

1. Last week we completed an overview of Assyrian, Babylonian, Median and Persian history as each related to Israel. All of which were designed to support and explain the many predictive prophecies found in the book of Daniel.

2. We are now ready to study the last three chapters of the Book of Daniel.

3. Daniel, Chapter Ten - A Paraphrase

Dan 10:1 In 535 B.C., the third year of Cyrus the Great's reign, Daniel received a message from God. The message, delivered by Gabriel, concerned a time of trial in which Israel would greatly suffer.

Dan 10:2 Hearing of the difficulties to be encountered by those who would return to the land, I mourned for three weeks.

Dan 10:3 I was so upset I ate only soft foods and seldom got out of bed. I ate no meat and drank no wine. After three weeks I was able to resume my duties.

Dan 10:4 On 24 March I was on assignment from the king. I was standing on the banks of the Tigris River.

Dan 10:5 Suddenly before me stood a man. He was dressed in fine white linen. Around his waist was a belt of fine gold.

Dan 10:6 His body shined like a transparent stone. His face flashed like lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and legs looked like highly polished brass and his voice roared like the sound of thunder. It was apparent to me I was being visited by a Theophany.

Dan 10:7 I was the only one who could see or hear the Theophany. The men who were with me were mysteriously overcome with fear; in fact, they were so overcome that they ran away and hid themselves.

Dan 10:8 I was left alone, gazing at the magnificent vision; I turned deathly pale, fainted and fell to the ground.

Dan 10:9 Before I could record what the Theophany had said, I lapsed into a deep trance, with my face to the ground.

Dan 10:10 I lay prostrate for some time. Suddenly I became aware of the angel Gabriel standing over me. He first awakened me and then helped me to my knees. There I was trembling on hands and knees.

Dan 10:11 Gabriel complimented me. "Daniel, in God's eyes you are highly esteemed and dearly loved. I want you to listen carefully to what I am about to say. It was God Himself Who sent me to you. Now get up." I raised myself to a standing position, but I was still trembling.

Dan 10:12 Gabriel saw my trepidation. "Stop being afraid. Since the first day that you asked about Israel's future, I was ordered to leave the third heaven and make my way to planet earth.

Dan 10:13 But on my way, the demon assigned to influence the kings of Persia resisted me. I was delayed for three weeks. Then Michael, the elect angel assigned to protect Israel, came to my assistance.

Dan 10:14 Do not be afraid. I have come to explain what the future holds for Israel. That which you saw in your vision concerns a time yet to come.”

Dan 10:15 As Gabriel spoke, I bowed my head, looking only at the ground. I was unable to speak. My difficulty was obvious to Gabriel.

Dan 10:16 Then Gabriel touched my lips and my speech returned. “Gabriel, I am overcome with anxiety because of what I have seen; I am absolutely helpless and without discernment.

Dan 10:17 I have so many questions, but how can I, your servant, talk with you? My physical strength is gone and I am having difficulty breathing.”

Dan 10:18 Gabriel once again touched me, and I immediately felt better.

Dan 10:19 "O man, do not be afraid. God considers you very special. There is no reason to be afraid. Be strong!" His words greatly encouraged me. "Speak, my lord, your words have given me strength."

Dan 10:20 Given my swooning and inability to speak, Gabriel asked, "Do you know why God sent me?" Before I could answer, he continued. "I am here to tell you what the future holds for Israel. Because I have revealed much about the Persians and their defeat by Alexander and since I am about to prophesy even more about the activities of the descendants of Ptolemy and Seleucus, I will be resisted by the demon princes of both Persia and Greece.

Dan 10:21 After I deliver my message concerning what the future holds for Israel, I will leave planet earth. On my return I will need the help of Michael, the guardian angel of Israel. With his help, I will be able to return to the third heaven.”

4. Daniel, Chapter Eleven – A Paraphrase

4.1 In Daniel chapter eleven we will see numerous remarkable prophecies. Daniel is informed of events that will occur right after Alexander’s death, up to and including Antiochus Epiphanes’s pogroms of the Holy Land. The actions of six Egyptian kings and seven Syrian kings affecting Israel are chronicled by Daniel.

Dan 11:1 Gabriel began his message about Israel’s future: In the first year of Darius the Mede, I supported and protected him. I tried to get him to mentor your people, Israel. I was reasonably successful.

Dan 11:2 After Darius the Mede, three mediocre kings will rule Persia (Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis and Darius I), and then a fourth (Xerxes I) will become more powerful than all the others. When he reaches the zenith of his power and wealth, he will stir up all of Persia against the kingdom of Greece. He will authorize a military expedition to attack both Macedonia and the city states of Achaia.

