

## “The Rise of Rebellion, the Antichrist, Part 1” Daniel 11:1-35

4.21.24

We come to a chapter this morning that skeptics love. You say, “Skeptics love?” Yes, because they say this chapter proves the Bible can’t be true. They say that because they contest there’s no way the prophet Daniel could have possibly predicted all that he predicted, which ultimately came true over a period of hundreds of years. Therefore, they claim the Book of Daniel is a forgery and was really written during what is called the Maccabean Age around 150 years before Jesus was born, NOT in the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Now, if the skeptics are right, and the Book of Daniel is a forgery and a lie, then so is the rest of the Bible. Because, if one part of the Bible is a lie, then how can we possibly trust the rest? Now think about this...if you’re the skeptic...all you have to do is prove one date wrong. One king out of order or find just one predictive prophecy that didn’t come true, and you’ve got all you need. It’s Jenga...



like this little girl...just pull out one block and the whole thing falls... So, they work feverishly to seek to demolish the Bible’s credibility and reliability. They scratch and claw away at the data, insisting that everything in the Bible requires proof outside of the Bible. They build mountainous theories on their own “expert hypotheses,” and they seek to force believers (us) to feel inadequate if we can’t discredit every one of their skeptical assertions.

Well, church family, the evidence for the historicity and reliability for the book of Daniel is overwhelming. We find the book of Daniel in the Septuagint, which is the Greek version of the Jewish Canon of Scripture. We also have copies from the Dead Sea Scrolls. What’s interesting about the Septuagint is the fact that there is no way the book of Daniel could have been written in 150 BC because there wouldn’t have been enough time for full acceptance into the Septuagint, because it would have been within that generation of writing. It would be like you handing me something written on an iPad telling me that it was written in the 1700’s. No, you’d need to be handing me paper that was yellowed and wrinkled for me to believe you.

You see, for the skeptic...if they’re honest, they know Daniel knew way too much about the sixth century B.C. to be writing 400 years later. So, either Daniel was one of the most industrious historians who ever lived...researching Babylonian and Persian records written in languages he most likely could have never read...located in places almost certainly inaccessible to him, or he was indeed a prophet of God, carried along by the Holy Spirit, who was saved out of the mouth of lions...but no...the skeptic can’t handle that lion part either...because they don’t believe in miracles.

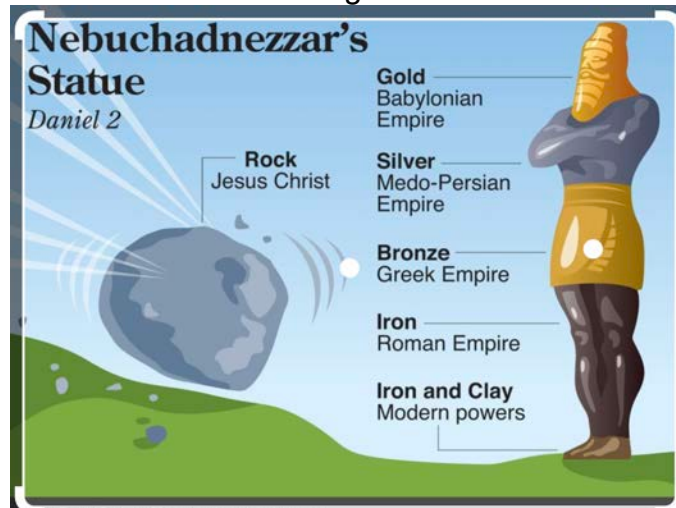
Church family, we can have total confidence in the Book of Daniel and what we're going to see today is even further evidence of that...because what we're going to be reading comes right out of the history books. What we're going to BEGIN to see today is: "The Rise of a Rebellion-The Coming of the Antichrist." This is part 1, because there's no way I can cover this entire chapter in 40 minutes. But we're going to seek to cover 35 verses...so, let's jump in and hang on.

### **Daniel 11:1**

<sup>1</sup> "And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him."

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Now, this is 539 BC and Darius the Mede is calling the shots. We're at the arms stage of our statue.



It's the Medo-Persian Empire who is in control. And the angel Gabriel is giving more insight to Daniel about the future. Verse 2.

