1. “…BUT THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG, AND CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS*.” –Dan.11:32*

AMPLIFIED: “…but the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits [for God].”

**2)** Daniel prophesied that some of God’s people will arise in difficult days to see the hand of God at work to bless them, protect them, and use them in mighty ways (read Dan.11:31-33 & 35)

**3) HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT OF DANIEL 11:31-35 from 168 to 164 B.C.**

VS 31- “… they shall take away the daily *sacrifices,* and place *there* the abomination of desolation.” Daniel prophesied about King Antiochus IV, who invaded Israel in 168 BC. He defiled the Temple in Jerusalem by stopping the daily sacrifices to the Lord, and instead built an altar to Zeus in the temple of God, where he sacrificed a pig.

**4)** VS 32a- “Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery” History records that King Antiochus persuaded many compromising Jews, led by their High Priest, Menelaus, to join him in opposing the Jews who remained loyal to God. The progressive Jews who followed Greek culture ate pork and everything forbidden by Moses- they attended all the revelries & entertainments of the Greeks at the amphitheaters and the colosseums- they did not circumcise their children- they led immoral lives… many of the Jews “did wickedly against their covenant” with God!

**5)** VS 32b “…BUT THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG, AND CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS*.”* The First Prophetic Fulfillment of Dan. 11:32b happened in 168 B.C. When the heathen king defiled the Temple and led many Jews into apostacy, one family of priests rose up against this corruption- the Maccabees, the “Hammer.” Greek armies were sent against them, but God helped them in wonderful ways to defeat the Greeks and regain their independence. They carried out great exploits, driving away armies much bigger and stronger than themselves. Armies sometimes 5 times bigger… sometimes 10 times bigger!

Before each battle, they prayed & called on God- and God miraculously helped them!

(The most famous of the Maccabees was Judas Maccabee, and many mothers named their sons Judas after him- more than 150 years later, two of Jesus’ 12 disciples were named Judas -Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot)

**6)** VS.33a “And those of the people who understand SHALL INSTRUCT MANY” The Maccabees as well as many other priests and scribes taught the Jewish people- they turned the corrupted Jews away from the paganism and sins of the Greeks, and turned them back to God!

With God’s help, there was a national revival among the Jews, and they were able to drive the foreign armies away and cleanse the Temple in 164 BC. When the Jews rededicated the Temple, they lit the Golden Candlestick with the little bit of consecrated oil that they had secretly kept throughout the 3 years of suffering & war. It was only enough oil to burn for 1 day, but the Lord caused it to miraculously burn for 8 days. The cleansing of the Temple by the Maccabees and the miraculous light that God gave is celebrated yearly by the Jews for 8 days at the Jewish feast of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah is held every December- all over the world the Jews celebrated the Festival of Lights just one week ago.

**7) THERE WILL BE A FUTURE PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT OF DANIEL’S PROPHECY:**

Antiochus IV was a prophetic foreshadow of the great Antichrist who will arise in these Last Days. He sacrificed a pig in the Temple, defiling the temple of God- causing the “abomination of desolation.” spoken of in Daniel 11:31. Jesus referred to this prophecy of Daniel in Matthew 24:15. In the next part of His prophecy (read Mt.24:16 & 21) Jesus said this prophecy of the “abomination of desolation” would be fulfilled again in the Last Days just before His 2nd Coming!

Will this “abomination of desolation” be done in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem? When Jesus was shown the great temple in Jerusalem, He said, “destroy this temple & I will raise it up in 3 days.” But Christ was speaking about His own body, which is the New Testament temple of God. And today, while many are looking for a future rebuilding of a natural temple in Jerusalem, many people are not seeing what is already starting to be fulfilled in the New Testament Temple of God, which is the Body of Christ! How abominations and worldly wisdom are bringing corruption into the worldwide Church, and are preparing the way for the coming last Antichrist!

**8)** There is a PRESENT-DAY SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT taking place for Dan’s PROPHECY!

THERE ARE PRESENT-DAY “CHRISTIAN” LEADERS WHO ARE LEADING THE WAY IN COMPROMISE AND CORRUPTION AGAINST GOD, JUST LIKE HOW THE JEWISH HIGH PRIEST, MENELAUS, JOINED WITH THE ANTICHRIST OF HIS DAY TO PERSECUTE THE GODLY

**9)** President Obama publicly said, “God bless Planned Parenthood” (they provide abortions & then sell the baby parts to researchers). He also says God approves homosexuality!

