

1. Last week we analyzed Dan 11:7-19 and when time expired I was about to teach Dan 11:20.

2. Before we continue that study, I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:1-19.

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."

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.

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.

Dan 11:6 After several years (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 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.

Dan 11:7 "Berenice's brother Ptolemy Euergetes takes over as King of Egypt. He will then attack Syria defeating the eastern forces of Seleucus Callinicus. Ptolemy by successfully defeating the eastern armies of Seleucus will acquire vast territories east of the Holy Land.

Dan 11:8 He will also seize their idols, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt.

Dan 11:9 In response the king of the North, Seleucus will invade Egypt but will suffer defeat and 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.

3. Last week we covered a great deal of territory. Most of what we studied related to the military adventures of Syria's Antiochus III The Great and his wars with Syria.

4. To provide a different perspective, I thought we might take a look at what the Grolier Encyclopedia says about Antiochus the Great:

"Antiochus III, c.242-187 BC, succeeded to the throne of the SELEUCIDS in 223, when the kingdom was controlled by a powerful minister and rebellion was spreading in Iran. He defeated the rebels, rid himself of the minister, and conquered much of Phoenicia, Syria, and Palestine from the Ptolemies of Egypt. He had to withdraw, however, after being defeated by Ptolemy Philopator.

"During the next few years Antiochus regained much of Anatolia, where a relative, Achaeus, had proclaimed himself king. In 213, Achaeus was captured in a dramatic plot and executed. Antiochus then embarked on a major expedition ... to reconquer the lost eastern provinces, ruled by independent dynasties. Marching with little fighting as far as India, he received the nominal homage of the eastern rulers without imposing firm control. Compared by flatterers to Alexander the Great, Antiochus set himself to regain all the land held by Seleucus I.

After the death (205) of Ptolemy IV, he ... then advanced as a self-styled liberator through Anatolia and crossed to Thrace, where he rebuilt (196) the old capital of Lysimachus (... He was defeated by Roman forces in Greece in 191 and in Anatolia in 190. According to the peace agreement he had to give up Anatolia (most of it to Eumenes II of Pergamum) and to accept humiliating terms. Rebellion in the east found him without resources, and he died while trying to seize a temple treasure."

5. Now let's see what we can learn from verse twenty.

KJV

Dan 11:20 Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

NIV

Dan 11:20 "His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

Principles:

1. The Seleucid king ruling between the time of Antiochus the Great and Antiochus Epiphanes, Seleucus IV Philopator, is mentioned here because of his oppression by taxation of the people of Israel.
2. Because of the rising power of Rome, he was forced to pay tribute to the Romans of a thousand talents annually.
3. In order to raise this large amount of money, Seleucus had to tax all the lands under his domain, including special taxes from the Jews secured by a tax collector named Heliodorus who took treasures from the temple at Jerusalem.
4. As Zockler points out,
"Soon after Heliodorus was dispatched to plunder the temple, Seleucus Philopator was suddenly and mysteriously removed. This explains the statement, "within a few days he shall be destroyed" (Dan 11:20), possibly by poison administered to him by the same Heliodorus."
5. This set the stage for the terrible persecutions by Antiochus Epiphanes which followed.
6. Before we study the rise of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, I want to give you an expanded translation of verse twenty.

Expanded Translation

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

7. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 11:21-23

KJV

Dan 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Dan 11:22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

Dan 11:23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

NIV

Dan 11:21 "He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue.

Dan 11:22 Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed.

Dan 11:23 After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.

Principles:

1. Beginning with verse 21, a major section of this chapter is devoted to a comparatively obscure Syrian ruler who was on the throne from 175 to 164 B.C., he is previously called the "little horn" in Dan 8:9-14 and Dan 8:23-25.

Dan 8:9 Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land.

Dan 8:10 It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.

Dan 8:11 It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low.

Dan 8:12 Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

Dan 8:13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled-- the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?"

Dan 8:23 "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise.

Dan 8:24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.

Dan 8:25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

2. He reigned in the days of the decline of Syrian power and the rise of Rome to the west, and only his death in 164 B.C. prevented his humiliation by Rome.

3. From the standpoint of Scripture and the revelation by the angel Gabriel to Daniel, this was the most important feature of the entire third empire.

