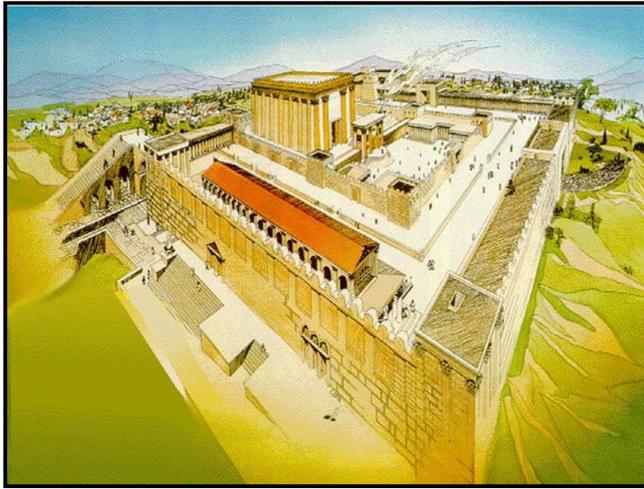


The Book of Daniel: the Key to Bible prophecy

Chapter 11

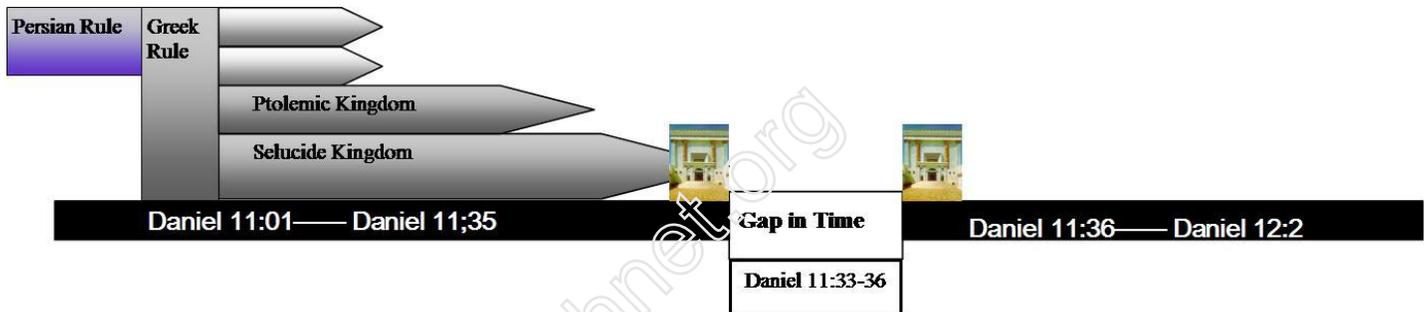


Introduction to Chapter 11

Chapter Eleven continues where chapter 10 left off, the angel is still speaking with Daniel by the Tigris River. Daniel is now ready to receive this message.

Chapter 11 has two parts, the first part is Daniel 11:1-35 covers the time from Darius the Mede (chapter 6) until Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.). The second part, Daniel 11:36 to 12:2 covers the last Gentile ruler, who is in power at the return of Messiah.

The period of time between the Antiochus IV and the rise of the last ruler is glossed over in Daniel 11:33-35. Daniel 11:36 emerges with the last Gentile King to the coming of the Messiah, who is the stone which crushes the feet of the composite man in Daniel 2.



Daniel chapter 11 gives a detailed history of the transitions of kingdoms from time of Darius until the time of Antiochus IV. This detailed history has caused skeptics of the Bible to dismiss the accuracy as written after the fact. Porphyry a third century pagan attacked the book of Daniel as a Maccabean forgery. Jerome responded with his own commentary on the book of Daniel, defending its 5th century B.C. authorship. The detailed history forces the reader to come to one of two conclusions, either the book of Daniel was supernaturally inspired by God, who revealed to Daniel the history of nations before the event, or Daniel was written by a lying imposter who claimed to be a 5th century B.C. prophet.

Along these two lines has war waged around the book of Daniel, as skeptics of the Bible and the supernatural refuse to accept the possibility of events being revealed before their occurrence.

Four Important Kings of Persia

DA 11:1 "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)

DA 11:2 "And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

The first year: The angel continues his message to Daniel, the spiritual dimension to the sixth chapter is revealed. The angel informs Daniel, that he strengthened Darius the Mede in the first year. Daniel is now in the third year of Cyrus, 536 B.C., Daniel 6 took place in 539 B.C. The other presidents and satraps tried to have Daniel killed by challenging his loyalty to the king through law established to destroy Daniel. In Daniel 6, an angel appears which shuts the lions mouths.