### **Daniel 11:2**

<sup>2</sup> "And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece."

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Now, kings are mentioned here and I want to show you the list of the kings who are highlighted in this chapter. They're often called:

#### **The Five "A" Kings of Daniel 11**

- 1. Ahasuerus (Xerxes)**
- 2. Alexander**
- 3. Antiochus III (the Great of Syria)**
- 4. Antiochus Epiphanes**
- 5. Antichrist**

Now church, there is so much history in the next 33 verses that it would take a month of Sundays to fully teach all the details that are noted here. In fact, there are over 135 prophecies noted in this one chapter alone. So, I'm going to seek to try to summarize these historical events as best I can. So, here we go. We know, ultimately, King Cyrus would take over from Darius the Mede and Cyrus would have four sons, culminating with Ahasuerus, a.k.a. as Xerxes... You might know him as the King during the time of Esther, the lady would become Queen Esther. He would rule 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. From him would arise Alexander, from Greece. Verse 3.

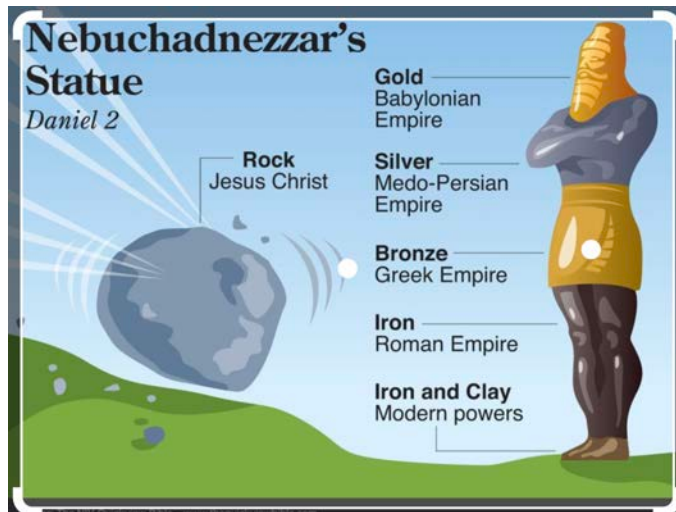
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### **Daniel 11:3**

<sup>3</sup> Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills."

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And he did. He was the King represented by the Bronze of Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

