

The Book of Daniel / Chapter Eleven (Part Two)

Lesson 42 -Daniel's Apokalypsis

I. REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

This document provides a detailed analysis of the prophecies outlined in Daniel Chapter 11, focusing on the succession of empires from Persia to Greece and the subsequent division of the Hellenistic world. The source material interprets Daniel 11:2 as a precise prediction of four Persian kings following Cyrus the Great: Cambyses II, Darius I, and culminating in the wealthy and powerful Xerxes I, who would campaign against Greece.

II. THE RISE AND DIVISION OF THE MIGHTY KINGS EMPIRE

Following the era of the Persian kings, the prophecy details the emergence of a singularly powerful ruler and the immediate fate of his kingdom.

"...And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. 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..." (Daniel 11:3-4 NASB95).

Profile of the Mighty King: Alexander the Great

This "mighty king" is identified as Alexander the Great (336-323 B.C.). His life and reign align with the prophetic description:

- **Origins and Education:** He was the son of King Philip of Macedon. His education was formidable, having been trained in philosophy and politics by Aristotle, in military strategy by Leonidas of Epirus, and in arts by Lysimachus, who later became his bodyguard.
- **Conquests and Influence:** Renowned for his military genius and diplomacy, Alexander conquered most of the known world. His conquests included the city of Tyre (332 B.C.), Egypt (331 B.C.), and Babylon (331 B.C.). He founded the city of Alexandria in Egypt and planned to make Babylon his capital.
- **Hellenistic Period:** He was responsible for the dissemination of the Greek language and culture throughout Asia Minor, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and India, initiating the Hellenistic period.
- **Relationship with Israel:** Alexander held the Israelite nation in high respect. It is recorded that upon meeting the high priest Jaddua, he was so impressed that he knelt before him.
- **Sudden Death:** He died of unknown causes in 323 B.C. in Babylon, at the peak of his power and influence, fulfilling the prophecy that his kingdom would be broken "as soon as he has arisen."

Prophetic Fulfillment: The Divided Kingdom

The details of the prophecy in Daniel 11:4 are shown to be precisely fulfilled in the events following Alexander's death:

1. **"Broken up and parceled out":** His empire was not maintained as a single entity.

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2. **"Toward the four points of the compass":** After a period of conflict, power was consolidated in 301 B.C. and divided among his four generals, known as the Diadochi ("Successors").
3. **"Not to his own descendants":** The kingdom was not passed to his lineage. When Alexander died, his wife Roxanne was pregnant with his son, Alexander IV. However, the empire was ultimately divided among his generals.
4. **"Given to others besides them":** The sovereignty was "uprooted" and given to four key military leaders.

The initial division of the empire among the Diadochi was as follows:

General	Domain	Cardinal Direction
Cassander	Macedon and Greece	West
Seleucus	Babylonia and the East	East
Ptolemy	Egypt and Palestine	South
Antigonos	Asia Minor and Syria	North

This period is also connected to other prophecies in Daniel:

- Daniel 2:39b: *"...then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth...."*
- Daniel 8:21-22: *"The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king. The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power...."*

III. THE EMERGENCE OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN POWERS

From this point, the prophetic focus shifts from the four-way division to a bipolar conflict between two of the successor kingdoms: the "King of the South" and the "King of the North." These titles, each occurring 8 times in Daniel 11, do not represent single individuals but refer to the successive rulers of these two dominant regional powers. Israel is situated directly between them.

"...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..."
(Daniel 11:5 NASB95)

The King of The South: Ptolemy I Soter

The details of the prophecy in Daniel 11:4 are shown to be precisely fulfilled in the events following Alexander's death:

The "king of the South" is identified as Ptolemy I.

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- **Rise to Power:** Possibly Alexander's half-brother, Ptolemy opposed the regent Perdiccas's plan to wait for Alexander IV's birth. Ptolemy advocated for dividing the empire and secured Egypt for himself. After Perdiccas launched three failed attacks on Egypt, his own soldiers executed him.
- **Consolidation of Rule:** By 301 B.C., Ptolemy had assumed the title of "king" and "Soter" (Egyptian for "savior") after defending the island of Rhodes.
- **Legacy:** He was a significant builder, responsible for the great Museum and Library of Alexandria and the Pharos lighthouse. He died in 282 B.C. and was later deified by his people.
- **Rule over Israel:** Ptolemy I took control of Judah and Israel, ushering in a period of peace and economic prosperity. This also increased Greek influence in the region. He established a large Israelite presence in Egypt and initiated the Greek translation of the Torah.

The Ascendant Prince: Seleucus I Nicator

The details of the prophecy in Daniel 11:4 are shown to be precisely fulfilled in the events following Alexander's death:

- **Rise to Power:** Seleucus I, whose epithet "Nicator" means "unconquered" or "victor," initially served under Perdiccas but later allied with Ptolemy. After losing Babylon and fleeing to Egypt for asylum in 316 B.C., he returned with Ptolemy's assistance to recapture the city.
- **Expansion of Dominion:** He defeated Antigonus in 301 B.C., which expanded his empire into Syria. His territory grew to encompass Asia Minor and India, becoming a "great dominion" as prophesied. At the Battle of Corpendium in 281 B.C., he defeated and killed Lysimachos.
- **Rule over Israel:** Like Ptolemy, Seleucus was amicable toward Israel. He promoted Grecian culture and practices while also respecting Jewish traditions and customs.

IV. KEY HEBREW TERMS AND PROPHETIC THEMES

The analysis highlights the specific Hebrew words used in the text to convey concepts of power, authority, and will.

Hebrew Term	Transliteration	Meaning	Occurrences (Scriptures/Daniel)	Contextual Significance
גִּבּוֹר	gibôr	"strong," "mighty"	158 / 1	Describes the resilient physical strength of the "mighty king" (Alexander).
מִמְשָׁל	mimšāl	"authority," "rule," "dominion"	5 / 2	Underscores the scope of a person's influence or rule.
רָצוֹן	rason	"pleased," "favor," "will"	56 / 4	Highlights a person's intentions, desires, or ability to act unimpeded.
חֲזָק	hāzaq	"strengthen," "strong"	290 / 13	Underscores a person who is physically strong or has physical might (e.g., an army).

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מָשַׁל	māšal	"rule," "ruler"	82 / 5	Expresses the influence a king or prince has over a territory.
מְמָשָׁלָה	memšālâ	"dominion," "domain"	15 / 1	Speaks to the specific area or region a king rules over.

A recurring thematic phrase is that a powerful king "will do as he pleases." This is used to describe Alexander the Great in Daniel 11:3 and appears in reference to other powerful figures in related prophecies, indicating a ruler with absolute and unchecked authority:

- **Daniel 8:4:** The ram (Medo-Persia) "did as he pleased and magnified himself."
- **Daniel 11:16:** An advancing king "will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand him."
- **Daniel 11:36:** A future king "will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god."

V. THE SUM UP

The "one" man describes to Daniel the division of Alexander the Great's reign and focus on the North and South empires and kings and their influence and power. In the center of this power and influence of these two kingdoms is Israel.

To Be Continued...