

Daniel 11

Daniel 10:19-21 NKJV And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace *be* to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." (20) Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. (21) But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. **(No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.**

(Daniel 11:1 NKJV) "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, *even I*, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)

Before we get into this chapter, a few things must be understood:

1. The speaker, by most scholars, is Gabriel.
2. Many "liberal" thinkers have come against this chapter because of the detailed prophecies contained in it.
 - a. The basis for their attitudes is nearly always because they do NOT believe in the miraculous!
3. The prophecies cover some 375 years of what will become history...and then continues on into the future, yet, even this will become history! Most of this takes place in the "intertestamental" period, that is, between Malachi and John the Baptizer.
4. There is a lot of history that would need to be covered to confirm the prophecies, but I don't want to get bogged down in the minutia, so, the history, in places, will be summarized.
5. It will take a couple of weeks, perhaps, to go thru these 45 verses and we will have to combine some into a cohesive paragraph.
6. MOST importantly, we cannot never lose sight of God in the details, for He is a God who has a plan but even Himself has said:
 - a. **Matthew 10:29-31 NKJV** Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. (30) But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. (31) Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

(Daniel 11:2 NKJV) And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than *them* all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

Of paramount importance is the "truth" spoken by this angel. Daniel while greatly beloved, is a man who is subject to his own weaknesses, doubts and fears. But the angel assures him that what he is describing is truth; Remember, Daniel is in his eighties and will certainly not see any of these things in his lifetime.

So, there will be 4 more kings in Persia. History records more than 4 but these are legitimate

kings and the others did not assume the throne legally or did not sit on it for very long!

But the 4th king is called out as a mighty man, richer than the others before him. This king was King Xerxes a.k.a., Ahasuerus from the Book of Esther. Indeed, Xerxes tried to come against the Grecian kingdom but lost.

But we can't skip over the mention of Persia and Greece because of the prior descriptions given in the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the four beasts of Chapter 7 and ram and goat of chapter 8. These two empires are called out to Daniel because of his people, the Jews. It was Ahasuerus who decreed that all Jews in the Persian Empire were to be destroyed (convinced of the plot by the evil Haman); It was the Greek Antiochus Epiphanes who tried to also kill all of the Jews in Israel when they too refused to worship Greek gods and embrace Greek culture.

(Daniel 11:3 NKJV) Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

But, before Antiochus Epiphanes is mentioned, the angel speaks of a mighty king who would rule a vast empire and do all according to his own will.

This we know as Alexander the Great – who created the Greek Empire.

One note: recall in **(Daniel 10:20 NKJV)** Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the **prince of Persia**; and when I have gone forth, indeed the **prince of Greece** will come.

These 2 princes are spiritual beings, angels who serve Satan in the Persian and the Greek Empires.

(Daniel 11:4 NKJV) And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

We learned previously that when Alexander died, the kingdom was divided into 4 major regions headed up by four generals. His own descendants did not take the throne because they were busy killing each other off.

For much of the remaining prophesy, the angel directs our attention to 2 of the 4 generals: the "king of the south" and the "king of the north". North and South of where? Of Israel, which by all evidences in Scripture, is the center of the world!

(Daniel 11:5 NKJV) "Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as *one* of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion *shall be* a great dominion.

The king of the South was Ptolemy I. Some believe he had a son named Seleucus I, who eventually took control of Syria and Israel sometime around 200bc.

Fighting between the Ptolemy's and the Seleucid's went on for about 130 years!

(Daniel 11:6 NKJV) And at the end of *some* years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king

of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in *those* times.

This is where the story turns into a soap opera. But the amazing thing is, it's so accurate as to the history that follows:

1. The kings of the N and S decide to join forces
2. The King of the South (Ptolemy II) sent his daughter Berenice to the King of the North (Antiochus II [a Seleucid]).
3. When Ptolemy died, Antiochus II got rid of Berenice and remarried his first wife, Laodice.
4. Laodice didn't trust her husband and poisoned him.
5. Then she had Berenice, her infant son and all her attendants killed.
6. Laodice then put her son Seleucus II on the throne.

(Daniel 11:7 NKJV) But from a branch of her roots *one* shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail. (Daniel 11:8 NKJV) And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes *and* their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue *more* years than the king of the North. (Daniel 11:9 NKJV) "Also *the king of the North* shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.