Dan 11:3 The attack against Greece will prove unsuccessful. Later, a Grecian king (Alexander the Great) will consolidate all of Greece under his rule. Alexander is determined to punish Persia for their earlier indiscretion. He will move westward with a well-trained army. Alexander will conquer, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and India. In twelve years Alexander will complete his remarkable conquest.

Dan 11:4 Alexander will die prematurely at age 32. His heirs will be murdered and his kingdom divided. Ultimately Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus will rule four Hellenistic empires. The Hellenistic empires will never attain the power enjoyed by Alexander.

Dan 11:5 Ptolemy, ruling from Alexandria, Egypt, will prosper and become militarily strong. Seleucus will join forces with him, and together they will defeat Antigonus, dividing his kingdom. Seleucus will ultimately become stronger than Ptolemy. Little Israel lies precariously between the voracious jaws of Ptolemy, ruling Egypt and Seleucus, ruling what was once the Persian Empire minus Egypt.

Dan 11:6 Several years later, in about 252 B.C., the daughter of the king of Egypt, Berenice, will be given in marriage to the king of Syria, Antiochus II. Ptolemy II, king of Egypt, will push the marriage in order to strengthen his ties with Syria. He will offer his daughter to the already-married Antiochus II. Neither the marriage nor the alliance will last.

Dan 11:7 Berenice's brother, Ptolemy Euergetes, will take over as king of Egypt. He will attack and defeat the eastern forces of Seleucus Callinicus. Ptolemy, by successfully defeating the eastern armies of Seleucus, will acquire significant territories east of the Holy Land.

Dan 11:8 He will also seize their idols and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For several years there will be a tenuous peace between the two empires.

Dan 11:9 Later, however, the king of the north, Syria, will invade Egypt and suffer defeat. Seleucus Callinicus will be forced to retreat to his own country.

Dan 11:10 The successors of Callinicus, namely Seleucus III and later Antiochus the Great, will prepare for war. Antiochus will lead a large army south, pushing the forces of Egypt into retreat. They will advance as far south as Gaza.

Dan 11:11 The Egyptian king, Ptolemy Philopator, will bring up reinforcements and lead an army north to the border where he will engage and defeat Antiochus the Great.

Dan 11:12 Ptolemy Philopator, instead of pursuing Antiochus, will stop at the border. He will make no effort to finish the fight.

Dan 11:13 Antiochus the Great will assemble another army much larger than the first; this time he will successfully defeat the Egyptian forces.

Dan 11:14 Antiochus the Great learns of a Jewish rebellion against the Egyptian forces occupying Jerusalem. Philopator will be particularly surprised given the favorable treatment Egypt had afforded Israel.

Dan 11:15 The Egyptian forces occupying Israel will be no match for the armies of Antiochus. The cities of Israel shall fall to Antiochus. A last-ditch effort by three Egyptian armies to save the army of Scopas, trapped in Sidon, will prove unsuccessful. Israel will be occupied by Antiochus the Great's forces and will rue the day they rebelled against Egypt.

Dan 11:16 Antiochus will do as he pleases; neither the armies of Israel nor Egypt will be able to stand against him. Antiochus will become an absolute dictator.

Dan 11:17 Feeling pressure from Rome, Antiochus the Great will offer his young daughter Cleopatra I in marriage to the new king of Egypt, Ptolemy V. The new king will be but seven years old. It will be Antiochus's intention to use the marriage to control his old adversary and strengthen his position against Rome. Unfortunately, Cleopatra will not cooperate. Instead of siding with her father, she will support the decisions of her minor husband.

Dan 11:18 Antiochus the Great will make a terrible mistake by attacking Greece. The Romans, under Scipio, will come to the aid of Greece. Scipio will defeat Antiochus, first at Thermopylae and then at Magnesia in Asia Minor.

Dan 11:19 After these defeats Antiochus the Great will return home where he will lead an expedition east to Elam. His forces will be defeated, and he himself will be killed.

Dan 11:20 The successor to Antiochus the Great, Seleucus Philopator IV, in order to maintain his accustomed royal splendor, will need revenue, so like all good politicians he will send out a tax collector. Soon, however, he will meet his demise, but not in battle; he will be poisoned.

Dan 11:21 Seleucus IV will be succeeded by the contemptible Antiochus Epiphanies who, though not in line for the throne, will wrest it from the rightful heir. He will arrive in Antioch, Syria, posing as a representative of young Antiochus, son of Seleucus the IV and a mere infant.

Dan 11:22 Antiochus will put together a large army that he will use to defeat the remaining forces of Heliodorus and an expeditionary Egyptian force in Asia Minor. He will attack Egypt, where he will gain additional territory to go with the earlier conquest of Israel. After taking over Israel he will murder Israel's High Priest, Onias.

Dan 11:23 Antiochus, by defeating Egypt, will be able to place his nephew Ptolemy Philometor on the throne and thus control much of Egypt.

