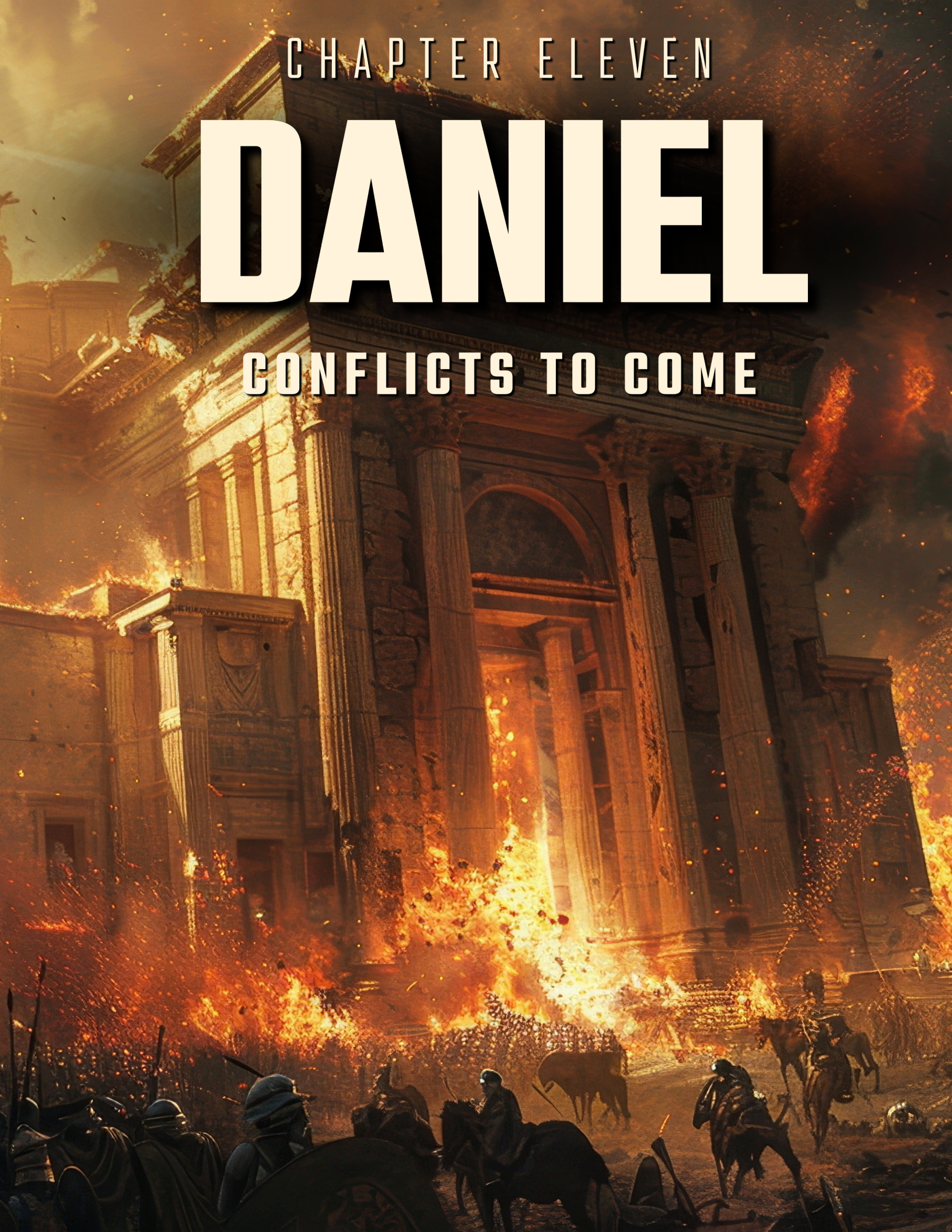


CHAPTER ELEVEN

# DANIEL

CONFLICTS TO COME







## Introduction

Chapter 11 of Daniel is undoubtedly one of the most amazing chapters of the entire Bible.

Daniel chapter 11 presents us with well over \_\_\_\_\_ detailed prophecies, most of which have already been historically fulfilled.

These prophecies are so clear, so precise, and so unmistakable that liberal theologians for centuries have cried “foul” when they came to this section of the Bible.

They maintain that there is no way that any human author could write such detailed prophecies hundreds of years before they actually happened.

And so, because they don’t believe in the divine \_\_\_\_\_ of Biblical prophecy, they are forced to conclude that Daniel wrote all of this much, much later—after all of these events occurred.

### QUOTE:

*“Daniel 11:1-35 is either the most precise and accurate prophecy of the future, fully demonstrating its divine inspiration, or as Porphyry (the third century A.D. heathen philosopher) claimed, it is a dishonest attempt to present history as if prophesied centuries earlier. Modern critics of Daniel have not gone much beyond the basic premise of Porphyry, namely, that such detailed prophecy is impossible, and, therefore, absurd and incredible” (Walvoord, 253).*

That is exactly the kind of response that we would expect from many unbelievers.