The branch of her roots is a relative of Berenice. This was Ptolemy III, her brother who came north to avenge his sister's death. He did this by coming against Seleucus II, taking over many of his strongholds and then carrying off to Egypt much wealth. Seleucus tried to come against Egypt but failed.

(Daniel 11:10 NKJV) However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and *one* shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife.

However, the sons Seleucus II and Antiochus III, had some military success. But Seleucus II was killed in battle and then Antiochus III took the throne and then became known as Antiochus the Great. Antiochus the Great launched great military campaigns in Israel taking many of the cities that belonged to Egypt. This got the attention of Ptolemy Philopater of Egypt.

(Daniel 11:11 NKJV) "And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his *enemy*. (Daniel 11:12 NKJV) When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail.

The king of the South (Ptolemy Philopater) fought Antiochus the Great in 217 BC. Somehow, the weaker Ptolemy (who was a lover and not a fighter), scored major victories against Antiochus the Great, to the point where Antiochus wanted peace with the South.

(Daniel 11:13 NKJV) For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment.

After a while, the King of the South died along with his wife in a mysterious manner). The throne went to his son Ptolemy V (Epiphanes) who was only 6 years old!

Antiochus took full advantage of this and he began to move south to invade Egypt.

(Daniel 11:14 NKJV) "Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall. (Daniel 11:15 NKJV) So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand *him*. Even his choice troops *shall have* no strength to resist. (Daniel 11:16 NKJV) But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. **He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.**

In those days, there were many who opposed the child-king including many Jews (violent men of your people) who were tired of the Ptolemies. These all sided with Antiochus and therefore the South could not effectively resist the invader – who did all according to his own will! Israel was still under the control of the Ptolemy's. So, Antiochus took the "Glorious Land".

But Gabriel states that the Jews who opposed the king would become haughty and eventually they would fall...and they did!

(Daniel 11:17 NKJV) "He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand *with him*, or be for him.

Israel was just one last stop on the way to Egypt. Antiochus decided to try the "marriage" arrangement ploy. So, he married off his daughter Cleopatra to the young king of Egypt. This Cleopatra lived 100 years before the more famous one. The plan back-fired because Cleopatra was never faithful to Ptolemy and therefore never exerted any influence over him on behalf of her father.

I want to stop for tonight.

The more I studied this, the more fascinated I became with the prophesy. The former prophesies were, for the most part, generalized. The kings and kingdoms of the world starting in Babylon and moving forward until Rome. But the book takes a turn in chapter 8 where more details are given about Persia and Greece.

As I said at the start, the text was now written in Hebrew because **while** the kingdom and kings are still in the prophesies, the Jews are called out because of their relationship to the kingdoms that rule over them. And even though the Jews were heading back to Judah, the many promises of God towards His people were yet to be fulfilled:

Have you ever tried to mediate on the immense power of God who alone could both reveal the beginning and the end AND see to it that it occurs exactly as He said it would?

It boggles the mind, or, it should. It is so accurate that reasonable men insisted that it was history written as prophesy. But that's beyond cynical and reaches into the sinister! If Daniel is history then the nothing in the Word of God is true and that means that God is a liar. If Daniel is history then

perhaps God doesn't exist at all except in the minds of men (and who could even conceive of this God?). No, our God is unique and stands outside of what He has created!

Exodus 15:11 NKJV "Who *is* like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

But, in Truth, there is a God Who is Truth. There is a God Who is so not like anything He has created. **If** we can't conceive of a Being who has no beginning, then how are we to consider a God who orchestrate the movements of men, women, kingdoms, empires and nations to achieve His good plans and purposes? With all of the "free-will" given to men, how can He work in such a chaos and still not deal with creation as a sick form of puppetry?

Daniel has taught us and will continue to teach us that God is Incomprehensible. But this God does not leave us in the dark but rather, throughout His revelation of Himself, the eternal Godhead, casts light on Who He is and What He does. We may not understand it, but we who believe in Him must also believe Him and know that knowledge isn't always going to be available to us. So, we use our God-given faith to know for certain that Persons unseen are just as real, perhaps more real, than that which we see with our own eyes.