10

Wars and Wars and More of the Same

Key References: Daniel 11:1–12:3; *The Great Controversy*, chap. 18, pp. 341, 342; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 60-74; Our Beliefs nos. 18, 22, 8



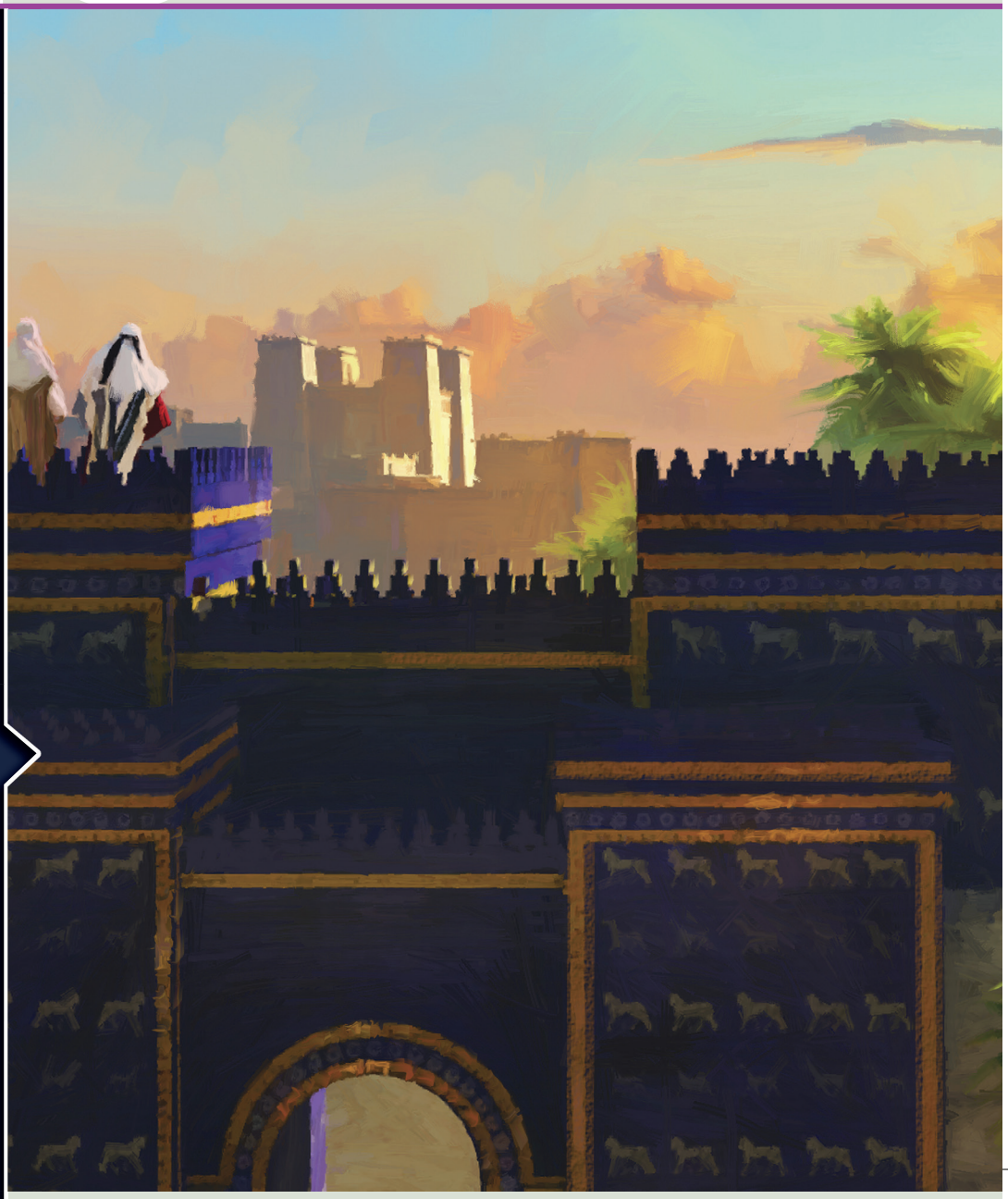












power**text**

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

power**point**

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 75.

Have you ever been involved in a fight? Perhaps you've yelled at your brother or sister. Or you've felt anger toward someone at school. Or maybe you've seen two people physically fighting each other. Imagine what it would be like if all the people in your life, at home and at school, fought each other all the time! That's the picture Daniel saw.

Imagine standing on the rooftop balcony of the king's palace in Babylon. The current king is away, commanding the army on a small invasion of a neighboring country to the south. But with you on the balcony is a longtime resident of the city, a foreigner, like you, but one with an extraordinary reputation among the Babylonians, the aging prophet Daniel.