BUT for those of us who believe in a God Who is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, to Whom the \_\_\_\_\_ is just as clear as the \_\_\_\_\_—then predictive prophecy is no problem whatsoever, no matter how detailed.

I absolutely love these verses in Isaiah which deal with God’s knowledge of future events.

#### **Isaiah 46:9-11**

**9** “Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,

**10** **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done,** saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;

**11** **Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.”**

No human author (even with \_\_\_\_\_ assistance) can accurately predict the future in detail.

However, men inspired by the Holy Spirit have recorded the most amazing, incredibly detailed prophecies imaginable—even predicting the exact day that the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey during His Triumphal Entry (see Daniel ch. 9), and the exact day that He will come back from Heaven to rule and reign from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (see Mat. 24:15-30; Dan. 12:11).

Chapter 10 gave us the setting and the circumstances of this fourth and final prophecy of Daniel's.

Chapter 11 contains most of the content of that prophecy, covering the time from the \_\_\_\_\_ rulers to the very end of times, including the reign of the final Antichrist.

Another way of looking at this is that **verses 3-35** foretell the historical flow of the **first 69 weeks**, while **verses 36-45** tell us of the **70th week**, *i.e.*, the seven years of the Tribulation.

| Verses       | Date       | Persons Who Would Rule   |
|--------------|------------|--|
| <b>2</b>     | 539-465 BC | Cyrus/Darius; Cambyses; Pseudo-Smerdis; Darius I; Xerxes                         |
| <b>3-4</b>   | 334-323 BC | Alexander the Great  |
| <b>5-20</b>  | 323-175 BC | Kings of the North (Seleucid dynasty) and Kings of the South (Ptolemaic dynasty) |
| <b>21-35</b> | 175-164 BC | Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)   |
| <b>36-45</b> | ???        | Antichrist (The "little horn")   |

### The Prophecies of Persia (Dan. 11:1-2)

#### **Daniel 11:1-2**

**1** *"In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection **for him**.*  
**2** *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.*

Many Bible scholars have made the observation that Daniel 11:1 should have been the last verse of chapter 10, rather than the beginning of chapter 11. It's a continuation of the explanation given to Daniel by the angelic messenger in chapter 10.

That unnamed angel had been explaining to Daniel that he was being sent to help \_\_\_\_\_ battle the powerful demon assigned to Persia, *a.k.a.*, "*the prince of Persia*" (10:20).

And now in verse 1 he tells Daniel that his help had been given in the first year of King Darius.

→→ But the question arises, who is the "*him*" spoken of at the end of verse 1?

Some commentators think verse 1 is referring to \_\_\_\_\_, and that the angel had been sent to encourage and protect that king.

Others think that the angel was referring to Michael—he had been sent to be an encouragement and a protection for Michael in his battle.

Unfortunately, we simply don't know for sure to whom the "him" in verses 1 refers. Either possibility works. And both options demonstrate the same truth: God \_\_\_\_\_ His people **and** His angels, and He takes care of them.

It's interesting to note that both the incident of the Lion's Den (ch. 6) and the giving of the Seventy Weeks prophecy (ch. 9) took place during the first year of Darius.

No doubt the angel's words opened Daniel's eyes to realities that he had most likely never understood before. Behind everything that took place in chapters 6 and 9, there was an angelic battle raging.

***Daniel 11:2***

*2 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**.*

This part of the prophecy would have been of particular interest to Daniel, because he was living and \_\_\_\_\_ under the second world empire of the Medes and Persians.

The "truth" the angel told him was a brief summary of the next few Medo-Persian rulers.

Daniel was told that after King Darius, three more kings would rule, and then a fourth one would arise and be far greater in power, influence, and wealth than those who preceded him.

That ruler was none other than King \_\_\_\_\_ who ruled from 486-465 BC. He was also known as King Ahasuerus in the book of \_\_\_\_\_.

In fact, the description of the king's elaborate party in chapter 1 of the book of Esther gives us a good glimpse of the wealth of his palace.

Xerxes was the Persian ruler who spearheaded the prophetic attack on Greece.

This verse does not state the \_\_\_\_\_ of Xerxes' attack on Greece; but the fact that the very next verse (v. 3) speaks of the rising of the mighty Grecian Empire would suggest that things would not go well for the Persians. And that is exactly what happened.

Xerxes led the famous Persian invasion of Greece, where 300 \_\_\_\_\_ held the fabled Pass of Thermopylae and kept the great Persian army out—until the Spartans were betrayed by a countryman who showed the Persians a way behind the Greek lines.

Xerxes paid dearly for that “victory,” for

**1**—he lost many men in the land battle;

**2**—he completely lost the \_\_\_\_\_ battle at the Straits of Artemisium which he tried to fight simultaneously with the land battle; and

**3**—many of his men became sick and died on the march home.

So it is true that during Xerxes’ reign the kingdom reached its height of power and wealth; but we can also see the beginning of the end for Persia.