Dan 11:24 The several kingdoms surrounding Syria will be lulled into military complacency. Antiochus will invade and defeat them. He will distribute the spoils of victory among those who can best assist him. Antiochus will then plot the overthrow of Egypt.

Dan 11:25 With a large army he will successfully attack the new king of Egypt, Ptolemy Philometor.

Dan 11:26 Many of those aligned with Egypt will refuse to help Ptolemy; even Rome will refuse to intervene.

Dan 11:27 Antiochus and Ptolemy Philometor will agree to sit down and discuss an armistice. However, the intention of neither king is to keep their agreements; their deceit, though intricate and designed to support their purposes, will, as a truth, be part of God's divine plan for Israel.

Dan 11:28 After signing the treaty, Antiochus will return home with great wealth; his heart, however, will be set against Israel. Antiochus, on his return home, will travel through Israel, all the while plotting its destruction.

Dan 11:29 Later, in about 168 B.C., Antiochus will again invade Egypt, but this time the outcome will be significantly different.

Dan 11:30 The Roman senate will send a naval and marine force under the command of Gaius Popillius Laenas. Gaius Popillius will confront Antiochus and demand his surrender. Antiochus will accede, taking his forces north through the Holy Land. On his way home, he will vent his fury against Israel. In Israel he will select a cadre of Jewish sycophants to rule the Jewish state.

Dan 11:31 The army of Antiochus is ordered to desecrate the Temple and abolish the system of sacrifices. Antiochus also will order a statue of Zeus to be set up in the Holy of Holies.

Dan 11:32 Antiochus will win over many Jews who are ready to surrender their faith for positions of power. Many will succumb and take positions of leadership; but many others will remain faithful and resist Antiochus's apostasy.

Dan 11:33 Many priests will faithfully teach the Word of God. Most of the faithful will be incarcerated, tortured and ultimately executed. Their homes and wealth will be confiscated by Antiochus. The booty will be given to Antiochus's followers as a reward for their infamous loyalty.

Dan 11:34 Those who resist Antiochus will be few in number. Most of Israel will take the easy way out and openly worship Zeus.

Dan 11:35 Those who remain loyal will be tested by suffering. Such testing will result in their being refined, purified and made spotless. In the end, they will receive a glorious reward in eternity future.

Dan 11:36 Like Antiochus, the Antichrist will do as he pleases. He will magnify himself above every power, both on earth and in heaven. He will, however, display a particular hatred toward the God of Israel. The demon-possessed Antichrist will say blasphemous things against the Trinity. At the appointed time in God's infinite wisdom, his reign will be brought to an end.

Dan 11:37 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation will openly flaunt his hatred of both true and apostate religion. Particularly will he ridicule the hope of a coming Messiah. He will finally declare himself to be a god.

Dan 11:38 Early in his ministry he will glorify raw power, placing his trust in military might, wealth and international power. The Antichrist will reward his military commanders with gifts of gold, silver and precious stones. He will be unparalleled as a world leader, infatuated with military might.

Dan 11:39 Initially he will attack and defeat those nations that do not submit to his program of world domination. With the help of the False Prophet, he will procure favor from the Jews in the land. He will initially aid and protect them. In fact, all who support his rise to power will be promoted and rewarded.

Dan 11:40 In the middle of the Tribulation, a Pan-Arabic block led by Egypt will break the peace established by the Antichrist. These Arab nations are led by a man-called elsewhere in Scripture-the king of the south. By his military might he will attempt to take over Israel. With mechanized infantry, he will start to move his forces overland through Gaza and into Israel. This political and military indiscretion will precipitate a response from the Soviet Union. The leader of the Soviet forces is called-elsewhere in Scripture-the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out against the Pan-Arabic coalition with infantry, armor, air and sea power. From the Bosphorus will come a naval force, and from the area west of the Caspian Sea will come a large contingent of armor and infantry with tactical fighter support. The king of the north will sweep through Turkey, Syria and Iran like a flood.

Dan 11:41 The king of the north will also invade Israel on his way south in blitzkrieg fashion. He will leave carnage and destruction in his wake. Eastern Turkey, Syria and Lebanon will fall. Those countries east of Israel, like Jordan and the Persian Gulf nations, will be spared. The Russian forces seem intent on staying close to the Mediterranean shoreline thus permitting maximum support from their naval armada.

Dan 11:42 The forces of Russia will very quickly drive the army of the king of the south into Egypt.

Dan 11:43 The Soviets will gain control of Egypt and her North African allies, not just defeating them, but taking all of their wealth as earned plunder. The Pan-Arabic block will be annihilated and militarily embarrassed.

