

1. Last week I exegeted Dan 11:1 and 2 and when time expired we were looking at several principles derived from Dan 11:3 and 4.

2. Before we continue that study, I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:1-2.

Dan 11:1 Gabriel began his lesson from the Book of the Futures: "In the first year of Darius the Mede, I supported and protected him. I worked to get him to respect and foster your people Israel but

Dan 11:2 I have more to teach: Three more kings after Darius the Mede will appear in Persia (Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis and Darius I) and then a fourth (Xerxes I) the fourth king will be much richer and more powerful than all the others. When he reaches his zenith both in power and wealth, he will stir up all of Persia against the kingdom of Greece. He will authorize a military expedition (480 B.C.) to attack both Macedonia and the city states of Achaia."

3. I want to review some of that learned last week and then we will pick up with new material at summary point ten.

NIV

Dan 11:3 Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.

Dan 11:4 After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

Principles:

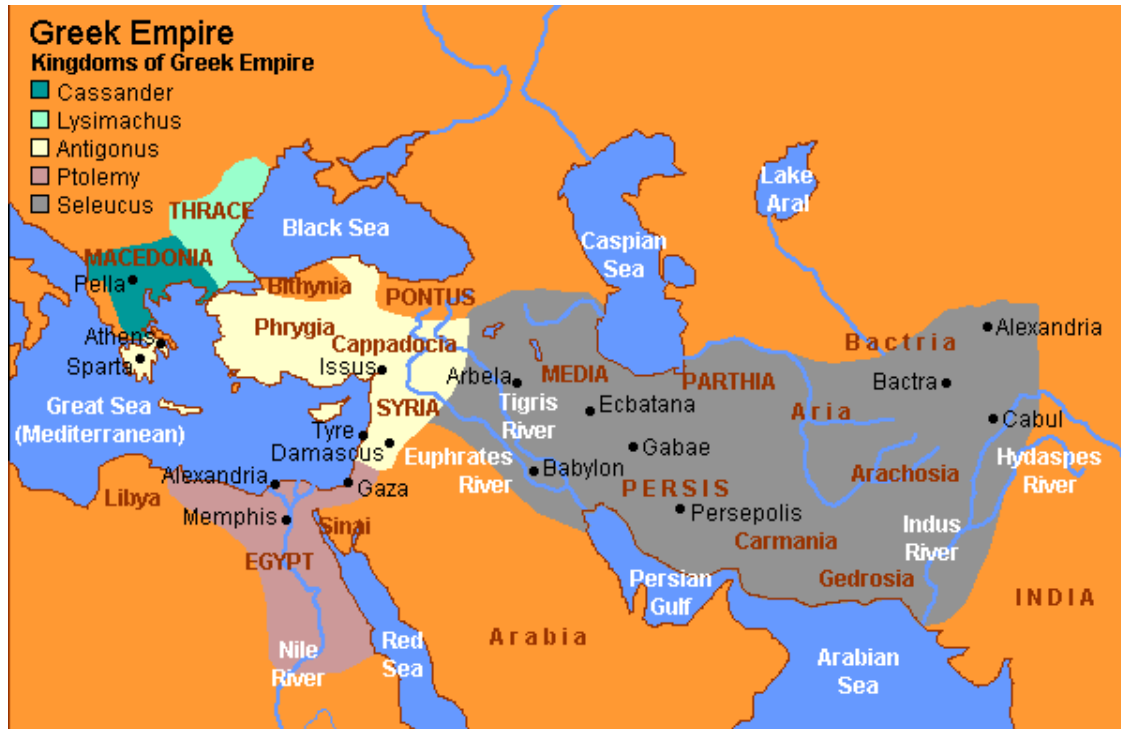
1. The mighty King is Alexander the Great, the four winds of heaven represent Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus after the demise of Alexander.

1.1 A fifth, Antigonus, was in the running but lost out. As the Grolier Encyclopedia records:

"The Macedonian Antigonus I, b. c. 382, was one of the successors (Diadochi) of ALEXANDER THE GREAT. He was governor of Phrygia under Alexander. After Alexander's death he finally got control over the eastern provinces ... Trying to conquer the western portion, he ... was defeated and killed at Ipsus in Anatolia in 301."

2. Let me review a little history of the Hellenistic empires as such relate to Israel.

3. Soon after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C. his generals divided his empire into four parts, two of which (Egypt and Syria) were under the rule of the Ptolemies and the Seleucids respectively.



4. The Holy Land was controlled from Egypt by the Ptolemaic Dynasty from 323 to 198, and was subsequently overturned by the Seleucids of Syria and was subsequently governed by the Seleucids of Syria from 198 to 142.

