

Daniel 06-04-09b

Let's resume our study now in Daniel chapter 10. We have, I hope, a little better appreciation for the situation into which this revelation from God comes. The situation in Daniel's mind, the circumstances of Israel returning to the land.

And initially there is great joy at the thought of returning and rebuilding the temple, but there is this mixture of sadness and unlike the building of the tabernacle, unlike the building of Solomon's temple, there are troubled times. Now, you remember back in chapter 9, 70 weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city. Know therefore and understand from the going forth of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.

The streets shall be built again and the wall even in troublesome times. Troublesome times are going to prevail throughout the seven weeks and the sixty-two weeks. And this comes to pass and Daniel himself is troubled.

And so Gabriel comes and we see the interrelationship of the unseen conflict with this earthly manifestation. The first encouragement that Gabriel gives to Daniel is, Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.

In verse 12, Do not fear, Daniel, from the first day that you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard. The actual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. But, notice the conditions for the prayer being heard.

You set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God. If this criteria were a visible filter for prayer, if there was like a grid in the ceiling that would trap your prayer, if you weren't really seeking to understand and if you weren't really humbling yourself before God, the ceilings of many houses and many churches would be thick with prayers that didn't get any higher. Because many, many times prayer by believers has as its motivation self-centeredness, selfishness.

I need something. I want something. It isn't a matter of subjecting ourselves to God's will and looking for His desire and His purpose to be accomplished.

And that has to be the content of our prayer. It has to be the purpose and the nature and the motivation of our prayer is to see the purpose and the work of God go forward. Not to see the purpose and the work of Sam go forward.

Or, fill your name in that blank. From the first day that you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard. And I have come because of your words.

Revelation from God still comes today to those who seek to understand, who ask God for

understanding. Jesus said, Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you will find.

Knock and the door will be opened. The one who asks, receives. The one who seeks, finds.

To him who knocks, it will be opened. It's a promise of God. Take it to the throne of God and expect an answer.

I have come because of your words. But, there are larger issues at stake. And, there is a great opposition to the forward progress of the plan and purpose of God.

How many times have we thought about the words of Paul, talking about in Ephesians chapter 6, Our struggle is not against flesh and blood. If we can't remember where the battle is and where the struggle is, we are going to be defeated. If we start trying to resist and struggle in the realm of flesh and blood, we are going to fail and we are going to be defeated.

Even if we achieve some results in the earthly, physical, fleshly realm, we are still lost. Because our warfare is not in circumstances. It's not with people.

Ephesians 6.12, Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of the dark world, literally, and against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms. Our struggle is against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms. I had to chuckle more than once when I was reading one of my atheist acquaintances rambling on about how contradictory the Bible is talking about heaven, because heaven is supposed to be this wonderful place of peace, joy and happiness, and yet the Bible keeps talking about warfare in heaven.

And there was war in heaven. Now, why would I want to go to heaven if there is war in heaven? The whole concept of sequence, and when was the war, is it the old heaven? Is it the new heaven? Does the Bible even say we're going to live in heaven? I mean, it's so nonsensical. It's like listening to a fourth grader poking fun at trigonometry, or calculus, or something.

It's like a fourth grader looking at the math behind computers, which is binary, and in binary math, one plus one equals one zero. And a fourth grader picks that up and says, Anybody even know one plus one equals two? And goes on to mock and deride. Well, you're never going to get a computer, are you? Ding dong.

Anyway, we know that a lot goes on in heaven. Heaven is a place of activity. This very same person is railing at the fact that, oh, who would want to go to heaven, because it's going to get boring as all get out, because you're just kind of sitting around in bliss, and nothing ever happens.

And they turn around and complain, because there's stuff going on in heaven. There's warfare, and struggle, and progress, and movement back and forth. Which way do you want it? Do you want a place of static, constant bliss? Or do you want something interesting going on? Warfare in heaven is interesting.

It's interesting to me. You certainly want to be on the winning side. But I think warfare in heaven is great.

Because why is there warfare in heaven? Somebody is opposing God, and they need to be eradicated. They need to be thrown out. Cast down on their angelic behind.

