

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This evening, we are going to continue our study through the book of Daniel.

We are going to cover chapter 11 – it is a long chapter so, let's go ahead and start.

As we have studied the book of Daniel, we have come across some pretty amazing prophecies that have been fulfilled – they have occurred just as God said they would.

Most of them are historical accounts to us today, but to Daniel – they had not happened yet.

And I believe that is why we have the book of Daniel – because the fulfillment of prophecies is indisputable proof that the bible is indeed inspired by God.

If God said it, it is going to happen.

Let's pray...

So last week, when we studied chapter 10, I mentioned that this is the 4th vision that Daniel receives.

However, the vision is not given to Daniel until here in chapter 11.

Chapter 10 was the build up to the vision as Daniel had an encounter with a certain angel.

This angel will be the one that delivers the message to Daniel.

Much of this vision that is about to be given to Daniel will revolve around the conflict between the Mede-Persian Empire and the Greek Empire and there will be prophecy regarding the end times as well.

Before we get started, I want to point out that this chapter is one of the most attacked chapters by sceptics because of the accuracy of the predictions.

[Dan 11:1-45 NKJV] 1 "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, [even] I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.) 2 "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.

The angel begins by telling Daniel that three kings will follow King Cyrus.

And that the last king will be the most powerful.

His name was Xerxes.

The Greek historian, Herodotus records that that his army consisted of over 1 million men.

And in 480 BC, Xerxes decides to attack Greece.

If you ever saw the movie 300 – it was loosely based on the battle that took place between the Persians and the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae.

Xerxes wins that battle but he eventually loses the war against Greece.

This is the same Persian king that we find married to Esther.

3 "Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4 "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.

The mighty king that is spoken of here in verse three is Alexander the Great.

He was the one that would lead the Greek empire to rule the world.

In 12 years he conquered the world but then he dies in his early 30's and because he didn't have any children, the Greek empire is divided among four of his generals – we went over this when we studied Daniel 8.

An interesting note – the Jewish historian Josephus, he records that when the Greek Empire went through Jerusalem, the priests of the temple opened up the scrolls and showed Alexander the Great this portion of scripture that spoke of him – **written 200 years before it happened.**

5 "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. 6 "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.

As the Greek Empire is divided among the four generals – there is a power struggle that begins.

They each wanted a bigger portion of the pie.

And there were constant wars between the groups.

So here in verse 5 and 6, it speaks of the conflict between Egypt and Syria.

And it was fulfilled when Ptolemy, the king of Egypt sends his daughter, Bernice, to marry the King of Syria – however, the King of Syria had to divorce his wife, Laodice, first.

There was short lived peace, but then the King of Egypt dies and the King of Syria dumps Bernice and takes back Laodice – who then turns around and poisons the King

of Syria, her husband, and has Bernice killed along with children and then she appoints her son as the new King of Syria. His name is Seleucus II.

7 "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. 8 "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. 9 "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 angel tells Daniel that the branch of her roots is going to come from the South and prevail over the North.

This was fulfilled when the brother of Bernice (the branch of her roots), his name is Ptolemy III, he invades Syria and avenges the murder of his sister – takes much of the riches of Syria and eventually outlived Seleucus II by four years.

Verse 9 refers to Seleucus II mounting an attack on Egypt but he was defeated and forced to return back to Syria.

10 "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. 11 "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]. 12 "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 angel is providing Daniel with the details of the battles that will be fought between the Syrian forces and the Egyptian forces – for almost 200 years they fought against each other.

Why is this significant to Daniel and the Jews???

Because if you look at the map, Israel lies between Syria and Egypt.

So every time these guys went against each other, Israel was caught in the middle.

13 "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. 14 "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.

Here the angel is telling Daniel that the Syrian king is going to start to build his army in order to attack Egypt. He is going to make treaties with other nations to help him conquer Egypt.

And that is exactly what happened as Antiochus III made a treaty with Philip V of Macedonia and even some of the Jews (I had you make a note of your people) in order to fight Egypt – but they still did not prevail.

15 "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. 16 "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. 17 "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.

Here the angel tells Daniel that Antiochus is finally going to defeat Egypt – he is going to take control of the “Glorious Land of Israel”

He is even going to try to completely destroy Egypt by sending his daughter to marry the new king, but she turns against her dad as she sides with her husband.

18 "After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But **a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. 19 "Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.**

The angel tells Daniel here what is going to happen to Antiochus.

After he defeats Egypt – he is going to try go after the area around Greece – however, Rome which is in power now, is going to going to put a stop to him and is going to defeat him.