5. Each continued until the eventual triumph of Rome.

6. SPQR became the fourth infamous world empire.

7. One of the by-products of the attack on Greece by Xerxes I is that he incurred the undying hatred of Greece toward Persia.

8. As previously revealed, in Daniel 8:8, Alexander died prematurely and four generals took over. The dream is interpreted in Dan 8:19-22.

9. Now for new material and point ten.

10. John Walvoord writes:

“The expression in verse 4, when he shall stand up may be translated "while he was growing strong," that is, while still ascending in power. Another rendering, perhaps more normal ... is "and as soon as he shall have stood up," indicating the brief duration of Alexander's reign.

Dan 11:4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

11. The angel predicts to Daniel that his kingdom shall be broken and divided to the four winds of heaven. This was fulfilled literally in that his kingdom was shattered after his death and not only divided to the four winds, but divided ultimately among his four generals, but only after an extended civil war in which five generals contended.

12. Alexander's empire was not given to his posterity i. e. inherited by his family. Hercules, a son of Alexander was murdered by Polysperchon.

13. Alexander's youngest son also named Alexander, was born posthumously to Roxana, he too was soon murdered.

14. The empire of Alexander the Great, after it fell into the hands of his four generals, did not exhibit the glory and power it had in Alexander's day.

15. The strong central rule which had characterized Alexander's Kingdom passed with the death of Alexander. This event, recorded in Daniel's prophecy was fulfilled when Alexander died in 323 B.C.

Before we move to a study of verse five let me give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:3 and 4:

Dan 11:3 After the four Persian Kings, another king will appear, He, Alexander the Great, will consolidate all of Greece under His rule. Then he will move west conquering Anatolia, Israel, Persia and India in twelve years.

Dan 11:4 Alexander will die unexpectedly at age 32. His heirs will be murdered and his Kingdom will be divided ultimately among Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus. It will not go to his descendants, nor will the new Grecian hegemony have the power Alexander exercised.

16. Now let's see what we can glean from verse five:

KJV

Dan 11:5 And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.

NIV

Dan 11:5 "The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power.

Principles:

1. Beginning in verse 5, the struggle between the various kings of the south, Egypt, and the kings of the north, Syria, are traced by Daniel up to and including the terrible reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanies (175-164).

2. In verse 8, the king of the south will be identified as Egypt, and the Septuagint translates south as "Egypt" throughout this passage.

KJV

Dan 11:8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.

Dan 11:9 So the king of Egypt shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

3. Syria is not mentioned by name, as at the time of Daniel's writing, no such nation existed and such a reference would be confusing. We shall use it hereafter to designate the territory held by Seleucus.

4. In tracing the struggles between Egypt and Syria, the prophecy is selective and not all the rulers are mentioned, but usually the identification is clear. The king of the south in verse five is Ptolemy I Soter (323-285 B.C.).

5. The one referred to as "he shall be strong above him" is the king of Syria, Seleucus I Nicator (311-280 B.C.).

6. These rulers took the title of king in 306 B.C. Seleucus had fled from Antigonus of Babylon and was temporarily associated with Ptolemy I.

7. They combined their strength and defeated Antigonus, thus paving the way for Seleucus to gain control of the entire area from Asia Minor to India; and in time, he became stronger than Ptolemy who ruled Egypt.

8. Accordingly the Scripture says that Seleucus "shall be strong above him [Ptolemy] and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion." This is somewhat qualified by the statement in the preceding verse, "not according to his dominion which he ruled."

8.1. The statement "his dominion which he ruled" refers to that hegemony prior to his defeat by Antigonus of Babylon.

9. The emergence of Ptolemy as ruler of Egypt and Seleucus as ruler of Syria made them rivals.

10. The king of the south was also strong, as verse five indicates. The expression one of his princes probably refers to Seleucus.

10.1 Recall the two had allied themselves against Antigonus but after the dust settled and Antigonus defeated, Seleucus became the stronger ruling from Asia Minor to India.

10.2 A possible translation is "and one of his princes shall be stronger than he."

Dan 11:5 "The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power.

11. Before we study verse six, let's take a look at an expanded translation of Dan 11:5.

Dan 11:5 "Ptolemy ruling in Egypt will become strong, but one of his princes, Seleucus will become stronger; he will rule a vast Kingdom from Asia Minor to India.

12. Now let's see what we can learn from an exegesis of Dan 11:6.

KJV

Dan 11:6 And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.

NIV

Dan 11:6 After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be handed over, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her.

