Stand Firm, Refined & Purified

Daniel 11:1-35



You have never seen Jesus or heard his voice. How will you know who he is?

Daniel 11:1-2 (ESV)

1 "And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him. 2 And now I will show you the truth..."

God shares with us the confusion and challenges ahead to BRACE us for the seasons to which he is calling us.

Daniel 11:2-3 (ESV)

2 "Look, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece. 3 Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills."

Daniel 11:4 (ESV)

4 "And as soon as he has arisen, 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."

Daniel 11:5-6 (ESV)

5 "Then the king of the south shall be strong, but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his authority shall be a great authority. 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."

Daniel 11:6-7 (ESV)

6"...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. 7 And from a branch from her roots one shall arise in his place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail."



Caspian

King of the North"

Seleucus

Persian Gun



"King of the South"

Daniel 11:8-9 (ESV)

8 "He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold, and for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the north. 9 Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land."

Daniel 11:10-11 (ESV)

10 "His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall keep coming and overflow and pass through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress. 11 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."

Daniel 11:12-13 (ESV)

12 "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. 13 For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies."

Daniel 11:14 (ESV)

14 "In those times many shall rise against the king of the south, and the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they shall fail."

Daniel 11:15-16 (ESV)

15 "Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his best troops, for there shall be no strength to stand. 16 But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand."

"And the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they shall fail."

(Daniel 11:14; ESV)

Daniel 11:21-22 (ESV)

21 "In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. 22 Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant."





Antiochus IV Epiphanes "God Manifest"

Daniel 11:23-24 (ESV)

23 "And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people. 24 Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time."

Daniel 11:25-26 (ESV)

25 "And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him. 26 Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain."

Daniel 11:27 (ESV)

27 "And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be at the time appointed."

"Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

(Habakkuk 2:12-14; ESV)

Daniel 11:32-33 (ESV)

32 "He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. 33 And the wise among the people shall make many understand though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder."

In days of challenge and persecution, God's people are asked to stand firm and take action. They are invited to believe, resist, teach, and pray.

The way of Christ in difficult seasons is to SUFFER FAITHFULLY.

Daniel 11:34-35 (ESV)

34 "When they stumble, they shall receive a little help... 35 And some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time."

It is by his scars, the SIGNS OF SUFFERING, that we will recognize the risen Christ.

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents... For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake." (Philippians 1:27-29; ESV)

"The Spirit himself bears witness... we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

(Romans 8:16-17; ESV)

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

(2 Corinthians 4:16-18; ESV)