22 "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

Daniel 6:22

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Though its speculation, it seems likely the angel who shut the mouths of the lions is this very angel talking to Daniel. He along with Michael stand watch over the children of Israel. The enemies of God tried to destroy Daniel by turning Darius the Mede against him.

Daniel's faithful life gave God the opportunity to demonstrate Himself to the whole Persian kingdom and Darius the Mede rule was strengthened.

Three more kings: Daniel is now in the third year of Cyrus, 536 B.C., the angel tells Daniel three more kings are to rise in the Persian Kingdom. Since Daniel is already in the reign of Cyrus, the following three kings are; Cambyses 529-522 B.C., Pseudo-Smerdis 522-521 B.C., Darius I Hystaspes (521-486 B.C. Ezra 5,6)

The fourth: The greatest of the Persian kings was Xerxes I (486-465 B.C. Ezra 4:6). Xerxes is the King identified in the book of Ester. Xerxes led a major expedition against Greece which had disastrous results. According to Daniel, Xerxes was the climax of Persian rulers, from him it was a downward spiral from which Persia never recovered. Xerxes spent four years preparing for his attack on **Greece**, gathering hundreds of thousands of soldiers and vast riches. Encyclopedia Britannica delineates the chronology of events,

Xerxes then turned his attention westward to Greece. He wintered in Sardis in 481-480 BC and thence led a combined land and sea invasion of Greece. Northern Greece fell to the invaders in the summer of 480, the Greek stand at Thermopylae in August of 480 came to nought, and the Persian land forces marched on Athens, taking and burning the Acropolis. But the Persian fleet lost the Battle of Salamis, and the impetus of the invasion was blunted. Xerxes, who had by then been away from Asia rather long for a king with such widespread responsibilities, returned home and left Mardonius in charge of further operations. The real end of the invasion came with the Battle of Plataea, the fall of Thebes (a stronghold of pro-Persian forces), and the Persian naval loss at Mycale in 479 BC. Of the three, the Persian loss at Plataea was perhaps the most decisive. Up until Mardonius was killed, the issue of the battle was probably still in doubt, but, once leaderless, the less organized and less disciplined Persian forces collapsed. Time and again in later years this was to be the pattern in such encounters, for the Persians never solved the military problem posed by the disciplined Greek hoplites.....Harem intrigues, which were steadily to sap the strength and vitality of the Achaemenid Empire, led to the assassination of the Great King in 465 BC.¹

The attack on Greece would stir in the hearts of Greek descendants seeking revenge for generations. The attack on Athens and the burning of the Acropolis would be met by the greatest descendent Greece would ever know, Alexander the Great.

The Rise and Fall of Alexander the Great

DA 11:3 "Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

DA 11:4 "And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

Mighty King: The attacks on Greece from Persia caused a sense of outrage that simmered in the hearts of Greeks. Alexander the Great's father, Philip of Macedon, before his death had laid plans to attack Persia before his death. Alexander from his childhood was raised to hate the Persians for their attacks on Greece over the years.

In 10-years Alexander was able to destroy the Persian Empire and establish the Greek Empire which was even larger than Persia. Only after his men refused to go any further did Alexander return to Babylon to solidify his conquests. He planned to solidify his Empire, he encouraged his Macedonian soldiers to marry Persian women. Babylon was to be the capital of his Greek/Persian Empire.

His kingdom...broken: Before Alexander could follow through on his plans he died in Babylon at nearly the age of 33. After his death his generals fought over his kingdom. Four generals surfaced to take control of the kingdom.

Four winds: The four winds signify all directions. His kingdom was parceled off,

After Alexander the Great died, his kingdom was fought over by his Generals for a period of 20 years. Four generals emerged as head of his kingdom,

1. Cassander assumed rule over Macedonia and Greece;

¹ Encyclopedia Britannica 2004, Xerxes the 1 article

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2. Lysimachus took control of Thrace, Bithynia and most of Asia Minor;
3. Seleucus took Syria and the lands to the east including Babylonia;
4. Ptolemy established rule over Egypt and possibly Palestine and Arabia Petraea.

His posterity: Alexander had two known offspring. Herecules, the son of Alexander from Barsina², and Alexander from Roxane. Roxane after Alexander's death had Barsina and Hercules killed by Polysperchon. Alexander, the son of Alexander the Great, was born after his death from Roxana. Roxana and her son were later murdered by Cassander, one of Alexander succeeding generals.

