



THE DEVOTED LIFE OF DANIEL **“The Great War” Daniel 10:1-11:45**

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Daniel’s final visionary experience revealed to him something of the intensity of the spiritual conflict behind world events. But it also reminded him of the awesome power of the heavenly forces and the certainty of God’s ultimate triumph. He wins “the great war.”

I. Daniel’s Instruction Concerning Heavenly Realities. 10:1-11:1

- A. The Setting. vv. 1-4
 - 1. Disappointment at the problems of the returned exiles. v. 1; Ezra 4:24
 - 2. Distress leading to fasting and prayer. vv. 2-3
- B. The encounter. vv. 5-19
 - 1. The awesome appearance of the heavenly being. vv. 5-8
 - 2. The overwhelming feeling of unworthiness and inadequacy. vv. 8-9, 15
 - 3. The reassuring, empowering touch. vv. 10, 16, 18
- C. The instruction.
 - 1. A true message concerning a “great war.” v. 1
 - 2. A message concerning God’s people in the future. v. 14
 - 3. A statement about spiritual powers behind earthly events. vv. 13, 20-21

II. Daniel’s Insight into Historical Events. 11:2-45

- A. The defeat of Xerxes, the rise and fall of Alexander. vv. 2-3
- B. The division of Greek empire—Ptolemies in South, Seleucids in North. v. 4f
- C. The wars, intrigues, murders, broken alliances between North and South.
- D. The rise of “a contemptible person” without “the honor of royalty.” v. 21f
 - 1. “His heart will be set against the holy covenant.” v. 28
 - 2. “He will show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.” v. 30
 - 3. “He will desecrate the temple” and “set up the abomination.” v. 3
 - 4. He will be resisted by “the people who know their God.” v. 32
 - a. Hasidim.
 - b. Maccabees.
 - c. Pharisees.
 - d. Essenes.
 - 5. “He will come to his end, and no one will help him.” v. 45
- E. The “seal(ing) of the words of the scroll until the time of the end.” 12:4
 - 1. The transition from “his end” (v. 45) to “the end.”
 - 2. The transition from Antiochus Epiphanes to Antichrist.
 - a. Is this telescoping prophecy like Matthew 24? (Longman)
 - b. Is vv. 40-45 a description of final battle in Israel? (Archer)
 - 3. Whichever—the emphasis is on “standing,” “shining” and “showing.”

Points to Ponder: How do I view world events? Do I believe God is in control?