4. The reasons for the prominence of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, scripturally speaking, were his desecration of the Jewish temple and altar, and his bitter persecution of the Jewish people.

4.1 Such persecutions will result in the successful Maccabean revolt.

5. As is true of the entire section beginning with chapter 8, Gentile dominion is viewed primarily from its relationship to the progress of the Jewish nation. By comparison with Seleucus IV Philopator, his predecessor, he is described as "a vile person."

6. The title Epiphanes, meaning "glorious," was a title which Antiochus gave himself, in keeping with his desire to be regarded as god.

6.1 The description here given is God's viewpoint of him because of his immoral life, persecution and hatred of the people of God.

7. His life was characterized by intrigue, expediency, and lust for power in which honor was always secondary.

8. The expression to whom they shall not give the honor of his kingdom in verse twenty-one is a reference to the fact that he seized the throne rather than obtaining it honorably.

9. At the time his predecessor died, there were several possible candidates for the throne. Probably the most legitimate ruler would have been Demetrius, the young son of his brother Seleucus IV, who was at that time being held in Rome as a hostage.

10. There was also a younger son of Seleucus IV, also by the name of Antiochus, who was still a baby in Syria. Antiochus IV, the brother of Seleucus IV, was in Athens at the time of his brother's death.
11. There he received word that his brother Seleucus had been murdered as prophesied in Dan 11:20, "he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle."
12. Posing as the guardian of young Antiochus who was in Syria. Antiochus IV Epiphanes proceeded to Antioch Syria where by various intrigues, referred to in verse 21 as "he shall come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries," he secured the throne.
13. Meanwhile young Antiochus was murdered by Andronicus, whom Antiochus then put to death; many historians believe it is possible if not probable that Antiochus himself planned the dastardly event.
14. Heliodorus, who had murdered Seleucus IV, was not able to secure the throne for himself so he disappeared, taking with him a small army of loyalist.
15. Antiochus IV was therefore secure on his throne and began an active life of military conquest and intrigue in his struggle for power against both Egypt and Rome.
16. Verse 22 speaks of military activities including several campaigns against Egypt. The prophecy does not attempt to be specific but describes in general how armies on various occasions were destroyed as by a flood and "shall be broken."
17. The reference to "the arms of a flood" may refer to military forces rather than a natural flood. In other words, he shall be victorious over his enemies.
- Dan 11:22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.
18. The forces which he over-whelmed include, as Zockler states, "in part the troops of Heliodorus, whom Antiochus routed with the assistance of his Pergamenian allies, and in part the Egyptian forces which sought to deprive him of parts of Syria; all of this occurring soon after his accession to the throne.
19. When Antiochus learned that the Egyptians were about to attack him, he invaded Egypt in 170 B.C. and defeated the Egyptians in a battle which occurred on the southeast sea coast of the Mediterranean Sea halfway between Gaza and the Nile delta.
20. The reference to the "prince of the covenant" prophesies of the murder of the Jewish High Priest Onias, which was ordered by Antiochus in 172 B.C., an omen of troublesome times to come.

21. The High Priest bore the title "prince of the covenant" because he was the de facto head of what Israel claimed to be a Theocracy.

22. Verse twenty-three describes his various leagues with other nations, especially with Egypt which involved considerable intrigue and deceit.

23. Out of all this Antiochus became a power to reckon with. His growth to power is described in Dan 11:24-26.

24. Before we study that growth I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:21-23.

Expanded Translation

Dan 11:21 "Seleucus IV will be succeeded by the contemptible Antiochus IV who though not in line for the throne will wrest it from its rightful heir. He arrives in Antioch Syria posing as a representative of young Antiochus, son of Seleucus the IV who was then still an infant, and he takes the throne by means of a series of deceitful intrigues.

Dan 11:22 Antiochus acquires a large army which he uses to defeat the remaining forces of Heliodorus and an expeditionary Egyptian force in Asia Minor. He then attacks Egypt where he gains additional territory to go with his conquest of Israel in the Holy Land.

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

25. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 11:24-26.

KJV

Dan 11:24 He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

Dan 11:25 And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him.

Dan 11:26 Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.

NIV

Dan 11:24 When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses-- but only for a time.

Dan 11:25 "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him.

Dan 11:26 Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.

