

DANIEL CHAPTER 11

World History from Darius to the time of the end. In 10:1 we were at 536 BC. Daniel 11:1 is actually a post script to chapter 10. The angel had mentioned Satan's opposition to the king (Darius) 10:13. Daniel is simply stating that he had supported that same king from the time he had taken power Dan.6:1-3.

NOTE: Satan opposes the evil kingdoms of the earth (those who oppress God's people) because he opposes everything that is a part of God's plan.

As to the remainder of the chapter

- 1) The revelation begins with Darius the Mede and extends to the final Gentile ruler in the time of the end.
- 2) Verses 2-35 describe the major rulers of the Persian Empire and Greek Empire concluding with Antiochus Epiphanes 175-164 BC.
- 3) With the death of Antiochus we fast forward to the last gentile ruler who will be in power when Christ returns B vs.36-45.

Vs. 2 The three kings that are yet to come are.

- 1) Cambyses B 529-522 BC
- 2) Pseudo-Smerdes B 522-521 BC
- 3) Darius I Hystaspes - 521-486 BC B Ezra 6:1,8
- 4) Xerxes I B 486-465 BC (Ahasuerus)
This Medo-Persian king led a military campaign against Greece. He raised an army that was one of the largest raised in the ancient world (hundreds of thousands). He moved against Greece in 480 BC. It was a disastrous effort and he never recovered from it.

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Vs. 3-4 The rise and breakup of Alexander the Great's Empire.

- 1) A mighty king will arise - Alexander the Great.
- 2) He will exercise great authority - He made Greece the next great Empire. He was a supreme ruler. He swept through the lands - 334-331 BC.
- 3) As soon as he has arisen - his kingdom will be broken up - died at 32 years of age.
- 4) His kingdom will be broken into 4 parts, none of which will go to a descendent of his B both sons were murdered.
- 5) The Break Up
 - a) Kings of the south B Egypt - Ptolemies
 - b) Kings of the north B Syria - Seleucids - from which Antiochus Epiphanes came.
 - c) Lysimachus - Thrace and portions of Asia Minor
 - d) Cassander - Macedonia and Greece

NOTE: The kings of the north and south will affect the beautiful land, and we are given greater detail on them.

The king(s) of the south - Egypt and the kings of the north - Syria will begin a continuous struggle.

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Vs. 5 Egypt will grow strong.

- 1) King of the South - Ptolemy I Soter (323-285) will grow strong.
- 2) One of his princes who will be "strong above him" - Seleucus I Nicator (312-281 BC) will become stronger than Ptolemy. They fought together against Antigonus of Babylon. Their combined strength paved the way for Seleucus (Syria) to gain control of the entire area from Asia Minor to India. Hence Seleucus became strong above Ptolemy.

Vs. 6 After some years, the king of the south, Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246 BC) had his daughter Bernice marry Antiochus II Theas (261-264 BC) about 252 BC.

The marriage was consummated after Ptolemy Philadelphus required Antiochus to divorce his own wife so he could marry Bernice. This marriage was intended to provide a basis for peace between the two powers.

Daniel states that the plan will not work!

Within two years of the marriage, Ptolemy died and Antiochus took back his first wife.

To gain revenge Laodicia (the first wife) murdered her husband (Ptolemy), his second wife (Bernice), and the infant son that was the product of that union.

So much for bringing the two powers together.

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Vs. 7- 8 Bernice's brother Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 BC) replaced Philadelphus and moved militarily against the new king of the north - Seleucus Callinicus (247-226 BC).

He entered the fortress of the king of the north and carried back to Egypt princes as hostages, some of their idols, and their vessels of silver and gold.

This action is identical to that which Nebuchadnazzar did to Judah. It represents the total domination of one people and king over another. Euergetes came short of removing Callinicus as king.

Vs. 9 - Several years after the Egyptian invasion, Seleucius was able to mount a return attack on Egypt (240 BC). Seleucius was defeated and forced to return into his own land.

NOTE:

1) All of the above victories by Egypt will be reversed in the future when Syria gains ascendancy over Egypt. This ascendancy will result in Syria's regained control of Palestine and set the stage for the great persecutions that will come upon Israel under Antiochus Epiphanes (Dan.11:21-35) who becomes a "type" of antichrist.