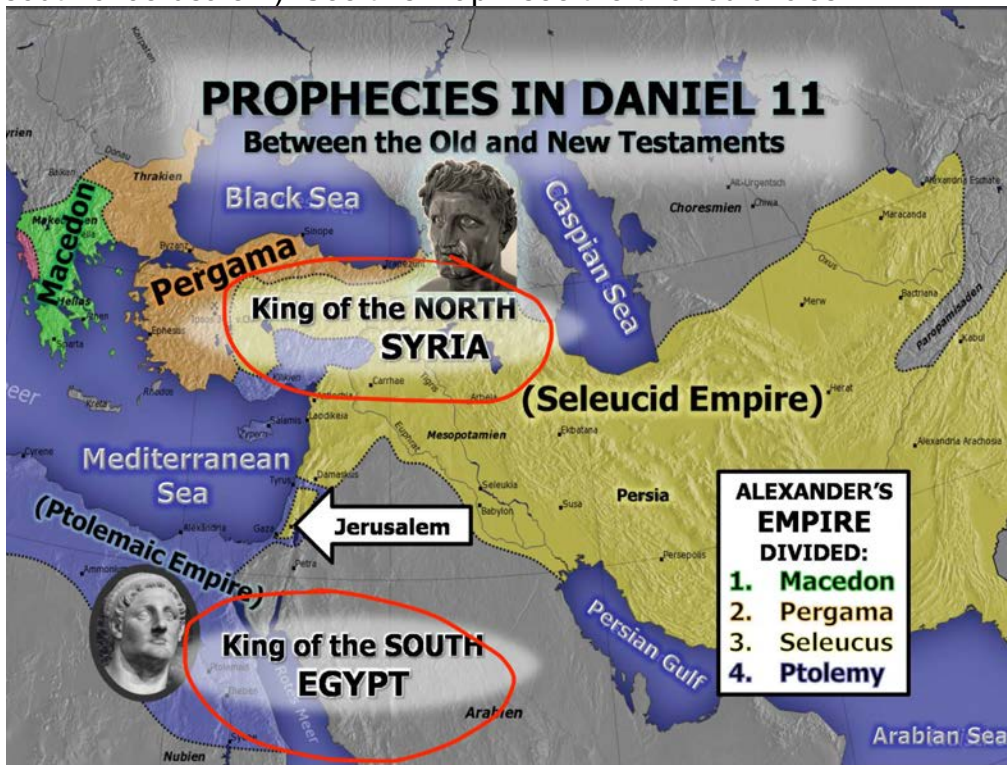


Alexander the Great. The man who would conquer the world in just 10 years, by the age of 32, but would be dead at 33. Near the end of his life, he was heard in his tent, crying in a drunken stupor, "There's nothing left to conquer." Oh, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet loses his own soul." Jesus said those words and they were certainly appropriate for Alexander the Great. Verse 4.

**Daniel 11:4**

***4 And as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these.***

Alexander had no heirs and so his kingdom was divided among four of his generals. After a chaotic power struggle, two of the four generals rose to power and they ruled what we know of as Egypt and Syria. Syria was called the King of the North (to the north of Jerusalem) and Egypt the King of the South (to the south of Jerusalem). See this map...see the two red circles:



The northern kingdom would be known as the Seleucid Empire or SYRIA and the southern kingdom as the Ptolemaic Empire, or EGYPT, with Jerusalem in between.

Well, the fighting between the north and the south went on back and forth until around the year 250 BC. Watch verse 5...

**Daniel 11:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>“Then the king of the south shall be strong, but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his authority shall be a great authority. <sup>6</sup> After some years they shall make an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement. But she shall not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his arm shall not endure, but she shall be given up, and her attendants, he who fathered her, and he who supported<sup>[a]</sup> her in those times.

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All of this fighting back and forth led to the decision to see if there could be some sort of alliance. To accomplish that, the King of Egypt, Ptolemy Philadelphus, gave his daughter Bernice to be married to Antiochus of Theos of Syria. The alliance didn't last. There was murder and assassinations among the families. Bernice was killed and so, her brother sought revenge. He marched with an army from Egypt to Syria and he seized the fort which was the port of Antioch in that day. This is verse 7.

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**Daniel 11:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>“And from a branch from her roots one shall arise in his place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail. <sup>8</sup> He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold, and for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the north.

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Bernice's brother carried out a bloodbath and brought back home to Egypt great wealth...but over time, another King of the north, Seleucus, tried to go into Egypt to offer retaliation...but, to no avail...he wasn't strong enough and turned back in shame. This is summed up in verse 9.

**Daniel 11:9**

<sup>9</sup> Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land.

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Well, the north and the south continued to fight via their sons...like the Hatfield's and the McCoy's, and this goes on back and forth for many years...watch...

**Daniel 11:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>“His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall keep coming and overflow and pass through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress. <sup>11</sup> Then the king of the south, moved with rage, shall come out and fight against the king of the north. And he shall raise a great multitude, but it shall be given into his hand. <sup>12</sup> And when the multitude is taken away, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail. <sup>13</sup> For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years<sup>[b]</sup> he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies. <sup>14</sup> “In those times many shall rise against the king of the south, and the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they shall fail. <sup>15</sup> Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his best troops, for there shall be no strength to stand. <sup>16</sup> But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand. <sup>17</sup> He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of an agreement and perform them. He shall give him the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom,<sup>[c]</sup> but it shall not stand or be to his advantage.

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Back and forth, back and forth, north versus south...fighting and more fighting, with Israel in the middle, until we arrive to the 3<sup>rd</sup> great King of Daniel 11:

**The Five “A” Kings of Daniel 11**

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#### 4. Antiochus Epiphanes

#### 5. Antichrist

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Antiochus III (the Great), was a northern King and he marched south to Egypt and won a decisive victory over the south and it caused great suffering for Israel as well. But Antiochus III, to seek to stop the fighting gave his daughter who was 11 at the time, to Ptolemy V, the son of Ptolemy IV, a boy of 12 at the time, hoping their eventual marriage would stop the fighting. Well, it didn't. The daughter sided with her husband and chose to go against her father and sided with the south. She would become "quite the lady..." And I'm trying to be nice with the quotations. Does anyone want to guess who this lady was? Would this depiction ring a bell?



