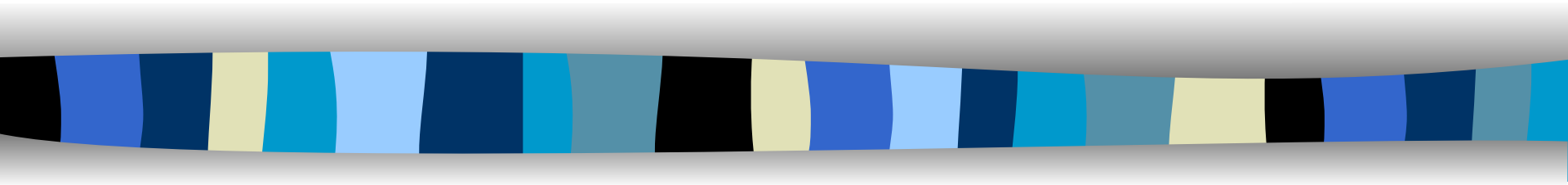
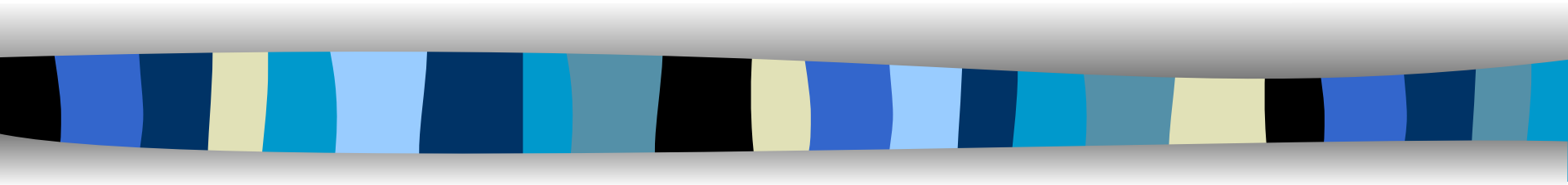


Unanswered Prayers?



Daniel 10

Daniel 10-12



A Message for Troubled Times



Daniel 10-12

Daniel 10

A heavenly messenger comes

Daniel 11

The message is conveyed

Daniel 12

A concluding challenge



A Message for Troubled Times

Daniel 10 Heavenly Conflict

- Does God hear or care?

Daniel 11 Heavenly Control

- Has God lost control?

Daniel 12 Heavenly Conclusion

- How long must we endure?

Unanswered Prayers?



Daniel 10

A Heavenly Conflict



Summary of Content

- Daniel in anguished prayer (1-3)
- He sees a man of awesome power (4-9)
- An angel explains the unanswered prayer (10-14)
- Daniel's strength is renewed (15-20)



Anguished Prayer

Daniel 10:1-3

Verse 1: “a great war / conflict” ?

Verse 2: mourning for 3 weeks

Verse 3: no meat, wine or washing

Verse 4: during the first month
(Passover month)

Human Concern:
Daniel Cries out to God



Awesome power Daniel 10:4-9

I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold ... His face was like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Heavenly Control:
Trust in God's Power



Answered Prayer?

Daniel 10:10-14

Verse 12: Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

God heard Daniel's prayer
immediately, but ...



Answered Prayer? Verses 10-14

v13: But the **prince of the Persian ?
kingdom** resisted me twenty-one days.

Then Michael, one of the chief
princes, came to help me, because I
was detained there with the king(s) of
Persia.

Heavenly Conflict?
Accept God's Will

**Who is this prince of Persia? What was
the problem? What was God's answer?**

Assuring Power Daniel 10:15-20

I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless... My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe ... Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. “Do not be afraid, **O man highly esteemed**,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.”

God loves you!
(see v11 already)

Heavenly Comfort:
Receive God's

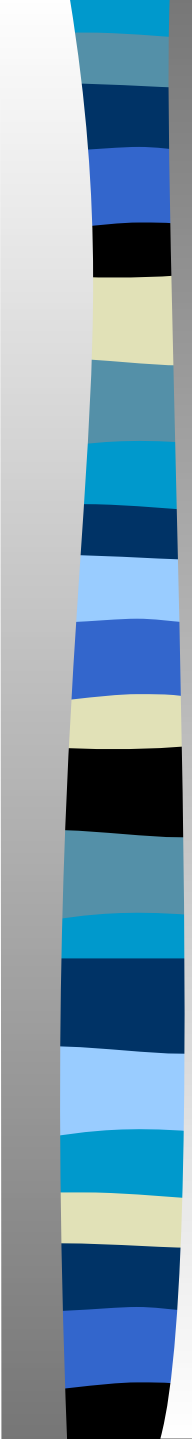


Arising from Prayer

Daniel 10:19b

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

Human Conviction
Face the future in God's strength

- 
- ❑ Human Concern (1-3)
 - Anguished prayer of Daniel
 - ❑ Heavenly Control (4-9)
 - Awesome power of God
 - ❑ Heavenly Conflict (10-14)
 - (Un)answered prayer ?
 - ❑ Heavenly Comfort (15-20)
 - Assuring power
 - ❑ Human Conviction (19b)
 - Arising from prayer



Daniel 10 & Jesus at Gethsemane

- Human Concern
 - anguished prayer
- Heavenly Conflict
 - (un)answered prayer?
- Heavenly Comfort
 - assuring power
- Human Conviction
 - arising from prayer
- Great sorrow
 - Luke 22:44
- Let this cup pass ..
 - Luke 22:42
- An angel strengthens
 - Luke 22:43
- Arise! let us go
 - Matt 26:46

Questions or Comments?





Daniel 10 & Us?

