

# Great Conflict, Greater Confidence

Daniel 10:1, 11:2-7, 20-22, 29-45

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Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

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**Daniel 10:1** In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

**Daniel 11:2** “And now I will show you the truth. Behold, 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. <sup>3</sup> Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills. <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> 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. 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.

<sup>7</sup> “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.

**Daniel 11:20** “Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom. But within a few days he shall be broken, neither in anger nor in battle. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant.

**Daniel 11:29** “At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before. <sup>30</sup> For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant. <sup>31</sup> Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. <sup>32</sup> He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, <sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> “And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. <sup>37</sup> He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. <sup>38</sup> He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. <sup>39</sup> He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.

<sup>40</sup> “At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. <sup>41</sup> He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. <sup>42</sup> He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. <sup>43</sup> He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. <sup>44</sup> But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. <sup>45</sup> And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

#### Table Discussion Questions:

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1. Why is conflict a feature of our world? What conflict weighs on you most heavily this morning?
2. According to the book of Daniel, where is God in the midst of conflict?
3. There is a refrain throughout this chapter: “Then shall arise in his place...” What does the generic refrain tell us about worldly power (you could apply this not only in politics, but in business as well)? What warning does it give us?
4. What is the difference between praying that God is on our side, and praying that we are on God’s side? What does this difference look like practically?
5. How can we know that we are on God’s side? What is our deepest source of confidence - our true hope? How does “abiding” in this confidence affect us moment by moment?
6. God’s Word acts as both “rain and sword.” How has Scripture brought refreshment to your soul recently? How has Scripture “cut” you - exposing sin in your life in order to heal you?