About 10 years ago, the largest Lutheran denomination in the USA had a meeting of their pastors & leaders- they voted to accept gay marriage and gay pastors by a vote of 66.6%. The same afternoon, a tornado appeared at the place of their gathering, but the only damage it caused was that it ripped the cross off of the top of their church. When gays won the vote by 66.6, and the cross was removed from their church, what was the reaction of the church leaders? They made a joke about how it seemed like God was angry with them!

**10)** When Pope Francis visited the Philippines, on the plane ride back to the Vatican he held a press conference. One of the things he said- and he has said this several different times- is that “An atheist does not have to believe in God to go to heaven- just do good, and we will meet you there.”

**11) CHRISTIANS ARE BEING PUSHED MORE & MORE TO COMPROMISE WITH THE STANDARDS OF THE WORLD!**

Liberal governments in Europe & North America are starting to persecute Bible based Christians who will not agree with laws permitting abortion, & homosexual marriages, & other corruptions!

Christian businesses in the USA have been taken to court, fined 100s of 1000s of dollars, and the businesses have been closed because they will not provide a wedding cake- or flowers- for gay weddings!

A person –even a pastor who says that homosexuality is a sin- can be charged with a hate crime in some nations!

**MORE & MORE, CHRISTIANS ARE BEING PRESSURED TO COMPROMISE OR HIDE THEIR FAITH!**

“You really should cheat on your tests- everyone else is doing it! You will never get a good overseas job unless you cheat like the others…”

 “You agree that being Gay is cool, right? After all, that’s how God made me!”

“Hey, let’s have a bottle of wine together… after all, it’s Christmas time!”

 “Christians can watch R rated movies - just close your eyes for the really bad parts….”

**12)** “But the PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD” shall be strong – shall be established!

Knowing *about* God is not enough-we need to personally meet God & KNOW HIM in a real way!

The more we know God, our faith will be stronger- our confidence in God will grow & grow!

DRAW NEARER TO GOD! GET TO KNOW HIM! The people who know their God shall be strong, Jesus said “I will build My Church, & the gates of hell will not…

“…BUT THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG AND CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS

HEBREWS 11 GIVES US A LIST OF MEN & WOMEN who are called the “HEROS OF FAITH”

Heb.11:33-37 gives us a list of their heroic acts:

HEROIC ACTS: “worked righteousness, obtained promises”

**13**) NEXT: “Quenched the violence of fire” -Shadrach, Meshech, & Abednego! Gov’t employees- commanded to worship the king’s idol, or be burned alive! Their reply- Dan.3:16-18.

**14)** They feared God, so they did not fear man! They stood strong!

Hebrews 11 is a list with many ordinary people- government employees, housewives, soldiers, overseas foreign workers, farmers, but they all came to KNOW THEIR GOD and they STOOD STRONG through the difficulties they faced in life

WHEN YOU STAND FOR GOD, GOD WILL STAND FOR YOU!

In the last Days there will be many Heroes… they may spend most of their lives looking like ordinary teachers, government employees, housewives or pastors or doctors…. BUT THOSE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD WILL STAND FIRM! BECOME STRONG! DO EXPLOITS FOR GOD, HEROIC ACTS!

EXAMPLE: There was a secret Christian meeting in communist Russia, when two soldiers burst in and lined up the Christians, pointing their rifles at them. They threatened to shoot all the Christians, but first let anyone in the room leave who said they were not a Christian. (What would YOU do?) -After everyone was either lined up against the wall, or had hurriedly left, the soldiers then put down their rifles and joined the meeting, saying, “Praise the Lord, the hypocrites are all gone now!”

ANYONE CAN GET TO KNOW GOD & TRUST HIM!

**15)** ERIC LIDDEL refused to run in the Olympics on a Sunday

**16)** He was pressured by his future king to run on Sunday- he would not!

**17)** Just before he ran his changed Olympic race he was handed a note from 1 Samuel. Eric won the gold medal!

**18)** Eric Liddle left the fame & wealth of his racing career to become a missionary in China. He was imprisoned in WW2 by the Japanese, and died a short time before the end of the war.

Eric Liddell said: “You will only know as much of God as you are willing to put into practice.”

**19)** YOU CAN LEARN TO KNOW GOD- become a strong Christian who will do heroic acts! Works of faith! You can help turn many people back to God! You can become a part of revival in the Last Days!

**20)** In times of great darkness, God will always raise up His people with great light YOU CAN BE EMPOWERED FOR THE LAST DAYS!

**21)** THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG & WILL DO EXPLOITS FOR GOD!