**THE PAINFUL PROCESS OF BEING MADE PURE AGAIN**

**Daniel 11:21-45**

* **There are those who want the benefits of the temporary powers that be at the expense of their soul, and there are those who know trust in God’s sovereign plans and promises.**
* Jesus - *“For at that time there will be great distress, the kind that hasn’t taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again.”* (Matthew 24:21)
* **In the first 35 verses of Daniel 11 there are 135 prophecies that have been fulfilled and corroborated through historical data.**

**WE MUST STAND STRONG IN OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD NO MATTER WHAT CHALLENGES OR PRESSURES WE FACE**

* *“With flattery he will corrupt those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will be strong and take action.”* (Daniel 11:32)
* **Just as in Daniel’s day, evil influencers and leaders will try to flatter you with promises of prosperity, promotion, and happiness, but their end is destruction.**

**SOMETIMES GOD RAISES UP EVIL RULERS TO REFINE, PURIFY, AND CLEANSE HIS REBELLIOUS PEOPLE**

* *“Some of those who have insight will fall so that they may be refined, purified, and cleansed until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.”* (Daniel 11:35)
* **May we never get so consumed with other peoples’ sins that we ignore our own.**
* **A great prayer to pray when it seems all hell is breaking loose in this world is, “Heavenly Father, show me any areas of my life, my heart, my attitude, my actions, and my speech that are offensive to You so that I can repent, and recommit to standing for You faithfully.”**

**THE ANTICHRIST WILL ULTIMATELY BE DEFEATED AND GOD’S PEOPLE WILL SEE THEIR ULTIMATE DELIVERANCE AND JOIN HIM IN HEAVEN**

* *“He will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful holy mountain, but he will meet his end with no one to help him.”* (Daniel 11:45)
* **There will never be any person or power that can prevail against the Lord God Almighty!**
* **We can find joy, peace, and strength no matter what happens in this world because we stand on the promises of God as we await the return of Christ.**
* *“Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth[h] will mourn;[i] and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”* (Matthew 24:29-31)

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does Daniel 11:21-45 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What is a key message in Daniel 11:21-45?
* How do we know that Daniel is referring to the Antichrist in verses 36-45?
* What is the prophecy in Daniel 11:21-45 that has yet to be fulfilled?

**Digging Deeper:**

* Knowing God sometimes raises up evil rulers to refine, purify, and cleanse His people when they are rebellious, how should you respond? What thoughts challenge you with this?
* What are some ways people in this world try to “flatter” others into embracing the things of this world while rejecting Christ? If you have any specific examples you have experienced, feel free to share with the group.
* Why is there such a struggle to live set apart in our culture? How do you overcome the pressure to conform?
* How is this prophecy of the Antichrist helpful for Christians?
* How can you use this knowledge from Daniel 11 to help others and to advance God’s Kingdom?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?