

BOOK OF DANIEL
DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION
DANIEL 11

Introduction

No other chapter in the Word of God has stirred up the wicked hearts of so-called Higher Critics more than Daniel 11. That's because it contains a **detailed** and **accurate** account of Jewish and Gentile history primarily covering the "*Four Hundred Silent Years*" between Malachi and Matthew—or the "*62 Week*" period of Daniel 9.

To the unbelieving mind, this chapter **had** to have been written after the fact. Only someone with supernatural insight could have penned this "*pre-written history!*"

To properly understand this chapter, it is important to remember:

1. This chapter is part of Daniel's fourth vision, which began with chapter 10 and was recorded in 534 B.C.
2. The Law of Perspective applies here. The further away the prophesied event was from 534 B.C., the less detailed it appeared to Daniel.
3. Daniel is primarily concerned with Gentile history as it affects the Jews. (Daniel 10:14)

Daniel 11 is divided into two sections. The first section (verses 1- 35) has long been fulfilled and has to do mainly with the PRE-WRITTEN HISTORY of the wars between the Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt (the "kings of the south") and the Seleucid dynasty of Syria (the "kings of the north").

The second section (verses 36-45) gives us a prophecy of the character and career of the Antichrist!

I. THE PROPHECIES CONCERNING PERSIA! (11:1-2)

A. The Angel Reminisces. (vs 1)

This verse follows on from Daniel 10:21, and speaks back to a time (539 B.C.) when angelic assistance was rendered to either **Darius The Mede** or **Michael The Archangel**.

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1. If It Refers To Darius The Mede.

This would take us back to the events of Daniel 6 and the conspiracy to destroy Daniel (Daniel 6:7), where angelic intervention (Daniel 6:22) reversed the situation (Daniel 6:26). Or...

2. If It Refers To Michael The Archangel.

Then it appears that this unnamed angel assisted Michael at some point. Remember, Michael is the Prince and Protector of Israel.

B. Persian Kings After Darius. (vs 2)

Darius would be followed by four prominent kings. There would be other kings following, but after Xerxes I (i.e. King Ahasuerus of Queen Esther's time), the empire began its decline. (This prophecy concerns itself with the important events and characters.)

C. The Fourth King. (vs 2)

This was Xerxes I (486-465 B.C.), who was known for his riches. With a massive army he attacked Greece, but was defeated—which paved the way for the ultimate collapse of Persia. These details add to those given in Daniel 8.

D. A Time Gap.

Between verse 2 and verse 3 is a time gap of over 100 years. These were the declining years of the Persian empire.

II. PROPHECIES CONCERNING GRECIA! (11:3-4)

A. The Rise Of Alexander The Great. (vs. 3)

Not forgetting the aggression of the Persian "Ram" under Xerxes I, the Greeks, led by Alexander the Great (and moved with *cholera*—Daniel 8:7), conquered Persia and afterwards vast territories.

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- B. The Division Of Alexander's Empire. (vs. 4)**
- 1. At The Height Of His Power.**
"When he shall stand up..."
 - 2. Four Winds, Four Heads, Four Notable Horns.**
We've already talked about the 4-fold division of the empire when we were in Daniel 8.
 - 3. Not To His Posterity.**
Both of Alexander's sons—Hercules and Alexander Jr.—were assassinated.

III. PROPHECIES OF THE WARS BETWEEN THE PTOLEMIES AND THE SELEUCIDAE! (11:5-20)

- A. All Directions Have Reference To Jerusalem.**
The events prophesied are those which affect the Jews and *"thy holy city"*—Jerusalem. See: Daniel 10:14.
- B. The Kings Of The South.**
These are kings of the Ptolemaic dynasty, which ruled Egypt.
- C. The Kings Of The North.**
These are kings of the Seleucid dynasty, which ruled Syria.
- D. The Glorious Land. (vss 16,41,45)**
This is Palestine or Israel. The *'Holy Land'* lay between the kingdoms of the North and South, and became a perennial battlefield for their wars.

For centuries, Daniel's people would be ground between the *"upper and lower millstones."*

C. I. Scofield described Palestine as lying *"between the anvil and the hammer."* (**Scofield Reference Bible**, 1917: pg 985)

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- E. The Time Of These Events.**
The time period spanned by verses 5-20 is approximately 150 years. Therefore the King of the South and the King of the North are **not** the same individuals throughout.

IV. PROPHECIES OF ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES! (11:21-35)

We talked about Antiochus Epiphanes in our study of *Daniel 8:9-14!* Antiochus Epiphanes is a forerunner and picture of the Antichrist!

- A. His Rise To Power. (vss 21-24)**
Antiochus was not the *'heir-apparent'* to the Syrian throne, but obtained his position through bribery and deceit.
- B. His Attack On Egypt. (vss 25-29)**
- C. His Indignation Toward The Jews. (vss 30-32a)**
- D. The Rise Of Jewish Patriotism. (vss 32b-35)**
These verses refer to the exploits of the Jewish patriots under the leadership of the Maccabean family.
- The sons of Mattathias were named Judas, Simon, Jonathan, Eleazar, and Johannes.
- Judas, Simon, and Jonathan were the sons who fought and led the Jews in battle.

See the notes entitled *"From Malachi to Matthew"* on pages 985-986 of the **Scofield Reference Bible**.

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Introduction

We ended last week's study looking at the dreadful days of Antiochus Epiphanes! Only those who knew **their God** (vs. 32) were able to hold up their heads without shame. They were enabled by God to **do exploits**. And many of them **suffered and died for their faith** (vv. 33-35), but by their deeds they were able to **instruct many** (v. 33). Their suffering produced unusual character, by God's help (vv. 34-35).

