

CALL to PRAYER - Philippians 1:9 - Pray for: love, real knowledge, and discernment

Daniel 11:35-45 - Near & Far Fulfillment

Intro – An amazing feature of Holy Scripture is that it tells us the future. In our trek thru Daniel it has been clear that God decrees and determines all things. The rise and fall of nations...who is empowered and who is imprisoned....and every detail in-between... ^{Rom. 11:36}. Jesus is the ruler of the kings of the earth ^{Rev. 1:5} and He has told us things in advance, that will happen on the earth, so that when they happen we might believe ^{John 14:29}. Just as Jesus sent His angel to tell John things about the future ^(in book of Revelation), so too He sent His angel to tell Daniel things about the future that are recorded in the book that bear his name. But just because God revealed it doesn't mean that we completely understand it...Daniel didn't either ^{Dan. 12:8}. The text before us today is shrouded in some mystery but we are going to try and tackle it with the Spirit's aid – ^{John 16:13}.

THE LIVING WORD

1. In Daniel 11 the angel begins to lay out how history is going to play out
 - a. 11:1-2 [200 yrs Persia] 11:2-20 [150 yrs Greece] 11:21-40 [12 years Antiochus]
 - b. Antiochus gets the most ink because he is a pattern for one who is to come
2. There is debate about the exacts time placement for 11:36-45
 - a. I have consulted several theologians/commentators from different perspectives
 - b. One I found was very helpful “Near/Far video”
3. It seems that the angel seamlessly transitions from near future to far future (with overlap)
 - a. 11:35 “the end time....appointed time” 11:40 “the end time”
 - b. 12:1 - at that time (x's 4) Jesus quotes this verse referencing the end time – Matt. 24:21
 - c. 12:2-3 The resurrection of the dead (this is definitely the end time...last day of the last days)
 - d. 12:4 “the end of time”
4. The Bible is a living book (not just dead words on a page)
 - a. Heb. 4:12a - alive with meaning Matt. 24:35 – His words won't pass away
 - b. One prophecy can unfold things in multiple time periods....both near & far
 - i. Is. 7:7-16 - virgin with child was to be fulfilled within 65 yrs....and 750 years
 - ii. C.S. Lewis said Matt. 24:34 was the most embarrassing verse in the Bible. He did not have the benefit of Grover - Near/far (70 AD & the end of time)
 1. When grappling with prophecy...remember your old pal Grover
 - c. We might not understand all that God has revealed in His word....
 - i. ...but we should take God at His word! Isaiah 55:11

A COMING ANTI-CHRIST & ARMAGEDDON

- I am going to interpret this text as referencing the far future
 - 11:35- 40 Overlap of Antiochus & end time Anti-Christ 11:40-45 - preparation for Armageddon
 - 12:1 - Tribulation (11:35) 12:2-3 - Resurrection

➤ Description of Anti-Christ

- 11:36 Willful (unrestrained) Prideful – (boaster extraordinaire)
 - Blasphemous - Daniel 7:11, 25 Rev. 13:5-6
 - His mouth is a distinctive marker and prominent feature.
 - Prosperous in all he does (prosperous...but it won't last – 11:36e & 11:45b – Rev. 19:20)
- 11:37 He spurns religious heritage
 - He may be a homosexual “...shows no regard...for the desire of women” ?????
 - He proclaims himself to be god 2 Thess. 2:3-4
- 11:38 -
 - He will honor a new god (new religion enforced with wealth and war)
- 11:39
 - He will be empowered by a “foreign god” (demons are false “gods” – 1 Cor. 10:20)
 - there are spiritual powers behind earthly thrones (Dan. 10:13) Rev. 13:2
 - He will reward those who follow him with wealth and power.

➤ Preparation for Armageddon

- The events foretold in 11:1-36 were fulfilled literally...verified historically
 - So precise that skeptics deny that Daniel could have written Daniel
- 11:40-45 doesn't correspond to any historical events.....YET
- Anti-Christ fighting with forces from:
 - South - Egypt, Libya & Ethiopia specifically mentioned - 11:42-43 (North Africa / Saudi?)
 - North - ???Turkey, Russia???
 - East - China??? Kings from the east show for Armageddon Rev. 16:12-16
- Land of Israel becomes the battlefield.
 - 11:44-45

➤ I don't know exactly how all of this is going to play out...

- ...but I know that it is already planned out

A LIVING FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

- ❖ Our most holy faith informs us about the future...so we should have faith
 - John 14:29
- ❖ God doesn't predict the future...He plans the future.
 - God determines and decrees the future – 11:36e
 - what is written will happen
- ❖ God plans everything but He has not told us everything Deut. 29:29
 - He has revealed some events...big events
 - God has told us how things end....and what will happen AFTER the end.
 - The end of the age opens up to an eternal age
- ❖ Remember what your old pal Grover said....there is near and far. Near & Far future.
 - Near future - Heb. 9:27
 - Far future - Matt:24:35 Heaven & Hell

Are you prepared for the inevitable future?

Have faith in the One who holds your future