

## Courage

- When do we need courage?
  - Courage = **strength** in the face of **pain, danger, or grief**

1

Daniel 10:16-19: I said to the one standing before me, “I am **overcome** with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and **I feel very weak**. How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? **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, you who are highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! **Be strong now; be strong.**”

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

2

Acts 4:13: “When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that **these men had been with Jesus.**”

A key sign of being with Jesus, and being touched by a messenger from God, is courage & strength

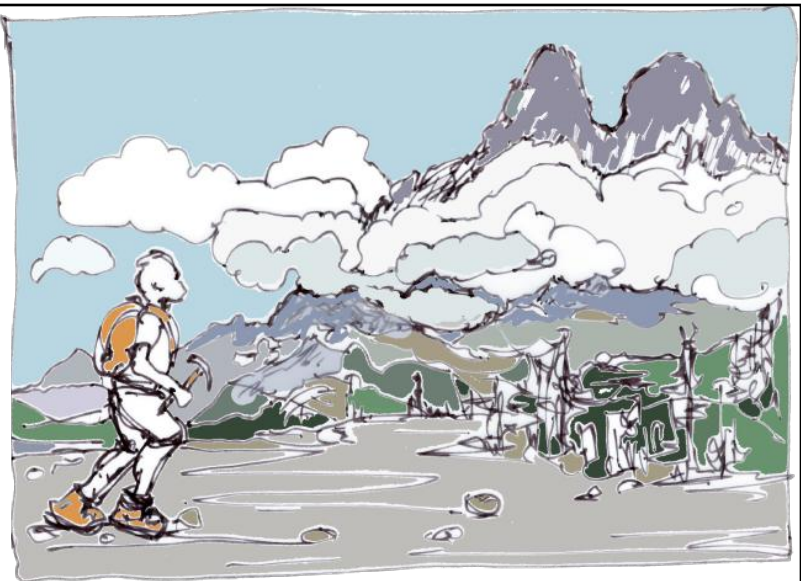
Pray: give us courage and strength  
for a road that is often more challenging  
than we expected

3

## Courageous Hope

Daniel 11-12

[bib.ly/Da11-12.NIV](https://bib.ly/Da11-12.NIV)