As he was looking for money to help to defeat Rome, Antiochus goes into a pagan temple to steal from it and was killed by the people.

20 "There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes [on] the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.

After Antiochus III is killed, he had a son by the name of Seleucus and he tried to impose taxes and he tried to steal from the temple but he was assassinated right away.

21 "And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.

When Seleucus was assassinated, his infant son, Antiochus was named king – The infant son had an uncle that came from Greece to supposedly act as guardian over the baby and the baby mysteriously dies.

The uncle becomes King of Syria – this is Antiochus Epiphanes.

22 "With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. 23 "And after the league [is made] with him **he shall act deceitfully**, for he shall come up and become strong with a small [number of] people. 24 "He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do [what] his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but [only] for a time. 25 "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 devise plans against him. 26 "Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. 27 "Both these kings' hearts [shall be] bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end [will] still [be] at the appointed time. 28 "While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be [moved] against the holy covenant; so he shall do [damage] and return to his own land. 29 "At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter.

Antiochus has a different approach in engaging in battle with Egypt.

He tries to deceive them.

So from verse 22 – 29, we have a prophesy of multiple accounts of Antiochus Epiphanes trying to take over Egypt and each time he tried, he failed.

And because he failed, as he would return to Syria, he would take it out on the Jews.

30 "For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do [damage]. So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

The ships from Cyprus refers to the Roman empire.

They were the ones that were helping Egypt – they were the ones that were causing Antiochus to return to Syria empty handed and as a result, he started slaughtering the Jews and he started to align himself with people in Israel who had embraced the Greek culture and had no interest in the covenant of God.

31 "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily [sacrifices], and place [there] the abomination of desolation.

It was on his return to Syria that he would go into the temple and put a stop to the sacrifices – and he, himself offers up a pig as a sacrifice to Zeus.

This is the “abomination of desolation”, much like what the antichrist will do one day.

When he demands that the people worship him.

32 "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out [great exploits]. 33 "And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet [for many] days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. 34 "Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. 35 "And [some] of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify [them], and make [them] white, [until] the time of the end; because [it is] still for the appointed time.

In his attack on Jerusalem, Antiochus is said to have killed 80,000 Jews, he took 40,000 more prisoners and he sold another 40,000 into slavery.

Yet there were loyal Jews who banded together and revolted against him.

36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.

The prophesy that the angel is giving Daniel shifts now.

The angel is no longer speaking about the power struggles and conflicts between the Kings of Syria and the Kings of Egypt.

The angel is not speaking about Antiochus Epiphanes.

How do we know that the angel is not speaking about Antiochus Epiphanes?

Because we were already told the AE worshipped Zeus.

The angel is now speaking about another king – a future king – the antichrist

And the scriptures reveal that he will enter the temple and declare himself god and set up an image of himself to be worshipped.

The antichrist will do exactly the same thing that got Satan thrown out of heaven.

Turn with me to the book of Isaiah

[Isa 14:12-14 NKJV] 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [How] you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

37 "He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above [them] all.

I asked you to make a note of God of his fathers – because there are those who speculate that the Antichrist could be of Jewish descent and possibly single.

He will not have any god because he will magnify himself above all.

38 "But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 "Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, [and] advance [its] glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

The antichrist will devote much of his wealth toward the area of warfare.

And those that agree with his philosophy, he is going to place them in positions where they are going to rule according to his will.

He is going to position a bunch of clones that will be leading people with his same agenda.

40 "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm [them], and pass through. 41 "He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many [countries] shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. 42 "He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 "He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also

the Libyans and Ethiopians [shall follow] at his heels. 44 "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45 "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

This portion of chapter 11 – revolves around a conflict that will take place in the end times.

This conflict will take place during the Tribulation Period.

There are some that speculate that Russia will be part of this conflict as well as the Arab world.

They point to the book of Ezekiel 37 and 38

The truth is that we cannot know for sure.

We could spend hours upon hours speculating what kingdom is going to come upon what kingdom.

However, I believe that this is not the reason that God inspired the recording of the vision that was given to Daniel.

The reason that we have Daniel 11 is to warn the Jews of further persecution and to assure them that God is in complete control and this final persecution of will also be short lived as He will intervene and defeat the Antichrist.

In fact, Revelation 19 tells us that the Antichrist will be thrown into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Think about this -

If the first 35 verse have already been fulfilled exactly as God said they would, what do you think the chances are that the last few verses are going to be fulfilled as well – there is a 100% chance that they will be fulfilled because God said it.

Amen.

Let's pray...



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