

Text: Dan 11.1-20

Our study of fulfilled prophecy comes now to Daniel 11, one of the most ignored and one of the most remarkable prophecies in the Bible. In it Daniel has a visitor (see Dan 10.1-10) who explains the visions Daniel has seen. The visitor is *probably* Gabriel, but some interpret it to be Christ himself. Since this visitor was hindered by the “prince of Persia,” a demon, it seems unlikely this was Christ (see Dan 10.13).

We will work through Daniel verse by verse this week and next. There will be some time for questions, but we have a lot of material to cover.

Dan 11.2 ¶ “And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.

See also Dan 8.1-4

CYRUS (538-530)

CAMBYSES (530-522)

DARIUS (522-486)

Haggai and **Zechariah**, rebuilding of temple, complete 516 BC

Western wars, defeated by Greeks at Marathon.

XERXES (486-465)

Known in the Bible as **Ahasuerus**, Esther’s king

Wealthiest Persian king, fought against Greeks, took Athens, but then navy defeated at Salamis, army defeated at Plataea and driven from Greece.

Seven more Persian kings follow as the strength of the Persian empire declines – many of these kings continue to stir up trouble in Greece.

Daniel 11 ignores the rest of the Persian kings since its focus is the influence of the Greeks and the conflict between the two portions of the Greek empire

Dan 11.3 “And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.

See also Dan 8.5-7

ALEXANDER the Great (331-323)

Hellenistic influence begins, see handout “Alexander’s Enduring Legacy”.

Dan 11.4 “But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his *own* descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will be uprooted and *given* to others besides them.

See also Dan 7.6, 8.8

“A few years after Alexander’s death, his kingdom was divided among his four generals (*cf.* 8:22): Seleucus (over Syria and Mesopotamia), Ptolemy (over Egypt), Lysimachus (over Thrace and portions of Asia Minor), and Cassander (over Macedonia and Greece). This division was anticipated through the four heads of the leopard (7:6) and the four prominent horns on the goat (8:8). Alexander founded no dynasty of rulers; since he had no heirs, his kingdom was divided and the **empire** was marked by division and weakness.”¹

Dan 11.5 ¶ “Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with *one* of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain *will be* a great dominion *indeed*.”

PTOLEMY I Soter (301-285)

SELEUCUS I Nicator (301-281)

Two of four generals of Alexander among whom the kingdom is divided. Ptolemy (king of the south) is stronger than Seleucus at first, comes to his aid against another general, Antigonus. Upon the defeat of Antigonus, the four-fold breakup of Alexander’s empire is

¹ J. Dwight Pentecost, “Daniel,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983), 1368.

complete, with Seleucus controlling more territory than Ptolemy — “he shall be strong above him”.

Ptolemy takes control of Palestine despite an earlier agreement that had granted it to Seleucus. This breach will create long term strife between the Ptolemy's and the Seleucids.

Dan 11.6 “After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in *those* times.

PTOLEMY II Philadelphus (285-246)

[ANTIOCHUS I Soter (281-262)]

ANTIOCHUS II Theos (262-246)

The conflict between Ptolemy and the Seleucids is temporarily resolved in 252 when Antiochus II agrees to divorce his first wife, Laodice, and marry Ptolemy II's daughter Bernice. The peace is short-lived, because Ptolemy dies in 246, Laodice has Bernice poisoned (“she shall be given up”), kills Bernice's son, then poison's Antiochus and puts her own son, Seleucus II on the throne.

In Egypt, LXX translation began during the reign of Ptolemy II.

Dan 11.7-9 ¶ “But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against *their* army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display *great* strength.⁸ “Also their gods with their metal images *and* their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from *attacking* the king of the North for *some* years.⁹ “Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his *own* land.

PTOLEMY III Euergetes (246-222)

SELEUCUS II Callincus (246-227)

Bernice's brother (“one of the descendants of her line” [KJV: “a branch of her roots”]), Ptolemy III, invades Syria to avenge her

death. He puts Laodice to death and returns to Egypt with many spoils.

Dan 11.10 ¶ “His sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his *very* fortress.

SELUCHUS III Soter (227-223)

ANTIOCHUS III Great (223-187)

“His sons” are stirred up to war: the sons of Seleucus II both will come to the throne. Seleucus III wages war in Asia Minor but dies. His brother, Antiochus comes to the throne and wages war against Egypt. Antiochus succeeds in driving Egypt to the “*very* fortress” of the Marsyas valley in Lebanon.

Dan 11.11-13 “The king of the South will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but *that* multitude will be given into the hand of the *former*.¹² “When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail.¹³ “For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.

PTOLEMY IV Philopator (221-203)

ANTIOCHUS III Great (223-187)

Ptolemy IV was “enraged,” came and fought against Antiochus and decisively defeats him. Antiochus “will raise a great multitude”, but Ptolemy is successful in 217 BC.

PTOLEMY V Epiphanes (203-181)

Antiochus is busy with challenges in the eastern part of his empire but turns his attention again to Egypt when Ptolemy IV dies. Ptolemy V is only 7 years old, so Antiochus sees an opportunity. He pushes south and captures Gaza. Following this victory, Antiochus is occupied with battles in Turkey, and the Egyptians pushed the Syrians back to the headwaters of the Jordan River.

Dan 11.14-16 ¶ “Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down. ¹⁵ “Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege ramp and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand *their ground*, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand. ¹⁶ “But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will *be able to* withstand him; he will also stay *for a time* in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand.

ANTIOCHUS III Great (223-187)

PTOLEMY V Epiphanes (203-181)

Antiochus responded to the Egyptian advance and decisively defeated them at Paneas [Caesarea Philippi]. In addition to the Syrian opposition, the Egyptians also were attacked by Philip V of Macedon, one of the ‘many’ who will ‘stand up’ against the Egyptians (14). Antiochus also ‘cast up siege ramp’ at Sidon in 203, the final defeat of the Egyptians. This victory puts ‘the Beautiful Land’ [Judea] into Syrian control until the time of the Maccabees.

Dan 11.17 “He will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand *for him* or be on his side.

ANTIOCHUS III Great (223-187)

PTOLEMY V Epiphanes (203-181)

Antiochus sought to solidify the peace by giving his daughter to Ptolemy V, but this attempt was unsuccessful.

Dan 11.18-19 “Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn.¹⁹ “So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more.

ANTIOCHUS III Great (223-187)

“Antiochus III then turned his attention to the Aegean coast and sought to conquer Asia Minor and Greece. He had been contemptuous of Roman authority in Greece and had said the Roman’s had no business there. Antiochus did not succeed completely because a Roman commander named Claudius Scipio repulsed him. He is the commander that fulfilled the prophecy in this verse. Antiochus III returned to Antioch where he died a year later in 187 B.C. He had tried to reunite Alexander the Great’s empire under his own authority, but he failed largely because he underestimated the power of the rising Roman Empire. Nevertheless Antiochus III, ‘the Great,’ was a brilliant and successful military leader.”²

Dan 11.20 ¶ “Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of *his* kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though not in anger nor in battle.

SELEUCUS IV Philopator (187-175)

The son of Antiochus, Seleucus IV heavily taxed the people, including the Jews (‘the glory of the kingdom’) through a Jewish official tax collector named Heliodorus. Seleucus died, not from battle, but from poison in the hand of Heliodorus as this verse predicts.

² Tom Constable, *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Dan 11:18-19.