And everybody learns. The glory of God, the character of God, is revealed in conflict, just as our character, and our reflection of God's glory, is revealed in conflict. If we just sat around being blessed all the time, where's the need for faith? Where's the need for endurance? Where's the need for patience? How do you build up any muscles if you never have to do any substantial trusting of God? The only thing you'd have to do is maintain your attitude if there was a delay in your blessing.

Well, there is conflict. There is struggle. There's warfare.

And it's needful. And God works it together for good. Why do we have a medal of honor? If there was never any war, we wouldn't have any medals of honor.

You want to give out... This is the complaint in peacetime is that you get these bronze stars and meritorious service medals and many other high honors and all the guy did was be a great desk jockey. And where is the real blood and guts service to your country where your life is at risk and you weren't just shuffling paper? Well, this is the situation that is brought to mind and brought to the forefront. And think about it.

We take it for granted but it's not a natural connection to make. The people have been enslaved. They've been held captive.

They've been gone from their land for nearly two full generations now. And the grandchildren of the people who were taken into captivity are returning to the land. And they've got this great exultation, shout of joy.

Look, we've laid the foundation of the temple and all the old geezers are weeping because they say, you call that a foundation? You should have seen Solomon's temple. And the weeping and the joy are intermingled and you can't tell one from the other in the shouting. Nothing like that in the tabernacle.

Nothing like that at Solomon's temple. It will be rebuilt just like the city and the wall, just like the plaza and the defenses in troublesome times. We are trying to build the temple of God in our souls in troublesome times.

We're not in the conditions of Bezalel and Aholiab. We're not in the conditions of Solomon and Hiram, king of Tyre. We are like those who came back to a site of devastation and were rebuilding with opposition, with conflict, with active hostility directed at us.

And it is satanic in nature, as you can see here. Gabriel himself, this mighty angel with this

glowing apparel and appearance so like that of the Lord Jesus Christ was held up for three solid weeks by this opposition. It's a big deal.

It's not a minor little let me get this flyspeck off my windshield so I can see better. This is a full-blown conflict. The battle between Gabriel and the prince of Persia takes it looks like three and a half weeks, at least three weeks until Michael came to Gabriel's assistance.

And he's going to tell us at the beginning of chapter 11 No, it's not the beginning of chapter 11. It's at the beginning of the next section he says, I also helped to strengthen Michael when he was resisting the Median. Well, that will be coming up.

But, he goes on to say in verse 13, The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days. Behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me. For I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision refers the many days yet to come. When he had spoken these words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

Daniel is still standing up, but he just bows his head and says nothing. Suddenly, verse 16, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, My lord, because of the vision, my sorrows have overwhelmed me and I have retained no strength.

For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now nor is any breath left in me. Now, a third party has arrived on the scene. Daniel is so overwhelmed in this experience, combination.

He is sort of in the same situation as the people back in Jerusalem. There is this mixture of the sublime and the sorrowful. How many people would give anything to stand and talk to an archangel of God? Gracious sakes, it's a privilege beyond measure, and yet Daniel is so cast down and so sorrowful and so weakened that he can barely stand and he cannot speak.

And he's, as they say, he's conflicted. He's got this inner conflict. On the one hand, God himself, the God of the universe, has detailed an angel to come speak personally to Daniel, but on the other hand, he's so overwhelmed with grief.

You get the idea here of how much Daniel cares about the things of God and the people of God. Why is he so overwhelmed and why is he so weak? Well, one reason he's weak is he's been eating minimal food for three weeks. This is a place where people who cast aspersions on Scripture will say, well, this is just a hallucination that Daniel had brought on by a tremendous electrolyte imbalance and starvation and deprivation and so on.

He starved himself until he started hallucinating. That's why nobody saw the angel but Daniel. They'll say the same thing about Paul on the Damascus Road.

Well, we know better. But it is as though God does not go out of His way to prevent that interpretation for those who are already in a mood to reject. They've got an easy out.

Well, sure. Of course, Daniel's the only one that sees it. Of course, he's weak and trembly.

He hasn't had any chow and this just goes along with the fact that he's out of his mind and he's dreamed this whole thing up. Well, people are welcome to believe that. God doesn't go out of His way to dissuade them because they've already made a decision in their heart.