2) Remember, Daniel is predicting all of the above history up to three hundred years before it happens. You can read Daniel chapter eleven or any world history book covering this time and location, and they will read the same.

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Vs. 10 - Although Seleucus Callinicus was unsuccessful in his attack on Egypt, "his sons" (successors) were far more successful. Two successors began the attack on Egypt.

- 1) Seleucus III (226-223 BC) perished in battle.
- 2) Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC) carried on the fight.
- 3) In Daniel=s prophecy plural becomes singular As a result of these military campaigns against Egypt, Palestine came back under the domination of Syria

Vs. 11 - 12 - Antiochus II the Great met the Egyptian army at the edge of Palestine. Both sides threw 70 thousand soldiers into the battle. The battle resulted in a complete victory for Egypt. Antiochus lost his entire army and escaped in the desert (Dan.11:12 "yet he will not prevail").

Vs. 13 - Antiochus III the Great rebuilds an army and obtains great strength and wealth by fighting against other nations east of him (212-204 BC). In 201 BC Antiochus once again begins attacking Egypt.

Vs. 14 - 16 - Describe These Campaigns

Vs. 14 - A large number of Jews join with Antiochus in these military campaigns. They did this even though the Ptolemies of Egypt had been kind to the Jewish state after they had returned to the land.

Vs. 15 - 16 - Antiochus III the Great finally defeats the Egyptians in Sidon (a city of fortifications) (199-198 BC). This victory resulted in the Syrian occupation of all Palestine.

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Vs. 17 - Threatened by Rome, Antiochus worked out a diplomatic settlement with Egypt by marrying his daughter Cleopatra to the new young king, Ptolemy V Epiphanes in 192 BC (He was 7 years old)

Vs. 18 - 19 - Antiochus next turned his focus on Greece attempting to conquer her. He was defeated in this effort in 191 BC by troops thrown into the battle from Rome. The Romans became involved because their ambassadors were scornfully treated by Antiochus. He told them that Asia was not their concern - Rome felt differently.

NOTE: From the standpoint of the history of Israel the above developments were important.

- 1) Antiochus the Great was followed by Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175 BC);
who was followed by Antiochus IV Epiphanes (185-164 BC) the great persecutor of the Jews described in detail in Dan.11:21-35. The actions of the wicked leader picture the action of anti-christ at the time of the end.

Vs. 20 - Seleucus IV Philopator (preceded Antiochus Epiphanes) is mentioned because of the way he taxed the people of Israel. Rome required a thousand talents annually and he was required to collect it from the lands under his domain. In the book of Maccabees (2 Mac.3:7), it is stated that Philopator sent a tax collector to take the gold from the temple in Jerusalem as part of his taxing efforts. He suddenly and mysteriously was removed and disappeared as a result setting the stage for the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes which followed.

Verses 21 - 35 describe an "obscure" Syrian ruler who reigned from 175 to 164 BC. He is the little horn of Dan.8:9-14. From the standpoint of the revelation given to Daniel, he was the most important feature of the entire third empire! His name was Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

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Vs. 21

- 1) He is called by God a despicable person:
- 2) He will gain his kinship illegitimately.
He shall come in peaceably, and obtain his kingdom by flatteries:

Fulfillment: Antiochus (Epiphanes), son of Antiochus the Great returned to Syria from Rome where he had been held hostage. His brother Seleucus had been murdered (king of Syria). Those in control at that time gave Antiochus the kingdom hoping that he would feel obligated to those who established him as king. Seleucus had a ten year old son, Demetrius, who should have been made king.

Vs. 22

- 3) The armies that oppose him will be “flooded away or shattered”:

Fulfillment: Though he reigned for a short time, he was extremely successful in all areas except the time that Rome took Egypt from him (see later).

- 4) The “prince of the covenant (high priest) will also be ‘shattered’”:

Fulfillment: Jason, son of Simon II coveted the high priesthood of Onias III, his brother. He promised Antiochus 440 talents (Roman talent = 80 pounds each) of silver if he would remove his brother and establish himself in his brother’s place. Antiochus readily agreed.

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NOTE: Jason also agreed to pay an additional 150 talents to Antiochus so that he could build a gymnasium to train Jewish youth. He (the high priest) treated the Jews as Greeks. He set aside the gains the Jewish nation had already won from the Romans and introduced Greek customs into the Mosaic law. Greeks wrestled naked in the games and he ordered that Jews who had been circumcised were to reverse the end result so that they would look like Greeks. Jason also abolished care of the temple in Jerusalem for improvements and maintenance to the gymnasium.