If Daniel could point out to you the high points of this great city, he'd point first of all to the magnificent gate through which he first marched as a teenage captive. Close by he'd show you the apartments where he and his young friends came to the attention of Nebuchadnezzar. Over there, beyond the city, is the plain where the huge gold statue had been built, and the fiery furnace that threatened Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And look over there. That's the incredible hanging gardens. (Daniel didn't know it then, but people later would refer to the gardens in the same breath as The Great Pyramid—as one of the mysterious wonders of the ancient world.)

If you listened carefully from the balcony, you could still hear the lions pacing back and forth in the den into which Daniel had been thrown. Listen in the evening when the lions are hungry, and you can feel the terror that the lions' den caused to the citizens of Babylon.

But if Daniel was telling you about Babylon, he wouldn't just concentrate on the past. For Babylon is the place from which Daniel saw the future.

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Sunday

READ Read Daniel 11:2-4 and this week's story, "Wars and Wars and More of the Same."

WRITE Write the power text, Daniel 12:3, on an index card or small piece of paper.

DO Go outside just before you go to sleep. Look up into the night sky. Think about how bright a star must be for you to be able to see it millions of light-years away.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK How can people who lead "many to righteousness" be compared to the stars?

PRAY Ask God to help you shine the light of His love.

Monday

READ Read Daniel 11:5-8.

LIST Count all the power words in the verses listed above and write them in a column on a big piece of paper. Use a black marker and copy the words using capital letters. Include such words as "royal" and "mighty."

THINK Why do you think it seems desirable to many to do as they please (verse 3)? Contrast the players of Daniel 11 and those in your power text who are rewarded.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you act according to His will.

Tuesday

READ Read Daniel 11:9-35.

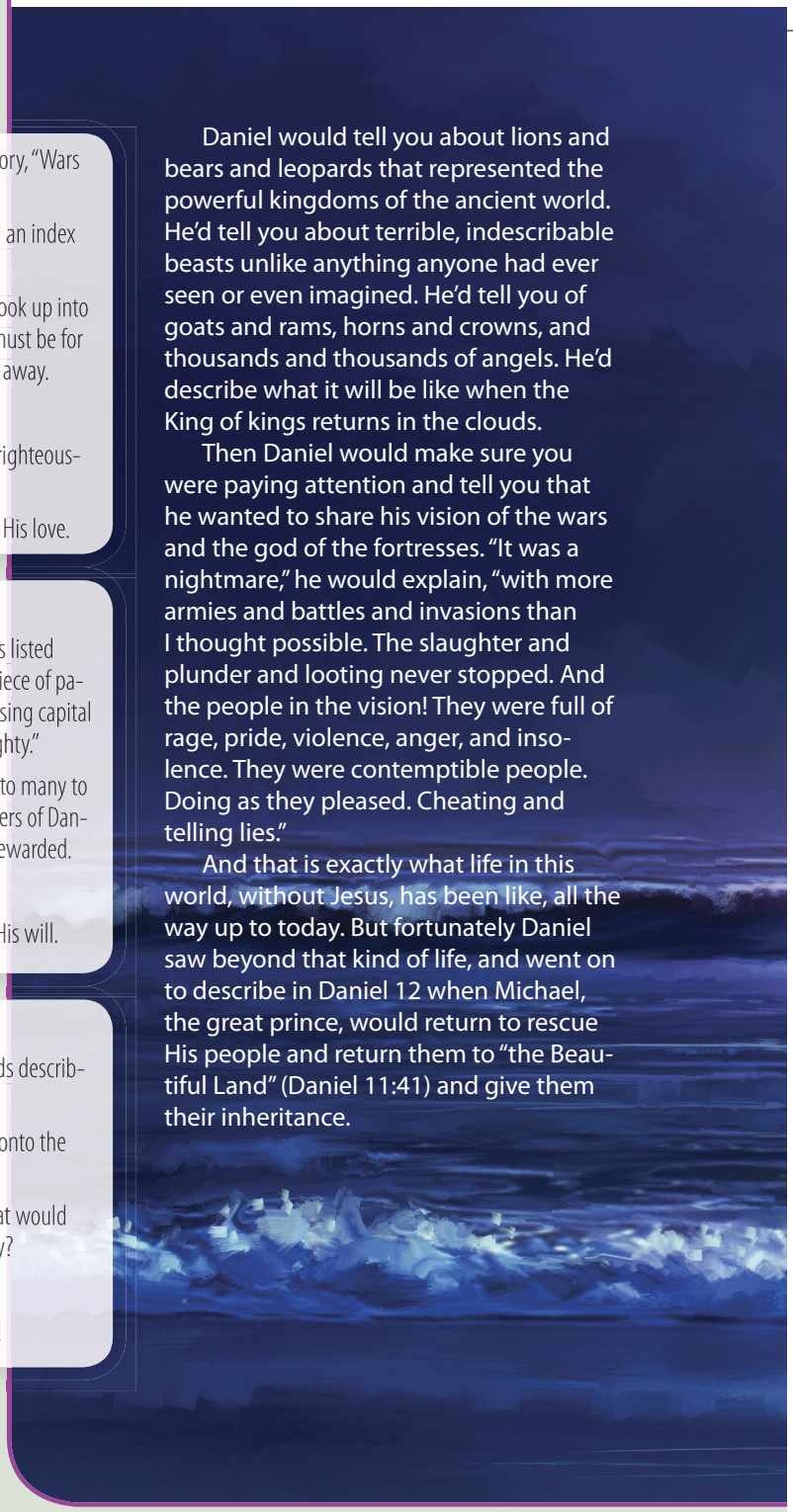
FIND As you read these verses, look for words describing military invasion or attack.