Principles:

1. Before we study verses twenty-four, twenty-five and twenty-six, I want to review some of that earlier learned from our study of "the little horn" of Daniel chapter eight.

2. Antiochus Epiphanies directed blasphemous opposition against God and magnified himself against God.

3. As a specific illustration and supreme act of defiance, he took away the daily offerings and desecrated the sanctuary. This was prophesied in Dan 8:11.

KJV

Dan 8:11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down.

4. Antiochus stopped both the morning and evening sacrifices, taking the daily tokens of Israel's worship.

5. His prohibition included all the offerings customarily offered in the temple.

6. This is brought out in 1Mac 1:44-50, referring to the command of Antiochus Epiphanies to depart from the worship of the law of Moses.

1Mac 1:44-50 "And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah; he directed them to follow customs strange to the land, to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary, to profane Sabbaths and feasts, to defile the sanctuary and the priests, to build altars in sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and unclean animals, and to leave their sons uncircumcised. They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane, so that they should forget the law and change all the ordinances. And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die."

7. As Young comments, "Apparently Antiochus did not actually tear down the temple, although eventually he desecrated it to such a point that it was hardly fit for use."

8. I think it might be helpful here to provide what the Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia tells us of Antiochus Epiphanes and his abuse of God's people.

"Antiochus IV, (215-163 B.C.) was the SELEUCID king whose attempts to introduce pagan rites in Jerusalem led to the revolt (167) of the MACCABEES and the creation of a Jewish state.

The son of Antiochus III, he had to defeat the usurper Heliodorus before taking power in B.C. 175. In 171 he invaded Egypt, but he was later driven out by the Romans. Antiochus also campaigned against the Parthians. The Maccabees were a family of village priests from Mode in near Jerusalem who, in 168 BC, instigated an uprising to defend Judaism against both the SELEUCIDS, the Hellenistic rulers of Syria-Palestine, and Jews who had become Greek assimilationists or Hellenists. The name is derived from the epithet Maccabeus ("hammerer" or "extinguisher") bestowed on the most famous member of the family, Judas. The uprising began when the aged Mattathias--father of Judas and great-great-grandson of Hasmon (hence the name Hasmonians also applied to the family)--killed an apostate Jew who was about to offer sacrifice to Zeus on an altar set up by the Seleucid King ANTIOCHUS IV EPIPHANES in the Temple at Jerusalem. Mattathias's five sons carried on the uprising, three of them successively in leadership roles: Judas, Jonathan, and Simon.

Assisted by the HASIDEANS and an army of 6,000, Judas won several victories over Syrian armies and, in 164 BC, occupied the Temple in Jerusalem, building a new altar and fortifying the area."

9. In about BC 162 on December 25 the temple was ceremonially cleansed in what was known as the Feast of Lights. It is today called Hanukkah.

10. Antiochus Epiphanes historically, magnified himself even above the prince of the host, i.e., God Himself.

11. He claimed divine honor, as brought out in his name Epiphanies which means "the glorious manifestation of God." Discovered coinage certainly substantiates his personal opinion of himself as being God manifest.

12. Coins have been found with the inscription "Antiochus, God Manifest."

13. Antiochus, after assuming the throne, immediately began attacking his neighbors.

14. From his original kingdom in ancient Syria he attempted to extend his hegemony to "the south" against Egypt - Rome however intervened so he angrily turned to the east against ancient Medo-Persia or Armenia, and finally to the north and the "pleasant land," or "glorious land" a reference to Palestine or Canaan.

15. According to the historical record Antiochus first entered Jerusalem under a flag of truce and promise of peace however he soon reneged and took 40,000 Jews as slaves and executed some 80,000. This was also predicted by Gabriel to Daniel in chapter eleven.

16. He was cruel and vicious in his dealing with Israel. He gave strict orders to eliminate all semblances of Jewry which included the rites of circumcision and the temple liturgy proscribed by Moses.

17. There is historical record of his having seven sons put to death for their circumcision.

18. He had statues of Jupiter placed in the Temple and took a pig into the Holy of Holies where the animal was slaughtered and its blood smeared over the accouterments of the Holy Place.

19. This substitution took the form of Saturn worship and the celebration of the rites of Bacchus. Antiochus under the permissive will of God prospered.

End Lesson Taught 1-26-2003