SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 11

History Written in Advance

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 11:32

"By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 11

This chapter is a long parade of kings who grab power, make deals, break promises and "do as he pleases" — and every one of them falls, exactly as God said centuries ahead of time. In the middle of it stand ordinary people who simply know their God. This week the chapter asks you to stop being impressed by the powerful and to spend your strength getting to know Him.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Kings Rise, Kings Fall

READ · DANIEL 11:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does the messenger say he will tell Daniel (v2)? What happens to the "mighty king" and his kingdom "as soon as he has arisen" (vv3–4)?

REFLECT

The mighty king (Alexander) ruled "with great authority and do as he pleases" (v3), yet his kingdom went "not to his own descendants" (v4). What are you building that you assume will last, and what would it mean to build on God instead?

REFLECT

God told this history hundreds of years before it happened, and it came out just as He said (v2, "now I will tell you the truth"). Where do you most need to trust that God knows the end from the beginning in your own life?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one thing you have been treating as your security — money, a person, a reputation. Hand it to God in prayer today and tell Him He is your security instead.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 11:32)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Long War of North and South

READ · DANIEL 11:5–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Trace what happens to the daughter of the king of the South (v6). Who is caught in the middle in v16, and what happens to the king who "turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land" (v19)?

REFLECT

Alliances, marriages and peace deals keep being made and broken (vv6, 17), and "their hearts will be intent on evil" later (v27). Where have you put your hope in a deal or an arrangement rather than in God?

REFLECT

Even "the violent ones among your people" who tried to force God's plan "will fall down" (v14). When have you tried to make God's will happen by your own force, and what did it get you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray for one place in the world, or one situation near you, where ordinary people are caught between powerful forces. Ask God to protect them and to show you one way to help.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 11:32)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Despicable Person

READ · DANIEL 11:21–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does the "despicable person" take the kingdom (v21)? What does he "practice" after an alliance (v23), and what is his heart set against (v28)?

REFLECT

He came "in a time of tranquility" and seized power "by intrigue" (v21), and did it again "in a time of tranquility" (v24). Why do you think the enemy so often works on us in easy seasons rather than hard ones?

REFLECT

The two kings "speak lies to each other at the same table" (v27). Where are you tempted to say what people want to hear instead of what is true, and what is that costing you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Look at this week honestly: where are things going smoothly? Ask God to guard you right there, and set one boundary today that protects you in that easy place.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 11:32)

DAY 4 OF 5

The People Who Know Their God

READ · DANIEL 11:29–35

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What do the king's forces do to the sanctuary (v31)? Compare what happens to those who act wickedly toward the covenant with what "the people who know their God" do (v32). What do "those who have insight" do for the many (v33)?

REFLECT

The king won many "by smooth words" (v32) — flattery, rewards, comfort. What smooth words or easy rewards are pulling on your convictions right now?

REFLECT

Notice it is not those who know about God, but "the people who know their God" who "display strength and take action" (v32). What is one honest difference in your life between knowing about Jesus and knowing Him?

REFLECT

Some who had insight fell, but it was "to refine, purge and make them pure" (v35), not to waste them. How might God be refining you through something hard right now rather than punishing you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Spend fifteen minutes today simply getting to know God — read a Gospel story about Jesus, then talk to Him about it as you would a friend.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 11:32)

DAY 5 OF 5

The King Who Does As He Pleases

READ · DANIEL 11:36–45

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does the final king do and say against God (vv36–37)? What does he honor instead (v38)? How does his story end (v45)?

REFLECT

This king will "magnify himself above them all" (v37) — self-will crowned as god. Where does that same spirit show up in you in small ways — my way, my rules, my timing?

REFLECT

He prospers only "until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done" (v36), and then "no one will help him" (v45). How does knowing evil has an end date give you courage to keep standing today?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray Jesus' words from the garden, Not My will, but Yours be done, over the one decision where you most want your own way this week.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 11:32)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Three different kings in this chapter "do as he pleases" (vv3, 16, 36), and all three fall. Where do we see that same pattern in the lives of men around us — and in our own stories before Christ?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

"Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many" (v33). Who taught you the faith when it cost them something, and who are you passing it on to now?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

God told about 375 years of history ahead of time, detail by detail. How does that strengthen your confidence in the promises He has made to you through Jesus?

MY PRAYER

Lord, I don't want to just know about You — I want to know You, so this week I ask You to...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 11:32

"By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action."