[?] Human Concern
– anguished prayer →

Cry out to GOD

[?] Heavenly Conflict
– (un)answered prayer? →

Accept God's will

[?] Heavenly Comfort
– assuring power →

Open your heart to
God's love

[?] Human Conviction
– arising from prayer →

Face the future in
God's strength



A Message for Troubled Times

Daniel 10 Heavenly Conflict

- Does God hear or care?

Daniel 11 Heavenly Control

- Has God lost control?

Daniel 12 Heavenly Conclusion

- How long must we endure?

A Message for Troubled Times

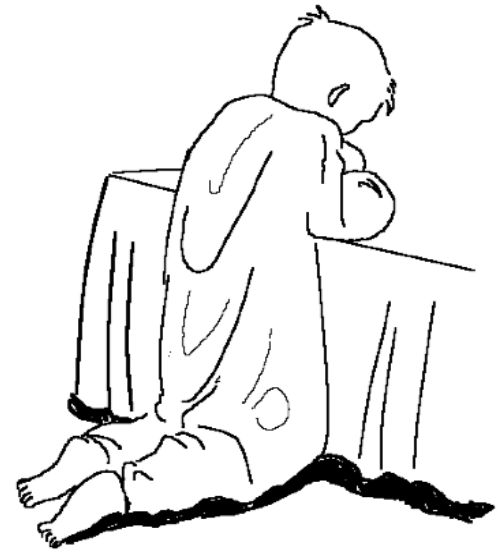
Daniel 10 Heavenly Conflict

Does God hear? Does He care?

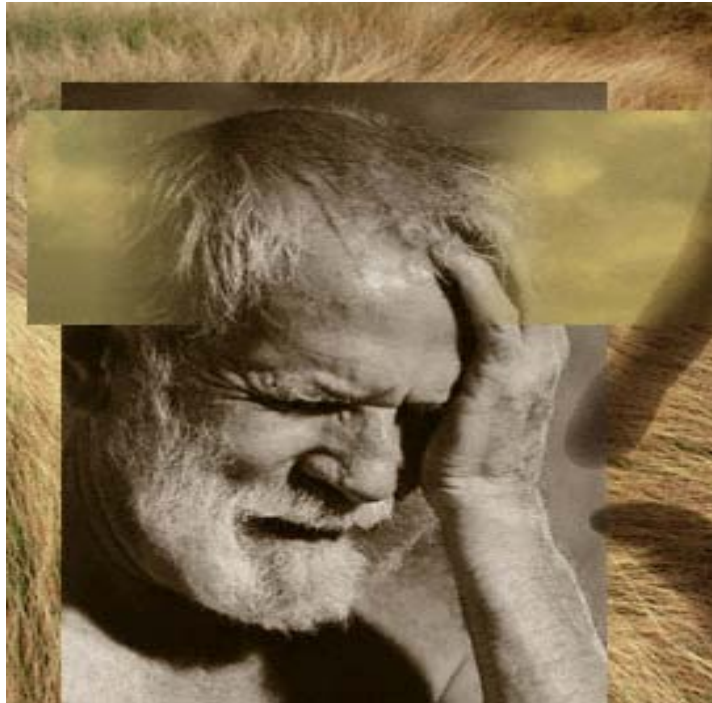
YES, God hears.

YES, God cares.

Keep PRAYING and find
STRENGTH to persevere



Tell My people I love them
Tell My people I care
When they feel far away from Me
Tell my people I'm there.



Questions or Comments?





Questions for Group Sharing

- ❓ Your 8 year old son and your 9 year old daughter are both taking part in their respective school concerts. They both would love for you to watch them, and they both beg you to take time off your work to be present. But both concerts are on the same afternoon. What do you do?
- ❓ Can you think of occasions in which you prayed for something, did not receive an answer as asked, but nevertheless found the strength or inspiration to survive and press on?




A Modern Issue

- ❑ Are there territorial spirits?
- ❑ Is the “prince of Persia” an evil spirit?
- ❑ Does Daniel 10 teach us to engage in “spiritual warfare?”



Are there territorial spirits?

Verse 13: But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

 Yes. The idea of angels assigned to different nations is not unique.

- **Deut 32:8** When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of angels (**LXX, Qumran, RSV**)
- **Sirach 17:17** perhaps “He appointed *a ruler* for every nation, but Israel is the Lord's own portion.”



Is the “prince of Persia” an *evil* spirit?

Verse 13: But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king(s) of Persia.

- ❑ He is “resisting” the angelic messenger
 - lit. “standing before me”
- ❑ But what is the nature of the “resistance”? What was the problem with Persia??
 - In the OT, Persia is generally portrayed quite positively.
 - 10:1 is dated to 3rd year of Cyrus (536 BC). What is troubling Daniel?
 - My guess: Exile is over, but still “not yet” heaven!! We face the same struggle today: heaven now but still not yet!



Does Daniel 10 stress the need for “Spiritual Warfare Prayer”?



NO

- There is no suggestion that Daniel’s prayer assisted the angelic messenger in any way.
- Daniel’s prayer does not end the heavenly stand-off (battle) cf. verse 20
- Daniel’s prayer is probably inspired by a Human Concern, not a heavenly battle
 - the concern was “to understand” (verse 12).
“Why, Lord?”



Verse 20: Prince of Persia & Prince of Greece??

The theological point:

There are heavenly (spiritual) conflicts (concerns)
that affect life on earth

The philosophical point:

Reality is not just Material / Physical matter

Questions or Comments?




End



John Calvin's view

- The prince of Persia was not an evil spirit, but the son of Cyrus i.e. Cambyses.
 - Cambyses stopped the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple and would (perhaps) have made Jews exiles again!
 - The angel stopped Cambyses from doing this.



