

Life in the Lion's Den

"The Last Vision"

(Daniel Chapters 10-12)

Lesson #14

Scripture: *Psalms 27:14 "Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD."*

Introduction:

The cowardly lion in the Wizard of Oz he was scared of everything. He would cry at the drop of a hat and had reached a point in his life where fear ruled him. After meeting Dorothy and the scare crow, he was convinced that he needed courage, so he went with them to ask the Wizard of Oz to give him courage.

Thinking about the courage he would get, he said that he would not be afraid any more because he would be the king of the jungle.

Church it takes courage to be what God has intended us to be. It takes courage to push fear aside to accomplish the things of God.

But it's important to remember where courage comes from. Courage flows from the fountains of faith. Faith in God Almighty. Faith is nothing more than a strong trust in God which helps us endure the storms of life, and endurance plays a key role in our spiritual lives.

The Greeks had a race in their Olympic games that was unique. The winner was not the runner who finished first. It was the runner who finished with his torch still lit. I want to run all the way with the flame of my torch still lit for Him.

[J. Stowell, Fan The Flame, Moody, 1986, p. 32.](#)

Transitional Statement:

I think a big part of the book of Daniel is to run in such a way that our torch stays lit. Maybe endurance is the word we are looking for. Israel would certainly need it in the coming years, those Christians in the first century would need it and spiritual endurance is still a must for us today.

I. The Persecution of Antiochus IV EpiphaniesDaniel 11:21-45

Daniel 11:21

21 *"In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue.*

A. *"In his place"* ...that is Seleucus IV, after his mysterious disappearance.

1. *"A despicable person will arise"*

a. That is his brother, Antiochus Epiphanies IV.... in 175 BC

1) Antiochus had been released from Rome when his father died in 187 BC

b. And the word *"despicable"* really sums up, who and what Antiochus Epiphanies really is.

1) Despicable means.....a contemptible, disrespectful, vile person

B. The expected heir was Seleucus' son Demetrius I Soter, but Antiochus won the support of some Asia minor kings to help him gain the throne by intrigue (politics).

Daniel 11:22-23

22 *"The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant. 23 "After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people.*

A. II Macc. 5:1 historically reports that the Egyptians were shattered in battle before Antiochus IV in Palestine.

B. Also II Macc 4:7-17 historically reports that Antiochus IV removed Onias as high priest or (*prince of the covenant*) in Jerusalem.

C. Antiochus appoints his own high priest in IsraelJason ...1 Mac 1:12-16; 3:30 & II Mac 4:7-50

1. Jason swore allegiance to Antiochus IV, bringing the Jews under the corrupting influence of the Seleucid King.

Daniel 11:24-27

24 *" In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time. 25 "He will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him. 26 "Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain. 27 "As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still to come at the appointed time.*

- A. Antiochus was a shrewd man, who with cunning, planned his every step to conquer his the richest parts of the kingdom to fill his desires
- B. He, like many politicians today padded peoples pockets to get his way.
 - 1. *A quick note here... God's people must be very careful where money is concerned ...that its connection not be about power and control.*
- C. Antiochus also engaged in war with the king of the south, Ptolemy VI and defeated him.
 - 1. But Ptolemy's close associates came to his aid and many died in continued battle.
- D. Both Antiochus and Ptolemy will do all this fighting to no end, because God is the ultimate authority and appoints each hour and the outcome of the nations.

Daniel 11:28

28 "Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land.

- A. The king of the north will return to his land own land very wealthy, but his heart is set against God's holy covenant and he will do his best to get rid of it.
- B. I Macc 1:20-28 reports that Antiochus IV, on his way home to Syria in 169 BC, attacked Jerusalem and removed the sacred articles from the temple.

1) Beginning the 2300 days of Daniel 8:13-14

Daniel 11:29-30

29 "At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. 30 "For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

- A. In 167 BC Antiochus returns to Egypt for war, but this time things are different. Egypt gets help from ships of Kittim (LXX = Romans) that oppose him and he loses heart.
- B. With his tail tucked between his legs he stops back in Jerusalem again to plunder the city and to strengthen the Jews who had left God's covenant to serve him and prevent others from temple worship of God, and obedience to the law of Moses. I Macc 1:29-53.