You already decide that you are someone who has dedicated himself to understanding God, who has humbled himself before God. Your ear is open. And if you're asking and seeking and knocking, you'll find those who aren't asking and aren't seeking and aren't knocking will come to a passage like this and dismiss it with a lofty wave of the hand.

Their nose is too high in the air. Daniel is downcast. Daniel is so concerned that he can't speak.

I get concerned about a lot of things, but you have to pretty well get into your immediate family circle to be so concerned about something that you can't function. I'm concerned about the country. I'm concerned about current events.

I have a lot of concerns, but nothing weakens me and devastates me like something regarding those that I really, really love. And you get the idea of the level of love that Daniel has. Why is Daniel still here? Didn't we just go over to Ezra and read the decree? What did it say? All those of God's people go home.

That was two years ago. Close to three years ago. Daniel is still here in Persia.

How come Daniel didn't go back? A lot of people say, well, he's too old. Well, it didn't stop all these guys weeping at the foundation of the temple. They're all old.

They made it back. How come Daniel didn't go back? You think some people might have been bad-mouthing Daniel? Eh, it's easy for you to spout these prophecies and talk about going back, but when it comes to going back, you don't go. What's the matter with you? You say you're old? Well, look.

Look at all these old guys that went back and are crying the blues over there by the foundation. How come you're not in their midst? What's unique about Daniel? From his early youth, he was designated by God, called out by God, put in a position by God to be in the government of the Babylonian Empire and down into the government of the Medo-Persian Empire. That's where God put him.

That's his assigned place. We have to know our assigned place. It doesn't matter what everybody else is doing.

And even when people say, well, but look, there's a general command here. There's a general drift that what believers ought to be doing. Well, it's our personal relationship with God that we

ourselves are responsible for.

And Daniel knows that he's right where he's supposed to be. It's no accident that he's in the government. We have other government officials.

What about Nehemiah? What about... You know, there's plenty of government functionaries that said, well, I need to go do something. And their place in the government gave them the means of going back and accomplishing these things. But for Daniel, Daniel knows his place and his purpose in the plan of God.

Doesn't tell us how he knows it. I think you can look at the book of Daniel and see why he's there and see what his function is. But he stays there because that's where he belongs.

So, I've come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days. When he had spoken such words, I turned my face to the ground. Then, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips.

There are some versions of this. I think you have a text note in your New King James that say one like the son of man. Singular.

Doesn't really matter. This again is not the pre-incarnate Christ in my view. There is a servant that comes and touches his lips.

You remember Ezekiel is strengthened by an angel. Yet, the Lord Jesus Himself being strengthened by an angel after his temptations in the wilderness. He went forty days fasting.

And the angels came and ministered to him. You have the coal of fire applied to the lips. Who am I thinking of there? Isaiah? Gets the coal applied to his lips.

Sanctifying his speech and so on. There is spiritual enablement. There is divine enablement that comes through this servant.

This one like the sons of men. Doesn't say anything. He just touches his lips.

And then, Daniel is able to speak. Jesus told His disciples you are going to be dragged up before kings and don't worry about what you are going to say. It will be given to you in that hour what you should say.

Now, how do you think that happens? Whether it is through the Holy Spirit or through angelic ministers. Something from God comes to us in an hour that we need to speak. Daniel needs to speak here.

He doesn't have the power on his own to speak and it is divinely provided through this intermediary. It is never a matter of us failing because our strength is insufficient. It is in our weakness that God's strength is made manifest.

And this is the mercy of God. This is the grace of God. This is the provision of God for Daniel.

In his hour of weakness, he needs to speak. He wants to speak, but he doesn't have the power to speak. And God provides it to him.

The same is true for us. And not just ability, but many times we're in a situation. There's people.

There's problems. There's difficulties. There are decisions that need to be made.

And we feel like we need to speak up, but we're not sure what to say. Or we're not sure how to say it. Or we're not sure if we should speak.

And we think, well, if I speak up, I'm just going to gum up the works. God knows our every need. What does our Scripture say? All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable, doctrine of correction, instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be perfect.

Thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Thoroughly furnished with a view toward every good work. Every good work that needs doing, we have all the equipment.

We're standing there with all of our gear. We've got every bullet. We've got every bayonet.

We've got every canteen. We've got everything in the first aid kit. We've got all of our protective gear, our helmet, our flak jacket.

It'd be great to go to Ephesians and redo the armor of God in terms of Kevlar and steel and boots. Because that's Paul's analogy, using Roman armor. But we have everything we need if we have the Word of God.

If we have dedicated ourselves to it, if we do as we do this morning and direct our attention toward it, store it away in our soul. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin. Tree planted by the rivers of water, bringing forth its fruit in its season.

This is Daniel. And it's pictured here. Divine enablement comes to him and touches his lips.

And he's able to say what he needs to say. And we can go to God and let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. That's God's mercy.

That's God's provision. That's God's grace. So Daniel speaks up and he says this vision has overwhelmed me with sorrow.

It just leaves me weak looking at the troublesome times that have been revealed. Looking at the problems that face the people of God. And the opposition and the machinations of the woman that rides the beast.

The mystery Babylon, the spirit of Antichrist that works all down through history. And in Daniel's view here, specifically against the people of God. It is like the dragon pursuing the

woman that represents Israel and rushing out that flood of water.

Daniel sees all of that and he thinks there is nothing but strife and woe and trouble and opposition for the people of God. By way of application, that's what faces us. We are here fighting this unseen conflict.

No strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me. I can't even get enough breath to speak without this enablement. So now look at verse 18.

Then again a second time. The one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. We confess our weakness as Daniel does and we receive divine strengthening as Daniel does.

Daniel is following that same pattern from the first day that you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before God. Daniel is still setting his heart to understand. He is still humbling himself.

He is admitting his weakness. And when he does that, here is the minister of God touching him and strengthening him. Giving him strength to face this that seems overwhelming.

And he, the one having the likeness of a man, now speaks in verse 19. O man greatly beloved, fear not. This is God's message to you and me.

When we look and we are overwhelmed, we are faced with seemingly irresolvable conflict. Unending conflict. O man greatly beloved, fear not.

Peace be to you. Be strong. Yea, be strong.

It's a command. The strength is available, so be strong. Here's the strength.

Stand in it. Use it. Be strong.

Always reminds me of one of the first things Joshua heard when he took over the leadership of Israel. Be strong and of a good courage. Be not afraid.

The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Be strong and of a good courage. And it's repeated for Daniel here twice.

Two times this individual touches him. At two times he is strengthened. At two times he is told be strong.

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened. And said, let my Lord speak, for you have strengthened me. Daniel receives that strength and Daniel stands in it.

Then he said, do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia. And when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. But I will tell you what is noted in the scripture of truth.

No one upholds me against these except Michael your prince. Well, again, we're getting this fascinating glimpse into the angelic war, the angelic conflict. But what I find fascinating is, let's think about the Bible in the days of Daniel.

How many books have we got at this point? We've got the Pentateuch that Moses wrote down. Joshua. Judges.

Samuel. Kings and Chronicles were edited together probably during this captivity. They probably exist.

David's Psalms. Solomon's Proverbs. The book of Ruth.

The book of Esther isn't here yet, is it? But we have the books of the law. We have the books of history, largely. We have some of the early prophets.

Jeremiah's prophecies are written down. Isaiah's prophecies are written down. Ezekiel's prophecies are now extant at this late date in Daniel's life.

Now, if you think about all of those scriptures, do we have anything resembling Daniel chapter 11? Talking about the king of the north and the king of the south and the kings that will arise in Persia and how many there are and which ones are rich and the sons of the king of the south and assembling multitudes of forces. None of this are in any of those books, are they? And yet, Gabriel says here, I will tell you what is noted, what is recorded in the Scripture of Truth. You know what this tells me? The angels have got a bigger Bible than we do.

There is a Scripture of Truth that Gabriel is going to reveal and it's a writing. In Greek, it would be a graphe. In Hebrew, katav.

It has been cut. It has been recorded. And he says, let me tell you what has been recorded, what has been written in the Scripture, in the writing of Truth.