Now, before we go any further, I believe it’s helpful to remember that what the angel was giving Daniel was only a \_\_\_\_\_ of things to come.

The prophecy doesn’t include every individual who ruled, nor every event that took place during that period of time in human history. But everything that *is* said, is \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Prophecies of Greece (Dan. 11:3-4)

#### ***Daniel 11:3-4***

**3** *And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.*

**4** *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.*

Three specific facts are mentioned here which makes the identification of the ruler in verse 3 crystal clear—\_\_\_\_\_.

**First**, while rising to the heights of power, the great king would \_\_\_\_\_.

And that is exactly what history tells us. In 323 BC, Alexander the Great succumbed to an illness and died at the young age of 32, at the height of his power.

**Second**, when he died, his empire would be divided into four parts among those who were not his \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, that is exactly what history tells us. The Greek Empire was divided up among four of Alexander’s generals.

Cassander reigned over Macedon and Greece.

Lysimachus ruled Thrace and Asia Minor.

Seleucus governed Syria and Babylon.

And Ptolemy led Egypt.

Alexander the Great was also pictured earlier in the book of Daniel in the vision of the goat with the conspicuous horn which was broken off and replaced by four other horns (Dan. 8:5-8).

The **third** thing that verse four mentions is that none of those four generals would wield the \_\_\_\_\_ that Alexander once possessed. After Alexander died, the glory and the might of the Greek Empire was never the same again.

Many of these same facts were given in the Ram-Goat vision of chapter 8.

### The Prophecies of Egypt and Syria (Dan. 11:5-20)

#### **Daniel 11:5-6**

**5** *“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.*

**6** *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.*

This section of the prophecy only concerns itself with the kingdoms which would have a direct \_\_\_\_\_ on the nation of Israel. The prophetic focus here is on the “*kings of the south*” (General Ptolemy and his descendants) and the “*kings of the north*” (General Seleucus and his descendants).

The directions of “*north*” and “*south*” are to be understood in reference to the land of \_\_\_\_\_, which would be greatly impacted by both of those kingdoms.

Israel would first fall under the dominion of the “*south*,” and then of the “*north*.” Israel often became a battleground as these two nations faced each other in continual battle. Verses 5-20 record a period of about \_\_\_\_\_ years of the ups and downs of cooperation followed by conflict between these two powers.

| Kings of the South (Egypt)        | Kings of the North (Syria)        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ptolemy I (Soter) 323-285         | Seleucus I (Nicator) 312-281      |
| Ptolemy II (Philadelphus) 285-247 | Antiochus I (Soter) 281-261       |
| Ptolemy III (Euergetes) 247-221   | Antiochus II (Theos) 261-246      |
| Ptolemy IV (Philopater) 221-203   | Seleucus II (Callinicus) 246-226  |
| Ptolemy V (Ephiphanes) 203-182    | Seleucus III (Ceraunus) 226-223   |
|                                   | Antiochus III (the Great) 223-187 |
|                                   | Seleucus IV (Philopater) 186-175  |
|                                   | Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) 175-164  |

The angel first revealed to Daniel that the king of the south (\_\_\_\_\_) would be strong. This was Ptolemy I Soter. He was one of Alexander's generals who governed Egypt from 323 to 285 BC.

The Ptolemaic dynasty controlled the \_\_\_\_\_ from 323-198 BC. However, it would turn out that Seleucus I from Syria would eventually gain greater power.

Perhaps in an attempt to ease longstanding tensions between the two empires, \_\_\_\_\_, the daughter of Ptolemy II Philadelphus, was given in marriage to the Syrian king Antiochus II Theos.

First, however, Antiochus II Theos had to divorce his wife, who also happened to be his half-sister, Laodice.

The political plan was that any children born to Antiochus and Bernice would be heirs to the \_\_\_\_\_ throne, and that would cement the ties between these two kingdoms.

However, those plans fell through. When Ptolemy Philadelphus (father of Bernice) died, Antiochus Theos restored his former wife, Laodice, to favor. However, she came back with a vengeance.



Not willing to overlook having been replaced, she successfully poisoned her husband, Antiochus Theos; her replacement, Bernice; **and** the young \_\_\_\_\_ that had been born to them, thus fulfilling this prophecy that they would all lose their power.

Then Seleucus Callinicus, son of Laodice, became the ruler of the Syrian dynasty.

### ***Daniel 11:7-9***

**7** 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.

**8** 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.

**9** Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land.

These next couple of verses focus on the exploits of Ptolemy III Euergetes, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the recently poisoned Bernice, who became the king of Egypt in place of his father.

Furious over the murder of his sister, he headed north and conquered Seleucus Callinicus, son of Laodice. He then avenged his sister's death by executing \_\_\_\_\_.