When God Seems Absent (and evil seems to reign)

Daniel 11





A Message for Troubled Times

Daniel 10 Heavenly Conflict


- Does God hear or care?

Daniel 11 Heavenly Control

- Has God lost control?

Daniel 12 Heavenly Conclusion

- How long must we endure?



When God Seems Absent (and evil seems to reign)

Daniel 11

Has God lost control?





Both Sides Now

(Joni Mitchell, 1967)



Bows and flows of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere,
I've looked at clouds that way.

But now they only block the sun,
They rain and snow on everyone
So many things I would have done,
But clouds got in my way.





Both Sides Now

(Joni Mitchell, 1967)



I've looked at clouds from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow
It's cloud's illusions I recall
I really don't know clouds at all

Both Sides Now

(Joni Mitchell, 1967)

Moons and Junes and ferris wheels,
The dizzy dancing way you feel
As every fairy tale comes real,
I've looked at love that way.

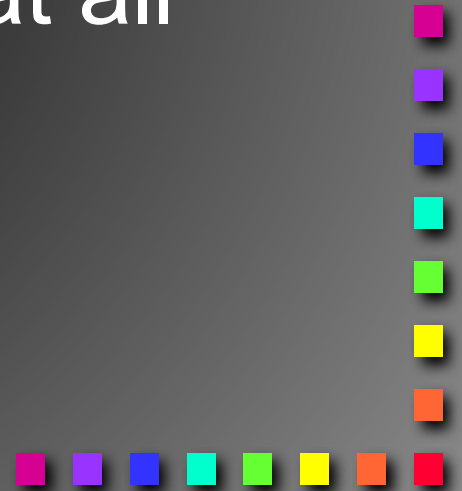
But now it's just another show,
You leave 'em laughing when you go
And if you care, don't let them know,
Don't give yourself away.



Both Sides Now

(Joni Mitchell, 1967)

I've looked at love from both sides now
From give and take and still somehow
It's love's illusions I recall
I really don't know love at all





Both Sides Now

(Joni Mitchell, 1967)



I've looked at life from both sides now
From win and lose and still somehow
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life at all

I've looked at life from both sides now
From up and down, and still somehow
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life at all.



Summary of Content

Verse 1: The messenger affirms Heaven's "protection"

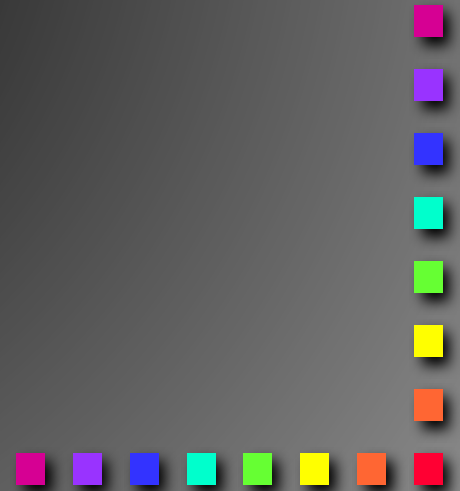
Verses 2-45: An Historical sketch of earthly events

- 6th - 4th century BC Persia (v2)
- 333-323 BC Greece (v3)
- 4th to 2nd century BC Greece (v4-20)
- The reign of Antiochus IV (v21-45)



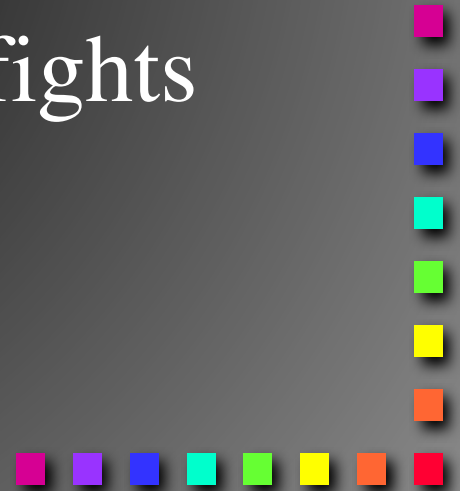
A World Out of Control?

- Kings, Women, Politics & War
 - v6 Berenice (ca. 250 BC) Southern
 - v17 Cleopatra I (ca. 193 BC) Northern



A World Out of Control?

- Kings, Women, Politics & War
- Never-ending Civil Wars
 - South fights North (7), North fights South (9)
 - South fights North (11), North fights South (13)



A World Out of Control? √hQ'l;x]

- A time of intrigue & hypocrisy
- v21 He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through **intrigue**.
- v32 With **flattery** he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant
- v34 When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are **not sincere** will join them.



A World Out of Control?

The faithful & wise suffer and die

v32-33 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him. Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time **they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.**



A World Out of Control?

The faithful and wise suffer and die

Two “faithful” responses, same earthly outcome

☐ Active resistance (verse 32) “will firmly resist”

☐ Passive martyrdom (verse 33) “will fall by sword, be burned, captured ...”



A World Out of Control?