COPY Use a red marker and copy the words onto the same piece of paper you used on Monday.

THINK What motivates people to fight? What would motivate people to live in peace and harmony?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be a peacemaker.



Daniel would tell you about lions and bears and leopards that represented the powerful kingdoms of the ancient world. He'd tell you about terrible, indescribable beasts unlike anything anyone had ever seen or even imagined. He'd tell you of goats and rams, horns and crowns, and thousands and thousands of angels. He'd describe what it will be like when the King of kings returns in the clouds.

Then Daniel would make sure you were paying attention and tell you that he wanted to share his vision of the wars and the god of the fortresses. "It was a nightmare," he would explain, "with more armies and battles and invasions than I thought possible. The slaughter and plunder and looting never stopped. And the people in the vision! They were full of rage, pride, violence, anger, and insolence. They were contemptible people. Doing as they pleased. Cheating and telling lies."

And that is exactly what life in this world, without Jesus, has been like, all the way up to today. But fortunately Daniel saw beyond that kind of life, and went on to describe in Daniel 12 when Michael, the great prince, would return to rescue His people and return them to "the Beautiful Land" (Daniel 11:41) and give them their inheritance.



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Wednesday

READ Read Daniel 11:36-45.

FIND Look through old issues of people-centered magazines. Can you find any pictures of people leading "many to righteousness"? Why do you think that type of picture is so difficult to find?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His peace which would still be available to us even if war were raging all around us.

Thursday

READ Read Daniel 12:1-4.

DO Call or visit your grandparents, older friends, or senior citizens in your neighborhood. Ask them if they were ever in a war or if they remember what things were like during a war. Invite them to share some stories with you about people who were helpful during wartime.

THINK Why are acts of kindness so powerful during the terror of battles?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for an opportunity to show kindness.