They were **the separatists** of their day, who **refused the pagan vices** as well as **the lies of their heathen ritual and religion**. These individuals constitute the main link between the Testaments. Their spiritual descendants appear in the Gospels as **the Pharisees** (whose name means "*separated ones*"). How truly sad it is that their descendants **fell from their true principles!**

Hebrews 11:34-39 memorializes the faithful Jews of that time of tribulation.

Tonight we look at the Prophecy of Israel in Conflict with Prophecy of Israel in Conflict with "the self-willed King"—The Antichrist! (vv. 36-45).

There are some good reasons for holding that the prophecy shifts from Antiochus Epiphanes to Antichrist precisely at verse 36:

- (1) The scope of the prophecy laid out in 10: 14 demands that there be some end time reference!
- (2) Although all prophecy in Daniel down to 11:35 can easily be related to well-known events of ancient history, that is not the case for what comes after Daniel 11:35.
- (3) Verse 36 mentions a king whose period is "*the indignation*," a technical term drawn from Israel's prophetic literature, usually having reference to end time events (e.g. Isa 26:20).
- (4) Predictions given here correspond quite precisely with recognized prophecies of final Antichrist (cf. 2 Thess 2:4ff.; Rev 13; 17).

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- (5) There is a natural literary break that occurs before Dan 11:36.
- (6) This willful king is a new element, separate from either of the two kingdoms whose history is under consideration up to verse 35.
- (7) Finally as we move from Chapter 11 to 12 we will see a connection with the Great Tribulation, the resurrection of the dead, and final rewards, etc. (12:1-3) furnished by the words, "*And at that time*" (i.e. The time of the events in Chapter 12 is the time of the events of the latter part of chapter 11!)

V. PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE ANTICHRIST! (11:36-45)
Here is another "*GAP*" of time in the prophetic Word. The phrase, "*...even to the time of the end...*" in verse 35 practically covers the last 2,000 years. Verse 36 begins the second, yet future, section of the chapter—the rise of the Antichrist and his deeds.

A. A Description Of The Antichrist! (vss 36-39)

1. **He Will Be Willful! (vs 36)**
"...shall do according to his will..."
He is called the "*Man of Sin*" in **2 Thessalonians 2:4**.
2. **He Will Be Self-Exalting! (vs 36)**
(Again, Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:4)
3. **He Will Be Self-Deifying! (vs 36)**
4. **He Will Be Anti God! (vss 36-37)**
He shall "*...speak marvellous things* [blasphemies] *against the God of gods...*"

The phrase, "*Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers...*" in verse 37 may indicate he will be of Jewish heritage. After all, the Jews are looking for a Jewish Messiah!

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- 5. **He Will Be Unnatural! (vs 37)**
"Neither shall he regard...the desire of women."
This appears to mean that the Antichrist will not care to have a wife and possibly, in light of our times, it could even mean that he is a homosexual!

- 6. **He Will Be Devilish! (vs 38)**
(Cf. Revelation 12:9; 13:2d, 4; 20:2)

- 7. **He Will Be Wealthy! (vs 38b)**

- 8. **He Will Be Expansive And Dictatorial! (vs 39)**
The latter part of this verse indicates the exercise of the power of a dictator.

B. The Exploits Of The Antichrist! (vss 40-43)

- 1. **The "Time Of The End." (vs 40)**
This is the key to the interpretation of the last ten verses of Daniel 11.

- 2. **A Great Battle! (vs 40-42)**
 - a. The King Of The South—Egypt
(Along with Arab nations?)

 - b. The King Of The North—Syria
(Along with Russia?)

The prophecies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 predict a massive invasion of Palestine by the great northern confederacy led by the land of Gog (Russia).

This invasion will occur in the *"last days"*—**Ezekiel 38:8,16.**

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It will come at a time when the Jews will be *"at peace"*—**Ezekiel 38:10-12; 1 Thess. 5:2-3**—no doubt as a result of Antichrist's confirming the *"covenant."* (**Daniel 9:27a**)

Many countries will be overthrown in this battle. Russia and her allies will be defeated—see: **Ezekiel 39:1-7**. Israel will take seven months to clean up the carnage and destruction.

It is possible that this battle will occur at the beginning of Daniel's 70TH Week, and even though the LORD is the One to bring about this stunning defeat, the Antichrist will claim the victory for himself, and be hailed as a man of peace.

The order in **Revelation 6:1-8** would agree with this interpretation:

Revelation 6:2—White Horse—rise of Antichrist
Revelation 6:4—Red Horse—terrible war
Revelation 6:5-6—Black Horse—the ravages of war
Revelation 6:8—Pale Horse—pestilence

3. The Second Battle! (vs 44-45)

Though somewhat obscure, it seems a second great battle will ensue.

Revelation 16:12-16 speaks of an oriental army numbering 200 million. (**Cf. Joel 2:20**)

Keeping in mind that Daniel 10, 11, and 12 make up one vision, and reading on into Daniel 12, we may ascertain that all of these events occur in the first half of Daniel's 70th Week.

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4. The Final Battle! (vs 45b)

The Antichrist will meet his end—

(Cf. Revelation 19:11-21; Zechariah 14:2-7)

After the defeat of the Antichrist and his armies at the Battle of Armageddon, the Lord Jesus Christ will establish His glorious kingdom of peace and righteousness upon the earth!