4

## Part of the history of the Jewish People

### Foreign Powers

722-605 Assyria

**1** 605-539 Babylon  **Daniel thought they were about done with struggle**

**2** 539-333 Persia

**3** 333-166 Macedonia/Greece

**4** 166-63 Independent **Every generation thinks they should be about done!**

63-135 AD Rome

And more like them



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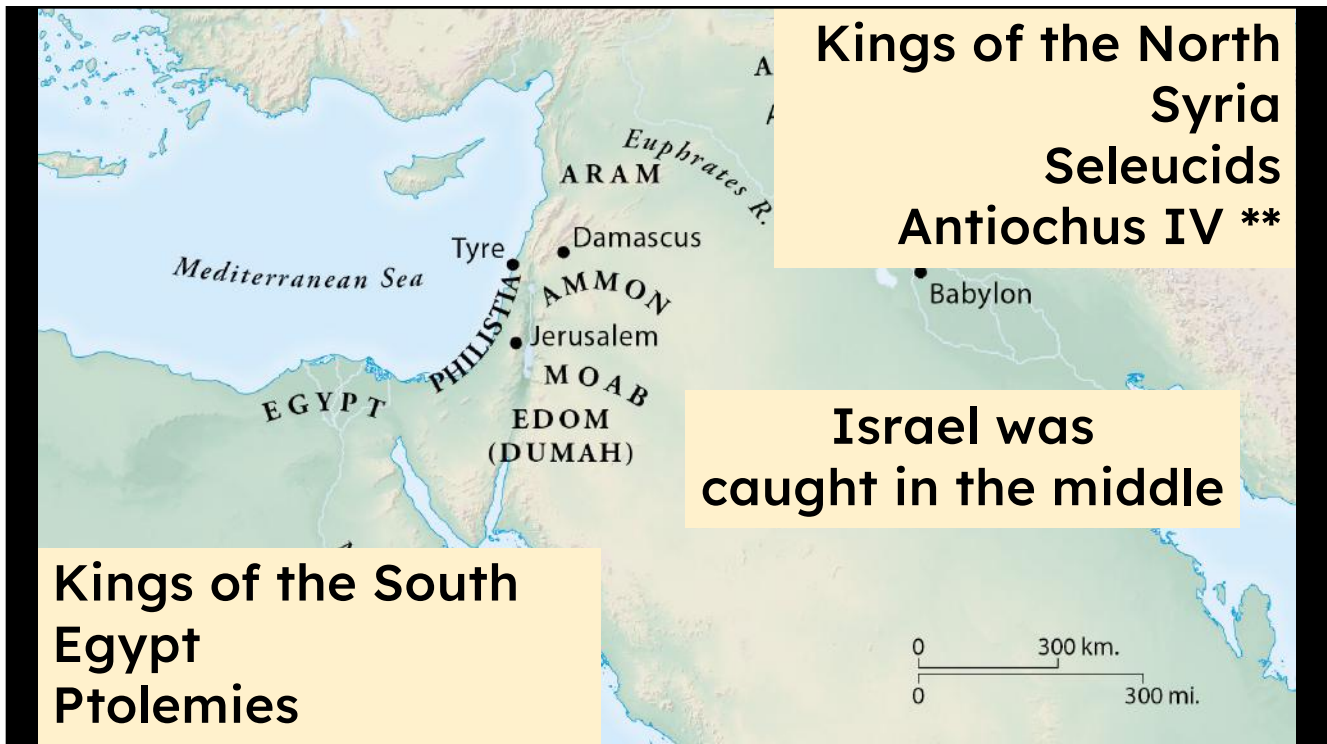
## Daniel 11

We live in a world of evil and hardship  
where kingdoms and powers and people  
rise and fall

And at some times and for some people  
the evil and hardship  
are almost unbearable

**Where does courage & strength come from?**

6



7

## **Daniel 11-12**

- 2-4: Persian kings & Alexander the Great
- 5-20: North and south fight across Israel
- 21-35: Evil & powerful: Antiochus IV (north)
- 36-45: More evil and more power
- 12:1-4: Until resurrection and judgment finally come
- 5-13: Call to be faithful while waiting,  
even when we don't understand
- Until the resurrection and judgment**
- At a time known only to God**

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## **Daniel struggled to understand!**

“Faithful Jews (like Daniel) would readily fall into bewilderment:

- how do these circumstances display God’s concern for his people?
- how will God ever use his now-insignificant people to bring blessing to the whole world?

The vision is therefore reassurance for the faithful.”

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## **The Big Idea**

No matter the trouble or oppression...  
 God’s people are to keep seeking His ways  
 in His power  
 while courageously hoping for the full experience  
 of His victory in God’s Kingdom  
 at a time known only to God  
**Resurrection!**