NOTE: "covenant" is used as a synonym for the Jewish state - Dan.11:28 & 11:32.

Vs. 23

- 5) An alliance will be made between this ruler and another nation and he will practice deception:
- 6) He will gain in power with little effort:

Fulfillment: Antiochus entered into a league with Egypt. At the time, there was a contest for power between two of Antiochus' nephews for control of Egypt. Antiochus supported one of the nephews, but only for his own gain. In the end, Antiochus became stronger himself.

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Vs. 24

7) He will sack the richest parts of his realm attacking them at a time they are experiencing peace:

Fulfillment: Like his father, he robbed the richest places of the country under his control, often under peaceful circumstances.

8) The riches gained by him will not be kept but rather used to buy favor with others and to secure their cooperation:

Daniel ch.11 cont=d

Fulfillment: unlike his father, he did not use his wealth for personal advantage, but rather he used it to buy favor with others and to secure their cooperation.

Vs. 25

9) This ruler will attack Egypt (King of the South):

Fulfillment: Antiochus marched against Egypt and defeated her (first of several times).

10) He will be successful because Egypt=s allies who should have supported Egypt will enter a scheme against the king of Egypt:

Fulfillment: Egypt=s allies did not come to her assistance when she was attacked which caused her defeat.

Vs. 26

11) Egypt=s armies will fall before him:

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Vs. 27

12) Neither the kingdom of this “little horn” or the kingdom of the south will act honorably in their agreements. “They shall speak lies to each other at the table”, and neither will succeed:

Fulfillment: the struggle between Syria and Egypt led to the peace table which did not turn out permanent solutions for either country. It is clearly stated that things worked out the way they did because God’s plan included things just as they worked out.

Vs. 28

13) On the return from his military campaign against Egypt, the little horn will stop in Israel (covenant) and take action against the Jewish people:

Fulfillment: Antiochus returned to Syria from Egypt with great riches! On his return to Syria, he began to manifest hatred toward the Jewish people (holy covenant) and began to focus on the wealth which the temple represented.

14) He will then withdraw and return to his home:

Fulfillment: Antiochus returned to plunder Egypt again. This time he failed to take the city of Alexandria and returned home. In 168 BC, he once again marched into Egypt, but was stopped by a Roman consul, Gaius Popillius Laenas, who demanded that he leave Egypt or be attacked by Rome. It is reported that the Roman consul drew a circle around the king and told him that he must make his decision before stepping out of it. Rather than risk war with Rome, Antiochus withdrew from Egypt and conceded Egypt to Roman control.

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Vs. 29

15) In another expedition against the king of the south “at the appointed time” (God’s timing - part of His plan):

16) This last expedition will not turn out as well as his prior ones:

Vs. 30

17) “Ships of Kittim will come against him” and stop him:

Fulfillment: in the Septuagint, the expression, “the ships of Kittim” is translated, “the Roman”⁶.

18) He will become disgruntled by his defeat in the south by the ships of Kittim and take it out on Israel on his return home:

Fulfillment: having been defeated by the Romans, Antiochus vented his wrath upon the Jewish people. The events of this period are recorded in 1 and 2 Maccabees. He obtained support from some of the Jews who allied themselves with him.

- a) He polluted the altar in the temple by offering a pig upon it.
- b) He outlawed the daily sacrifices.
- c) He issued orders that the Jews stop worshiping their God.
- d) He erected an image of Zeus in the holy place.

The desecration of the temple precipitated the Maccabean revolt with tens of thousands of Jews losing their lives. All of the events are but a picture of what God has planned for the tribulation period.

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Vs. 31

19) Forces from him will:

- a) desecrate the sanctuary fortress
- b) do away with the regular sacrifice
- c) set up the Abomination of desolation

Vs. 32

20) He will divide Israel into 2 groups.

Fulfillment: the actions of Antiochus will sift the Jews causing each individual to make his choice.

- a) those who choose to honor him
- b) those who take their stand with God.

Vs. 33

21) Those that stand with God will pay the ultimate price:

Vs. 34

22) Killing the people of God will give strength to those who have been timid up until now:

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Vs. 35

23) The purging process is to continue “to the end”:

NOTE: “The time of the end” - tribulation period - is next described.

