

# **“The Church In Hostile Territory”**

## **Daniel 11:32**

The picture here is that of an evil king bringing oppression against God’s people (particularly the Jewish nation). There is a real parallel between the action of this (future) king toward Israel and the action of a godless government toward the church (Christians today). Notice this very pointed admonition in verse 32, “...the people who know their God will display strength and take action.”

- I. Even with a godless government, we can KNOW OUR GOD (v.32b “...the people who know their God...”)
  - A. We can know God for our SOUL SALVATION.
    - John 17:3
  - B. We can know God for our SINCERE MOTIVATION.
    - Jeremiah 9:23-24 (esp. v.24)
  - C. We can know God in a SANCTIFYING RELATIONSHIP.
    - Philippians 3:10
    - We can know Him...
      1. In relation to His POWER (v.10a)
      2. In relation to His SUFFERING (v.10c)
      3. In relation to His DEATH (v.10d)
      4. In relation to His RESURRECTION (v.10b)
  
- II. Even with a godless government, we can DISPLAY STRENGTH (v.32c “...will display strength...”)  
cf. I Kings 18:36-40
  - A. TWO REQUIREMENTS for a display of strength.
    1. A display of strength requires FERVENT PRAYER. (vv.36-37)
    2. A display of strength requires SINCERE FAITH. (vv.33-35, v.37)
  - B. TWO RESULTS of a display of strength.
    1. A display of strength results in CHANGED LIVES. (v.39)
    2. A display of strength results in SATAN’S DEFEAT. (v.40)
  
- III. Even with a godless government, we can TAKE ACTION (v.32d “...and take action.”)
  - A. Action necessitates OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD. (cf. Luke 6:46-47)
  - B. Action necessitates INVESTMENT IN THE WORK OF GOD. (cf. Nehemiah 4:6b, 17)

Regardless of how godless or oppressive our government (or any government) might be, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is still on the winning side. “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). When all the nations of all the earth are gone, the Church will still be alive and well with the Lord of Glory.

So, no matter your current...or future...circumstances, be one among the people who KNOW THEIR GOD, DISPLAY STRENGTH AND TAKE ACTION.