion as the primary vehicle for expanding his power. “I am your god!” He enjoyed a season of success.
- Morality was redefined: Obeying the 1st commandment became a punishable offense.
- So what can we learn about challenge points faced by OT saints dealing with “despicable I?”

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #1

11 • Daniel 11:24 – *“In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; **he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them**, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time.”*

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #1

- He “redistributes wealth,” taking it from opposing districts to bless his supporters.
- He is buying loyalty with benefits.
- A modern equivalent compromise would involve dialing back devotion to Jesus in order to limit material consequences.

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #1

- 12 • Daniel 11:30 – *“For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and **show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.**”*
- He favors sell-outs.

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #1

- 13 • Daniel 11:32 – *“**By smooth words** he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant.”*
- He uses winsome affirmation to dissuade others from living in a way that pleases God.
- 14 • **Strategy #1: Approval proof your faith!**

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #1

- This has two sides: Positive – Live for God’s pleasure alone. Do what He desires.
- Negative – Don’t live for the approval of men.
- 15 • I Corinthians 1:26 – *For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble.*

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #2

- 16 • Daniel 11:32 – *By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, **but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.***
- A specific class of individuals will go beyond mere quiet conviction to bold deeds borne by strength of character.

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #2

- To observe them is to see a people on the move for God – where does this come from?
- They know God! “Know” is experiential knowledge. Not “know about God.”
- 17 • **Strategy #2: Deepen your relationship with and understanding of God.**

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #2

- Tighten your grasp of God’s character. Grow in your appreciation for who He is, what He has done, what He stands for, and the place He should occupy in your life.
- In a world that is increasingly enamored by “my truth,” those who will prevail under despicable 2 are devoted to God’s truth.

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #2

- 18 • Jeremiah 9:23–24 – *Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he **understands** and **knows** Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.*

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #3

- Strategy #3 is going to be a particularly challenging one.
- 19 • Daniel 11:33 – “Those who have insight (**sakal**) among the people will give understanding (**byn**) to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days.”

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #3

- 20 • Daniel and his friends had been delivered by unusual divine interventions from death, but the warning here is that this will not always be the case. Sword and flame, captivity and plunder sum up the sufferings of faithful men and women – Baldwin, J.
- This happens today – but it will escalate!

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #3

- I am grateful for an amazing glimpse behind the curtain.
- 21 • Daniel 11:35 – “Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.”

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #3

- 22 • **Strategy #3: Recognize that persecution and trial produce purity.**
- This is James 1:2 in its purest form.
- Do not fear persecution. View it as your ally! It will produce a more precious faith.
- Anyone who opposes you is actually serving you!

THREE KEY STRATEGIES – #3

- I Peter 3:14; 4:14 – *But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, **you are blessed.** (Congratulations!) And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled; If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. (You experience God's presence!)*