Cleopatra. We know her as the beautiful, intelligent and seductive queen of the Egyptian Empire who would eventually have affairs with the Romans: Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony. Well, rebuffed by his own daughter, Antiochus III would return home to the north to Syria. And in a fit of rage, he would plunder his own land. He attacked the Temple of Jupiter, their pagan god and took the treasures from the temple and after he did that...his own people rose up and killed him. What a mess! But this was all prophesied. We see this in verses 18-20.

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#### **Daniel 11:18-20**

**<sup>18</sup>Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands and shall capture many of them, but a commander shall put an end to his insolence. Indeed,<sup>[d]</sup> he shall turn his insolence back upon him. <sup>19</sup>Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.**

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What terrible tragedies... Well, Antiochus III's son took over and because of the nation's war debts, he tried to send a tax collector down to Jerusalem to plunder the Temple...stripping it of its gold. But, having been warned in a dream, the tax collector sets up an assassination and ends up killing Antiochus' son instead. This is verses 20-21.

#### **Daniel 11:20-21**

**<sup>20</sup>"Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom. But within a few days he shall be broken, neither in anger nor in battle. <sup>21</sup>In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.**

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This flattering king was none other than Antiochus Epiphanes. And we've arrived to around 175 BC.

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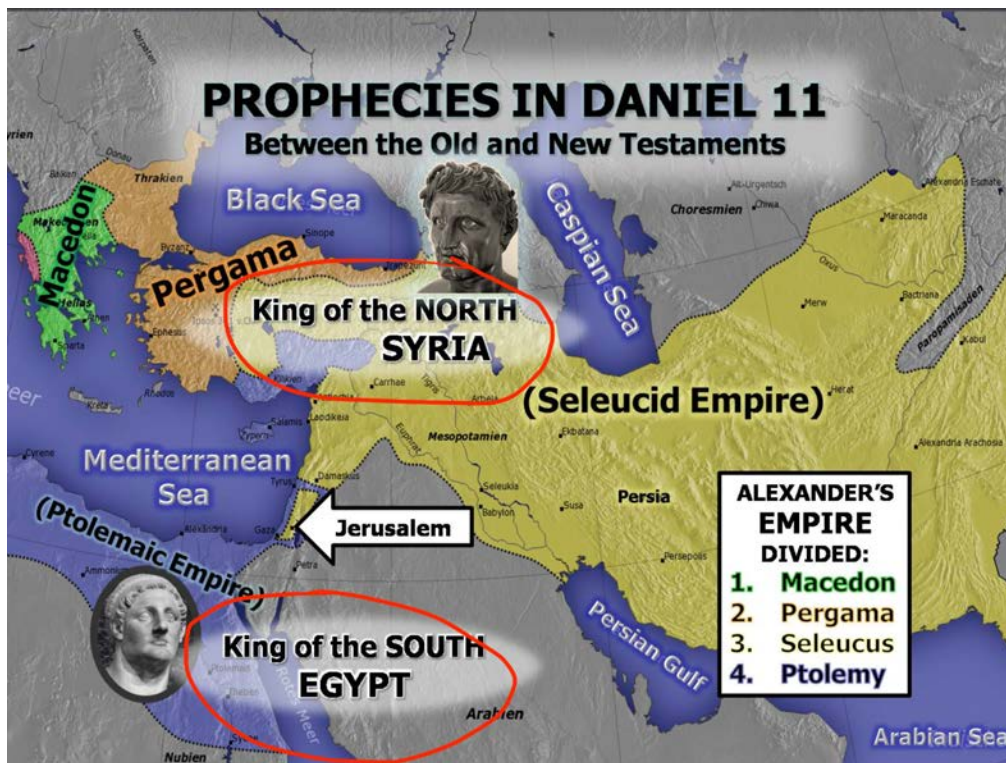
## 5. Antichrist

We met this awful man about a month ago. He has been called the “antichrist of the Old Testament,” and he is a picture of the future Antichrist of the Tribulation Period. This man was one of the most wicked men who ever lived. He had no claim to the Syrian (northern) throne, but he deceived his way to the top with bribes. What’s described next was his plan to take over Egypt, as he would renew the fighting with the Ptolemaic king of the south.