Ptolemy III seized all the treasures of Syria and returned to Egypt with much spoil.

A counter attack later led by Seleucus Callinicus largely failed, except that some of the Syrian strongholds were recovered. Continuing on in verses 10-13, we read of endless conflict between the Ptolemies in the south (Egypt) and the Seleucids in the north (Syria).

And don't forget—\_\_\_\_\_ was right in the middle of this constant tug-of-war. That tiny nation was invaded first by one power and then by the other.

***Daniel 11:10-13***

**10** *“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.*

**11** *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.*

**12** *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.*

**13** *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.*

Both kingdoms were continually vying for control of the strategically located land of Israel. Needless to say, this was not a good time for Israel.

In verse 10 we are told that Seleucus Callinicus' two sons—Seleucus III Ceraunus (226-223 BC) and Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC)—continued to wage war against the king of the south in a never-ending conflict.

Sometime later (v. 11), the king of the south, now Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203 BC), fought against the king of the north, now Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC). He enjoyed victory, but any sense of superiority would be short-lived.

According to verse 12, Ptolemy IV Philopator (of Egypt), in great \_\_\_\_\_ slaughtered tens of thousands of the northern Seleucid troops. However, he would not be able to prevail against Syria.

Antiochus III the Great (king of the north) had been successfully conquering other lands. And thirteen years later, he had accumulated a vast army replete with military supplies (v. 13).



***Daniel 11:14-20***

**14** *“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.*

**15** *Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege ramp 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.*

**16** *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.*

*17 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.*

*18 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.*

*19 So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and **fall** and be found no more.*

*20 “Then in his place one will arise who will **send an oppressor through the Jewel** of his kingdom; yet within **a few days** he will be **shattered**, though **not in anger nor in battle**.”*

According to verse 14, some \_\_\_\_\_ chose to join forces with Antiochus III the Great, king of the north. These Jews had hoped to gain independence from **both** Egypt and Syria by participating in the conflict. But their hopes were in vain.

According to verse 15, Antiochus III’s newly enlarged army won a resounding victory over the south, even capturing the well-fortified city of Sidon. Then, according to verse 16, Antiochus III took control of “the \_\_\_\_\_”—that is, Israel.



Silver tetradrachm  
featuring Ptolemy V  
Epiphanes

Antiochus III (of the north) forced a peace treaty on the Ptolemies (of the south) (v. 17). He even gave his daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ (**not** the infamous Cleopatra who fell in love with Mark Antony 150 years later), as wife to Ptolemy V Epiphanes (about 192 BC), hoping to maintain control of Egypt through her influence (and her spying).

However, Antiochus’ plan backfired, because Cleopatra ended up supporting her husband, Ptolemy V, over her scheming father.



Cleopatra I, daughter of  
Antiochus III the Great,  
and wife of Ptolemy V  
Epiphanes

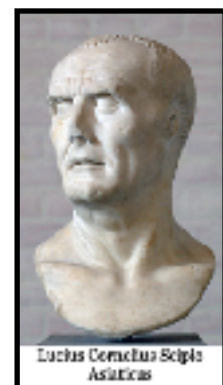
Next we read that Antiochus III, from the north, now sought to conquer \_\_\_\_\_, along the Mediterranean coastlands (v. 18).

But Rome didn’t like this and opposed him.

The Roman commander, Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, defeated Antiochus III at Magnesia in Asia Minor in 190 BC, thus halting Antiochus III’s attempted expansion of his empire.

This forced Antiochus III to retreat back to Syria (v. 19), where he attempted to address the issue of his empty bank account by \_\_\_\_\_ the Temple of Jupiter.

That irreligious act was not popular with his people, and a year later he was assassinated.



Lucius Cornelius Scipio  
Asiaticus

We're told that Seleucus IV Philopator (186-175 BC), son of Antiochus III, became king in his father's place.

His heavy \_\_\_\_\_ made him unpopular with his people.

His tax collector, Heliodorus, collected massive amounts of money from his citizens; that money was used to pay tribute to Rome, which was rising in power.



Philopator even sent Heliodorus to Jerusalem where he plundered treasure from the \_\_\_\_\_.

But Seleucus IV's reign was relatively short ("*a few days*") since he died suddenly—not in an angry brawl ("*not in anger*"), nor "*in battle*"—but poisoned by Heliodorus, his own tax collector.

Now, all of these events have been leading up to the next king who would sit on the throne of the north, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who reigned from 175-164 BC.

### The Prophecies of Antiochus IV (Dan. 11:21-35)

#### **Daniel 11:21-35**

**21** *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.*

**22** *The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant.*

**23** *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.*

**24** *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.*

**25** *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.*

**26** *Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.*

**27** *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.*

**28** *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.*

**29** *"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.*

**30** *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.*

**31** *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**.*

*32 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.***

*33 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.*

*34 Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.*

*35 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.*

This next king of the north, Antiochus IV, only reigned about \_\_\_\_\_ years (175-164 BC).