After Alexander's death (323) she had his second wife, Stateira (Barsine), killed, and she gave birth at Babylon to a son (Alexander IV), who was accepted by the Macedonian generals as joint king with the idiot Philip III Arrhidaeus (half brother of Alexander the Great). In 319 Roxana joined Alexander's mother, Olympias, in Epirus, but she was captured in 316 in Macedonia by Cassander, who later took the title of king of Macedonia. He imprisoned Roxana at Amphipolis and then executed her and her son.³

His kingdom was not left to his posterity but divided between his generals.

Ptolemy I Soter and Seleucus I Nicator

DA 11:5 "Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion.

King of the South: Following the death of Alexander, there was a period of time, about 20 years, when the Diadochoi (Successors) fought for control of the empire. The four successors, Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy divided the kingdom. The king of the South, Egypt, was Ptolemy I Soter (Savior) (323-285). Ptolemy aided Seleucus in regaining his kingdom from another general who tried to reestablish Alexander's Empire under his own authority, Antigonus.

One of his princes: Seleucus I Nicator (312-281 B.C.) was ousted by Antigonus and fled to Ptolemy, there as one of Ptolemy's generals, they were able to defeat Antigonus. Seleucus regained his kingdom, Seleucus according to Daniel would become King of the North.

The final battle took place at Ipsus in Phrygia, 301 B.C.,

Ipsus, Phrygia, in 301 BC between two camps of the "successors" (diadochoi) of Alexander the Great, part of a struggle that accelerated the dismemberment of Alexander's empire begun after his death.....In 302 a coalition representing Lysimachus, king of Thrace, Seleucus I Nicator of Babylon, Ptolemy I Soter of Egypt, and Cassander of Macedonia moved against Antigonus I Monophthalmus, king in Asia Minor, and his son Demetrius I Poliorcetes. Although the combined strength of Seleucus and Lysimachus in troops was only slightly inferior to the 70,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 horses of Antigonus, it was the allies' superiority in elephants that proved invaluable for victory. The elephants prevented Demetrius, who had pursued too far after defeating the opposing cavalry, from returning to rescue his father. Antigonus was killed, Demetrius fled, and Asia Minor was added to the dominions of Lysimachus.⁴

Gain power over him: Seleucus was able to secure the greater kingdom at the expense of Ptolemy who initially aided him.

Daughter of Egypt and the King of Syria

DA 11:6 "And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times.

Join forces: The wars between the King of the North, Syria and the King of the South, Egypt continued off and on over territory, they became known as the "Syrian Wars". During the Second Syrian War (260-253 B.C.) Antiochus II Theos (261-246 B.C.) sued for peace by agreeing to marry Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246 B.C.) daughter Bernice. The problem was Antiochus II was already married to Laodiceia. He therefore divorced Laodicea and married Bernice.

Daughter of the king of the South: Bernice was the daughter of the king of the South. The marriage took place in 252 B.C. she conceived and had a son. The son was to take possession of

² Barsina was the daughter of Darius III the last Persian King.

³ Encyclopedia Britannica 2004, Roxane article

⁴ ibid, Ipsus Battle.

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both the northern and southern kingdoms. When Ptolemy II died, Antiochus II restored his wife Laodiceia who had then had Bernice, her infant son and Antiochus II Theos killed.

Given up: Laodiceia had her son Seleucus Calliniucs (247-226 B.C.) succeed her husband to the throne.

Ptolemy Euergetes and Seleucus Callinicus

DA 11:7 "But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail.

DA 11:8 "And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the North.

DA 11:9 "Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.

Branch of her roots: The brother of Bernice, who was killed by Laodiceia, Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 B.C.) avenged his sister's death. He attacked Seleucus Calliniucs and his mother Laodiceia who ruled from Syria. He plundered Susa, Babylonia and went as far as the borders of India.

Jerome in his commentary provides a detailed description of Ptolemy Euergetes conquest of the King of the North.

