

Lesson 136 Book of Daniel 2-2-2003

1. Last week we analyzed Dan 11:20-23 and when time expired I was about to teach Dan 11:24-26.

2. Before we continue that study, I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:1-23 and review some of that learned last week.

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.

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 will send out a tax collector. Soon however he will meet his demise but not in battle, he will instead be poisoned.

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 will arrive in Antioch Syria posing as a representative of young Antiochus, son of Seleucus the IV, a mere infant, and Antiochus will take the throne by means of a series of deceitful intrigues.

Dan 11:22 Antiochus will put together a large army which 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 his conquest of Israel in the Holy Land. After taking over Israel he will murder the 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."

3. Antiochus Epiphanies directed blasphemous opposition against God and magnified himself above God.

4. 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.

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

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

5. This is described in great detail in 1Mac 1:44-50.

6. 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."

7. The Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia tells us of Antiochus Epiphanies and his abuse of God's people.

"Antiochus IV ... 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 175. In 171 he invaded Egypt, but he was later driven out by the Romans ... The Maccabees were a family of village priests from Modein near Jerusalem who, in 168 B.C., 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 uprising began when the aged Mattathias--father of Judas ... 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 ... Judas won several victories over Syrian armies and, in 164 B.C., occupied the Temple in Jerusalem, building a new altar and fortifying the area."

8. 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.

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

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

11. 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.

12. 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.

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

14. There is historical record of his having seven brothers put to death because of their circumcision.

15. 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.

16. This substitution took the form of Saturn worship and the celebration of the rites of Bacchus.

17. Antiochus under the permissive will of God prospered.

18. Now let's return to our study of 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. Always eager to enlarge his kingdom, either by military devices or intrigue, Antiochus, according to verse 24, like his fathers, robbed the richest places of the country under his control.

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.

1.1 Sounds so much like the pork barrel politicians elected in the United States. Take from the "haves" and buy votes from whomever.

1.2 In the words of Solomon "there is nothing new under the sun."

2. The prediction "He shall enter peaceably," would seem to be a description of his ascension to the throne. The phrase he attacked his enemies "in a time of security" or "peace," refers to his attacking nearby provinces when they least expected it.

2.1 The enemies here would seem to be the feudal kingdoms contiguous to Syria.

3. The expression he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches indicates the distribution of the wealth he had secured. He distributed his spoil to those who could assist him. He bought favors.

4. According to 1 Maccabees 3:30, "He feared that he might not have such funds as he had before for his expenses and for the gifts which he used to give more lavishly than the preceding kings.

5. Among his military campaigns were several expeditions against Egypt.

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.

6. Which of the several expeditions verse twenty-five describes cannot be determined, this prophecy simply describes in general the characteristics of the reign of Antiochus IV.

7. The king of Egypt, Ptolemy VI, was ultimately defeated. The phrase "but he shall not stand" is a reference to the defeat of Ptolemy.

8. Even those who should have supported him is a reference to the princes aligned with Egypt who did not assist him against Syria; particularly in mind may be Rome who did not, at this time, come to his aid.

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.

9. Before we look at verses twenty-seven and twenty-eight which describe Antiochus' cruelty I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:24-26.

Expanded Translation

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

Dan 11:25 With a large army he will attack Ptolemy Philometor, king of Egypt. Egypt will attempt to defend itself but will not be successful.

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

10. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 11:27-28.

KJV

Dan 11:27 And both of these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.

Dan 11:28 Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.

NIV

Dan 11:27 The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time.

Dan 11:28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, « but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country.

1. The struggle between Syria and Egypt soon led to a treaty of sorts. Ptolemy agreed to provide certain territories and reparations; in return Antiochus agreed to withdraw his forces from the land.

2. Neither Egypt nor Syria were honorable in their compliance. This is indicated in verse 27, "they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper."

3. As the last part of verse 27 makes clear, in spite of all his intrigue, Antiochus was fulfilling prophecy on schedule "because an end will still come at the appointed time." This last statement is a reference to compliance with God's very own time table.