Under normal circumstances that wouldn't be considered significant—but his reign was marked by extreme \_\_\_\_\_ for and persecution of the Jews.

#### QUOTE:

*“The importance of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164B.C.) in prophetic Scripture is very great. Though he was a relatively unimportant monarch in the ancient Near East, he gained eternal notoriety through his devastating attack upon the people of God and their religion. Thus **he prefigured the final Antichrist**” (Whitcomb, 150).*

Antiochus was without question “*a despicable person.*”

He began his reign by \_\_\_\_\_ a throne that was **not** rightfully his.

When his brother died, Antiochus seized power while the crown prince, Seleucus' very young son Demetrius I Soter, was being held hostage in Rome.

Antiochus turned out to be an evil, wicked, cruel, and idolatrous king. He called himself “\_\_\_\_\_,” meaning “the illustrious one.”

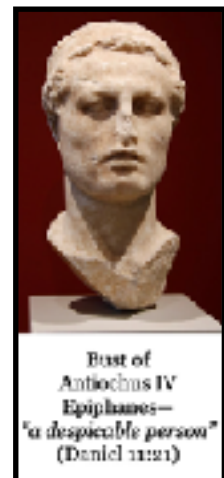
But those who knew him and his true character nicknamed him “\_\_\_\_\_” or “madman.”

Antiochus **hated** the Jewish people. During his reign he declared all Jewish ceremonies \_\_\_\_\_, and he attempted to destroy Judaism.

In Daniel chapter 8, Antiochus was called the “*small horn*” (Dan. 8:9).

This man's deep-seated hatred for the Jews set him apart from the many kings already mentioned in this chapter. The story of the kings of the north and the kings of the south ends with this man; he is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the story.

Unfortunately, however, Antiochus is not the END of the story, because he prefigures none other than the final Antichrist.





Verses 22-24 speak in general terms concerning the military activities of Antiochus IV, and they note that he would initially enjoy several successes with his forces “*overflowing*” his opponents.

Antiochus was a ruthless warrior. His pattern was to achieve his ends in any way possible, even if that meant attacking others in times of \_\_\_\_\_.

The general subject of verses 25-30 are the further military activities of this “madman,” as they relate to Egypt and Israel. But it’s more than just a record of military campaigns. These events unveil, hundreds of years prior, the emerging of the fourth great empire of Daniel—\_\_\_\_\_.

The third empire of Greece was clearly fading at this point, and in its place was the up-and-coming, powerful Roman Empire to the west. This fourth empire would soon dominate the world.

While returning from Egypt with great riches and spoils, Antiochus attacked Israel with a vengeance, executing some \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish men, women, and children, and taking some additional 40,000 prisoners as slaves. He also plundered the riches from the Jewish Temple (ca. 169 BC).

Listen to how 1 Maccabees 1:20-25 records some of the actions of Antiochus during those terribly dark days.

**QUOTE:**

*“And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude, and entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof, and the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials, and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crowns, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off. He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels; also he took the hidden treasures which he found. And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre and spoken very proudly. Therefore there was great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were.”*

But Antiochus wasn’t finished. He again moved south against the Egyptians in 168 BC (vv. 29-30). This would be his third and final attack on Egypt. This time, however, the outcome was much different—he tasted \_\_\_\_\_ and humiliation.

The reference to “*ships of Kittim*” is a clear reference to Rome, which did not want to see the Seleucids conquer Egypt. The Roman \_\_\_\_\_ sent a fleet of ships led by Gaius Populous Laenas with a written order to Antiochus IV to stand down and depart from Egypt.

That Roman general actually drew a \_\_\_\_\_ in the sand around Antiochus and demanded that he agree to heed the Senate’s demands before he would be allowed to step back outside the circle.

Humiliated and angry, Antiochus left Egypt and, on his way back home, entered Israel, where it had been rumored that he was dead.



Painting by Louis-Jean-François Lagrenée, 1779, picturing the encounter between Gaius Populios Laenas and Antiochus IV Epiphanes

A minor rebellion against Syrian control was already under way because of that rumor, and in his humiliation and anger, an enraged Antiochus moved with great speed to kill and enslave tens of thousands of Jews. He also instructed that all copies of the \_\_\_\_\_ be burned.

***Daniel 11:31-32***

***31 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**.***

***32 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.*****

Antiochus grossly desecrated the Jewish Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus inside it and sacrificing a \_\_\_\_\_ (an unclean animal, according to Mosaic Law) on it. That was the “*abomination of desolation*.” He then outlawed all Jewish sacrifices.

