

Daniel 11:6 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 her in those times.

- (6) Ptolemy II (Philadelphia) makes a treaty with Antiochus II (Theos). Berenice, Ptolemy's daughter was arranged to marry Antiochus as a treaty between the two powers.

Daniel 11:7-9 "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. 8 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. 9 Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land.

- (7) Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III (Euergetes), avenges his sister's death by attacking the north.
- (8) Ptolemy III captured and looted the capital of the north, Antioch.
- (9) The king of the north attempts to attack the south but is unsuccessful and returns home

Daniel 11:10-12 "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. 11 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. 12 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.

- (10) Seleucus II dies in 226 BC and his sons, Seleucus III and Antiochus III continue the conflict with the Ptolemies.
- (10) Antiochus III "the Great" (called that because of his military successes) and in 219-218 BC he campaigned in Phoenicia and Palestine, part of the Ptolemaic Empire "as far as his [the king of the South's] fortress."
- (11) In raged Ptolemy IV launched a counterattack. Ptolemy would win a great victory over Antiochus and the Syrians at Raphia (located in Palestine) in 217 BC.
- (12) Because of this victory Ptolemy became "exalted" or arrogant.
- (12) The Egyptian army slaughtered "tens of thousands" of the Syrian troops in the battle. Yet Ptolemaic triumph would not continue.

3. Arrogance and pride so often ruin our victories.

Daniel 11:13-17 For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies. 14 "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. 15 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. 16 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. 17 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, but it shall not stand or be to his advantage.

- (13) Approximately fifteen years later (202 BC) Antiochus III again invaded Ptolemaic territories with a huge army.
- (14) Some of the Jews will aid Antiochus III thinking they will gain more freedom but it will fail.
- (15) The Syrian forces advanced against Egyptian at the Battle of Panium (near the NT Caesarea Philippi, now called Banian) in 199 BC and won a resounding victory.
- (15) Antiochus's forces pursued the Egyptians south and captured Sidon, the "well-fortified city." General Scopas finally surrendered in 198 BC. The South had suffered a decisive defeat to the North, "for there shall be no strength to stand."
- (16) With the defeat of the Egyptians at Sidon, Antiochus acquired complete control over Phoenicia and Palestine "shall do as he wills".
- (16) Indeed "none shall stand before him." Although Palestine had come under Antiochus's control for a brief time previously, now the "Glorious Land" would become a permanent possession of the Syrian Empire.

- (17) The Syrians forced terms of peace upon the Egyptian king. To seal the deal, Antiochus gave his “daughter,” Cleopatra (not the Cleopatra who married Mark Anthony over 100 years later), to Ptolemy V as a wife.
- (17) Antiochus hoped that through Cleopatra he could gain further control of Egypt. However, his plan did “not stand or be to his advantage.” Cleopatra loved her husband more than her father and supported the Egyptian cause completely.

Daniel 11:18-19 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, he shall turn his insolence back upon him. 19 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.

- (18) Having defeated the Egyptians in 197 BC or shortly thereafter, Antiochus III turned “his face to the coastlands” or countries around the Mediterranean.
- (18) After Antiochus had some initial success, “shall capture many of them”, Lucius Cornelius Scipio was sent against him by the Roman government. This is “a commander shall put an end to his insolence...”
- (19) In 191 BC the Romans, fighting with their Greek allies, routed the Syrians at Thermopylae and forced them to withdraw from Greece and flee to Asia Minor.
- (19) After this humiliating defeat, Antiochus returned to his country, where he was killed by an angry mob in 187 BC as he sought to pillage the temple of Zeus (Bel) at Elymais.

Daniel 11:20 “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.

- (20) The one who “shall arise in his place” is also his son, Seleucus IV, who sent an “exactor of tribute” or a tax collector (Heliodorus) to collect money to pay the thousand talents indemnity demanded annually by the Romans as part of the settlement for Syria’s surrender to Rome.
- (20) Seleucus IV reigned only a short time and was not killed “in anger nor in battle.” Heliodorus, his tax collector and prime minister, evidently seeking to gain the throne for himself, poisoned the king (possibly aided by Antiochus IV who was the next ruler).

Daniel 11:21-24 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. 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 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.

