

Old Book for a New Day

Seminar on the Bible book of Daniel - #13

Daniel 11 - *North, South, and In Between*

I. Introduction to Daniel's Final Prophetic Outline

- A. Chapters 10-12 form a single unit which concludes the book of Daniel -- Outlined as follows:
 1. Chapter 10:1 to 11:1 - Introduces and sets the stage for the what follows - *Last study*
 - a. When God's people pray, though immediate results may not appear, He IS working
 - b. God will not force the human will, so short term success is not always possible
 - c. We must keep our eyes fixed on our Savior, and the long term victory guaranteed
 2. Chapter 11:2-39 - Traces history from Daniel's time to the "time of the end" - *This study*
 3. Chapter 11:40 to 12:3 - Outlines events during the "time of the end" -- the final conflict of this world's powers as they relate to God's faithful people - *Next study*
 4. Chapter 12:4-13 - is somewhat of an epilogue, binding off the entire book. - *Final study*
- B. Bible prophecy does not concern itself with general, secular history. Rather, the history outlined in prophecy always deals with those nations, powers, and events which directly affect God's faithful people, highlighting strategic events on earth which relate to the cosmic battle raging between God and Satan; between the forces of good and evil; between God's attempt enlighten and save and the devil's desire to deceive and destroy.
- C. Daniel 11 contains no new prophetic *vision*, just a prophetic explanation built upon the outline laid down in the previous visions. This explanation follows the familiar progression of Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, the Little Horn, and the Kingdom of Christ (the Stone). Additional data comes to light as the prophetic spotlight illuminates certain portions of that historical progression.

II. Persia and the Rise of Greece - vs.2-4

- A. Remaining History of Persia - v.2
 1. Three more kings in Persia - After Cyrus (10:1)
 - a. Cambyses - 530-522 BC
 - b. False Smerdis - 522 BC - A usurper who lasted about a month
 - c. Darius I (The Great) 522-486 BC
 2. Fourth shall be far richer = Xerxes - Ahasuerus of Esther 1:4 (431)
 3. Stirs up all against Greece
 - a. Greece was the only eastern Mediterranean area not under Persian control.
 - b. Xerxes gathered troops from over 40 nations and attacked Greece.
 - c. Though outnumbered, the Greeks defeated the Persians and drove them from Greece forever in 479 BC. Thus began the decline of the Persian empire
- B. The Rise of Greece and Alexander the Great - vs.3,4
 1. Mighty king shall arise - Alexander the Great - 336-323 BC - See 8:5,21
 2. His kingdom shall be broken up and divided to the four winds - See 8:8
 - a. Alexander died drunk near Babylon in 323 BC
 - b. 22 year struggle ensued to hold the Kingdom together
 3. Not among his posterity - Two puppet kings ruled for a time at the will of the generals
 - a. Alexander's weak minded half brother Philip
 - b. Alexander's posthumous son Alexander
 - c. 301 BC - Battle of Ipsus - Kingdom was divided between four generals
 - 1) Cassander - took Macedonia
 - 2) Lysimicus - took Asia Minor (western Turkey)
 - 3) Seleucus - took Syria-Babylon (eastern Turkey to India)
 - 4) Ptolemy - took Egypt
 4. Nor according to his dominion - Unity was never regained - See 8:22
 5. Uprooted, even for others besides these
 - a. The four generals were allies at the Battle of Ipsus in 301 BC
 - b. 20 years later they began to war among themselves. Territories traded hands and kingdoms were reshaped again and again. Rulers rapidly rose and fell.
 - c. The next two centuries were complex and unstable -- As shown in vs.5-15.

