

Daniel

Chapter Eleven

- Contents of the vision are revealed in Chapter 11
- Persian period—4 Kings
- Greek Empire—Alexander—division under 4 generals—two division effect Israel
- Historical material in Daniel 11:2-20—introduces wicked leadership that persecutes the Jews (Antiochus Epiphanes—a shadow of wicked leader prophesied concerning the end of the age—the antichrist)
- The details in this prophecy are some of the most accurate predictions made in all of scripture

Daniel 11:1-4

“And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him. And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece. And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded; for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides them,

- Most commentaries agree that 11:1 goes with 10:21—that the two angelic beings were involved in helping one another—because a date was included, a division was made in the midst of a thought.
- In Daniel 10:13,21—Michael had helped the interpreting angel (Gabriel)—in 11:1—Gabriel supports Michael
- An intense spiritual conflict took place during the first year of Darius the Mede
- Since Michael—Israel’s Prince was involved—must have concerned Israel
- 3 things took place that first year: 1) fall of Babylon 2) 70 weeks prophecy in chapter 9 3) Cyrus’ decree that Jews could return to Jerusalem
- Gabriel states that truth comes from ‘Book of Truth’
- 3 more kings—those after Cyrus= 1) Cambyses (530-522) 2) Smerdis/Gaumata (522) 3) Darius I (522-486) 4) Xerxes (486-465)
- Mighty king—vs 3—Alexander the Great (336-323 BC)—ruler who caused downfall of Persian Empire

- Alexander launched attack against Medo Persia in 334 BC—conquering it by 331 BC—died in Babylon in 323 BC
- Antiochus Epiphanes came from one of the 4 divisions of this man’s realm

Daniel 11:5-6

Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed. And after some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in, and the one who sired her, as well as he who supported her in those times.

- Vs 5-20—a history of two divisions of the Greek Empire (Ptolemaic/Egyptian—Seleucid/Syrian----from Alexander to Antiochus
- King of the South—Ptolemy Soter (323-285)—ruler in Egypt
- One of his princes=Seleucus Nicator (312-280)—he was satrap in Babylon until another general (Antigonus) seized Babylon. He fled to Ptolemy in Egypt to serve under him. In 312 Antigonus is defeated—Seleucus returns to his former satrapy—increases in power—eventually controlling more territory than Ptolemy—Seleucid period begins—becoming the largest in Greek Empire
- Ptolemy died in 285 BC
- Clashes continue between Ptolemy II (285-246) in Egypt and Seleucids in Syria—until treaty in 250 BC—this is the alliance in vs 6
- Under the treaty—Berenice: Ptolemy’s daughter (daughter of King of the South) was to marry Antiochus (King of the North) to seal an alliance between the two kingdoms
- Antiochus was already married to Laodice—who murdered Antiochus, Berenice and the child
- Laodice rules while her son (Seleucus II is a minor—(246-226)
- Ptolemy II had Hebrew scriptures translated to Greek=Septuagint

Daniel 11:7-10

But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against their army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display great strength. And also their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from attacking the king of

the North for some years. Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land. And his sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his very fortress.

- Ptolemy III Euergetes and Seleucus II Callinicus—Daniel 11:7-9
- One from Berenice's family line—her brother--Ptolemy III (246-221)—steps up to replace Ptolemy II on throne of Egypt
- In retaliation for sister's death—Ptolemy III attacks Syria—the King of the North—with a great army
- The war lasted from 246-241—Ptolemy looted capital city Antioch—He put Laodice to death—plundered their treasures—recaptured his own—made truce in 240 BC
- His sons will mobilize: Antiochus III—during his reign Palestine fell under Seleucid control—his conflicts with Egypt explain what happens to Palestine
- With Palestine dominated by Seleucids—stage is set for tyrant in vs 21-35
- Seleucus II died in 226—his son: Seleucus III and Antiochus III continue wars with Ptolemies. Seleucus III is murdered and his brother Antiochus III came to power
- Many military successes—over Phoenicia and Palestine—war is waged clear to Ptolemy's fortresses

Daniel 11:11-13

And the king of the South will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but that multitude will be given into the hand of the former. When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail. For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.

- Ptolemy IV—King of the South—launches counter attack
- Ptolemy's forces (70,000 infantry, 5000 cavalry, 73 elephants) vs Antiochus' forces (62,000 infantry, 6000 cavalry, 102 elephants)
- When battle ended in 217 BC—Ptolemy won great victory over Syrians at Raphia in Palestine
- Ptolemy's heart filled with pride
- Antiochus lost 17,000 soldiers
- In vs 13—tide changes—period of Seleucid supremacy

- 15 years later—202 BC—Antiochus III invades Ptolemaic territory with large army—Does this at the time of Ptolemy IV's death—Ptolemy V is crowned as a small boy—Antiochus takes advantage of this weakness and attacks Palestine and Phoenicia

Daniel 11:14-17

Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down. Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege mound, and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand their ground, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand. But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand him; he will also stay for a time in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand. And he will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand for him or be on his side.