**QUOTE:**

*“A systematic attempt was made to Hellenize the country by force. An edict demanded the fusion of all the nationalities of the Seleucid Empire into one people. Greek deities were to be worshipped by all. An elderly Athenian philosopher was sent to Jerusalem to supervise the enforcement of the order. He identified the God of Israel with Jupiter, and ordered a bearded image of the pagan deity, perhaps in the likeness of Antiochus, set up upon the Temple altar... Greek soldiers and their paramours performed licentious heathen rites in the very Temple courts. Swine were sacrificed on the altar. The drunken orgy associated with the worship of Bacchus was made compulsory. Conversely, Jews were forbidden, under penalty of death, to practice circumcision, Sabbath observance, or the observance of the feasts of the Jewish year. Copies of the Hebrew Scriptures were ordered destroyed. These laws promulgating Hellenism and proscribing Judaism were enforced with the utmost cruelty”*  
(Pfeiffer, *Between the Testaments*, p. 81).

Now, it must be noted that while all of this took place during the period between the Old and New Testaments, these events also picture the \_\_\_\_\_ desecration of the Temple and the future persecution of the nation of Israel during Daniel’s Seventieth Week—the Seven-Year Tribulation.

According to Matthew 24, verse 15, the Antichrist will do something very similar in the third Temple in Jerusalem.

At the halfway point of that final week of years, the final Antichrist will set up in that rebuilt Temple an idol which will have incredible demonic \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 13:12-15) and will undoubtedly play a part in the three-and-a-half years of intense persecution of Israel.

Like Antiochus, this future Antichrist, the “*man of lawlessness*,” will present himself as \_\_\_\_\_ and will demand to be worshipped (Rev. 13:4; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; see also Isa. 14:13-14 and Ezk. 28:2-9).

This blasphemous act will utterly desecrate the Temple, making it “*abominable*” and therefore “*desolate*.”

And like Antiochus, the final Antichrist will cause the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ during the Tribulation period to cease. So, Antiochus IV is a type of the future Antichrist, a man yet to appear on the stage of humanity.

Moving on, in verses 32-35, we are told something of the days of Antiochus' brutal dealings with Israel, and the response of some of the Jews to him.

Within Israel there were two very distinct groups of people—those who embraced the deception (and the benefits) of going along with Antiochus, and those who resisted him, bold in their deep-seated conviction that they must remain \_\_\_\_\_ to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Those Jews would not passively accept the Hellenization effort of Antiochus. Rather, they strongly challenged and actively resisted it, out of loyalty to Israel's God.

This passage undoubtedly includes the \_\_\_\_\_ revolt that would eventually throw off the Syrian domination of Israel and bring about the cleansing of the Temple in December of 165 BC.

### The Prophecies of the Antichrist (vv. 36-45)

It is estimated that there are over 125 distinct prophecies found in Daniel 11:1-35, all of which have been historically \_\_\_\_\_. Amazing!

But at this point in Daniel's prophecy, we turn a corner, for the following verses no longer refer to Antiochus IV Epiphanes, but to the still future, \_\_\_\_\_ Antichrist.

The precise details of this section do not continue to fit what we know to be historically true of Antiochus Epiphanes.

And when we compare this passage with other passages of Scripture which describe the Antichrist, we find striking parallels all throughout them.

#### QUOTE:

*"Many students of Scripture have recognized from antiquity that another king must be in view' and many of these (such as Jerome and Luther) identified him with the Antichrist of the New Testament"*  
(Walvoord, 270).

Thus, we are in good company when we identify this "king" as the "man of lawlessness" (2 Thess. 2:3) "the beast" (Rev. 13:1ff), and "the Antichrist" (1 John 2:18).

#### ***Daniel 11:36-37***

**36** *"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.*

*37 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.*

The **first** characteristic of the Antichrist which we find in verse 36 is that he “*will do as he pleases.*”

Instead of seeking God’s will, the Antichrist will be utterly \_\_\_\_\_.

**Second**, Scripture also indicates that the future Antichrist will do as \_\_\_\_\_ wills.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 tells us that “*the coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan*” (ESV). Since Satan is notoriously self-willed, it’s not at all surprising that his most famous underling will be too!

The self-glorification of the Antichrist is one of the most obvious features of this Satanically inspired future ruler. This is evidenced by the use of the words “*he will*” about a dozen times in verses 36-39 alone. This man who “*will do as he pleases*” will be an absolute ruler who dominates all others. And that fits well with what we know about this man of lawlessness.

In Daniel 7:23 we’re told that “*the little horn*” will “***devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.***”

This also fits perfectly with Revelation 13:7, where the Antichrist successfully makes \_\_\_\_\_ against the people of God and is given “*authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.*”

In other words, this man will hold unrivaled authority previously unknown to any single human ruler. After that, we are told that “*he will exalt and magnify himself above every god*” (v. 36).

In exalting himself as God and seeking to be worshipped as God (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5-8), the Antichrist will follow in the footsteps of \_\_\_\_\_ himself, who also sought the place of deity (Isa. 14:12-17; Ezk. 28:11-19).

Next, we find that this man will speak “*monstrous things against the God of gods*” (v. 36). This is exactly what we read in the book of Revelation about the Antichrist.