It's already decreed. It's already set down. Then you have this parenthetical thing.

No one upholds me against these except Michael your prince. Also, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him. There is a one another component to service of God by the angels, isn't there? They strengthen and help one another.

We tend to think the angels are sort of just gliding about all powerful. They don't have any difficulties. They don't need help with anything.

They just fly about like flames doing the will of God and everything is grand. This would suggest otherwise, wouldn't it? Even the unfallen angels of God get in situations where they need help. Gabriel needed help.

Gabriel was delayed. Michael came and helped him. He says, you know, not that long ago, first year of Darius, I had to go help him.

Unfallen angels in the angelic realms face conflict and help each other, look out for each other, support and encourage each other. It's amazing when you think about it. We are learning to do that which the angels are currently doing and will continue to do it just as they do into the eternal future.

As God continually makes new things, as we saw in Revelation, there will always be new things and there are always going to be challenges and there are always going to be opportunities. Do not think that the eternal future is going to be without challenge. It will be without sin, but not all challenge is sin.

Doing something worthwhile can be a challenge and there's no sin in it. Trying to build something, trying to add on to something, trying to repair something. It's all good, but it's a challenge.

It taxes us. It stretches us. Sometimes we need help in a worthy cause.

I was thinking about this earlier this week how the and I thought about it before, but especially something brought to my mind this past week the glorification of people like Janis Joplin and Hank Williams Sr. and these musicians and entertainers that really lived a hard life and drank hard and caroused hard and had all of this angst and that's why they could reflect the human condition so well in their music and they were like a meteor, they lived fast and died young and all this and it's glorified and it's sort of respected and people say wow, they have the outlaw movement in country music with Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson and all that and how they were you had the Rat Pack in Las Vegas with Sinatra and his cronies and this is all kind of glorified and put on a pedestal like oh they were on the edge and that's a really great thing. And it's recognized that these people sort of spent themselves and suffered for their craft or their art or their music or whatever. I know what made me think of it Matt was talking the other day about these inventors who get one invention in their mind and they absolutely do everything short of killing themselves they sacrifice everything selling their kidneys and losing their marriage and everything else to try to get some invention off the ground and pour their whole life into this effort and it really makes you think about what is your struggle for? Is your struggle for better songs? Is your struggle for fame or a movie deal? I love the words of Theodore Roosevelt when he says the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood who strives and spends himself in a worthy cause.

Anybody can spend themselves but are we spending ourselves in a worthy cause? That's what counts. You look at entrepreneurs who spend themselves getting to the top. You know Donald Trump has made and lost half a dozen major fortunes.

You've got Richard what's his name from Virgin Records that flies in balloons and creates you know these guys invest their genius and their effort and their time and will make and burn all kinds of relationships trying to get to a particular place but is it a worthy cause or not? We are so blessed. We are so grateful to God that we have a worthy cause in which to spend ourselves

and when we spend ourselves in that cause we're going to find ourselves like Daniel, weak, maybe on our hands and knees trembling and God is going to come and God is going to touch us and comfort us and strengthen us and we're going to stand in that strength and that strength is only available because we are dedicating ourselves to a worthy cause. Something that makes an eternal difference.

Not hey good looking what you got cooking. You know here Hank Williams burns himself out at the age of 28 so that we can have hey good looking what you got cooking. That is not a worthy cause.

I'm sorry I love country music and I love to hear Hank Williams sing but drinking and drugging yourself into an early grave so that you can write songs like that is stupid. I'm sorry it's just stupid. And for us to spend ourselves in a cause that doesn't have eternal weight of glory attached to it is just stupid.

Daniel has devoted his life and as an old man here in his 80's pushing 90 is trembling and weak and God sends one like a son of man and many times our comfort and our strength and our encouragement comes from our fellow believers. That's why we forsake not the assembling of ourselves together. That's why there are 150 one another passages in the New Testament because we either hang together or we're going to hang separately.

So I will tell you what is noted in the scripture of truth. God's plan is going to go forward and we are either carried along with it or crushed underneath it. It's our choice.

Then in chapter 11 verse 2 Gabriel says now I will tell you the truth. There is great power in the truth. Jesus told his disciples you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.