III. The Hellenistic Kingdoms - vs.5-15

- A. Overview -- Rivalry and battles between two divisions of the Greek empire
1. The "king of the South" = Egypt under Ptolemy and his successors
 2. The "king of the North" = Syria (Babylon) under Seleucid and his successors
 3. With Judah caught geographically in the middle
 4. v.9 - "Overwhelm and pass through" - Like flood waters rising, overflowing and subsiding, Palestine was repeatedly overrun by the warring armies from the North and South. Each army would plunder Palestine as it marched through to attack the other. The result was a time of little peace and much pain for the Jews - See Isaiah 8:7,8 (595)
- B. Battles between the North and South
- v.5 - Then 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.
- v.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,
 - neither he nor his authority shall stand;¹
 - but she shall be given up,
 - with those who brought her,
 - and with him who begot her,²
 - and with him who strengthened her in those times
- v.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.
- v.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.
- Note: Verse 8 clearly identifies the King of the South as Egypt. The King of the North in prior scriptures is the power in control of the area of Babylon; the Seleucid dynasty at this time. They are enemies of each other, and both are antagonistic to God's people--the Jews in Palestine.
- v.9 - Then the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the King of the South, but shall return to his own land.
- Ptolemy I Soter (306-283) established his kingdom in Egypt
 - Seleucus I Nicator (305-280) - was joined in league with Ptolemy who helped him establish the Seleucid dynasty in Syria.
 - Seleucus I established his kingdom and became stronger than Ptolemy. This kingdom is hereafter referred to as the king of the North
 - Seleucus I (d.280) was the strongest successor ever of Alexander, ruling the greatest territory.
 - About 245 - Some 35 years after Seleucus I died
 - An attempt is made to establish a lasting peace
 - Bernice, daughter of Ptolemy II Philadelphus
 - Antiochus II Theos (261-246), grandson of Seleucus I
 - Permanent bond of families in peace through marriage. To accomplish this, Antiochus deposed and divorced his wife, Laodice, and married Bernice.
 - Soon after Bernice bore a son to Antiochus, he was reconciled with Laodice.
 - Antiochus died suddenly, probably of poisoning.
¹ "His authority" could also read "his seed," referring to his son by Bernice whom Laodice killed.
 - Bernice was killed by Laodice
 - Bernice's royal entourage was massacred
 - Bernice's father, Ptolemy II, died about this time
² "him who begot her" could also read "her child," referring to her son, whom Laodice killed.
 - Probably referring to the death of Antiochus II, who was poisoned by Laodice and died
 - Ptolemy III Euergetes, Bernice's brother, succeeded his father in 246 BC
 - Ptolemy III gathered a large army and invaded Syria to avenge his sister's murder. He successfully attacked Seleucus II, successor of Antiochus II.
 - Ptolemy III was victorious, taking much territory and booty from Seleucus II.
 - Ptolemy III outlived Seleucus II.
 - Seleucus II marched against Egypt to regain his lost riches and honor, but was defeated in 240 BC and forced to return home empty handed.

- v.10 - However his sons shall stir up strife, - Seleucus III Ceraunus Soter (226-223), and Antiochus III Magnus (223-187) continue the feud.
 - and assemble a multitude of great forces; - A strong army was built up and plans were laid for another invasion territory controlled by Egypt.
 - and *one* shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; - At this time Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203) controlled Palestine. In 219, Antiochus III marched against Ptolemy, invading and conquering Palestine.
 - then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife. - Antiochus III returned home and prepared for further and greater warfare.
- v.11 - And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out to fight with him, with the king of the North, - Ptolemy IV met Antiochus III at Raphia near the Palestine-Egyptian border in 217 BC.
 - who shall muster a great multitude - Antiochus III had an army of 62,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry, and 102 elephants.
 - but the multitude shall be given into the of his *enemy*. - Antiochus III but was defeated, losing 10,000 infantry, 300 cavalry and 4,000 prisoners.
- v.12 - When he has taken away the multitude, - After defeating Antiochus III, Ptolemy IV did not failed to make the best of his victory.
 - his heart will be lifted up; - Ptolemy IV was a vile and indolent man
 - and he will cast down tens of thousands, - He moved against the Jews and destroyed 40,000 of them.
 - but he will not prevail. - Ptolemy IV and his queen both died mysteriously in 203 BC. He was succeeded by his son, Ptolemy V Epiphanies, who was only four or five years old.
- v.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. - After the defeat at Raphia, Antiochus III regrouped his forces and formed alliances awaiting his opportunity for revenge. The accession of the boy king provided the opportunity. Antiochus III invaded Palestine again in 201 BC, heading south for Egypt.