#### **Revelation 13:5-6**

**5** *There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.*

**6** *And he opened his mouth in **blasphemies against God**, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.*

The final Antichrist will be \_\_\_\_\_, and that is exactly what the angel is describing for Daniel. His Satanically-inspired blasphemy will set him on a wicked plane all his own.

We’re told that “*he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done*” (v. 36).



The Antichrist will have a measure of success, **but** his career will be short lived—only \_\_\_\_\_ years, with a special period of power lasting 3 1/2 years—and it will come to a screeching halt when “*the indignation is finished.*”

Daniel spoke of this period as “*time, times and half a time*” (7:25).

And in the book of Revelation the Apostle John speaks of it as \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 13:5).

We are also told that the Antichrist “*will show no regard for the gods of his fathers*” (v. 37). That fits perfectly with what we read in Thessalonians and Revelation—that he will set **himself** up as “*god*” in the last half of the Tribulation (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5-8).

Because of its emphasis on forsaking the gods of his fathers, some scholars believe this verse would seem to indicate that the Antichrist is possibly going to be of Jewish origin. However, Scripture doesn’t tend to refer to “the gods of your fathers” when speaking to Jews, but to “the God of your fathers.” Other scholars suspect that the Antichrist will arise out of another organized religion, such as the Catholic Church.

Revelation chapter 13:1 and Daniel 7:19-20 make it clear that the Antichrist will come out of the revived \_\_\_\_\_ Empire.

And if you think about it, Catholicism promotes prayer to many entities (“gods”), it has great wealth and power, and the Vatican is in the revived Roman Empire.

Verse 37 goes on to say that the Antichrist will show no regard for “*the desire of women.*” As you can imagine, this phrase has spawned all kinds of interpretations over the years. The study notes in the MacArthur Study Bible read as follows: “*This **could** mean that Antichrist will be a homosexual; but it **surely** means he has no normal desire for, or interest in, women, e.g., as one who is celibate.*”

And the final phrase of verse 37 wraps it all up with the summary that this man will “*magnify himself above them all.*”

The Antichrist will not only utter unspeakable \_\_\_\_\_ against the true and living God (Rev. 13:5-6), BUT he will also proclaim himself deity (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5-8).

### ***Daniel 11:38-39***

**38** *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.*

**39** *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 will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.*

It’s clear from these verses that Antichrist will be interested in one thing—\_\_\_\_\_. That is what is going to drive this Satanically inspired man. He won’t be satisfied until he attains total world domination.

He will even (temporarily) embrace a foreign god—perhaps Allah, in order to gain the support of the Muslim world. And he will use his incredible wealth (“*gold, silver, costly stones and treasures*”) to make it happen.

It’s interesting to note that the Apostle John describes him as uniquely involved in war and destruction and that **no one** is able to successfully wage war against him (Rev. 13:4).

He will successfully defeat all who would dare to go to war against him because he will have the power and authority of Satan, which will make it impossible for any to defeat him (Rev. 13:2, 4, 7).

And then in the very next verse (v. 39) we read that, just as Antiochus Epiphanes did so long ago, the Antichrist will reward those who show loyalty to him, granting them great honor and power and \_\_\_\_\_ grants.

***Daniel 11:40-45***

**40** *“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.*

**41** *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.*

**42** *Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.*

**43** *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.*

**44** *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.*

**45** *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.*

These final verses speak of warfare at the end of time. Unlike much of the rest of this chapter, it’s difficult to piece together exactly how this future part plays out. Bible scholars hold to a wide variety of opinions, and even among \_\_\_\_\_ scholars there is a range of positions. But let me give you one possible interpretation.

The angel told Daniel that “*at the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him.*”

Among the many wars that are going to break out during the Tribulation is one involving two military powers—one from the south and one from the north—who will seek to move simultaneously against the Antichrist.

According to verse 41, he will then enter “*the Beautiful Land,*” referring to Israel.

Apparently the threat of these two armies will be serious enough to cause the Antichrist to return to Israel to make his headquarters somewhere between \_\_\_\_\_ and the Mediterranean Sea (see v. 45).

In verse 44 we read that Antichrist will hear of *“rumors from the East and from the North.”*

Sometime following the Antichrist’s relocation to Israel, he will be made aware that armies from the east and north are deploying, getting ready to attack. He will lash out *“with great fury [in order] to destroy and annihilate many.”*

It should be remembered that by this time the Antichrist will have signed a \_\_\_\_\_ with the nation of Israel (Dan. 9:27), which actually started the seven-year Tribulation period. Through this covenant, the Antichrist will commit himself to the \_\_\_\_\_ and security of Israel. Thus, any attack on Israel would also be an attack on the Antichrist.

We can assume that the Muslim nations surrounding Israel will not appreciate either the Antichrist’s covenant with Israel nor the presence of a newly rebuilt Jewish Temple on the Temple Mount. Their intent will most likely be to remove the protector of Israel and take back the \_\_\_\_\_. And so, they will come against him with all of their military resources.