He came up with a great army and advanced into the province of the king of the North, that is Seleucus Callinicus, who together with his mother Laodice was ruling in Syria, and abused them, and not only did he seize Syria, but also took Cilicia and the remoter regions beyond the Euphrates and nearly all of Asia as well. And then, when he heard that a rebellion was afoot in Egypt, he ravaged the kingdom of Seleucus and carried off as booty forty thousand talents of Silver, and also precious vessels and images of the gods to the amount of two and half thousand. Among them were the same images which Cambyses had brought to Persia at the time when he conquered Egypt. The Egyptian people were indeed devoted to idolatry, for when he had brought back their gods to them after so many years, they called him Euergetes (Benefactor). And he himself retained possessions of Syria, but he handed over Cilicia to his friend, Antiochus, that he might govern it, and the provinces beyond the Euphrates he handed over to Xanthippus, another general.⁵

King of the North: Several years after the Egyptian invasion Seleucus Calliniucs was able to mount a return attack on Egypt in about 240 B.C. Seleucus was defeated and returned to his own land and died in 226 B.C.

Seleucus and Antiochus III the Great vs. Ptolemy Philopater

DA 11:10 "However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife.

DA 11:11 "And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy.

DA 11:12 "When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail.

DA 11:13 "For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment.

DA 11:14 "Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall.

DA 11:15 "So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist.

DA 11:16 "But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.

DA 11:17 "He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him.

DA 11:18 "After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him.

DA 11:19 "Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

⁵ Daniel, The Key to Prophetic Revelation, John Walvoord, Pg. 260, Moody Press, Chicago, 1971

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His sons: Despite Seleucus Callinicus failure to attack Egypt and win, his sons were able to do what he could not. Seleucus III (226-223 B.C.) his son died in battle in Asia Minor. Antiochus III the Great (223-187 B.C.) succeeded where his brother and father failed. Antiochus III began what became known as the Fourth Syrian War.

One shall: The "one" is Antiochus III who waged war against Egypt, the King of the South.

The king of the South: The King of the South was Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203 B.C.). Antiochus III first took Lebanon in 219 B.C. and pushed south toward Egypt. The Egyptian ruler assembled a large army in 217 B.C. and met Antiochus at Raphia, south of Gaza. The Egyptian army, led by Ptolemy and his wife-sister, Arsinoe resulted in a complete victory for Egypt. The armies both numbered about 70,000.

The Multitude: Antiochus lost his entire army and fled into the desert. Egypt reclaimed southern Syria for the time.

The king of the North: Antiochus now turned his attention to the East part of his kingdom. His campaigns against Bacteria and Parthia (Persia) gained him the title "The Great" (212 -204 B.C.) In 203 B.C., Ptolemy IV and Arsinoe had a mysterious death. Their son, Ptolemy V (203-181 B.C.) succeeded them, he was seven when he took power.

Antiochus saw his opportunity and assembled a greater army than his failed attack in 217 B.C. against the child king. The Jews rebelled against the Ptolemies, the "**violent men of your people**". The gates of Jerusalem were opened for the armies of Antiochus who attacked the Egyptian garrison at Jerusalem.

Scopas the Egyptian General was decisively defeated in 198 B.C. by Antiochus. The prospect of Roman intervention forced Antiochus III to make a treaty with Egypt. By marrying his daughter, **Daughter of women**, Cleopatra (Daughter of the father) to Ptolemy V, Antiochus had the idea her son and his grandson would become king. He had hoped Cleopatra would help him, but his daughter sided with the Egyptians against her father.

Face to the coastlands: After his victory over Scopas Antiochus now turned to the growing Roman threat and attempted to conquer Greece and equal the work of Alexander the Great. The Roman consul, Lucius Scipio Asiaticus defeated Antiochus III. In two battles, the first at Thermopylae, north of Athens, in 191 B.C. and again at Magnesia on the Maeander River in 189 B.C. This paved the way for Roman expansion later into the region. Roman forced Antiochus III to pay tribute for 12 years and turn over his son Antiochus IV as a hostage.

Antiochus III turned back to his own land. Hoping to raise more money he plundered a temple in Elam and was killed.

Seleucus Philopator, the Raiser of Taxes

DA 11:20 "There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.

In his place: In his place his son, Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175 B.C.) took the throne. Forced to pay tribute to Rome in the amount of 1000 talents annually, he taxed all his domain. He raised special taxes on the Jews administered by Heliodorus (2 Mac 3:7), Heliodorus plundered the Temple in Jerusalem. Seleucus Philopater suddenly died after that, some suspect he was poisoned by Heliodorus.

The Rise of Antiochus IV Epiphanes

DA 11:21 "And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.

DA 11:22 "With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.

DA 11:23 "And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people.

In his place

Vile person: After the battle of Magnesia, Antiochus IV was taken hostage to Rome when his father Antiochus III lost to Scipio. In 175 B.C., his brother, Seleucus IV Philopator, interveined and he was released from Rome. He substituted his own son, Demetrius for his brother Antiochus IV. While in Antiochus, IV was in Athens, Seleucus was assassinated. Antiochus IV was referred to in Daniel

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8:9-14,23-25 as the "Little horn".

