

Daniel 11:21-2:4

March 23, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

School Predictions Game

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

Instructions:

1. Give each student a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
2. Ask each student to write a creative story about what they hope will happen at their school for the rest of the school year.
3. Give the students ten minutes to write their stories.
4. After the timer goes off, invite volunteers to share their stories with the group.

Teaching Moment:

Today, we wrote fun predictions about what might happen for the rest of the school year. In our Bible reading from Daniel, we will keep learning about the angel's prophecy concerning God's people. Unlike our made-up predictions, the angel's prophecies were all certain. Some have already happened, and some are still to come.

What do you remember about what the angel told Daniel last week? Look back at the previous verses for help.

DISCUSSION

 ASK MULTIPLE VOLUNTEERS TO READ DANIEL 11:21-12:4.

Think back to last week or review the verses prior to these. What two groups of people was he talking about?

Do you recognize the “despised person” the angel mentioned starting in verse 21 from earlier in Daniel? Do any of these events seem familiar?

Read Daniel 8:9-14. What similarities do you see in that passage and in our passage today?

These verses mark a shift in the angel’s message. What similarities do you see between the figure described in Daniel 11:36-39 and what we know about Antiochus?

What can we learn from these verses about the end times?

What did the angel describe in these verses?

What do you recognize from our previous study of prophecy in the book of Daniel?

What do you think “those who have insight” means in verse 3? What are these individuals doing?

GOING DEEPER

Today we studied about the antichrist figure again. How can we better prepare to protect ourselves and our faith from people trying to deceive us?

What does Daniel 12:4 tell us about the importance of Scripture? How should that affect our commitment to studying it?

APPLICATION

What are some ways we could get more serious about studying the Bible

What are some ways we could tell others about Jesus like the people in Daniel 12:3?

How can we better recognize and protect ourselves from those seeking to trip us up in our faith?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in the Bible. Thank Him for telling Daniel (and us) what would happen. Thank Him for the hope He gives us: Jesus has already won, and He's coming back—and that's a good thing. Ask Him for help living boldly in our faith, leading many to know Jesus, and getting serious about studying our Bibles.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of Daniel.

March 30, 2025 --- Daniel 12:5-13

COMMENTARY

Daniel 11:21-12:4

Daniel 11:2–35 outlines the course of Palestinian history from Daniel's time to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. Verse 2 refers to the four Persian rulers who would succeed Cyrus: Cambyses (530–522 BC), Pseudo-Smerdis (522), Darius I (522–486), and Xerxes (486–465). It alludes to Xerxes' campaign against Greece. Verses 3–4 then refer to Alexander the Great (336–323) and the division of his kingdom. Verses 5–20 outline the relationship between the Seleucids ("the king of the North"), who ruled Syria, and the Ptolemies ("the king of the South"), who ruled Egypt during the period 321–175. Verses 21–35 focus on the career of Antiochus Epiphanes (175–164), mentioning among other things his Egyptian campaigns and mistreatment of the Jews. Verses 32–35 anticipate the Maccabean revolt against Antiochus.

Most of the details of verses 36–45 do not correspond to Antiochus’s career. For example, Antiochus died in Persia, not Palestine (see v. 45). Consequently, some scholars label these verses as unfulfilled “prophecy” and understand the preceding verses (vv. 1–35) as “prophecy” after the fact. Others understand a switch in perspective beginning in verse 36. The description merges into a portrayal of the Antichrist, whose hostility to God and His people was foreshadowed in the career of Antiochus.

The final verses of this section (12:1–4) anticipate a time of crisis for Israel in which Michael, the nation’s guardian angel, would intervene on their behalf. Reference is made to a general resurrection of the righteous and evil.