4. Antiochus, returning from Egypt with great riches, began to demonstrate his hatred of Israel and his covetousness and jealousy of the wealth housed in Nehemiah's Temple.

5. This is indicated in the statement, "His heart shall be against the holy covenant."

6. Before we study verses twenty-nine through thirty-one, I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 11:27 and 28.

Expanded Translation

Dan 11:27 Antiochus and Ptolemy VI Philometor will agree to sit down and discuss an armistice however neither King will intend to keep their agreements; their deceit though intricate and designed to support their purposes will be as a truth part of God's divine design 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 way home will travel through the Holy Land, all the while plotting its destruction.

7. Now let's see what principles we can glean from Dan 11:29-31 where we will see the hand of Rome in God's divine design.

KJV

Dan 11:29 At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

Dan 11:30 For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.

Dan 11:31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

NIV

Dan 11:29 "At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before.

Dan 11:30 Ships of the western coast lands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.

Dan 11:31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

Principles:

1. In another expedition against Egypt, "at the time appointed," that is, at a time appointed by God, he manages to capture Ptolemy Philometor.
2. Rome at this time is not about to let Antiochus get a foothold in North Africa.
3. Remember Rome had already defeated the Carthaginians in the Punic Wars and in a sense considered Egypt a vassal of Rome.
4. Rome sends a force across the Mediterranean demanding Antiochus evacuate Egypt. At the time he was engaged in an unsuccessful siege of Alexandria.
5. His forces had more than they could handle in the siege therefore there was little he could do but agree to the Roman terms.
6. His success was not as great as in his former expeditions, as stated in verse twenty-nine, "It shall not be as the former, or as the latter."

Dan 11:29 At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

7. Still another invasion of Egypt occurred about 168 B.C. This time, however, the Roman consul, Gaius Popillius Laenas, summarily demanded that he leave Egypt; his alternative would of course be war with Rome.

7.1 The Roman consul is reported to have drawn a circle about the king and told him that his decision had to be reached before he stepped out of the circle.

8. Rather than risk a war with Rome, Antiochus, although greatly displeased, withdrew from Egypt and conceded Egypt to Rome.

9. Prophetically, this is indicated in verse 30 by the statement, "for the ships of Chittim shall come against him," usually taken as a symbolic representation of Roman power which came from the west past Chittim (also spelled Kittim), a reference to the island of Cyprus which was to the west of his kingdom.

Dan 11:30 Ships of the western coast lands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.

10. We must not forget Antiochus IV Epiphanies is a type of Antichrist therefore on his way home he travels through Israel ravaging the land.

11. A detailed description of the violent atrocities and murder of thousands of Jews by Antiochus while marching through Judea is found in 1Mac 1:20-28 and 2Mac 5:11-17.

12. It is possible these atrocities could have occurred in his earlier return although most historians believe they occurred after Rome had forced his hand. The events described might cover the total destruction of two trips through the land. The date of 143 B.C. in 1Mac 1:20 is problematic being perhaps too late for Antiochus whose reign ended in 164 B.C.

13. In either case the events are consistent with that predicted to Daniel by Gabriel.

1Mac 1:20 After Antiochus had defeated Egypt in the year 143, he returned and went up to Israel and to Jerusalem with a strong force.

1Mac 1:21 He insolently invaded the sanctuary and took away the golden altar, the lampstand for light with all its fixtures,

1Mac 1:22 The offering table, the cups and the bowls, the golden censers, the curtain, the crowns, and the golden ornament on the facade of the temple. He stripped off everything,

1Mac 1:23 And took away the gold and silver and the precious vessels; he also took all the hidden treasures he could find.

1Mac 1:24 Taking all this, he went back to his own country, after he had spoken with great arrogance and shed much blood.

1Mac 1:25 And there was great mourning for Israel, in every place where they dwelt,

1Mac 1:26 And the rulers and the elders groaned. Virgins and young men languished and the beauty of the women was disfigured.

1Mac 1:27 Every bridegroom took up lamentation, she who sat in the bridal chamber mourned,

1Mac 1:28 And the land was shaken on account of its inhabitants, and all the house of Jacob was covered with shame.

End Lesson Taught 2-2-2003