- Opposers of King of the South—Philip V of Macedon—ally of Antiochus
- Violent ones=Jews who aided Antiochus
- These will rebel against Egypt
- General Scopas of Egypt engaged Syrian forces at Battle of Panium in 199 BC—suffered great loss
- Antiochus' forces pursue Egyptian forces—besiege Sidon until General Scopas surrenders in 198 BC
- With defeat of Egyptians at Sidon—Antiochus gains complete control of Phoenicia and Palestine—the Beautiful Land comes under possession of Syrian/Seleucid Empire
- Sets things up for reign of terror under Antiochus IV Epiphanes
- With destruction in his hand—Antiochus IV enters the land in 198 BC
- Vs 17—backed by Antiochus's army—Syrians forced terms of peace on Egypt. To seal deal—Antiochus gave his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V as a wife
- Antiochus III hoped to gain further control of Egypt due to union
- Plan fails because Cleopatra loves husband—supports his cause

Daniel 11:18-22

Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn. SO he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more. Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewell of his kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though neither in anger nor in battle. And in his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue. And the overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant.

- Vs 18-19—prophesy of Antiochus III defeat
- In 191 BC—Rome with Greek allies—routed the Syrians at Thermopylae—they flee to Asia Minor—Rome pursues and a greater defeat takes place at Smyrna in 190 BC—forced to surrender territory and military (take 20 hostages including Antiochus IV)
- Antiochus III is killed as he attempts to pillage temple of Zeus in Elymas
- Successor of Antiochus III was Seleucus IV (187-175)
- Vs 21—when Seleucus IV died in 175 BC—his younger brother—another son of Antiochus III took the throne (Ps 15:4, Jer 22:28)
- Epiphanes=Manifest One—Illustrious One
- He should not have received the throne—it rightfully belonged to Demetrius I—son of Seleucus IV—but he was still a hostage in Rome
- Antiochus IV did not take throne through military defeat but due to false sense of security among Syrians
- He took leadership by influence/intrigue
- In 169 BC—Ptolemy VI launched attack to regain territories (Phoenicia and Palestine)—he is defeated and captured
- Ptolemy was called 'prince of the covenant'—because he agreed to be an ally of Antiochus if Syrians would help him regain throne in Egypt (taken by younger brother)

Daniel 11:23-26

And after an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people. In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty, and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against

strongholds, but only for a time. And he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him. And those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.

- Historical preview in vs 2-20—sets stage for 8th Seleucid ruler—Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163)—He is the 'little horn' from chapter 8
- Vs 24—when they felt secure—Antiochus IV invades Egypt and Judea
- Vs 25-26—refers to Antiochus' campaign against Egypt in 169 BC
- Vs 25—victory over Ptolemy VI

Daniel 11:27-28

As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still to come at the appointed time. Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land.

- While Ptolemy VI was a prisoner (vs 22)—Ptolemy VII was made king
- This caused Ptolemy VI and Antiochus to plan for regaining the Egyptian throne
- Speak lies/same table—deception practiced at the table of hospitality considered to be the deepest betrayal
- Ptolemy VI—installed as king in Memphis
- Ptolemy VII—ruled in Alexandria
- Later the two Ptolemy's rule jointly
- When you reach vs 28—begin to understand why Gabriel was sent to Daniel—stage is set for persecution of Jews
- After Antiochus IV has successful campaign in Egypt—finds insurrection in Palestine on his return home (I Macc 1:16-28, II Macc 5:1-11)
- He puts down rebellion by killing 80,000 men, women and children (II Macc 5:12-14)—looted temple with help of evil high priest Menelaus (II Macc 5:15-21)

Daniel 11:29-31

At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened, and will return and become

enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

- In 168 BC—Antiochus invades Egypt again
- He fails because he encounters Roman ships that had come to Alexandria at the request of the Ptolemies
- As Syrians attempt siege at Alexandria—Rome orders Antiochus to leave—or face war with Rome
- Antiochus withdraws in humiliation
- He turns his humiliation into anger—once more releasing it toward Jews (I Macc 1:29-40, II Macc 6:1-6)
- He sent Apollonius (II Macc 5:23-26)—chief collector of tribute—a mercenary—to Jerusalem—to plunder
- Temple considered a fortress
- In 167 BC—suppression of Jewish religious practices—circumcision/ possessing the scriptures/ sacrifices/ Feast Days—forbidden—penalty of death (I Macc 1:50,63)
- Imperial cult introduced
- Desecration of Jewish religion reached climax on 15 Chislev (December) 167 BC—idol devoted to Zeus erected in temple (Abomination of Desolation)—on 25 Chislev—swine slain/offered on altar

Daniel 11:32-35

And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant; but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days. Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.