Peaceably: Antiochus IV claimed to act on the behalf of his brother's son, Antiochus. Antiochus IV Ephiphanes was acting on his own behalf and took the kingdom for himself.

Force of flood: He immediately set about securing his throne. He overthrew Heliodorus in Jerusalem who was rumored to have killed his brother.

Prince of the covenant: Antiochus then had Onias, the High Priest killed in 172 B.C. Onias' brother, Jason and another rival, Menelaus of the tribe of Benjamin, both wanted the office of High Priest. Both wanted to introduce Greek culture and customs into Temple worship, Onias opposed the Hellenization of the Temple and Jerusalem. His death allowed Antiochus IV to move forward with establishing Greek culture in Jerusalem.

In 171 B.C. Menelaus purchased the office of High Priest from "Zeus Incarnate" Antiochus IV.

The league: The death of Cleopatra his sister, who was queen in Egypt, created a contest for power between her two sons, his nephews. Ptolemy Philometor and Ptolemy Euergetes for control of Egypt. Antiochus made a league with Philometer, but only for his own gain.

Antiochus' Growth in Power

DA 11:24 "He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.

DA 11:25 "He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him.

DA 11:26 "Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.

Enter peaceably: While in control Antiochus robed the richest places in his kingdom. He used the money obtained to buy alliances and secure his kingdom through loyalty. This was a practice his fathers and forefathers had not done.

King of the south: In 170 B.C. the amateur regents Eulaeus and Lenaeus advised Ptolemy VI to recover Syria. Antiochus IV heard about the attack and invaded Egypt with a large army. Ptolemy VI made peace with his uncle, in the meantime, the Alexandrians established his brother Ptolemy VIII king causing the Egyptian Kingdom to be weak.

Wickedness of Antiochus

DA 11:27 "Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time.

DA 11:28 "While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.

Both these kings: The kings of Egypt and Antiochus made all sorts of agreements. Neither side meant to keep their agreements, but they lied to forestall the real plans.

Against the holy covenant: Antiochus sought greater riches and seeing the wealth of the Temple caused him to try bring the treasures of the Temple under his control by installing people loyal to him.

Antiochus Opposed by Rome Persecutes the Jews

DA 11:29 "At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter.

DA 11:30 "For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

DA 11:31 "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

Appointed time: The time is established by God, He is in control of the events taking place. The establishment of agreements between the children of Cleopatra who started ruling together caused Antiochus IV to invade again. Things were different this time.

Ships of Cyprus: This time however Rome came to the aid of Egypt. The Hebrew word here is כִּתְיָ *Kitty* is translated Cyprus. The Septuagint translates this word as Romans. In 168 B.C. Antiochus IV was met by the Romans who ordered him to leave Egypt immediately or be attacked by Rome. Roman consul, Gaius Popillus Saenas drew a circle around Antiochus IV and demanded a decision before he stepped out of the circle. Antiochus IV, being a captive in Rome from 189 to 175

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B.C., knew the power of Roman might. He retreated to his kingdom and planned on securing his borders against Roman power.

Against the holy covenant: Upset with his humiliation by the Romans, Antiochus IV determined to bring Jerusalem into his Hellenistic kingdom tried to destroy the Jewish faith.

show regard: He along with the some Jews tried to turn the Temple in Jerusalem into a Greek Temple. In 167 B.C. he detached a body of troops to Jerusalem. They took the city by assault on the Sabbath, slaughtered many people and sacked the city.

Jews were compelled under the penalty of death, "to depart from the laws of their fathers, and cease living by the laws of God. Further, the sanctuary in Jerusalem was to be polluted and called 'Jupiter Olympius'" (1 Macc. 1:30, 2 Macc 5:24)

Abomination of desolation: Josephus record the events

3. King Antiochus returning out of Egypt 16 for fear of the Romans, made an expedition against the city Jerusalem; and when he was there, in the hundred and forty-third year of the kingdom of the Seleucidse, he took the city without fighting, those of his own party opening the gates to him. And when he had gotten possession of Jerusalem, he slew many of the opposite party; and when he had plundered it of a great deal of money, he returned to Antioch.