Dan.11:36 - 12:3 The time of the end

Vs. 36 - The king of the end time.

- 1) The final world empire will be made up of a 10 nation confederacy - Dan.7:19-25; Rev.13:1-2 led by a world ruler. He starts by receiving his power by the 10 kings he has joined himself to. He will retain his power by being supreme - Rev.17:12-13.
- 2) This ruler will magnify himself above all gods including the God of gods - Is.14:13-14; 2 Thess.2:3-12.
- 3) He will prosper (accomplish his own good pleasure) through the entire tribulation period. Man will not control him, only the King of Kings will be able to with His return – Zech.14:1-5; Mt.24:29-30; Rev.19:1.
After these things (tribulation ends) - Rev.19:11-16.
- 4) “THAT WHICH IS DECREED WILL BE DONE “:

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Decree – God’s eternal purpose according to the council of His own will (Eph.1:11), whereby, for His own glory (Eph.1:6,12,14), He has ordained whatever comes to pass. There is one comprehensive plan in which all things have their place and by which they proceed. The decree of God relates to His acts which are outside His own being. Consequently, everything that was, or is, or ever will be outside God’s own Person is included in the decree.

Sovereign - When used in reference to God, it speaks of His ruling over all things. To say that God is sovereign states that God is the supreme ruler, but it does not include within its definition how He rules.

As to the decree of God:

- 1) there is one all-inclusive plan - Is.46:9-10.
- 2) is free, and not necessary - Ps.135:6; 115:3; Rom.11:33-36.
- 3) is eternal in nature - Eph.3:11.
- 4) is wise - there is a worthy reason for all that God has done or will do - Rom.11:33.
- 5) is unconditional - the execution of it is in no way dependent upon conditions which may or may not occur.

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Vs 37

- 1) He will show no regard for any god. He will proclaim himself as the only deity. The world will worship him - Rev.13:8.
- 2) Or... for the desire of women - nor any other god - The context makes it appear that everything mentioned has reference to false worship.
- 3) Again - he will magnify himself above every object of worship.

Vs. 38

This final world ruler's object of worship will be military power. All false religions focus on the spiritual or mystical side of humanity. This world ruler will be power and earthly centered in his focus. To conquer, divide, and redistribute will be his interest. Religion will equal militarism.

Vs. 39

He will take action against the other rulers of the world with the help of a foreign god - Babylon the whore - Rev.17:1-7.

- 1) he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him.
- 2) he will cause those who worship him (Satan) to rule over the many.
- 3) he will parcel out land to those willing to pay the price - their souls.

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NOTE: He will come to power making a covenant of peace - Dan.9:27 - and end destroying the world.

Vs. 40

“At the time of the end”, “he” (seven times), “him@”(four times), and “his” (three times), refers to this coming king.

He will have established a covenant with Israel for seven years. Any attack on Israel will be and attack on him. (His base of power will be in Europe - Revived Roman Empire).

The king of the south will attack Israel - (In 11:5-35, the king of the south referred to a king of Egypt).

Many believe that the king of the north represents Russia.

Together these two powers will attempt to squeeze the antichrist in Palestine. This Russian power will move freely through the nations that stand between Israel and her self. Russia will be in league with them. Today they are Muslim.

Vs. 41

The antichrist forces will enter the land of Israel and gain control of many nations. Edom, Moab, and Ammon (present day Jordan) will

remain free from him at this time; many others will not be so blessed.

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Vs. 42 -43

As he continues to conquer, Egypt will become his focus and she will fall giving up her treasures. Then Libya and Ethiopia (Sudan) will fall to him.

Vs. 44

Then the antichrist will hear alarming news from the east - China and the Orient are moving toward Israel with an army 200,000,000 strong coming down the dried up river bed of the Euphrates River - Rev.9:16 - along with another force coming from the north - Russia. In fury, he will throw his remaining force against any he can.

Vs. 45

The antichrist will camp between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea in the city of Jerusalem. Posing as the Messiah, the antichrist will set up to win and rule the world from the city of the Living God - Zech.14:4, 17.

The one world government will now be centered in Jerusalem, and with the one world religion, he himself the god of it operating from the temple mount.

Jesus will return - His person and all he has attempted to do will be brought to an end with Christ's return.

