

**“FAITH UNDER PRESSURE”**  
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL  
Daniel 11:1- 45  
**“BACK TO THE FUTURE”**

**INTRODUCTION:** A first time reader of Scripture might come to Daniel chapter 11 and wonder why these details about unnamed leaders and countries are in the Word of God. What am I supposed to learn from this chapter that will help me follow Christ today? As we wrestle with these and other legitimate questions, it is helpful to remember *the Lord would never give us information without a purpose*, so we take the time to research the background to these events.

**BACKGROUND:** The mysteries of Daniel 11 are part of the angel giving Daniel an answer to his prayers as he expressed concern about the future of Israel. The details align with the earlier revelations concerning the statue seen by Nebuchadnezzar and the vision Daniel saw of the wild beasts. As you study the historical fulfillment of the prophecies, you will understand why skeptics refuse to believe these events were detailed before they happened. *Our God wants us to know He knows and controls the future!* Daniel 11:1-35 covers prophecies that have already been fulfilled, and Daniel 11:36-12:3 contains prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled. Daniel 11:1-35 has 135 detailed predictions that were exactly fulfilled, and covered a period of 365 years! Our God knows the end from the beginning!

**I. LIKE DANIEL, WE SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY GOD’S REVELATION ABOUT THE FUTURE, EVEN IF HE SHOWS US “DIFFICULTY BEFORE DELIVERANCE.” (Daniel 11:1-20)**

A. Daniel heard that three more kings would arise in Persia, (all three are mentioned in Ezra 4:6-24) and the fourth king would be the wealthy Xerxes. He led the invasion of Greece in 480 B.C., acquired more riches, and amassed an army of 2,000,000 from his empire. Daniel 11:2 aligns with the image from chapter 2. Daniel 11:3 shows Alexander the Great defeating the Persian Empire (332 B.C.) and another prophecy of his kingdom dividing four ways after his death.

B. Daniel 11:5-35 provides details about the conflict between Syria (king of the North) and Egypt (king of the South). *Locations and directions are always given in relation to Israel since it is the center of God’s activity on earth.* Egypt (Ptolemies) and Syria (Seleucids) waged war for generations, and the details of these verses cover 162 years. Israel was geographically caught in the middle of these nations waging war, and whoever controlled their land controlled the trade routes and access to great resources. **WE ARE THE SPIRITUAL TERRITORY THAT WANTS TO BE CONTROLLED BY OTHERS!**

C. The angel detailed how violent people from Israel would rise up against these nations but their attempts would be unsuccessful. The description of a leader standing in the Glorious Land (Israel) and being destructive had to be discouraging to Daniel. \*The woman mentioned in v.17 is Cleopatra! She was given in marriage by the Syrian king to unite with Egypt to battle Rome. The Syrian king wanted to control Egypt through her influence, but she was more loyal to her Egyptian husband than her Syrian father.

**II. SATAN HAS ALWAYS RAISED UP LEADERS WHO WANT TO DESTROY THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL BECAUSE OF GOD’S PROMISES TO THEM. ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THE FUTURE ANTICHRIST. ( Daniel 11:21-35) (Matthew 24:34)**

A. This leader would be followed by someone imposing heavy taxes upon the Jews. He would then be followed by a vile person who would deceive many by sharing riches rather than keeping them to himself. This person is identified as Antiochus Epiphanes, who was mentioned earlier as a preview type of the antichrist. His reign of terror lasted from 175-164 B.C. Please note that these battles and leaders would only last “until the appointed time.” (Daniel 11:14-27)

B. Antiochus waged successful war against Egypt but did not conquer all the territory as he had hoped. On the way back to his homeland, he viciously attacked Israel, murdering roughly 80,000 men,

women, and children, and enslaved another 40,000. He also ordered all copies of the Mosaic Law to be burned. **HOWEVER, THE WORD OF GOD WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED!** (Isaiah 40:8) (Matt. 24:35)

C. Antiochus profaned the Temple in Jerusalem by erecting an altar to Zeus and sacrificing a pig on the altar. He also prohibited the Jews from offering sacrifices. This abominable act would make the temple desolate. The Lord Jesus said the antichrist will do a similar thing during the Tribulation. (Matthew 24:15)

D. These acts led to a revolt by the Maccabees family (“Hammerer”), led by their father, a priest named Matthias. One of his seven sons, Judas Maccabees led the battles to drive Antiochus’s troops out of Israel, allowing them to briefly enjoy independence until the Romans came to occupy the land. The cleansing and rededication of the Temple is the Hanukkah celebration. Scripture had predicted that, even though some would be deceived by this madman through his flattery, but “the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” **WILL YOU BE ONE OF THOSE PERSONS?** Those who understand will instruct others even during times of persecution and suffering. (Daniel 11:30-35)

### **III. ISRAEL’S MOST INTENSE PERSECUTION IS STILL IN THE FUTURE, AND ONLY THE RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL SAVE THE NATION. (Daniel 11: 36-45)**

A. Gabriel described this coming wicked ruler as selfish, strong willed, arrogant, and a powerful speaker. Like Lucifer (Satan) before his fall, he will speak against the God of heaven and exalt himself. (Isaiah 14) Thankfully, his end will come at God’s predetermined time.

B. There is much speculation concerning the identity and nationality of this man of sin. (2nd Thessalonians 2) He will be against all religions and particularly the Jewish religion. He is described as not regarding “the desire of women”, leading to speculation that he may be homosexual. However, the “desire of women” in Jewish culture usually meant having the privilege of giving birth to the Messiah, (Haggai 2:7) meaning antichrist will not desire the true God or any God. In the middle of the Tribulation, he will demand to be worshipped as God, which is Satan’s ultimate agenda. (Matthew 4:8-11)

C. Daniel’s prophecy takes us all the way from the Tribulation to the Campaign of Armageddon, with a time interval between Daniel 11:35 & 36 of over 2000 years! These events will take place at “the time of the end.” The antichrist will be attacked from the north and south, yet will emerge victorious. He will invade Israel, hear troubling news from the east and west, and commit genocide against the Jews and others who refuse to worship him. (Daniel 11:44) (Zechariah 13:8-9)

D. After establishing his military operations in Israel, between the Mediterranean Sea and Jerusalem, the nations will gather for war at Mount Megiddo. (Armageddon) (Daniel 11:45, Zech. 14:2) Israel will finally call upon her Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will rescue them. There will be no one to rescue the antichrist and false prophet from God’s wrath. (Revelation 19:11-21)

**THE LORD KNOWS *THE* FUTURE, AND HE KNOWS *YOUR* FUTURE. WHILE YOU STILL HAVE TIME, MAKE SURE YOUR FUTURE WILL BE WITH HIM FOREVER. (ZECHARIAH 14:9) (PSALM 2)**

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