Daniel 11:31

31 "Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

- A. Antiochus' army in fact rose up and desecrated God's temple by offering a pig upon its altar and scattering its blood all around.

- B. The regular sacrifice came to an end that day
- C. And the soldiers set up the abomination of desolation....a statue of Zues in the house of God, and the order to worship it was given...2 Macc 6:1-5

Daniel 11:32

32 "By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

A. With flattery Antiochus further corrupts the godless but the godly resist him.

- 1. In fact many Jews did abandon the law and joined up with Antiochus to commit evil. 1 Macc 1:52

Daniel 11:33-35

33 " Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days. 34 "Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. 35 "Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.

- A. The resistance by the faithful against Antiochus happened with the Maccabean revolt... I Macc 2-4
- B. This revolt brought death to many, but the righteous Jews who died in resistance of Antiochus...were refined and purified and prepared for ultimate victory with God.
 - 1. They fought the fight....finished the race....were faithful unto death.

II. The summation of Antiochus IV

Daniel 11:36-45

36 "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. 37 "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all. 38 "But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. 39 "He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price. 40 "At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through. 41 "He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. 42 "Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. 43 "But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. 44 "But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. 45 "He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

NOTE! Two interesting possibilities. First, this all the way through the end of the book, is talking about Antiochus Epiphanies. Second this could switch and end with talking about Rome. I'm going with Antiochus Epiphanies because it fits the context better and certainly matches up closer to the statements at the end of chapter 12 about the abomination that causes desolation...verse 11.

- A. The king here is Antiochus Epiphanies
- B. Antiochus was very arrogant, exalting himself above every god, including the God. I Macc 1:43-44
- C. He had no regard for the god of his fathers. II Macc 6:1-2; 9:1-2
- D. He honors the god of "fortress": Jupiter, Olympus and Zeus the god of the Romans II Macc 6:1-2 (probably because he lost the war to them and thus concluded that their god was stronger)
- E. Victories included:
 - 1. Egypt
 - 2. Judea
 - 3. Libyans and Nubians
 - 4. Many other countries
- F. His rule had boundaries though
 - 1. Edom, Moab and Ammon were delivered from his hand
 - 2. But, he destroyed and annihilated many people
- G. He pitched his royal tents between the Seas and the Beautiful Holy Land (Jerusalem)
- H. As for his final end and defeat:
 - 1. Antiochus was robbing temples in Persia when he learned that the Jews had defeated his army at Jerusalem and driven them out of Judea.
 - 2. At that time, God struck him with a sickness of sorrow and grief and he died after many days of mourning... hence "killed without human hands"
 - 3. His death marked the end of the 2300 days of Daniel 8:13-14

III. Tribulation and Triumph of God's People....chapter 12

Daniel 12:1

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

A. All this with Antiochus is really nothing more than a great battle being fought in the spiritual realm.

1. Michael, is assigned as the chief prince of God's people (Daniel 10:21),

a. In fact he stands guard over Israel.

b. This doesn't mean that all things will be filled with great joy.

1) But it does mean that for those recorded as belonging to God...they will be rescued, maybe not physically but rescued in spirit toward eternal ends.

2. We see this rescue played out with the Maccabee family who leads the faithful Jews in battle and victory against Antiochus. I Macc 2-4; 2 Macc 5:27-10:8

Daniel 12:2-3

2 " Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. 3 " Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