Not the truth of mathematics. Not the truth of philosophy. Not the truth of history.

Not the truth of physics. Not the truth of the origin of biological life. It is the truth of God.

I am going to tell you the truth. This is the working of God in history. Truth.

This is the purpose and plan of God in salvation and deliverance and vindication of his people. Truth. This is the truth that we must know and this is the truth that sets us free.

Stands us on our feet and gives us strength. Behold three more kings will arise in Persia and the fourth shall be far richer than them all. By his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

Now we've already been told back in verse 20 I must return to fight with the prince of Persia and when I have gone forth indeed the prince of Greece will come. This angel is already looking past the next three kings of Persia to the Greek empire. Alexander and so on.

Three more kings will arise. But you get the idea in the angel's mind well I've got to go now because the prince of Greece is coming and yet this is years into the future. But it doesn't seem

so long to the angel.

I've got to get back because the prince of Greece is coming is what he says. And it's decades away. But to him it's like time doesn't really have the same sort of value.

Doesn't have the same effect on angels that it has on us. And we don't quite know how that works. There are dimensions and things beyond our comprehension.

But whatever it is things are a lot more immediate to the angels. I don't think for the angels who have been observing human history that it seems like it's been dragging on for 6,000 years. You know sometimes you're doing something enjoyable and you say oh my look at the time.

All this time has passed. I just didn't even realize. Other times it's just the opposite.

You say well you've only got a you know the doctor said told the man well I think you've only got a month or two to live. And the man says oh well what do you suggest I do in this few weeks that's remaining to me? And the guy said well move to Kansas. And he said well moving to Kansas help me live longer? And he said no it'll just seem longer.

Because it's so dull up there. And there are times our experience seems to foreshorten or extend time. I think everyone has experienced that.

Well for the angels this is imminent. The rise of the Greek Empire even though it's three or four kings away from Daniel's perspective. The angel says I've got to get back because you know the satanic angel propelling Greece is on his way and I've got to be there you know.

Always prepare. Be prepared. Get there ahead of time.

Don't react to things. Plan ahead. He's planning ahead.

He knows it's coming. It's written in the Scripture of truth and the angels are applying the word of God that they have and that they know. And they plan ahead.

They anticipate. They're getting ready for things because they know God's word as it's revealed to them. And they evidently have a greater revelation than we do.

But the principle is the same. We don't live by simple sustenance. It's every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

And the angels live by it. There's a great song in my Sacred Harp hymnal that talks about we we don't want to sit around here eating these dry crusts of bread. We want more substantial meat such as comes from heaven.

Such as angels eat. More substantial food. It's the word of God.

That's what strengthens us. That's what stands us up. And this is symbolic when the one like a

son of man reaches and touches Daniel.

The real strength comes from the word of God. That's what builds him up. So now he's going to give the details of what's going to happen in the future.

In the historical future. And you say, well, this is a pretty neat prediction. It's sort of an Ostrodamus kind of a thing.

Here come the kings and their sons. And they rise up and this one's rich and that one's not. And this one defeats that one.

So what? It doesn't seem near as spiritual as the 70 weeks prophecy. Doesn't seem to have near as much application. It's just sort of a detailing of what will be in the history books.

Why is this given to Daniel? How does this comfort him? Well, that's what we're going to look at when we come back next week and resume our study in Daniel chapter 11. But remember this. Every scripture is God breathed.

It is all profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction and righteousness. I would love to go back one of these days. Maybe we'll do a special on Ezra chapter two and look at all the names of the family heads and the clans in Judah because I promise you those scriptures are just as rich.

We saw this when we did the genealogies in Genesis, didn't we? Those names and the generations and the parallel between the line of Seth and the line of Cain is fascinating when you look at it. There is a wealth of application in it. And the same is going to be true of chapter 11.

So that's what we'll pick up next time. Father, thank you for your provision for us, your answer to our prayers as we ask and seek and knock at the door. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will strengthen us and stand us on our feet through these truths of your words so that we can resist and overcome in the conflicts that face us and be as the scripture says, thoroughly furnished into all good works.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.