But according to verse 42, *“he will stretch out his hand against other countries.”* As war continues to unfold, Antichrist will destroy Egypt, Libya, and Sudan.

And as we think about the wars during the Tribulation time, it should be remembered that during the first half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week there is going to be MUCH warfare in the world (Rev. 6:3-4).

The Apostle John said that when the second seal was broken, it will be *“granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him”* (Rev. 6:4b).

The Antichrist himself will conquer three kings in the early days of the Seventieth Week as he is establishing his western \_\_\_\_\_ of nations (Dan. 7:8, 24).

Hatred, rivalry, and revenge will be rampant in the world, and the Antichrist will likely be at the center of it all. Though he will eventually become the acclaimed world leader, still hatred and a desire for retaliation against him will manifest themselves many times and in many ways.

It appears that the land of Israel will be exempt from any devastation from those wars of the early days of the Seventieth Week. Jesus’ own words in Matthew 24:6-9 seem to indicate that Israel will not become directly involved in these events until they become the focus of the Tribulation at the mid-point (Mat. 24:9).

We read that the Antichrist will *“pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain”* (v. 45). As mentioned already, the Antichrist will relocate to the area between Jerusalem, i.e., *“the beautiful Holy Mountain”* and *“the seas,”* the Sea of Galilee and/or the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea (see Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2-3; Rev. 19:17-21).

Though the Antichrist will attempt to position himself in place of Christ ruling and reigning from Jerusalem, he will soon come to an end, for only the One True KING of kings belongs on the throne of David in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 7:12-13).

And the Antichrist is most definitely NOT that King!

Right here in the book of Daniel we are told that in the end, Antichrist loses.

The angel said, “*Yet **he will come to his end, and no one will help him.***”

No one will be able to stand before the KING of kings and LORD of lords WHO is coming back on a white horse leading the \_\_\_\_\_ of Heaven!

Rather, the small and the great of the earth will be hiding themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, crying out for the rocks to “*Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?*” (Rev. 6:16b-17).

The Antichrist will meet his defeat with Israel’s nationwide \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ at the end of the Tribulation period (Zech. 12:2—13:1).

Israel will finally confess its national sins (Lev. 26:40-42; Jer. 3:11-18; Hos. 5:15) and be saved, as prophesied by Paul in Romans 11:25-27.

At Armageddon, as the Antichrist’s forces are closing in on the Jewish remnant, Israel’s only hope will be for their newly found \_\_\_\_\_ to return and deliver them (Zech. 12:10; Mat. 23:37-39).

***Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21***

***11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.***

***12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.***

***13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.***

***14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.***

***15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.***

***16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS....”***

***19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.***

***20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.***

***21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.***

AMEN!!! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!!!



## Life Lessons

### Life Lesson #1—Conflict Starts in the \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***James 4:1-2***

***1*** What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

***2*** You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel...”

Someone once said, “Wars may be fought on the battlefield, but they are first waged in the human heart.”

### Life Lesson #2—Earthly Riches Can be \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 11 is filled with wars and battles and subsequently the spoils and riches that come and go from one ruler to another.

We read through this chapter fairly quickly, but think of the hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people who were affected by those wars.

It’s important for us to keep in mind that earthly riches can be lost in a moment in time.

And that is why our Lord and Savior instructed us with great wisdom,

#### ***Matthew 6:19-21***

***19*** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

***20*** But store up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

***21*** for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

### Life Lesson #3—Human \_\_\_\_\_ Come and Go

They may become great for a short period of time, BUT all of them will eventually pass away.

In Job 14, that godly man said, “Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain” (vv. 1-2).

And King David prayed the following in Psalm 39: *“Lord, make me to know my end and what is the extent of my days; let me know how transient I am. Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; surely every man at his best is a mere breath. Selah”* (vv. 4-5).

My dear brothers and sisters, may God give each one of us the wisdom to realize how short and fleeting life really is.

## **Life Lesson #4—God is \_\_\_\_\_ Over ALL Human History**

If there is one thing that Biblical prophecy and the book of Daniel emphasizes over and over again it's the fact that God is sovereign over ALL human affairs—past, present, and future.

God rules the universe. He controls all things. And He is Lord over all.

Let me close tonight with the verses we read at the beginning of this lesson. Usually when I think of these verses I think of God as being a God of prophecy, but this time I want you to see the reason WHY He is a God of prophecy.

God's prophecies always come to pass \_\_\_\_\_ because He is sovereign over ALL things, including those which have not yet happened!

### ***Isaiah 46:9-11***

**9** *“Remember the former things long past,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is no one like Me,  
10 Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things which have not been done,  
Saying, ‘My purpose will be established,  
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;  
11 Calling a bird of prey from the east,  
The man of My purpose from a far country.  
Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.  
I have planned it, surely I will do it.”*