

Wednesday, December 4

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Daniel 11:36 - 12:13

11 36 “The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place. **37** He will have no respect for the gods of his ancestors, or for the god loved by women, or for any other god, for he will boast that he is greater than them all. **38** Instead of these, he will worship the god of fortresses—a god his ancestors never knew—and lavish on him gold, silver, precious stones, and expensive gifts. **39** Claiming this foreign god’s help, he will attack the strongest fortresses. He will honor those who submit to him, appointing them to positions of authority and dividing the land among them as their reward. **40** “Then at the time of the end, the king of the south will attack the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out with chariots, charioteers, and a vast navy. He will invade various lands and sweep through them like a flood. **41** He will enter the glorious land of Israel, and many nations will fall, but Moab, Edom, and the best part of Ammon will escape. **42** He will conquer many countries, and even Egypt will not escape. **43** He will gain control over the gold, silver, and treasures of Egypt, and the Libyans and Ethiopians will be his servants. **44** “But then news from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in great anger to destroy and obliterate many. **45** He will stop between the glorious holy mountain and the sea and will pitch his royal tents. But while he is there, his time will suddenly run out, and no one will help him.

12 1 “At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. **2** Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. **3** Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. **4** But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.” **5** Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing on opposite banks of the river. **6** One of them asked the man dressed in linen, who was now standing above the river, “How long will it be until these shocking events are over?” **7** The man dressed in linen, who was standing above the river, raised both his hands toward heaven and

took a solemn oath by the One who lives forever, saying, “It will go on for a time, times, and half a time. When the shattering of the holy people has finally come to an end, all these things will have happened.” **8** I heard what he said, but I did not understand what he meant. So I asked, “How will all this finally end, my lord?” **9** But he said, “Go now, Daniel, for what I have said is kept secret and sealed until the time of the end. **10** Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined by these trials. But the wicked will continue in their wickedness, and none of them will understand. Only those who are wise will know what it means. **11** “From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days. **12** And blessed are those who wait and remain until the end of the 1,335 days! **13** “As for you, go your way until the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days, you will rise again to receive the inheritance set aside for you.”

1 John 4:1 - 21

4 1 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. **2** This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. **3** But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. **4** But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. **5** Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world’s viewpoint, and the world listens to them. **6** But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception. **7** Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. **8** But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. **10** This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. **12** No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. **13** And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. **14** Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** All who declare that

Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. **16** We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. **17** And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. **18** Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. **19** We love each other because he loved us first. **20** If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? **21** And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

Psalm 123:1 - 4

123 1 I lift my eyes to you, O God, enthroned in heaven. **2** We keep looking to the LORD our God for his mercy, just as servants keep their eyes on their master, as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal. **3** Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy, for we have had our fill of contempt. **4** We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the proud and the contempt of the arrogant.

Proverbs 29:2 - 4

29 2 When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan. **3** The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but if he hangs around with prostitutes, his wealth is wasted. **4** A just king gives stability to his nation, but one who demands bribes destroys it.