- Kings, Women, Politics & War
- Never-ending Civil Wars
- A time of intrigue & hypocrisy
- The faithful and wise suffer and die
- A time of arrogant godlessness

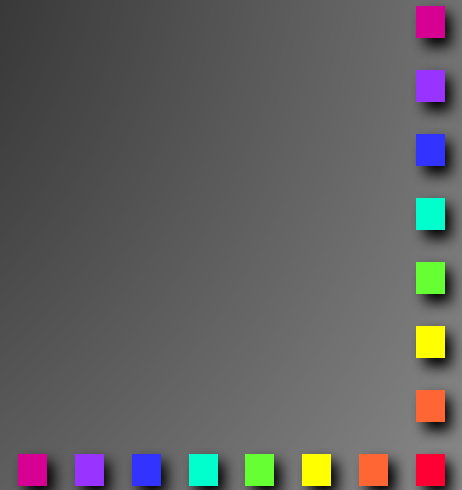


Arrogant Godlessness (verses 36-38)

Then the king shall do according to his own will:
he shall exalt and magnify himself above every
god, shall speak blasphemies against **the God of
gods** ... He shall regard neither **the God of his
fathers** nor the desire of women, nor regard **any
god**; for he shall exalt himself above *them* all.
But in their place he shall honor **a god of
fortresses**; and **a god** which his fathers did not
know he shall honor with gold and silver, with
precious stones and pleasant things. ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

A World Out of Control?

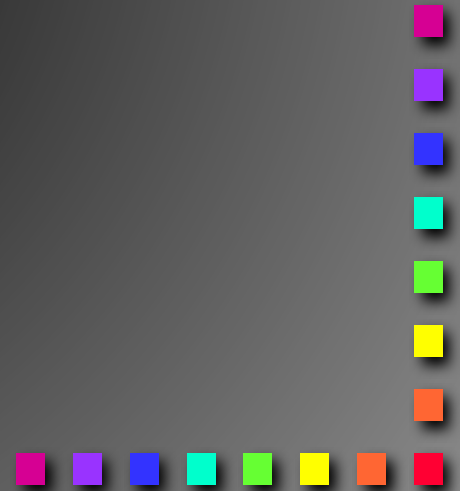
How many times is GOD mentioned in these 45 verses that span almost 400 years of human history?



A World Out of Control?

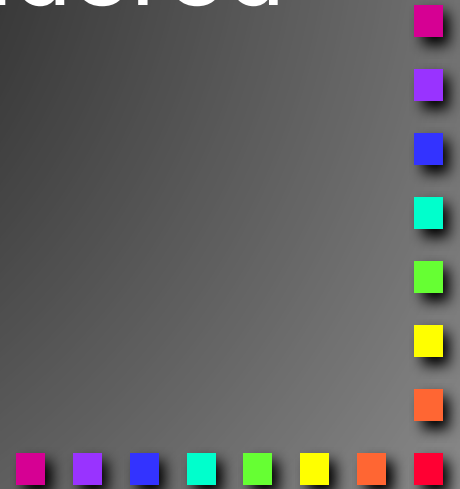
A time when God seems absent

Hardly any mention of God doing anything during this sketch of 400 years of history!



God is mentioned twice, but ...

Verses 32-33: ... “the people who know their God will firmly resist ... They will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered”



God is mentioned twice, but ...

Verses 32-33: ... “the people who know their God will firmly resist ... They will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered”

Verse 36: “The king will do as he pleases ... he will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.”



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Last Updated: Tuesday, 22 June, 2004, 22:26 GMT 23:26 UK

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S Korean hostage beheaded in Iraq

A South Korean hostage threatened with execution in Iraq has been killed, officials in Seoul have confirmed.

The beheaded body of translator Kim Sun-il, 33, was found on the road between Baghdad and Falluja.

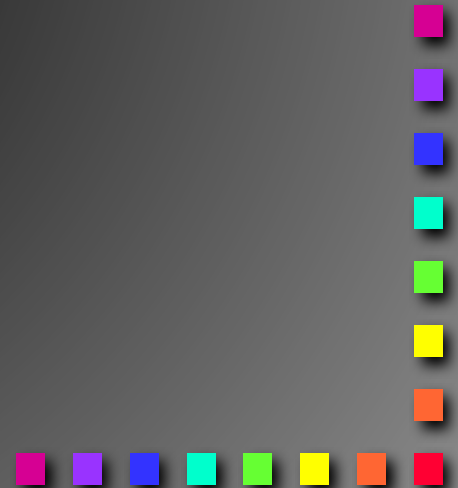
Mr Kim was working for a security company supplying the US military when he was abducted last week.

South Korea rejected demands from the al-Qaeda-linked



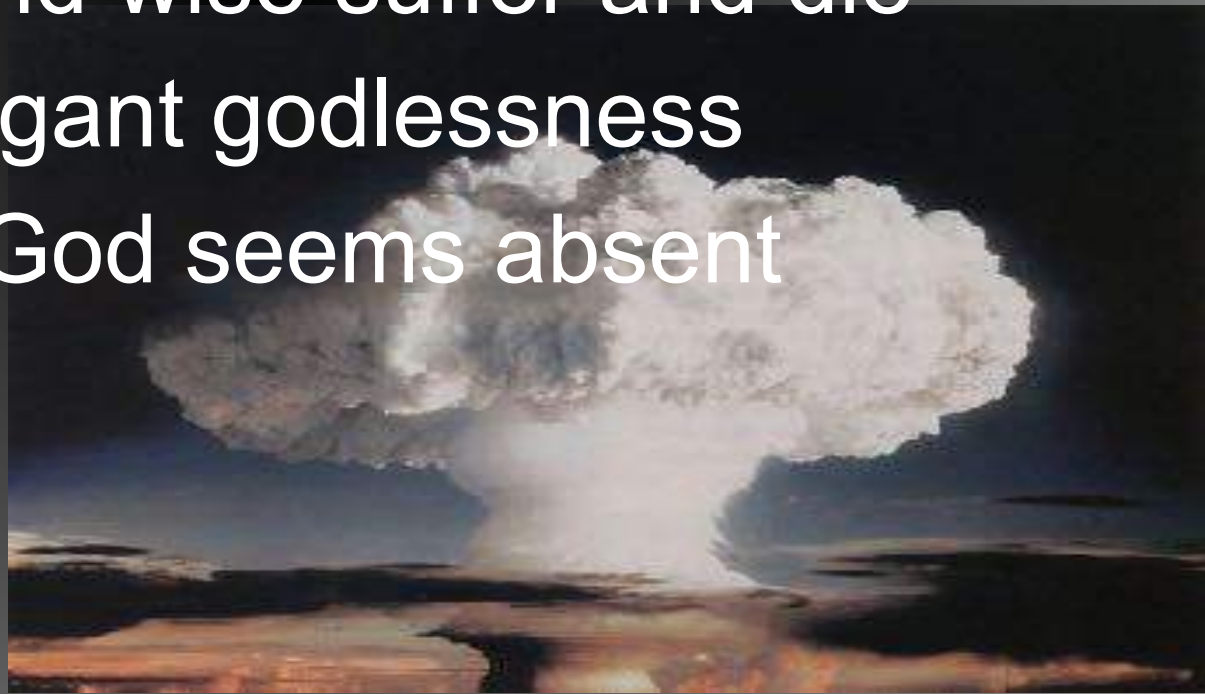
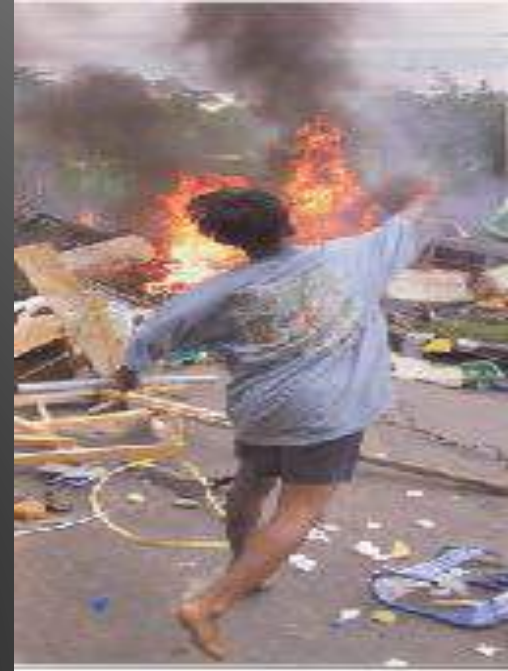
An earlier tape showed Mr Kim pleading for his life

Where is
God in
today's
world?

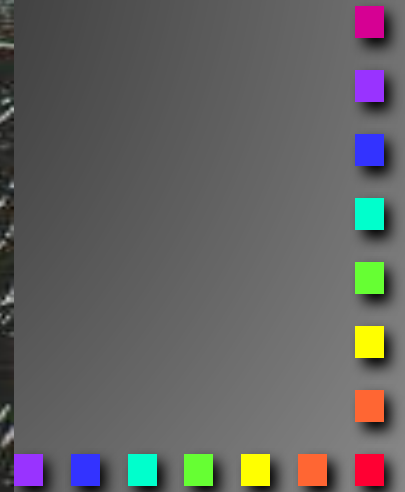


A World Out of Control?

- Kings, Women, Politics & War
- Never-ending Civil Wars
- A time of intrigue & hypocrisy
- The faithful and wise suffer and die
- A time of arrogant godlessness
- A time when God seems absent



Young or Old?



GOD still in control

- The artistic “frame” around Dan.11
 - “Michael” in 10:21 & 12:1
 - Inclusion, Enveloping, Bracketing
 - Some Examples: Psalm 8; Matthew 5:3,10
 - Michael is “your prince who stands guard over your people” (Dan 12:1)

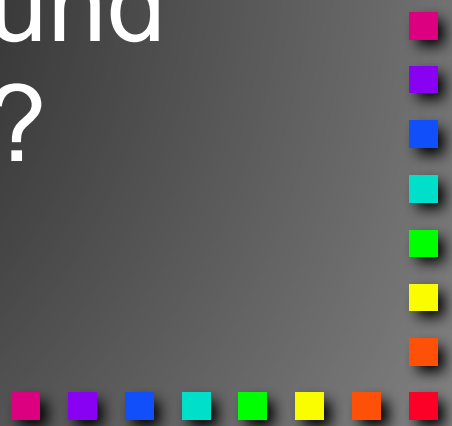




Daniel 11 Quiz Time!

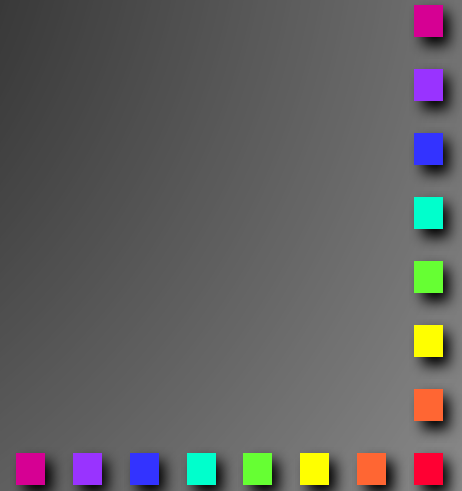


What same phrase is found
in verses 27, 29 & 35?



GOD still in control

- The artistic “frame” around Daniel 11
- The “appointed time” for events
 - Verses 27, 29, 35



GOD still in control

- The artistic “frame” around Daniel 11
- The “appointed time” for events
- The announcement of the tyrant’s “end”

Verse 45 “... Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.”