A. Here we see eternal triumph over this tribulation

1. Some survive the tribulation

2. Others would die

a. Daniel here gives hope to those who die

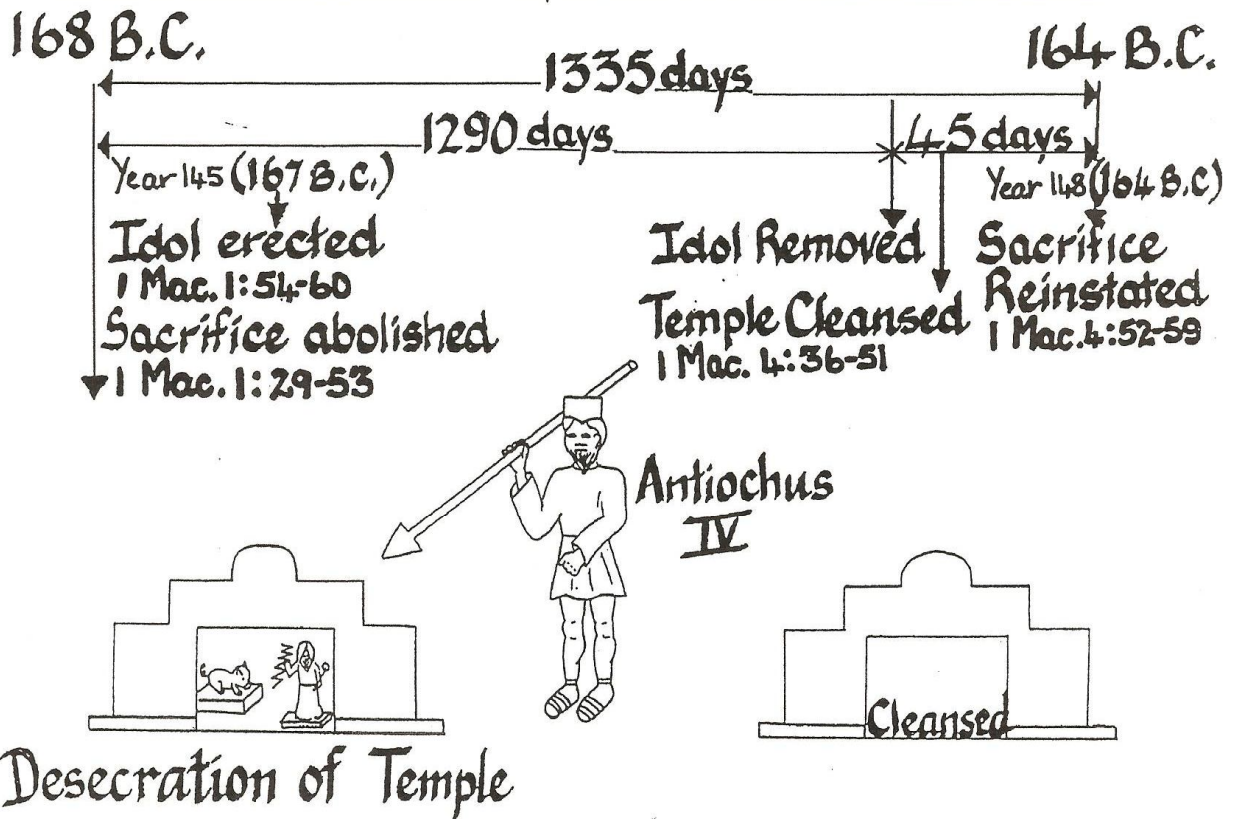
B. The defeat of Antiochus and the deliverance of the temple would not affect those who died for their faith, but these are not forgotten and left in the dust of the earth, they will one day be raised to eternal life, while the wicked will be raised to everlasting destruction...just like mentioned in John 5:28-29

Daniel 12:4-13 This is an interpretation of the entire vision:

4 "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."

5 Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river. 6 And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, " How long will it be until the end of these wonders?" 7 I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed. 8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?" 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. 10 " Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. 11 "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 "How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days! 13 "But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.

The 1290 & 1335 days of Daniel 12: 11-12



Conclusion:

Sin might be forgivenbut consequences linger on.

The forces of God are working in ways we can't begin to imagine....we need to keep the faith.

The kingdoms of this world will crumble....but as Christians we live in an eternal kingdom where Christ sits on the throne.