C. A Parenthetical Interlude

- v.14 - In those times many shall rise up against the king of the South; - The forces against the "South" become greater than just those from the "North."
 - Also *certain* violent men of your people - See NOTE below.

Note: "*certain* violent men of your people..." - Literally: "the sons of the breakers of your people"

1. "Violent men" or "breakers" = Robbers or destroyers
 - a. Psalm 17:4 (473) - destroyer
 - b. Isaiah 35:9 (619) - "ravenous" beast
 - c. Jeremiah 7:11 (658) - thieves
 - d. Ezekiel 7:22 (720); 18:10 (730) - robbers
 2. Can be interpreted subjectively or objectively
 - a. Subjectively - "Breakers AMONG your people" - Would seem to refer to certain Jews at this time who took advantage of the situation to advance their own national interests.
 - b. Objectively - "Breakers OF your people" - Introduces the power of Rome which would ultimately be the destroyer or breaker of God's people, the Jews, as well as the rest of the world, as clearly pointed out in the prophecies of the previous chapters.
 3. Though verse 15 continues the conflict between North and South, prophecy and history concur that this is the time when Rome makes its appearance on the world scene and begins to make its presence felt, rising to dominate over the North, the South, and Palestine.
- v.14 - Literally: "And the sons of the breakers of your people" - The rising power of Rome
 cont. - shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, - The rise of the crushing power of Rome fulfills the visions of Daniel 2:40; 7:7,19,23, the iron/beast power that would crush, break, devour, and trample.
 - but they shall fall. - A hopeful look ahead to the breaking of the breaker. Even this awesome power will be brought to an end and God's people will be delivered and vindicated. This is a reminder to keep our eyes on the bigger picture, and not just on the immediate trouble.

- D. The Last of the Feud Between the North and South -- Following the parenthetical remarks of v.14, the narrative of v.13 continues
- v.15 - So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; - Antiochus III took Gaza in 201 BC after a considerable siege. He also attacked Jerusalem.
 - and the forces of the South shall not withstand *him*. - Ptolemy V lost his control of Palestine, never to regain it again.
 - Even his choice troops *shall have* no strength to resist. - A large Egyptian army was cornered at Sidon and forced to surrender.

IV. The Reign of the Roman Empire

A. The Rise of Rome

- v.16 - But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, - Now Rome begins to execute its invincible will on the middle-eastern world, ending the focus on Antiochus vs. Ptolemy.
- and no one shall stand against him. - Rome rose to dominate both territories.
- He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power. - The Jews entered an alliance with Rome in 161 BC and enjoyed nearly a century of relative peace under Roman protection. Then in 63 BC, Pompey intervened in an internal power struggle in Jerusalem and Judea was forced to give up its independence and became a Roman province.

Note: Rome, having risen to dominate the former Seleucid Kingdom or the "king of the North," now assumes the position of "king of the North" as the dominating power over God's people in Palestine, and continues to move south into Egypt.

B. The Three Caesars

1. Julius Caesar - Sudden fall

- v.17 - He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, - Ptolemy XI The Golden died in 51 BC, leaving the kingdom to his two children, Ptolemy and Cleopatra, whom he also placed under Roman protectorate. Now Julius Caesar, put his full force toward subduing Egypt and making it a Roman province, and ending the Ptolemaic dynasty.
- and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. - 3000 Jews joined and supported Julius in this endeavor.
- And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; - Julius exiled Ptolemy and forcibly married Cleopatra, thus making himself legitimate heir to the throne of Egypt.
- but she shall not stand *with him*, or be for him. - Cleopatra used her feminine wiles to maintain her own power, not the power of Julius. After Julius was assassinated, she turned her affections to Mark Anthony, the rival of Julius' heir, Octavian.
- v.18 - After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. - Next Julius subjugated Sicily and the Greek Isles, and sent word back to Rome, "I came, I saw, I conquered."
- But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. - Brutus and others persuaded the Senate that their authority was being undermined by the arrogant claims of Julius.
- v.19 - Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; - Julius Caesar returned to Rome victorious and was proclaimed dictator for life.
- but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found. - The wording denotes a sudden fall. Julius was assassinated in the Roman Senate in 44 BC.

