



[Daniel 11:32](#)

(32) Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*.

New King James Version

We would do well to notice the context of this verse. This prophecy is made of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, whom just about every commentator mentions is a type of the end-time Beast. The Beast appears to be rising in our time, so we should pay attention because we may be implied here.

This verse's final fulfillment will be in "the time of Jacob's trouble," a time that [Jeremiah 30:7](#) says will be unlike any other that has ever been on earth. Nevertheless, "the people who know their [God](#) shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Note that those who *know their God* will do these things. Despite what they can plainly see happening, these people know by [faith](#) that the unseen and almighty sovereign God is still on His throne, overseeing everything that is going on, and knowing that His will *will* be done, regardless of what those living by sight think.

How do they know that His will will be done? Because they *know* Him intimately as a result of their relationship with Him. For a good part of their lives, they have walked with Him and talked with Him, and He has talked with them through His Word. By faith, they "see" God. They have submitted to Him, and He has reciprocated their attentions by blessing them in ways they know were from Him because, by faith, they were thinking spiritually.

[Ephesians 1:11](#) reminds us, ". . . in Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will." God does not work a few things or even many things but *all* things according to His will. This "all things" must be qualified, since at least one thing is always excluded from it: God never ordains any of His children to [sin](#). We are always to choose life, not death through sin ([Deuteronomy 30:19](#)). When we sin, it is our fault; we

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should know better. God has already evaluated the situation ([I Corinthians 10:13](#)). Do we have any doubt about His power to know what is going on and to make judgments?

God's purpose will stand, and nothing will stop Him from doing His pleasure. He is no distant spectator. Yes, He has given power to [Satan](#), as well as to mankind, but God is all-powerful while Satan and man are but creatures. The Creator is greater than the sum total of all that He has made through [Jesus Christ](#). Yes, God has created what we consider to be natural laws, and much of the material world is to some degree regulated by them, but He "upholds all things by the word of His power" ([Hebrews 1:3](#)).

Life is difficult, and few seem to make it through the entirety of life without becoming shell-shocked. Most muddle their way through, but we would be well-advised to take to heart what the apostle Peter writes in [II Peter 1:19](#): "We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." The prophetic word has been confirmed to us. What are we to take heed of specifically? That God's counsel shall stand! He will do all His pleasure, and His pleasure is written in His Book, that is, what He has prophesied will happen.

Therefore, instead of looking at all the problems on planet earth and then turning to God, we must begin our thinking with God because the Word, which is now ours too, came from Him, and He has the will and the power to carry out what He has said He will do.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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