### **Daniel 11:22-28**

**22** Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant. **23** And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people. **24** Without warning he shall come into the richest parts<sup>[e]</sup> of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time. **25** And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him. **26** Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. **27** And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be at the time appointed. **28** And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will and return to his own land.

Let me see if I can summarize... These two kings...Antiochus of the north and the Ptolemaic king of the south stalemated...one couldn't defeat the other and so, Antiochus having some success, but not total, takes his spoils and heads back home to the north and on his way...he goes through Jerusalem...



He's so frustrated that he couldn't overtake Egypt that he takes out his vengeance and wrath on Jerusalem. He rapes and pillages many of the people on his way back north. Finally, after arriving back to Syria...within short order, Antiochus regroups and heads back south to Egypt to try to overtake them again. This time he suffered a humiliating defeat. The Romans had joined forces with the Ptolemies and with Roman ships called the ships of Kittim...Antiochus was soundly defeated. That's verses 29-32.

### **Daniel 11:29-32**

<sup>29</sup>“At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before. <sup>30</sup> For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant. <sup>31</sup> Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. <sup>32</sup> He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.”

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Now church, this is the description of Antiochus and his 2<sup>nd</sup> ruthless trip back through Jerusalem in December of 167 BC. He and his army killed 80,000 men, women and children...raping the women and the girls as they went. They plundered the Temple. They sacrificed a pig on the altar, as they worshipped the fake god, Zeus...even forcing the priests of the Temple...Jews...to eat the pig...swords to their throats. This atrocity would stir up what is known as the “Maccabean Revolt.” That’s the part at the end of verse 32: “the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.”

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Well, Antiochus was slick and he did convince some of the Jews to turn against their own...because of all of the oppression and fear and punishment on the people; but many stood strong against this evil man...as God continued to allow His people to be refined and purified by suffering...that’s vs 33-35.

### **Daniel 11:33-35**

<sup>33</sup> And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. <sup>34</sup> When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, <sup>35</sup> and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.”

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Antiochus would eventually be killed as he sought to fight against Persia in 164 BC. What a sad ending to a demented man’s life. But there remains one King to discuss. The 5<sup>th</sup> one:

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And we’ll see him next week. All of these other 4 were precursors to that man.

What a chapter! A chapter that the skeptics can’t argue with...regarding its accuracy. The historicity is undeniable. They don’t want to acknowledge that a man named Daniel wrote it around 539 BC because that would make all of what we just talked about a miracle... I mean right down to Cleopatra and to Antiochus being defeated with ships from Rome as Rome joined forces with Egypt. No one could prophecy all of these events unless they had heard it from God. Daniel had heard from God and so have you today...by way of the Word of God...

The Word of God about the history of bloodshed, murder, alliances, seductions, evil, violence, greed, political deception and war. Sounds like today. There’s nothing new under the sun. Humanity just keeps regurgitating sin...like the spin cycle of a washing machine...sin...moves up and down in the

course of time and history as the lust for power, wealth continues...sin abounds and it makes people want to shout: "Where is God?"

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Where is God? Well, from the time of the Maccabean Revolt in 167 BC, you can do the math...it wouldn't be long until Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The one who came to stop the spin cycle. To slam his hands against a cross at the age of 33 and cry out, "You don't have to live this way anymore." You don't have to chase the world...trying to seduce people to get what you want...to make alliances...play games...be preoccupied with lust and power and wealth...all things that are fleeting.

So, what about you today? Are you a skeptic? What will it take for you to be convinced? I hope you will be convinced by what Jesus did for you on the cross 2000 years ago. He loves you so much that He died to give you life. I pray you would trust Him today?

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