2. Augustus - Raiser of Taxes

- v.20 - There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom - Augustus Caesar (27 BC - AD 14) succeeded Julius. His taxation decree brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where Christ was born - Luke 2:1 (886)
- Within a few days - In a short while (day = year in prophecy)
- He shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle - Augustus reigned over 40 years and died at peace in bed; a rare thing for a Roman politician.

3. Tiberius - Opposes Messiah

- v.21 - In his place shall arise a vile person, - Tiberius (AD 14-37), the stepson of Augustus, was a vile, paranoid drunk; eccentric, misunderstood, and unloved.
- To whom they will not GIVE the honor of royalty; - No one, including Augustus, really wanted Tiberius to succeed to throne.
 - but he will come in peaceably and SEIZE the kingdom by intrigue. - By political maneuvering, especially through his mother, Livia, the aged Augustus was compelled to adopt Tiberius and appoint him heir to the throne, which he ascended without violence. But hated by both the senate and the army, he died in seclusion under highly suspicious circumstances.
- v.22 - With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, - Or "force of arms" -- Tiberius' army was successful on the empire's northern and eastern frontiers. He was also very cruel to the Jews.
- and also the prince of the covenant cf. Daniel 8:11; 9:25,27 - Christ died in AD 31, under Tiberius, by order of Pilot, the Roman Procurator.

C. The Methods used by Rome to Rise and Rule - vs.23,24

- v.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. - Rome developed a policy of arranging what would today be called "mutual assistance pacts," -- treaties presumably intended to protect and promote mutual interest between "allies." The implied threat of total destruction was used to manipulate nations to accept Rome's offer of "protection." Then, from within this disguised role of friend and protector, Rome would "work deceitfully" by turning these agreements to her own advantage, eventually absorbing these "allies" into the Empire and gaining absolute dominance.
- v.24 He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; - The Roman emperors, who ruled at the will of the populace, developed the practice of buying votes by distributing "gifts." They plundered other nations, and any of their own people who fell out of favor, distributing the spoil to the populace to support the ever increasing demands of the people and thus stay in office. Any hint of disloyalty by a wealthy person was enough to have him banished and his wealth go partly to the informant and the rest to the emperor. This is why when the Jews said to Pilot, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend," they were immediately effective in *persuading* him to condemn Jesus to death. John 19:12 (939)
- 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, - Some consider this a time prophecy of Rome's period of greatest power, marked from the Battle of Actium in 31 BC until AD 330 when Constantine moved the capital of the empire from Rome to Constantinople, a period of 360 years.
 - but *only* for a time.

D. The "I DON'T KNOW" Section - vs.25-30

1. The time frame of these verses fall between the reign of Tiberius (v.22) and the rise of the medieval "Little Horn" power of the Roman papacy around AD 538 (as can be seen from the familiar content of verse 31).
2. Some great struggle with "the South" seems to be the focus of vs.25,29.
3. Rome's internal struggles of intrigue and assassination among the emperors could be intended.
4. Rome's attack "against the holy covenant" is mentioned in vs.28,30. This could refer to attacks on the Jews, or persecutions of the church. Rome certainly participated in both.
5. The exact historical fulfillment has not come clear to my satisfaction as yet. So we move on.

V. The Era of the Roman Papacy -- The "Little Horn" - vs.31-39

A. This section clearly refers to the physical and spiritual desolation under the Little Horn of Daniel 7 and 8, fitting the time frame revealed in Daniel 9. Pagan Rome destroyed the temple in AD 70. The Papacy worked spiritual desolation during the middle ages -- from 538 to 1798 (7:25).