4. Now it came to pass, after two years, in the hundred forty and fifth year, on the twenty-fifth day of that month which is by us called Chasleu, and by the Macedonians Apelleus, in the hundred and fifty-third olympiad, that the king came up to Jerusalem, and, pretending peace, he got possession of the city by treachery; at which time he spared not so much as those that admitted him into it, on account of the riches that lay in the temple; but, led by his covetous inclination, (for he saw there was in it a great deal of gold, and many ornaments that had been dedicated to it of very great value,) and in order to plunder its wealth, he ventured to break the league he had made. So he left the temple bare, and took away the golden candlesticks, and the golden altar [of incense], and table [of shew-bread], and the altar [of burnt-offering]; and did not abstain from even the veils, which were made of fine linen and scarlet. He also emptied it of its secret treasures, and left nothing at all remaining; and by this means cast the Jews into great lamentation, for he forbade them to offer those daily sacrifices which they used to offer to God, according to the law. And when he had pillaged the whole city, some of the inhabitants he slew, and some he carried captive, together with their wives and children, so that the multitude of those captives that were taken alive amounted to about ten thousand. He also burnt down the finest buildings; and when he had overthrown the city walls, he built a citadel in the lower part of the city, 17 for the place was high, and overlooked the temple; on which account he fortified it with high walls and towers, and put into it a garrison of Macedonians. However, in that citadel dwelt the impious and wicked part of the [Jewish] multitude, from whom it proved that the citizens suffered many and sore calamities. And when the king had built an idol altar upon God's altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country. He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day. He also commanded them not to circumcise their sons, and threatened

Resulting Persecutions of Israel

DA 11:32 "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

DA 11:33 "And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.

DA 11:34 "Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue.

DA 11:35 "And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

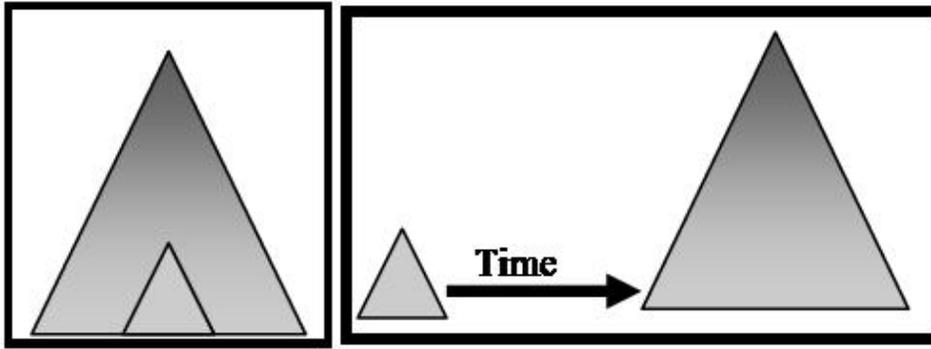
Those who do wickedly: The Temple became a test for those in Israel. Those who aligned themselves with Antiochus showed their wickedness.

People who know their god: The wickedness cause the faithful to make a stand in the days of Antiochus IV. Matthias and his sons, known as the Maccabees rebelled against the policies of Antiochus and led a guerilla war against the Greeks. They were able to reestablish the Temple practices. The Temple was rededicated in a service that is known as Hannuach, when the oil only enough for one day lasted eight.

People who understand: Daniel 11 draws a contrast between two groups of people, those, who know God and understand and the wicked who act against God. This line does not stop and the Maccabees but will continue to the end. This pattern was set in Daniel chapter 8, where told about the coming "Abomination of desolation" by Antiochus Epiphanes who would desolate the Temple.

Antiochus is merely a picture a future and greater desolater who is coming in the end of Days.

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Yet for many days: The time of Antiochus set the example for future Israel, Here we see the period of persecution is long and involves many days and many people.

Many shall join: During this time gap many will make the choice of joining those who understand or joining those who are in rebellion against God.

Refine: This period of time is one of refining, where the people of God are made white by the trials of life.

Until the time of the end: This purification process will continue till the end. The time of the end is a period covered from Daniel 11:36- to 12:2. At this point Israel is reestablished after a long period of desolations. This gap in time, is demonstrated in the Iron legs and Iron/Clay feet, the break between Daniel 9:26, the killing of Messiah the destruction of the Temple and Daniel 9:27 when the Temple is back in service.

	First Period	Second Period
Daniel 2	Iron Legs	Iron/Clay Feet
Daniel 7	Und	
Daniel 8	Antiochus IV	Antichrist
Daniel 9	Temple destroyed	Temple Rebuilt

Still for the appointed time: God is in charge of the pace of events

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