

E2E- Part 117a

Daniel 11

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1. Scripture compels us to accept the reality of two realms. One is what we physically see, and the other is the unseen spiritual realm.
2. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood. Spiritual warfare is real, but the Lord God's purposes are never thwarted. God alone reigns sovereign and supreme.
3. God worked through Cyrus to allow the captive Jewish nation to return to Israel and rebuild the Temple.
4. Daniel gives us a glimpse behind the scenes. While things were happening in the seen realm, an intense spiritual battle was taking place in the unseen realm.
5. Jesus brought the victory of forgiveness of sin and eternal life, but we still live on a fallen planet. We are still in the fight, and one battle does not end the attacks.
6. Daniel 11 gives extremely detailed prophecy about Persia, Xerxes, Alexander the Great, and the division of his kingdom. God knows all things and reveals what He chooses.
7. God is never caught by surprise. He knows and is in control of all things, even when events seem overwhelming or impossible to understand.
8. Behind these world events was a much bigger purpose. God was preserving Israel and setting the stage for the death and resurrection of the Messiah.
9. Daniel shows us that the course of human history is under God's direction, always accomplishing His purposes.
10. What may look like an ordinary earthly event can actually be God at work behind the curtain, accomplishing purposes we may not understand at the time.
11. Whatever battle or conflict is happening in our lives, the Lord God reigns. He is in control and can work those things together for good as He draws us closer to Himself.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Kosmokrator (kos-mok-fat'-ore); a world-ruler, an epithet of Satan

Ma^cuwz (maw-ooz'); a fortification; a defense :— force, fort(-ress), rock, strength(-en), (x most) strong (hold)

QUOTES

"Knowing that such a development would lead to the ultimate appearance of the Son of God as the Messiah for God's redeemed, Satan and all his hosts were determined to thwart the renewal of Israel and the deliverance of its people from destruction."

- Gleason L. Archer - 1986

TODAY'S WORSHIP

I Know That I Know
Made For More
Names
Thank You Jesus For The Blood

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The sermon says our struggle is not against flesh and blood. When conflict happens, why is it so easy to make the other person the enemy? What might change if we remembered there could be more going on than what we can see?
- Daniel gives us a glimpse into an unseen spiritual battle happening behind earthly events. Does that make you think differently about what may be happening in your own life? How do we avoid becoming overly focused on the unseen while still taking spiritual warfare seriously?
- God was working through Cyrus' decision in ways he probably did not understand. Have you ever looked back and realized God was doing something bigger than you could see at the time? What helps you trust Him when you are still in the middle of it?
- Daniel 11 shows that God knew the rise and fall of kingdoms long before they happened. What does that tell us about God's control over history? Is it easier for you to believe God is in control of world events than the details of your own life, or the other way around?
- The sermon says, "God is never caught by surprise." What situation in your life is hardest to believe that about right now? How does knowing that God sees the whole picture affect the way you handle uncertainty?
- God was working through all of these events to eventually prepare the way for Jesus. What does that teach us about the way God works over long periods of time? How can that give us hope when we want God to act faster than He seems to be acting?