

Daniel 11 – Future Warring Kings of the North and South

The most remarkable thing about this chapter is the amazingly detailed information of the history of the middle east's kings and conquests. The details are not as important as the fact that all this was written hundreds, in some cases thousands, of years before they are fulfilled with 100% accuracy.

Read Daniel 11

Vs 1 The first part of this verse is actually a continuation of a parenthetical statement ending Chapter 10. It is the messenger speaking. He is saying he and Michael were fighting against evil forces during the first year of Darius and he (the messenger) strengthened Michael. Interesting, since we learned in Dan 10:13 that this angel was alone and Michael came to help him in the third year of Cyrus. So the spiritual battle seems to have been raging for years.

Vs 2 What truth does the messenger start with? 3 more kings will arise in Persia, followed by a fourth. What does he say about the fourth king? The fourth king would be strong, rich, and oppose the realm of Greece. This strong, rich fourth king was fulfilled in the Persian King Xerxes. This is the same king we read about in the Book of Ester (called Ahasuerus in the original Hebrew text). What does this fourth king do with his riches? He shall stir things up with the nation of Greece. He initiated the Greco-Persian Wars but was ultimately defeated.

Vs 3 What does the angel say will happen next? A mighty king will arise What characterizes this king? He shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. In History, this is referring to Alexander the Great. We have studied this before. In fact;

Daniel 2 introduces the four empires (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome) through a statue vision, culminating in God's eternal kingdom (the King's dream).

Daniel 7 repeats the same four empires as beasts rising from the sea, adding symbolic details: the little horn (a blasphemous ruler), ten horns (representing kings from the fourth kingdom), and the Son of Man's heavenly investiture, affirming God's ultimate authority. This is Daniel's four beasts vision.

Daniel 8 focuses on the ram and goat (Medo-Persia and Greece), specifically detailing Alexander the Great and the division of his empire, showing precise fulfillment. This is Daniel's goat/ram vision.

Why do you think we are being told the same thing over and over? Daniel repeats the prophecy of the coming kingdoms to emphasize divine sovereignty over history and to provide progressively deeper detail across the visions.

Vs 4 What happens to Alexander's kingdom? As we already studied, it was broken up into 4 divisions and didn't have the dominion Alexander had.

Vs 5 – 6 What do we learn about the King of the South? One of the four inheritors of the empire of the mighty king would become stronger and greater than the others. This was fulfilled in Ptolemy I of Egypt, who exerted his control over the Holy Land. Soon after the division of Alexander's Empire, the Ptolemies dominated this region. Joined by a marriage, the kings of the North and South would be allies for a while, but the arrangement would not last. The marriage was between Antiochus II (of the Seleucids) and Berenice (daughter of Ptolemy II). There was peace for a time because of this marriage, but it was upset when Ptolemy II died. Once Ptolemy II died, Antiochus II put away Berenice (who was pregnant) and took back his former wife, Laodice. Laodice didn't trust her husband Antiochus II; so she had him poisoned. After the murder of Antiochus II, Laodice had Berenice, her infant son, and her attendants killed. After this, Laodice set her son (Seleucus II) on the throne of the Syrian dominion.

Vs 7 – 9 What happens when the King of the South comes against the King of the North? The angel told Daniel that a branch of her roots would come from the South and prevail over the kings of the North. This was fulfilled in the person of Ptolemy III, who was the brother of Berenice (the branch of her roots). Avenging the murder of his sister, Ptolemy III invaded Syria and humbled Seleucus II. Ptolemy III (King of the South) lived four years past Seleucus II (King of the North).

Vs 10 - 12 What did the sons of the King of the North do? One of the sons would conquer the Holy Land (overwhelm and pass through) which stood as a buffer between the kings of the South and the kings of the North. This was fulfilled in Seleucus III and Antiochus III, the two sons of Seleucus II. Both were successful generals, but Seleucus III

ruled only a short time and was succeeded by his brother. In a furious battle, Antiochus III took back the Holy Land from the dominion of the Ptolemies. The angel told Daniel that the king of the South would attack and meet a great multitude of soldiers from the king of the North. The king of the North would lose in battle and his multitude would be defeated. This was fulfilled when Antiochus III was defeated at the battle of Raphia. Because of that loss he was forced to give back dominion over the Holy Land to Ptolemy IV.