Friday

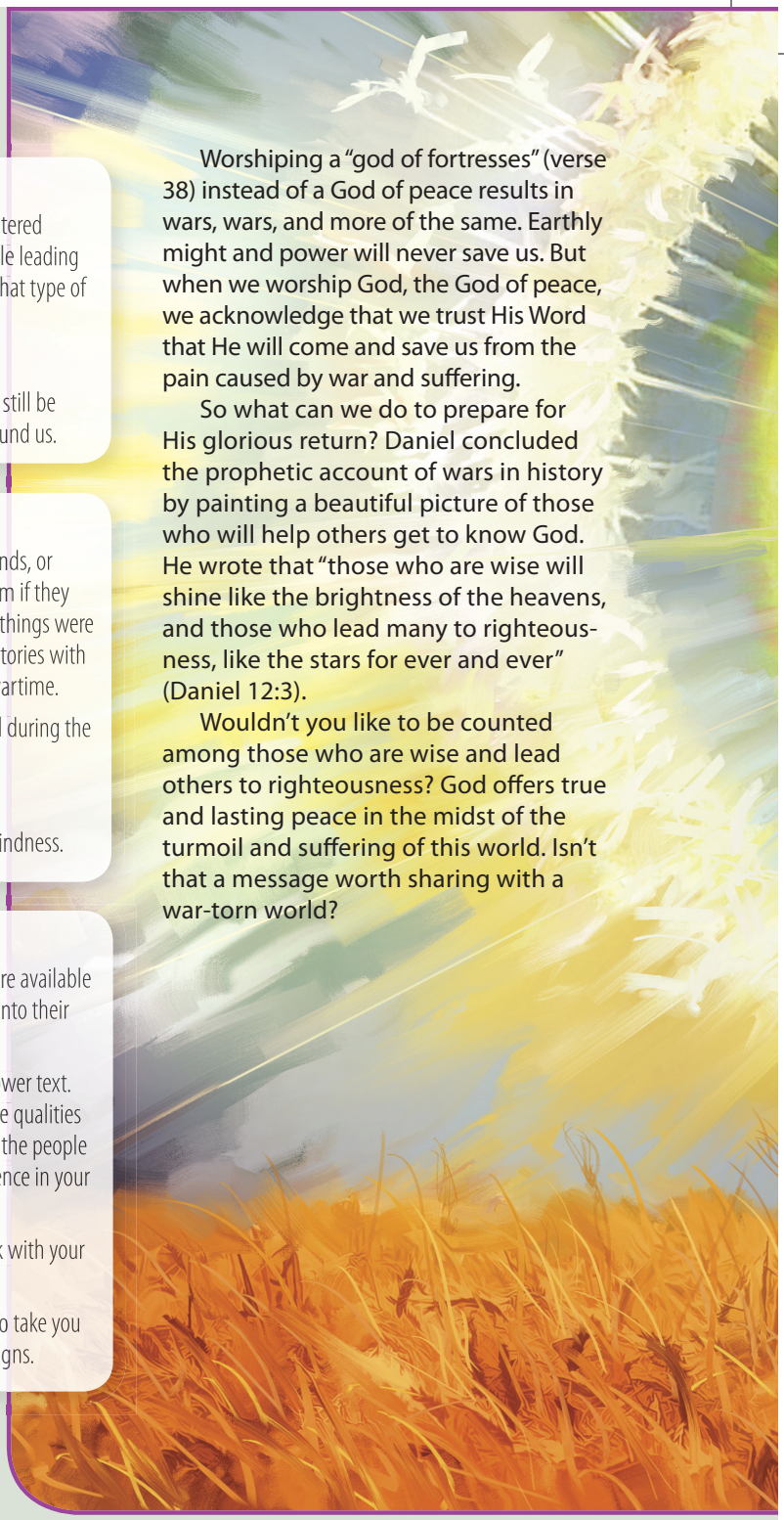
READ Read Ephesians 6:10-17.

RESEARCH Contrast military weapons that are available today with the weapons that Christians take into their "battles."

READ Read Zechariah 4:6 and recite your power text. Think of a way you can demonstrate today the qualities in these passages rather than the qualities of the people portrayed in Daniel 11. How does God's presence in your life affect the kind of person you are?

SHARE Share what you've learned this week with your family.

PRAY Thank God together that He is going to take you home to His "Beautiful Land," where peace reigns.



Worshiping a "god of fortresses" (verse 38) instead of a God of peace results in wars, wars, and more of the same. Earthly might and power will never save us. But when we worship God, the God of peace, we acknowledge that we trust His Word that He will come and save us from the pain caused by war and suffering.

So what can we do to prepare for His glorious return? Daniel concluded the prophetic account of wars in history by painting a beautiful picture of those who will help others get to know God. He wrote that "those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Wouldn't you like to be counted among those who are wise and lead others to righteousness? God offers true and lasting peace in the midst of the turmoil and suffering of this world. Isn't that a message worth sharing with a war-torn world?



PUZZLE
10

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Instructions: Spell out the Bible verse below by picking letters that are in threes (but use only one letter in the triplet) and discarding the rest. Go across left to right and top to bottom.

FFF	UUI	OOO	LLP	MNN	RRR	WWW	EEJ	WTW	HHH
OOO	LLK	EEE	WWF	YYY	PPW	EEE	RRJ	RRR	WWS
DDD	OOO	TTD	EEE	YYE	IIW	SSS	HHG	TTT	HHH
EEE	RRM	WWW	UUC	VVS	III	GGS	LLL	LLL	OOO
KKM	FFF	BBT	MMM	YYY	LLA	FFF	EEW	AAA	TTT
HHB	HHH	EEE	RRB	RRR	TTN	PPK	III	NNN	SSD
HHH	QUA	EEE	AAA	JJU	MMN	VYV	CCT	EEE	GGD
NNN	III	KKM	SSS	BBH	MMM	YYY	HHG	LLK	BBB
HHC	RRR	OOO	HHS	TTT	JJB	GGD	HHH	EEE	RRR
LLC	AAA	UUB	NNN	MMN	DDD	BBY	SSS	JJG	LKJ
III	SSS	TTT	KAH	EEE	GDD	RRR	DDS	TTS	AAA
NNN	OOK	DDD	KKA	MMM	LSS	OOO	TTT	PWW	HHH
UUY	OON	EEE	INN	GGR	YYY	RRR	HHG	UUY	DDG