Dan 11:44 While the king of the north is mopping up in the south, he receives an alarming report. Air reconnaissance indicates a large armada of Asians is moving across the Euphrates, heading toward Israel. Naval intelligence indicates a large naval armada under the flag of the European Union has left Italy, rapidly moving east toward Israel. Rumor has it the Antichrist commands this EU fleet. This demands quick action on the part of the king of the north. He orders his entire army back into Israel. He also orders his naval forces to turn north. They are to engage the EU's fleet and determine their intentions.

Dan 11:45 The Russian ground forces will return through Egypt, across Gaza and into Israel. They will meet token resistance from the remaining Israeli Defense Forces. The IDF will retreat in the direction of Jerusalem. Their plan will be to defend the holy city or die. After securing all the surrounding countryside, the king of the north will establish his command post just west of Jerusalem, near Megiddo. It is there the Soviets will plan to meet the Asian forces and the European Union's expeditionary force just north, northeast of Jerusalem. The Antichrist will come ashore to meet with the king of the north, king of the south and the leader of the Asian armies.

Using his Satan-supplied gift, the Antichrist will negotiate a settlement. Plans will be made to attack the city of Jerusalem and destroy God's remnant. Suddenly, a vast darkness will cover the land and the last battle of Armageddon will begin. The Lord Jesus Christ with His angelic army will descend from the heavens. With a fury Christ will destroy the armies of the world, and the remnant of Israel will be delivered.

5. Daniel, Chapter Twelve - A Paraphrase

Dan 12:1 During the Tribulation, Michael, Israel's guardian angel, will establish himself as the protector of your people. Although Israel will experience great distress, Michael will make certain that all things work for the good of God's people. Though Israel will suffer greatly in that period of great persecution, in the end, true Israel will be delivered. All whose names are in the Book of Life will not only be delivered but they shall rule with Christ on earth for one thousand years.

Dan 12:2 Before the beginning of the Millennium, there will be a judgment of Israel. All Israel will stand before the Throne of Christ. Some will be raised and live forever in ecstatic happiness and others will be raised for judgment, shame and everlasting contempt in a lake of fire.

Dan 12:3 Throughout the ages there have been many Jews who wisely believed on their Messiah. These true believers will shine like the brightness of the heavens. Those who led others to the Lord will receive a special reward; they will shine like the stars forever.

Dan 12:4 Close up and seal the scroll until the time of the end. From then until now, your people will travel all over the world seeking knowledge, but they will not acquire an understanding of eschatology. It is only during the time of the Great Tribulation that Israel will receive comfort when they see all these prophecies come true.

Dan 12:5 Then I looked up, and there before my eyes were two angels, one on my side of the river and one on the other side. With them was the man wearing the linen garment.

Dan 12:6 The man wearing the linen garment was standing in the middle of the river on top of the water. He was asked by one of the angels, "How long will it be before these astonishing things come to pass?"

Dan 12:7 The Man in linen lifted both His hands toward heaven. He then swore by the Lord Jehovah, "It will go on for three and one-half years. When Israel has finally been brought to her knees, then shall the end come."

Dan 12:8 I heard everything the angel asked and I heard the answer from the Man in the linen garment. But I did not understand the meaning. So, I asked, "My Lord, how will all this turn out?"

Dan 12:9 The Man answered, "Go, Daniel, and live your very own spiritual life. The prophecies concerning the end times are sealed until the Tribulation. The timing, though imminent, is indefinite."

Dan 12:10 During the Tribulation many will become believers; they will be made spotless and refined as the recipients of God's grace. But those who reject His offering of deliverance will continue in their sins.

Unbelievers will not, and in fact, cannot, understand God's plan. But those who have become God's by faith alone in Christ alone, they will understand not only Daniel's vision but the whole realm of eschatology.

Dan 12:11 From the time the Antichrist rescinds the treaty with your people in the middle of the Tribulation and erects his statue in a wing of the temple until the Messiah destroys the armies of the world will be 1,290 days. The Lord will take 30 days to destroy Babylon, the Armies at Megiddo and Idumean.

Dan 12:12 After the final battle of Armageddon, there will be a period of 45 days when the carnivorous birds of planet earth arrive to eat the bodies of those slaughtered. Additionally, it is in this period our Lord will set up a judgment seat in the Valley of Jehoshaphat where Jews and gentiles surviving the Tribulation will be judged. Blessed most certainly are those who survive this judgment and follow our Lord into the Millennium. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

Dan 12:13 As for you, Daniel, don't be concerned about all of this; just go your way until the end. You will rest in Sheol in the bosom of Abraham until your Messiah Christ removes your soul to heaven. At His return you will get your Millennial body and receive your allotted inheritance.

6. This is the end of our study of Daniel and his many predictive prophecies.

7. May I conclude the study of Canonicity with the ultimate revelation found in the Canon:

The Revelation of Jesus the Christ

"Here was a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty and for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with the world except the naked power of His Divine manhood. While He was still a young man the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth even while He was dying--and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

“I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that One Solitary Life.”

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