Vs 13 – 16 Did the King of the North turn the tables on the King of the South? Yes. The angel told Daniel that the northern dynasty would answer back and defeat the king of the South in an extended siege. This victory would give the king of the North dominion over the Glorious Land. Could anyone stand against him now? No. This was fulfilled when Antiochus III invaded Egypt again, gaining final control over the armies of Ptolemy V and over the Holy Land. Did the King of the North have help? Yes. Jews living in the Holy Land helped Antiochus III defeat the king of the South. This was because the Jewish people resented the rule of the Egyptian Ptolemies because of their violence. Did this support last? No. The Jewish people initially welcomed Antiochus III as a liberator from Egyptian rule. Their decision to support Antiochus III proved unwise when he turned destruction upon them.

Vs 17 What does the King of the North try next? He will give the king of the South the daughter of women to destroy, but this plot would not succeed. This was fulfilled when Antiochus III gave his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V of Egypt. He did this hoping to gain permanent influence and eventually control in Egypt. To the great disappointment of Antiochus III, the plan did not succeed because Cleopatra wasn't faithful to her Egyptian husband at all. This woman is not the same famous Cleopatra who married the Roman Mark Anthony (she will come 100 years later).

Vs 18 – 35 This section continues a detailed prophecy of the battles between the kings until Antiochus Epiphanes. In summary, the king of the North (Antiochus III) is humiliated when Roman General, Lucius Cornelius Scipio, defeated him in Greece. Next, the Seleucus III, his eldest son, ruled briefly before being assassinated (probably by his brother, Antiochus IV aka Antiochus Epiphanes). He now reigns, a vile person. He didn't use terror to gain power. He used flattery, smooth promises and intrigue. The defeat of Antiochus Epiphanes at his second campaign against Egypt was important, because Egypt beat Antiochus with the help of Rome. At the end of it all, Antiochus Epiphanes and his kingdom were under the dominion of Rome. On his way home, Antiochus attacked the land, the people and the temple of Israel. Antiochus Epiphanes set up an image of Zeus at the temple altar. He demanded sacrifice to this image, and later desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig on it. In his attack on Jerusalem, Antiochus IV is said to have killed 80,000 Jews, taken 40,000 more as prisoners, and sold another 40,000 as slaves. He also plundered the temple, robbing it of approximately \$1 billion by modern calculations.

Vs 36 – 39 What are the characteristics of this willful (evil) end-time king? This section deals with the end-times. The story of Antiochus Epiphanes is important, but mostly as a historical preview of the Antichrist. This is why so much space is given to describing the career of one evil man – because he prefigures the ultimate evil man. Antiochus Epiphanes is the “trailer” released well before the Antichrist, who is like the “feature.” The angel explained to Daniel that this final king would blaspheme God and exalt himself until the wrath has been accomplished and what has been determined shall be done. Antiochus Epiphanes put a statue of Zeus in the temple, not of himself. This statement will be far more precisely fulfilled in the Antichrist, who sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). Some Bible scholars believe that the Antichrist will be of Jewish descent, and perhaps will also be a homosexual. He will take and hold power with military might and the shrewd use of great riches.

Vs 40 – 45 Describe the final conflict. The angel described to Daniel a confederation of kings coming against this great leader, with a battle in and near the Holy Land. The King of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind. Prophetically speaking, a precise identification of peoples mentioned is difficult. The king of the South may be Egypt or represent the Arab community. The king of the North may be the Antichrist's domain (as the “new Antiochus Epiphanes”) or it may be Russia. The precise points may be cloudy, but the general idea is clear. The end will be marked by great conflict, culminating in the world's armies gathering in the Promised Land to do final battle. In the end there is no hope for the Antichrist or for any of his followers. Rev 19:20