10

**Some journeys are very pleasant  
like a day on the beach**



11

**Some journeys are very difficult  
like climbing a great mountain peak**



12

**It's very important to know  
what kind of journey to expect!**

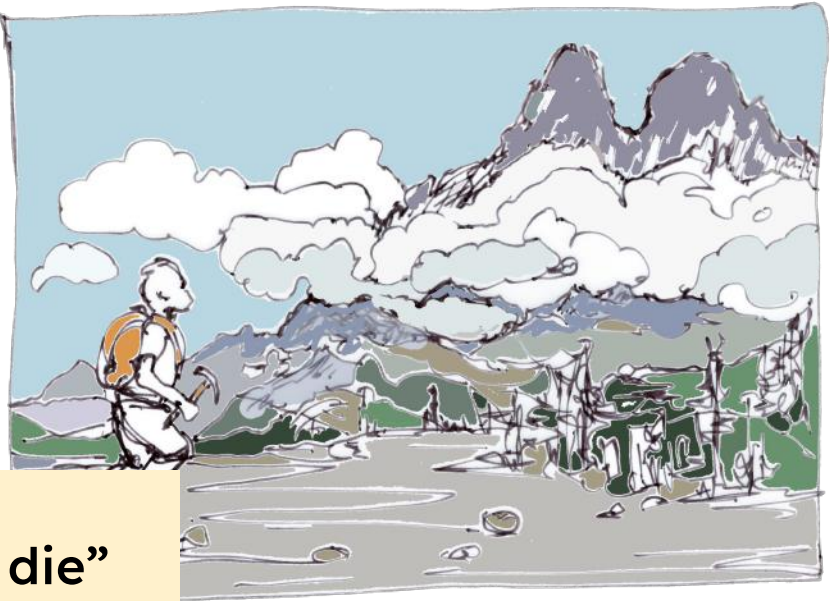
**I keep thinking...  
life is supposed  
to be pleasant  
and rewarding  
like spending a  
day on the beach**



13

**So when life is challenging,  
we might look for someone to blame:**

- Self
- Parents
- Kids
- God
- Society
- Technology
- ...



**Or despair: "Life is  
hard and then you die"**

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**But God highly values...**

- **Courage**
- **Perseverance**
- **Strength**
- **Hope/Faith**

**Jesus said that following Him was like “taking up your cross”**

**which leads to great glory!**



15

**Which part of a mountain climb is hardest?**

- **Beginning**
- **Middle**
- **End**



16

**As a student, when do you face the hardest challenges?**

- Beginning
- Middle
- End



17

**In following Jesus, when might we face the hardest challenges?**

- Only when we are ready for them



18

And for the one who ‘overcomes’,  
 “I will give the right to eat from the tree of life,  
 which is in the  
**paradise of God.**”  
*Revelation 2:7*



19

## The Big Idea

No matter the trouble or oppression...  
 God's people are to keep seeking His ways  
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 while courageously hoping for the full experience  
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 at a time known only to God

**Resurrection!**

**Eating from the tree of life  
 in the paradise of God!**

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## Application

### Persevere with hope

- Daniel was “to get on with life in the assurance that he will receive his reward **when the end does come**”
- Fix our hope on glory in Christ → at His coming
  - Rather than hoping in visible success, glory, fulfillment in this world
  - Join God’s work: “Many will be purified, made spotless and refined”

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## Application

### Persevere with hope

- Jesus: “For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” *Hebrews 11:2*
- **Full rest and peace will only come in the new kingdom, in the resurrection**
- **And oh, the joy of seeing the Son of God!**
  - **Eating from the tree of life in the paradise of God → not just a metaphor!**

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The purpose of Daniel 7-12:  
 “to keep in the faith those who will be  
**severely tempted to give up**  
 in the face of opposition.”

“Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who  
 hopes for what they already have? But if  
 we hope for what we do not yet have, we  
 wait for it patiently.” *Romans 8:24-25*

Eating from the tree of life  
 in the paradise of God

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## Application

**Seek His Kingdom now with great courage  
 because of full hope in the coming Kingdom**

- Boldness to love, to forgive, to trust,  
 to proclaim, to submit, ...
- Juneteenth
- It is confident faith in God's final victory  
 that gives us courageous hope  
 to keep seeking God's ways  
 as God makes us more like Jesus  
 for our greatest joy in His presence

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## Seeking God's Ways in a Broken World

- Christians should lead the way (“go your way”)
- We should bring God's goodness today
  - Seeking God's ways, using God's methods, in the strength of God's Spirit
    - Justice and mercy
    - Truth and grace
  - Knowing that there will be ups and downs
  - And even death itself
- **Knowing that the full victory will only come when Christ returns**

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And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and **sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart**. *Hebrews 12:1b-3*

**We long to be “liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.”** *Romans 8:21*

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