B. Comparison of Daniel 11 with Daniel 7 and 8

Daniel 11

- v.31 Forces shall be mustered by him
They shall defile the sanctuary
fortress
- They shall away the daily *sacrifices*
- Place *there* the abomination of
desolation
- v.32 Those who do wickedly
He shall corrupt with flattery
- v.33 Yet *for many* days
- They shall fall by sword and flame,
by captivity and plundering
- v.34 Many shall join them by intrigue
- v.35 And *some* of those with
understanding shall fall
- Until* the time of the end
It is still for the appointed time
- v.36 Then the king shall do according to
his own will
He shall exalt and magnify himself
above every god
- Speak blasphemies against the God
of gods
And shall prosper
- Till the wrath has been
accomplished; for what has been
determined shall be done
- v.37 He shall magnify himself above
them all

Daniel 7,8,9

- 8:12 An army was given over *to the horn*
- 8:11 The place of His sanctuary was cast down
8:13 Giving...the sanctuary...to be trampled under foot
9:26 He shall destroy the city and the sanctuary
- 8:11 By him the daily *sacrifices* were taken away
8:12 To oppose the daily *sacrifices*
- 8:13 The transgression of desolation
9:27 On the wing of abominations shall be one who
makes desolate
- 8:12 Because of transgression
- 8:25 Cause deceit to prosper
- 7:25 For a time, times and half a time (3 1/2 times or
1260 years)
- 7:21 Making war against the saints and prevailing
against them
8:10 It cast down *some* of the host...and trampled on
them
8:13 Giving...the host to be trampled under foot
8:24 He shall destroy fearfully
- 8:25 Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to
prosper under his hand
8:12 He cast truth down to the ground
8:23 Understands sinister schemes
- 7:25 The saints shall be given into his hand
8:10 It cast down *some* of the host and *some* of the
stars to the ground
8:25 He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity
8:24 He shall destroy...the holy people
- 8:17 The time of the end
- 8:19 At the appointed time the end *shall be*
- 7:20 Appearance was greater than his fellows
8:23 A king shall arise, having fierce features
- 8:11 He exalted *himself* as high as the Prince of the host
8:24 He shall magnify *himself* in his heart
8:25 He shall even rise against the Prince of princes
- 7:25 He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most
High
- 7:21 Prevailing against them
8:12 He did *all this* and prospered
8:24 And shall prosper and thrive
- 9:26 Till the end of the war desolations are
determined
9:27 Even until the consummation, which is
determined
- 8:10 It grew up to the host of heaven
8:24 He shall magnify *himself* in his heart

C. Additional identification features of the medieval apostate era and powers

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|---|---|
| v.32 - But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out <i>great exploits</i> . | - During the medieval era God always had faithful people who could not be stopped from proclaiming the truth regardless of threat, imprisonment, torture and death. |
| v.33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many | - The blood of the martyrs was the seed of the gospel. The death of the faithful brought more into the faith. |
| v.34 - Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help | - At times God miraculously rescued His people. But at other times He allowed them to suffer. |
| v.37 - He shall regard neither the God of his fathers
- nor the desire of women,

- nor regard any god | - Church tradition and papal edict had greater authority than the ancient faith based on the word of the Bible.
- The desire of every Jewish woman was to be mother of Messiah. Even the truth about Jesus was not spared the desecration of pagan corruption.
- The medieval Popes claimed to be God |
| v.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. | - Political, civil and military power was used to maintain spiritual control in the name of God
- The church accumulation great wealth with top leaders living as kings. Ornate statues and relics were collected, revered and worshiped. |
| v.39 - Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, <i>and</i> advance to <i>its</i> glory;
- and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain. | - Medieval "christianity" advanced pagan beliefs in the name of Christ and by the power of the state.

- "Simony" = <u>Sale</u> of high church offices to the highest bidder. This practice is actually what goaded Martin Luther to write the "95 Theses" which served to launch the reformation. |

VI. Verse 40 introduces New Data and will be the focus of our next study.