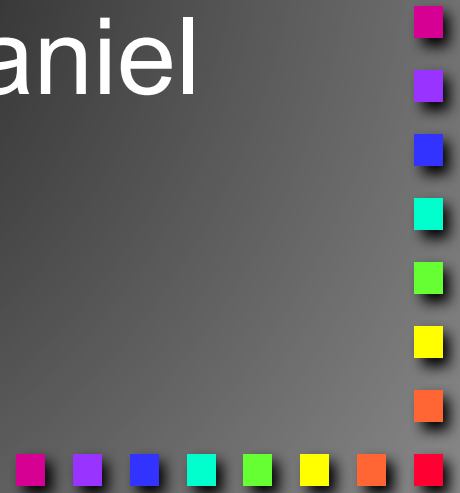
GOD in control

- The association with Daniel 1-6

“Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will **fall by the sword or be burned** or captured or plundered.” (Daniel 11:33)

Dan 2:6,12,13

Dan 3





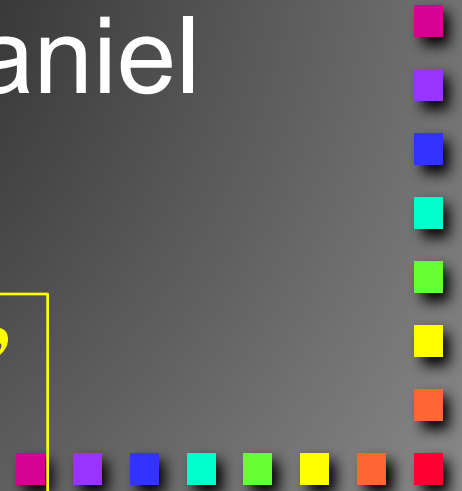
GOD in control

- The association with Daniel 1-6

“Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or **captured** or **plundered**.” (Daniel 11:33)

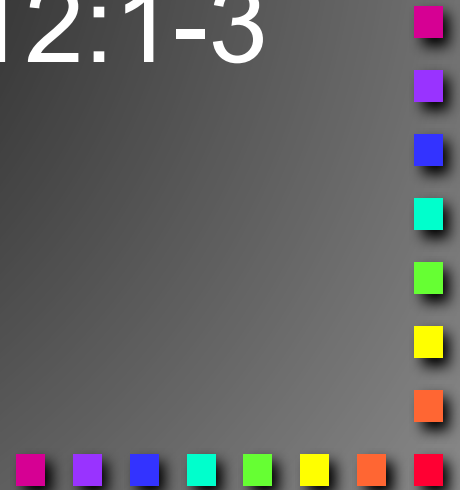
“exiled”
Dan 1

“become prey”
Dan 6



GOD in control

- The artistic “frame” around Daniel 11
- The “appointed time” for events
- The announcement of the tyrant’s “end”
- The association with Daniel 1-6
- The assurance of Daniel 12:1-3





The Assurance of Dan 12:1-3

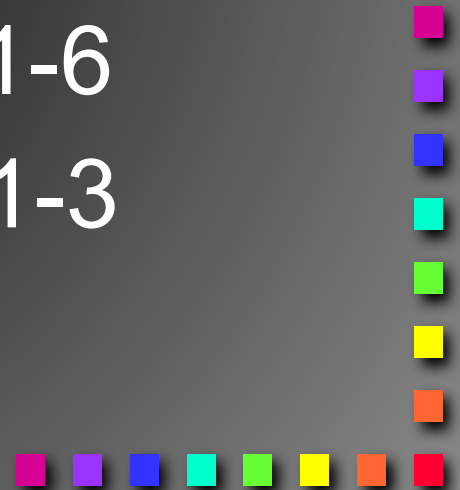
... many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. **Those who are wise shall shine** Like the brightness of the firmament, And **those who turn many** to righteousness Like the stars forever..

Cp. Dan 11:33 where “the wise” help “many” but end up in death



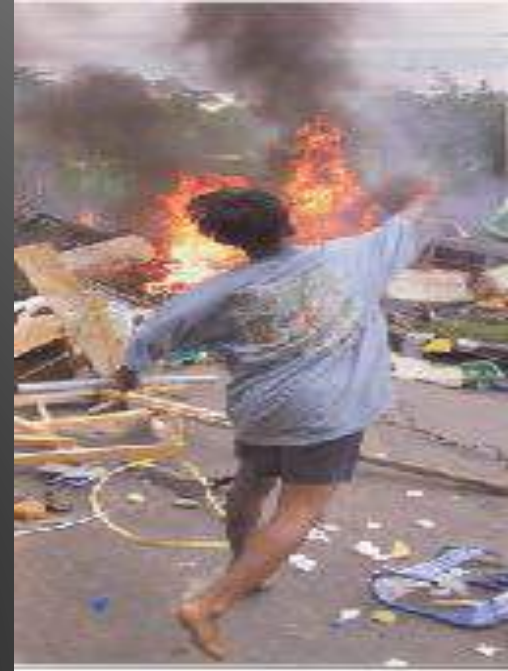
GOD in control

- The artistic “frame” around Dan 11
- The “appointed time” for events
- The announcement of the tyrant’s “end”
- The association with Daniel 1-6
- The assurance of Daniel 12:1-3



A World Out of Control?