Principles:

1. The expression in the end of years is better translated "after a lapse of several years."

2. In the passage of time, it was natural that there would be intermarriages for political reasons. One such marriage is mentioned in verse six, a marriage between two of the four Hellenist, i.e., the Ptolemaics and the Seleucids.

3. The King of Egypt called in our verse the King of the South and the King of Syria called the King of the north are the characters mentioned in Dan 11:6.

3.1 By name they are Ptolemy II Philadelphus who ruled Egypt from 285 to 246 B.C. and Antiochus II Theos who ruled Syria from 261-246 B.C.

3.2 Walvoord in his book Daniel The Key To Prophetic Revelation writes: "Passed over without mention is Antiochus I Soter - a Seleucid (280-261 B.C.).

4. Berenice the daughter Ptolemy II Philadelphus was offered in marriage to Antiochus II Theos in about 252 B.C.

5. The marriage was consummated at the demand of Ptolemy Philadelphus; it did require Antiochus II to divorce his own wife, Laodiceia (or Laodice) in order to to accomodate the Egyptian King.

6. The union was certainly not successful. Such seems to be the meaning of "but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times."

7. In fact history records "Within a few years of the marriage, Ptolemy died; and Antiochus took back his wife Laodice. To gain revenge, however, Laodice murdered her husband as well as his Egyptian wife Berenice, and the infant son of Antiochus and Berenice."

8. "He that begat her" refers to Ptolemy II whose death precipitated the aborted alliance and the murders which followed.

9. Before we study Dan 11:7-9 I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:6:

Expanded Translation

Dan 11:6 After several years (in about BC 252) the daughter of the king of Egypt, Berenice, will be given in marriage to the king of Syria, Antiochus II Theos. 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. Ptolemy II will soon die and then a traumatic set of events will occur causing great harm to many in Antiochus' household.

10. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 11:7-9.

KJV

Dan 11:7 But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:

Dan 11:8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.

Dan 11:9 So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

NIV

Dan 11:7 "One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious.

Dan 11:8 He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone.

Dan 11:9 Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country.

Principles:

1. Later, a new king of Egypt known as Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 B.C.) will prevail militarily over the king of Syria, Seleucus Callinicus (246-226 B.C.).

1.1 As the prophecy indicates, he entered "into the fortress of the king of the north," and carried into Egypt certain princes as hostages, many of their idols, and much of their silver and gold.

2. The expression out of a branch of her is, literally, "the sprouting of her roots. This phase signifies lineage; her roots refers to the roots of Berenice.

3. The one who takes her place is none other than her own brother, Ptolemy III Euergetes, the successor of Ptolemy Philadelphus.

4. The Hebrew word translated "princes" in Dan 11:8 can be rendered "molten images," and the transportation of the idols indicates the total subjugation of the northern kingdom.

5. In commemoration of his deed, Ptolemy Euergetes erected the monument Marmor Adullitanum, upon which is transcribed certain boastings of how Euergetes subjugated Mesopotamia, Persia, Susiana, Media, and all the countries as far as Bactria.

6. The expression shall continue more years than the king of the north is best understood as meaning, "for some time he shall refrain from attacking directly the king of Syria."

7. The phrase in verse nine translated in the KJV: "So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land" has been better translated in the NIV where we have "Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country."

7.1 This is a reference to an aborted attempt to attack Egypt by Seleucus Callinicus king of Syria. No doubt Seleucus was upset with the aggressive acquisition of the vast eastern hegemony.

8. Jerome, in his earlier cited commentary, provides this description of Ptolemy Euergetes:

He came up with a great army and advanced into the province of the king of the North, that is Seleucus Callinicus, who together with his mother Laodice was ruling in Syria, and abused them, and he seized Syria, but he also took Cilicia and the remoter regions beyond the Euphrates and nearly all of Asia as well. And then, when he heard a rebellion was afoot in Egypt, he ravaged the kingdom of Seleucus and carried off as booty forty thousand talents of silver, and vessels and images of the gods to the amount of two and a half thousand. Among them were the same images which Cambyses had brought to Persia at the time when he conquered Egypt. The Egyptian people were indeed devoted to idolatry, for when he had brought back their gods to them after so many years, they called him Euergetes (Benefactor). And he himself retained possession of Syria, but he handed over Cilicia to a friend, Antiochus, that he might govern it, and the provinces beyond the Euphrates he handed over to Xanthippus, another general."

9. Walvoord after quoting Jerome has written:

The precise accuracy of the prophecy written by Daniel three hundred years before it happened has occasioned the attack of the critics. But actually such accuracy only supports the scriptures as a whole.

End Lesson Taught 1-12-2003