

Doing hard things well

Daniel 11:1-28

- We know that the book of Daniel is one of the most prophecy intensive books in the whole Bible, which is why critics have attacked it for centuries. Man cannot believe that anyone could write with such accuracy, and in such detail, about so many people, and so many events, that had yet to occur, it's impossible.
- So, they conclude it must be a fraud, and that these prophecies was written decades after these things happened, then the dates moved to make it seem that they'd been written before it happened. What they fail to realize is Prophecy is powerful evidence that the Bible is The Word of God, and fulfilled Prophecy is one of the proofs that the inspiration of The Bible came from God and not man.
- For only an omniscient God can know future evens accurately, and direct His servants to write them down > **Dan 2:22**- as He knows what is in the darkness and light dwells with Him. Scholars, teachers and Pastors have said that one hundred and thirty specific prophecies are listed in just this chapter alone, so if you enjoy prophecy then you are in for a treat tonight.

V1-28

- **V1-2** Babylon has been overthrown and the Medes-Persians are in control, and now after the twenty one day fight Gabriel is sharing with Daniel what will happen with Persia. Darius is King now but three more will rise after him, and the fourth strong, rich King history tells us is Xerxes 1 and he will oppose the realm of Greece.
- What is interesting is that at some point both Persia and Greece attempted to wipe out the people of God. The king during Ester's time was Ahasuerus but his Greek translation is Xerxes, and this happened through the plot of Haman. The Greek empire tried to wipe the Jewish people out during the reign of Antiochus IV when he attempted to kill every Jewish person who didn't renounce their commitment to God and embrace Greek culture, so we see why Satan is so involved in these matters.
- Remember Antiochus wanted to be called Epiphanes which is translated "God manifest" but the Jews rejected that title and called him "**Antiochus Epimanes**" which meant the madman or crazy one. He absolutely hated them for that.

- The Persians were more compassionate toward the Jewish people than the Babylonians or the other powers lurking around so Satan who is the father of antisemitism had to be opposed by Gabriel and Michael the Arch Angel.
- **V3-4** this is talking about Alexander the Great, the ancient historian Josephus says when Alexander the great came to Jerusalem he was shown the book of Daniel by the high priest whom he had seen in a vision, and Alexander was so impressed that he spared Jerusalem and granted them religious freedom. After him none of his descendants succeeded him, although he did have a son born after his death, but the kingdom was divided into four parts and given to his four generals to rule.
- **V5** this speaks of Ptolemy King of Egypt, once Alexander died and the division of his empire weakened Greece's control the Ptolemies exerted control over the region. **V6** North is Syria South is Egypt, as was often the case monarchies used marriage as a means to form strong political alliances, as Antiochus ii took Berenice the daughter of Ptolemy ii as wife.
- The peace didn't last long as Ptolemy ii died Antiochus then divorced his daughter Berenice and took back his former wife, who had him poisoned, then she had Berenice, her infant son, and her attendants killed, then sat her son on the throne.
- **V7-9** the brother of Berenice didn't take kindly to his sister and nephew being butchered so he raises up an army and invades Syria and humbles Seleucus ii and avenging the murder of his sister. Ptolemy iii lived four years longer than Seleucus ii thus fulfilling the prophecy that he would continue longer than the king of the North.
- **V10** Seleucus ii had two sons Seleucus iii and Antiochus iii, both were successful generals, but Seleucus iii only ruled a short time and was succeeded by his brother, who eventually took back the holy land from the dominion of the Ptolemies. So as you can see both Syria and Egypt have been battling for Jerusalem a long time.
- **V11-12** another battle occurs and this time Syria loses the fight and gives up Jerusalem to Egypt again. **V13-16** Syria will not stand for Egypt to have the Holy Land for long and they muster up an army invade Jerusalem and defeat Egypt and take back the territory. Initially the Jewish people welcomes Antiochus iii as a liberator from Egyptian rule, but its going to prove unwise in later years.

- **V17-19** to try and calm things Syria King gives his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V of Egypt, he was only seven years old, the hope was she would control her husband and rule from within thus allowing Syria to control both their country and Egypt. This is not the famous Cleopatra but an ancestor of the one to come in another 100yrs.
- **V20** the plot fails as she remains loyal to her husband and helps him rule in the best interest of Egypt. So Syria tried to expand their territory and invade the lands of Asia Minor and Greece, but he is defeated and returns back humiliated. Mad and upset he raises taxes on Jerusalem in an attempt to recoup some of his lost wages from his failed war, but that backfires and one of his own assassinates him.
- **V21-28** and now here comes the son Antiochus IV, the angel tells Daniel that this king is vile but comes in peace. He uses flattery to gain influence, making promises to everyone who has power but never intending to keep them, just like the Antichrist. He attempts a deceitful covenant with the King of the South, and a great battle will take place, his armies will be swept away, and those who ate with him will destroy him. His heart is against the Covenant he made with Jerusalem that's where we stop