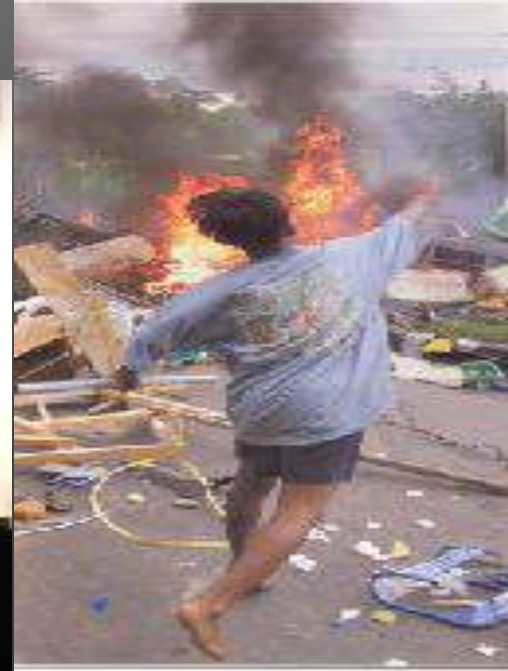
- Kings, Women, Politics & War
- Never-ending Civil Wars
- A time of intrigue & hypocrisy
- The faithful and wise suffer and die
- A time of arrogant godlessness
- A time when God seems absent



A World Out of Control

NO!

GOD is still in control!

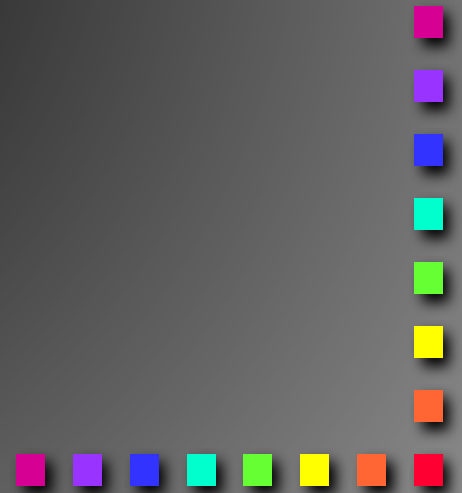


This is my Father's world, O let me never forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong
GOD is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:
why should my heart be sad?
The LORD is King, let the heaven's ring
GOD reigns - let the earth be glad!

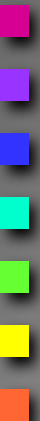


Questions or Comments?

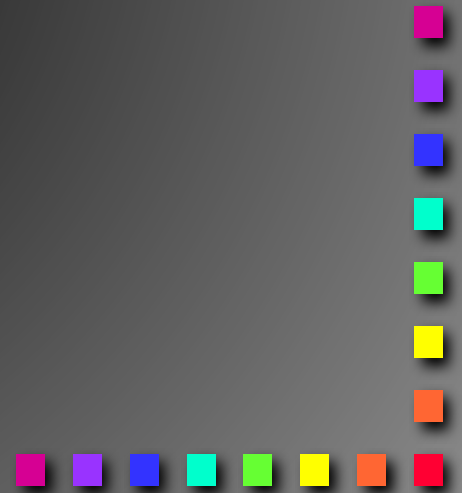


For Group Discussion & Prayer

- ❓ War, Bombs, Sickness & Tragedy - our world is full of chaos. Does rejecting belief in God's love help or hinder us from coping with suffering?
- ❓ Do you know people in the midst of suffering - people in your neighbourhood, in your church, or at your job? How can you help them without being insensitive or patronising? Take a few moments to pray for them, and for yourself as a helpful friend.



Questions or Comments?

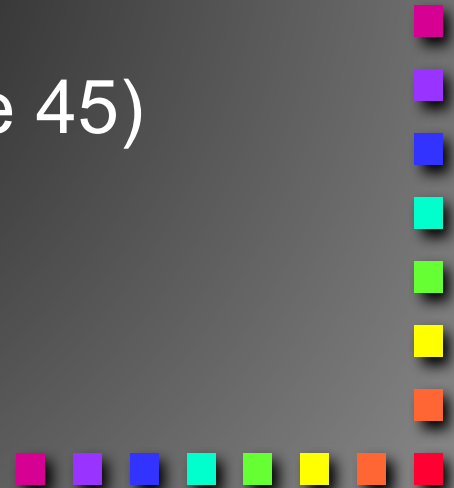


A Question of Interpretation

☐ Is Daniel 11:40-45 a “prophecy” about the death of the End Time Anti-Christ?

Why most say “NO”

- The context of these verses
 - the exploits of the 2nd cent. BC tyrant (verses 21-39)
 - a prophecy of his destruction (verse 45)



A Question of Interpretation

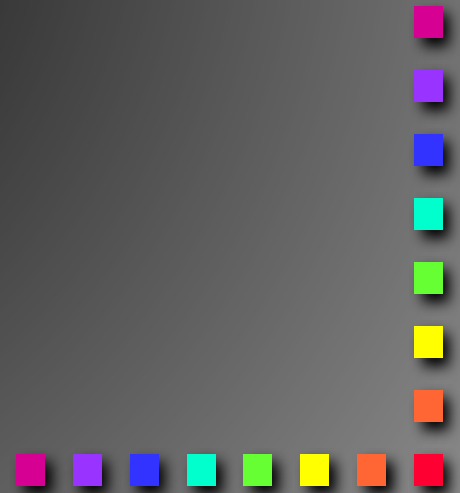
[?] Is Daniel 11:40-45 a “prophecy” about the death of the End Time Anti-Christ?

Why some say “YES”

- Prophecy must be fulfilled “literally & exactly” in all details
 - Antiochus IV did not die “between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain” (contra verse 45).
 - Other records say he died in Persia, not Palestine.
 - No record of another battle between Ptolemies (south) and Seleucids (north) in the time of Antiochus (contra verse 40)



Antiochus IV did not die “between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain” (contra Dan 11:45).