Outline of Daniel Chapter 11

- **Persian Empire (Verses 2–4)**
 - **Three more kings will rule Persia, followed by a fourth (Persian King Xerxes) who will be far wealthier than the others.**
 - This king will stir up war against Greece, leading to the rise of a mighty Greek king.
- **Greek Empire (Verses 3–4) Alexander the Great**
 - **A powerful king will arise from Greece, rule with great authority, and do as he pleases.**
 - After his death, his empire will be divided among four rulers—not his descendants—and given to others.
- **Kings of the South and North (Verses 5–35)**
 - The **King of the South** grows strong, but one of his commanders becomes even stronger. Ptolemy I of Egypt
 - The daughter of the King of the South is given in marriage to the King of the North to seal a treaty—but she fails to hold power. Berenice
 - A "branch from her roots" (a relative) rises up, defeats the King of the North, and carries off plunder to Egypt. Ptolemy III
 - The King of the North invades the South, defeats the army, and takes control of the "Beautiful Land" (Judea).
 - The King of the North attempts to marry into the South's royal family to destroy it—but the plan fails. Antiochus III
 - He conquers coastal regions, but a commander (likely a Roman official) stops him, leading to his downfall.
 - A tax collector is sent to rule, but is destroyed without battle. Seleucus III,
 - A **despicable person** (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) rises through deceit, seizes power, and crushes the "prince of the covenant" (a religious leader).
 - He invades the South with a large army, defeats the king, and uses treachery and flattery to gain influence.
 - He desecrates the Temple, stops the daily sacrifice, and sets up the "abomination of desolation" (likely a statue of Zeus).
 - He corrupts some Jews through flattery but is opposed by those who know their God.
 - The wise will be persecuted, but their suffering will refine and purify them.
 - Many will fall, but some will be helped temporarily—though many join insincerely.
- **Final Conflict (Verses 36–45) Yet future**
 - A final, arrogant king (often interpreted as the **Antichrist**) rises:
 - He exalts himself above all gods.
 - He speaks blasphemies against God.
 - He honors a "god of fortresses" with gold and riches.
 - He rewards his allies and sells land for profit.
 - The **King of the South** (Egypt/Africa?) and **King of the North** (Russia) will fight again.
 - The King of the North invades Egypt, Libya, and Cush (Ethiopia), sweeping through lands.
 - He will set up camp **between the sea and the holy mountain** (Jerusalem), but will meet his end with no help.
 - He will be destroyed in the final battle, fulfilling the end-time prophecy.

Timeline of the Persian Rulers, Daniel Chapter 11

Verse	Dates as Ruler	Notes
2	Cyrus 559-530 B.C.	539 B.C. Babylon taken
2	Cambyses 530-522 B.C.	
2	Pseudo-Smerdis 522-486 B.C.	
2	Darius Hystaspis 486-465 B.C.	
2	Xerxes invaded Greece 465-425 B.C.	444 B.C. Decree to rebuild walls of Jerusalem
(Note: Several other kings of Persia follow Xerxes until Alexander's successful conquest)		
3	Alexander the Great 335-323 B.C.	
4	Seleucus Nicator Syria and the Middle East	Lysimachus Asia Minor
	Cassander Macedonia	Ptolemy Egypt

Daniel 8:3-4
Ram With Two Horns

Daniel 8:5-8
Goat With Great Horn, Broken and Divided into Four Parts

Verse	Northern Kingdom	Western Kingdoms	Southern Kingdom
4	Seleucus Nicator Syria and the Middle East	Lysimachus Asia Minor	Cassander Macedonia
5	Seleucus Nicator	A General (southern kingdom) will rule his own kingdom (north) and become stronger	
6	Antiochus II Theos	An alliance by marriage Berenice (southern kingdom) to Antiochus (north)	
7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus	Ptolemy Euergetes, brother of Berenice will conquer the northern kingdom	
10-14	Seleucus III Ceraunus and Antiochus the Great	Continual warfare between the kings of the north and south, with Israel in the middle, and suffering	
15-16	Antiochus the Great	Defeats Egypt, and will overtake the land of Israel	
17	Antiochus the Great	Antiochus gives Cleopatra in marriage for an alliance with Egypt	
18-19	Antiochus the Great	Antiochus will war on the western kingdom, but will be turned back by the rise of the Roman Empire	
20	Seleucus IV Philopator	He will impose taxes on Israel, but in a few days he will be destroyed	
21 - 35	Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Rise of the "little horn," who wars on the southern kingdom, but is turned back by the rise of the Roman Empire. He will turn on Israel	

Warring actions of the kingdom of Alexander divided toward the four winds, but not to the prosperity of Alexander's