- (21) The “contemptible person” who replaces Seleucus IV is Antiochus IV.
- (21) “Royal majesty” rightly belonged to a man named Demetrius I Soter, the son of Seleucus IV. However, Antiochus slithered in obtain the kingdom by flatteries.
- (22) Antiochus IV was successful in battle against the Egyptians initially, which this verse describes as utterly swept away the overwhelming forces opposed to him. The Egyptian king was now Ptolemy VI, whom Antiochus deceived and then defeated.
- (22) Antiochus also swept away the Jewish high priest, Onias III, here called “the prince of the covenant,” about 172 BC.
- (23) This verse probably refers to the alliance that Antiochus made with Ptolemy VI in 170 BC. This treaty was part of a plot to advance his own power in Egypt by siding with Ptolemy VI and against his rival for the Egyptian throne.
- (24) Antiochus craftily pillaged the treasures of his provinces, but not to grow rich himself, as his predecessors had done. He used this wealth to bribe and manipulate other leaders so that they would cooperate with him. In this way he enlarged his power base (cf. 1 Macc. 3:30).

4. Beware of using flatteries and deceit.

Daniel 11:25-28 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.

- (25) After Antiochus had grown strong enough, he marched his army against Ptolemy VI, in 170 BC. This was his first campaign against Egypt. He was able to get all the way to the Nile Delta before the Egyptians discovered that he was approaching. He exercised much influence over Egypt, usually pretending to be an ally, and then taking advantage of them.
- (26) Those who ate Ptolemy's choice food, his supporters who should have helped him, plotted to destroy him. Eventually his army suffered defeat and many soldiers died (cf. 1 Macc. 1:16-19).
- (27) This battle was successful in part because Antiochus claimed to be fighting for Ptolemy against a usurper within Egypt. When the battle was over, Antiochus and Ptolemy sat down together at a banquet, pretending to want peace. Actually each king was trying to make the most of the situation for his own benefit.
- (28) As a result of this "peace conference," Antiochus returned home with much plunder. Then his interests turned from Egypt to Israel.
- (28) Finding a Jewish insurrection in progress, his heart was set against the Jews and he took action. He put down the rebellion, massacring eighty thousand men, women, and children (2 Macc. 5:12-14) and then looted the temple with the help of the evil high priest, Menelaus (cf. 2 Macc. 5:15-21).

Daniel 11:29-30 "At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before. 30 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.

- (29) In the same year, Antiochus decided to attack Egypt again. When he arrived with his army, the Roman army and fleet of ships met him at Alexandria and prevented him from invading Egypt.
- (30) The ships from Kittim (Cyprus), a Roman fleet that had come to Alexandria at the request of the Ptolemies.
- (30) The Roman commander Gaius Popilius Laenas met Antiochus and handed him a letter from the Roman Senate ordering him to leave Egypt or deal with Rome.
- (30) Again he took out his frustration on the Jews in Jerusalem who observed the "holy covenant", the Mosaic Law. He rewarded the apostate Jews, "who forsake the holy covenant" like the high priest Menelaus, who supported his Hellenizing policies.

Daniel 11:31-35 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. 32 He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. 33 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. 34 When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, 35 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.

- (31) The holy temple was desecrated on December 15, 167 BC (1 Macc. 1:54) when an altar or idol-statue devoted to Zeus was erected in the temple. On December 25, sacrifices including swine (cf. 1 Macc. 1:47; 2 Macc. 6:4- 5), were offered on the altar (cf. 1 Macc. 1:54, 59). The temple was desecrated, "the abomination that makes desolate" was a historical reality.
- (32) Antiochus used "flattery" in order to entice the apostate Jews who "violate the covenant."
- (33) "The wise" are Jews who have spiritual discernment, true believers. They would remain true to Yahweh during Antiochus's persecution and instruct others, "make many understand." Because of their stand many of the Jewish faithful would be killed.
- (34) The faithful Jews received little help from the apostate, pro-Hellenistic Jews. Many Jews will join the apostate followers of Antiochus.
- (35) Even though many godly Jews died, the struggle against the Antiochus purified the Jews.
- Once the Jews regained independence (though they would be under the control of Rome) they became very religious and flipped to the other side from idolatry to devout rule followers.
- (35) The final "time of the end" is still yet future. The following verses (36-45) are still future to us. The Great Tribulation is the time of the end.

5. Difficulties, trials and tribulations reveal our true heart.