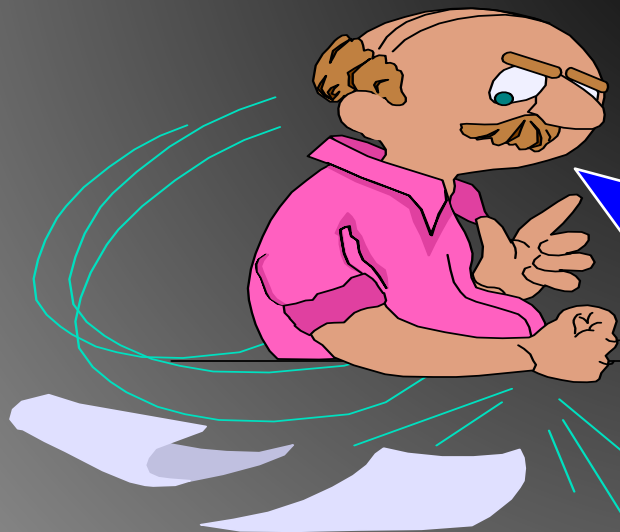


A Question of Interpretation

☐ Is Daniel 11:40-45 a “prophecy” about the death of the End Time Anti-Christ?

Why some say “YES”

- Prophecy must be fulfilled “literally & exactly” in all details



The Bible cannot be wrong.
So this must refer to
a future End Time
Anti-Christ who will
be destroyed in Palestine.

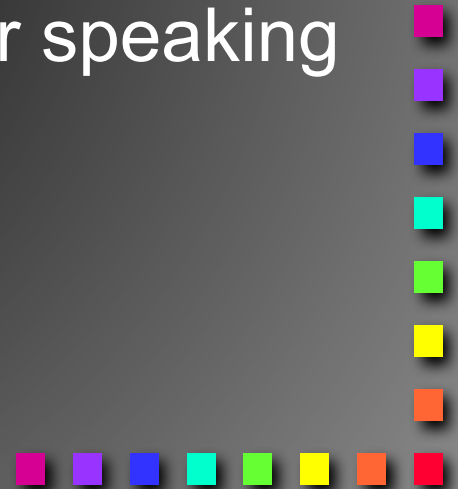


A Question of Interpretation

[?] Is Daniel 11:40-45 a “prophecy” about the death of the End Time Anti-Christ?

Why most still say “NO”

- The text does not indicate a sudden “gap” of time
 - How would the original readers be expected to know that verses 40-45 are no longer speaking about the tyrant?





A Question of Interpretation

[?] Is Daniel 11:40-45 a “prophecy” about the death of the End Time Anti-Christ?

Why most still say “NO”

- The text does not indicate a sudden “gap” of time
- The prophecy was **in essence** NOT wrong!
 - The tyrant did die shortly after the events of verse 39. (Does it really matter *where* he died?)
 - Dan 11:40-45 *may* not have been intended as a literal prediction of the way and whereabouts of the tyrant’s death. It uses the traditional theme of pagan kings defeated at the gates of Jerusalem to reaffirm God’s judgement over oppressors.





A Question of Interpretation

[?] Is Daniel 11:40-45 a “prophecy” about the death of the End Time Anti-Christ?

Why most still say “NO”

- The text does not indicate a sudden “gap” of time
- The prophecy was in essence not wrong!
- The pastoral relevance of the interpretation
 - As a prophecy of the tyrant’s impending death, it would have brought assurance & encouragement.
 - As a prophecy of the death of a future anti-Christ, what relevance would it have had?



So what do you think?

“Faithful to the End:
A Pastoral Reading of
Daniel 10-12”
The Expository Times
110 (1999) pp. 109-113



The essence of prophecy

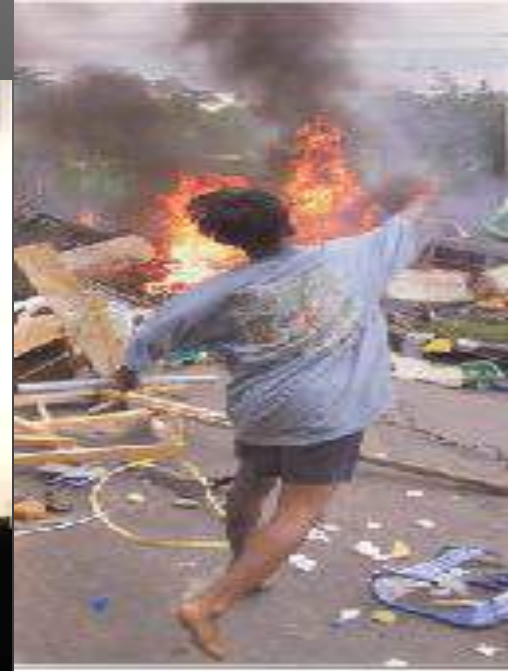
- ❓ Ezek 26:7-12 From the north I am going to bring against Tyre Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots, with horsemen and a great army. They will plunder your wealth and loot your merchandise; they will break down your walls and demolish your fine houses and throw your stones, timber and rubble into the sea.”
- ❓ Ezek 29:17-20 Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon drove his army in a hard campaign against Tyre; every head was rubbed bare and every shoulder made raw. Yet he and his army got no reward from the campaign he led against Tyre.



A World Out of Control

NO!

GOD is in full control!



A Message for Troubled Times

☐ Daniel 10 Heavenly Conflict

☐ Does God hear? Does He care?

☐ Daniel 11 Heavenly Concern

☐ Does God know? Has He lost control?

☐ Daniel 12 Heavenly Conclusion

☐ How long must we endure?



Additional Questions

❓ Chronology and History

❓ “1st year of Darius”? (11:1)

❓ Grammar and Context

❓ “And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.” (11:1; cp. 10:21)

❓ Interpretation

❓ Three kings and a fourth (11:2)?