- Antiochus made promises in order to entice people to support him—he further corrupts apostate Jews
- There are still true believers at this time
- Read I Macc 1:62-63
- Foremost in the resistance: the Maccabees—a priest named Mattathias refused to forsake God—He had three sons: Judas, Jonathan, and Simon—became

known as the Maccabees—they successfully overthrew the Syrians yoke through a series of brilliant military victories (predicted in Zech 9:13-17)—against Apollonius, Seron, Gorgias and Lysias between 166-164 BC

- As a result—temple is rededicated (Hanukkah) to Yahweh—on 25 Chislev (Dec 14) 164 BC
- Those who are wise (cause to be wise/teachers) true believers suffer martyrdom because they were the ones who gave instruction for taking a successful stand against Syria
- This resistance—honored in Hebrews 11:34-35
- Vs 34—during this oppression—the faithful receive a little help
- Accomplishes a cleansing in Israel—until the end
- Antiochus IV died in Persia in 163 BC—went insane

Daniel 11:36-39

Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all. But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones, and treasures. And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him, and he will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

- Scholars agree—vision up to this point was about events between time of Cyrus and death of Antiochus IV—everything changes at vs 36
- Some argue that vs 36-45 is still about Antiochus IV—but the rest of the prophecy does not harmonize with his life (he didn't worship himself as god/ he died in Tabae, not Palestine)
- Ruler now in view will live during the last days—immediately prior to return of the Lord
- Greatest proof that this is a description of antichrist—resurrection of saints immediately after God delivers His people from this evil power (12:2)
- Vs 36-39—seems to be introducing this king for the first time

- Daniel had previously described this person (Chapters 7 & 9)—he is the little horn in Daniel 7 and the Ruler to come in Daniel 9
- Known in NT as man of lawlessness (II Thes 2:3-12)
- The antichrist (I John 2:18)
- The Beast (Rev 11-20)
- This view has been held since ancient times—by Chrysostom, Jerome, Theodoret
- Gabriel is now telling Daniel about antichrist—after speaking of Antiochus Epiphanes—who is a type/shadow of antichrist
- Antichrist is introduced in vs 36-39—his wars are described in vs 40-45
- Because of charisma, intelligence, evil character, political power—antichrist believes he is above God/ can function without answering to God
- He will be an atheist—II Thes 2:4—but will use religion to gain power (will reject religion of ancestors)
- Blasphemous
- Time of wrath—Is 10:25, 26:20, 30:27, Mal 1:4
- Will honor military power/might—uses war to gain world power

Daniel 11:40-41

And at the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen, and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through. He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

- End of time—end of all things
- This is the tribulation described by Jesus in Matt 24:21
- Battle concludes with destruction of antichrist in Palestine (vs 45)—followed by resurrection of the saints (12:2)
- King of the south and King of the north (antichrist) will attack—2 fronts
- Same battle described in Ezekiel 38-39
- Edom, Moab and sons of Ammon (territory of Jordan)—escape due to alliance with antichrist
- Egypt/Arab bloc—led by Egypt—could be king of south

Daniel 11:42-45

Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

- Libya—area in north Africa—west of Egypt (Ethiopia and Sudan)
- They are brought under submission—not in alliance with antichrist
- All the riches of Egypt—Arab bloc nations—oil reserves
- Reports that alarm antichrist are new attacks launched against his interests from nations in the east (armies described in Rev 9:13-19?)
- King of north will be enraged—purpose to obliterate enemies
- Antichrist will set his headquarters in Palestine (II Thes 2:4, Matt 24:15)
- Holy mountain—Zion
- Final battle will be in Israel—Ezek 39:2-29, Joel 3:2-16, Zech 12:2-9, 14:1-21
- Valley of Megiddo=Battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:16)
- Man of lawlessness will be destroyed (II Thes 2:8)

Daniel Chapter Eleven-----Workbook

Project:

Chapter eleven is about ongoing conflict and warfare. I Corinthians 5:17-21 calls us to participate in the ministry of reconciliation. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any place in need of peacemaking (including your own relationships). Take any step of obedience that He shows you.

Harmonize:

Read II Corinthians 5:16-6:18

Dig:

- 1) Who is speaking in Daniel 11:1? Why does this make a difference?
- 2) How does the 4th king of Persia gain his strength?
- 3) What happens after the king of Persia rises to power?
- 4) Who succeeds the 4th king of Persia?
- 5) Where does conflict with Persia arise from?
- 6) How many kings/kingdoms are described in chapter eleven?
- 7) What are the time frame indications mentioned in chapter eleven?
- 8) How do we recognize the identities of the King of the North and the King of the South?

9) What verses allude to Israel in this chapter?

10) How many times does power and dominion change hands in this chapter?

11) Where are alliances formed in this chapter? With whom?

12) Which king, mentioned in chapter eleven, seems to be the most dangerous?

13) What do the people who know God do in chapter eleven?

Discuss:

1) What difference does it make—knowing that chapter eleven is verifiable in secular history?

2) How have you read/interpreted prophetic books in the past? Have you avoided them?

3) What are the root motives do you find in people in this chapter?

Point of Prayer:

Pray for a situation or person who seems to be unreconcilable.

Integrate:

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Which wars are you most familiar with?

- 2) Have you or a family member been a member of the military?

- 3) Are you aware of the reasons why our country participated in WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and the Iraq/Afghanistan wars?

- 4) Do you tend to be more of a peacemaker or a peacekeeper?

- 5) Are there offenses that are unforgiveable?

- 6) When do you tend to be defensive? With whom?

- 7) How are arguments escalated in your family? De-escalated?