

Chapter 16 — "Caught in the Middle" (Daniel 11:2-35)

"With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him." — Daniel 11:32

PART I: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTENT

1. Persian Kings and Alexander the Great

What does the vision reveal about the four Persian kings to come, how did the fourth king's wealth stir up trouble with Greece, and what happened to Alexander the Great's mighty empire following his death (Dan. 11:2–4)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

2. Conflicts Between the North and the South

How did the ongoing conflict and failed political alliances between the King of the South and the King of the North unfold, and why did God's people in Israel find themselves constantly caught in the middle (Dan. 11:5–12)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

3. Syrian Dominance and the Rise of Rome

How did Antiochus III gain control of "the Beautiful Land," how did his scheme using a marriage alliance backfire, and how did rising Roman power put a stop to his ambitions (Dan. 11:13–20)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

4. The Rise and Schemes of Antiochus IV

In what ways did Antiochus IV seize power through intrigue, how was his invasion of Egypt thwarted by the Romans, and where did he turn to vent his rage and frustration (Dan. 11:21–30)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

5. Desecration, Resistance, and Refining

What shocking acts of desecration brought about the original "abomination that causes desolation," how did those who truly knew their God respond, and how did God use this dark time of trial to refine His people (Dan. 11:30–35)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

PART II: APPLYING THE MATERIAL

6. Remaining Faithful When "Caught in the Middle"

Just as Israel was physically caught in the middle between warring empires, believers today often feel caught between the pressures of worldly culture and the call of God's kingdom. In what areas of life do you feel that tension most, and how can we stay firmly grounded in Christ?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

7. Trusting the Precision of Biblical Prophecy

Daniel 11 describes remarkably detailed historical events foretold long before they took place. How does seeing the exact fulfillment of God's prophetic word give you deeper confidence and trust in the reliability of the Bible today?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

8. Resisting Cultural Pressure and Flattery

While Antiochus IV won over many through flattery and fear, scripture says that "the people who know their God will firmly resist him." What practical habits help you draw closer to the Lord so you can stand strong against cultural pressure to compromise?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

9. Seeing Trial and Persecution as Refining

Daniel 11:35 shows us that God allowed trials so His people might be "refined, purified and made spotless." How does knowing that God uses hardship to shape our character change the way you look at seasons of personal struggle or suffering?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

10. Anchoring Hope in God's Sovereign Control

Empires come and go throughout history, but Daniel 11 repeatedly reminds us that every event moves toward God's "appointed time." How does knowing that our Heavenly Father remains in complete control over world history bring peace to your heart today?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS