



An Exploration of Eschatology in Exile

WEEK 11: December 8, 2020, 10 am

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Seneca Church of God of Prophecy

12 Week Discipleship Course

The Last Great Vision: Daniel 11

Objectives

- Recognize God's Sovereignty
- Submit all glory and honor to God
- Christ will reign for eternity

Chapter Outline

- The Persian & Grecian Empires Fall (Daniel 11:1-4)
- The Kings of the South and North (Daniel 11:5-20)
- A Vile Person (Daniel 11:21-35)
- The King Shall Magnify Himself (Daniel 11:36-45)

Review

- Daniel one begins with the history that leads up to this point in history.
- Daniel two discussed the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's interpretation of it, both historically and futuristic.
- Daniel three discussed the King's image of gold and the faith of the three Hebrew boys.
- Daniel four discussed the King's dream of God's judgment against him. The 7 years of judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar occurs.
- Daniel five discussed the hand-writing on the wall.
- Daniel six discussed Daniel's faithfulness to prayer and the judgment pronounced against him to be placed in the lions den.
- Daniel seven discussed the four beasts that are symbols for the four powerful kingdoms.
- Each chapters common thread is that Yahweh is the only true God.
- Chapters 1-4 each end with worship and adoration directed towards Yahweh.
- Chapter 5 ends with the downfall of a wicked pagan king.
- Chapter 6 returns to the end theme of chapters 1-4, in which Yahweh is given honor and glory.
- Chapter 7 breaks with the traditional ending of chapters 1-4 and 6. Instead of glorifying God for all that will be done, Daniel is very troubled and worried about the end of days.
- Chapter 8 was so powerful and hard on Daniel that he ends the chapter by stating that he fainted from the anxiety and pressure of the vision.
- Chapter 9 dealt with the seventy years of desolation.
- Chapter 10 sets up the last vision (chapter 11).
- Chapter 11 & 12 deals with the last great vision of Daniel.

Daniel's Last Vision (Daniel 11)

- Daniel 11 is a subtle reminder back to the second vision that is found in Daniel 8. The Goat and the Ram depicted symbolizes the Greek and Persian empire. The last vision also deals with these two great empires. However, chapter 11 deals with their downfall.
- This chapter contains one of the most specifically fulfilled prophecies of the Bible, predicting history over some 375 years, and to the end, with amazing accuracy.
- The chapter is so specific, that many critics who deny supernatural revelation, have insisted that it is *history*, written after the fact, fraudulently claiming to be prophecy. However, we know that God knows the beginning from the end and the end from the beginning.
- Three more kings will arise in Persia: Simply, the angel told Daniel that there would be three more kings in Persia until a fourth arose. The fourth king would be strong, rich, and oppose the realm of Greece. This strong, rich fourth king was fulfilled in the Persian King Xerxes.
- The fourth shall be far richer: In fulfillment, there were actually four kings from the time Daniel spoke of until Xerxes, the one who did stir up all against the realm of Greece. Either the angel omitted the current king (Cyrus), looking only to the future, or he ignored King Smerdis of Persia (522-21 B.C.) because he ruled less than one year and was an impostor to the throne.
- Persia... Greece: These visions and insights regarding the future of the Persian and Greek Empires were relevant because each empire attempted to wipe out the people of God at some time.
 - The Persian Empire tried to wipe out the Jewish people during the reign of Xerxes, through the plot of Haman (as shown in the Book of Esther).
 - The Greek Empire tried to wipe out the Jewish people during the reign of Antiochus IV, when he attempted to kill every Jew who did not renounce their commitment to God and embrace Greek culture.



- Then a mighty king shall arise: The angel told Daniel of a mighty king with a great dominion – but his kingdom would not endure, and it would be divided after the death of the mighty king.
- Shall rule with great dominion and do according to his will: This was fulfilled in Alexander the Great, who certainly was a mighty king. Alexander died at 32 years of age of a fever after a drunken party in Babylon.
 - This prophecy does not mainly concern Alexander because he did no harm to Jerusalem, though he conquered the general area. The ancient historian Josephus records the interesting arrival of Alexander the Great to Jerusalem, and how he was shown the Book of Daniel by the high priest (whom Alexander had previously seen in a vision). Alexander was so impressed that he spared Jerusalem and granted it religious toleration.
- Not among his posterity: After Alexander's death, none of his descendants succeeded him. It wasn't for lack of trying. Alexander did leave three possible heirs: a half brother named Philip, who was mentally deficient; a son who was born after Alexander died; and an illegitimate son named Hercules. The half-brother and the posthumous son were first designated co-monarchs, each with a regent. But fighting among the regents eventually resulted in the murder of all possible heirs.
- Divided toward the four winds of heaven: After the death of all Alexander's possible heirs, four generals controlled the Greek Empire, but none of them according to his (Alexander's) dominion.
 - The rest of this prophecy focuses on two of the four inheritors of Alexander's realm, and the dynasties they established. Only two are focused on because they constantly fought over the Promised Land because it sat between their centers of power.
- The king of the South shall become strong: One of the four inheritors of the empire of the *mighty king* would become stronger and greater than the others.
- He shall gain power over him and have dominion: This was fulfilled in Ptolemy I of Egypt, who exerted his control over the Holy Land. Soon after the division of Alexander's Empire, the Ptolemies dominated this region.
 - Ptolemy I had a prince named Seleucus, who rose to power and took dominion over the region of Syria. He became more powerful than his former Egyptian ruler. The Seleucids are identified with the *Kings of the North*, and the Ptolemies were the *Kings of the South*.
 - The dynasties of the Seleucids and the Ptolemies fought for some 130 years. The stronger of the two always held dominion over the Holy Land.
- They shall join forces: Joined by a marriage, the kings of the North and South would be allies for a while, but the arrangement would not last.

- The daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement: This was fulfilled in the marriage between Antiochus II (of the Seleucids) and Berenice (daughter of Ptolemy II). There was peace for a time because of this marriage, but it was upset when Ptolemy II died.
 - Shall not retain the power of her authority: Once Ptolemy II died, Antiochus II put away Berenice and took back his former wife, Laodice.
 - Neither he nor his authority shall stand: Laodice didn't trust her husband Antiochus II; so she had him poisoned.
 - She shall be given up, with those who brought her: After the murder of Antiochus II, Laodice had Berenice, her infant son, and her attendants killed.
 - After this reign of terror, Laodice set her son (Seleucus II) on the throne of the Syrian dominion.
- Who shall come with an army: The angel told Daniel that a branch of her roots would come from the South and prevail over the kings of the North.
- Deal with them and prevail: This was fulfilled in the person of Ptolemy III, who was the brother of Berenice (the branch of her roots). Avenging the murder of his sister, Ptolemy III invaded Syria and humbled Seleucus II.
 - He shall continue more years than the king of the North: Ptolemy III lived four years past Seleucus II.
- Assemble a multitude of great forces: This was fulfilled in Seleucus III and Antiochus III, the two sons of Seleucus II. Both were successful generals, but Seleucus III ruled only a short time and was succeeded by his brother.
 - In a furious battle, Antiochus III took back the Holy Land from the dominion of the Ptolemies.
- The king of the South shall be moved with rage...He will not prevail: This was fulfilled when Antiochus III was defeated at the battle of Raphia. Because of that loss he was forced to give back dominion over the Holy Land to Ptolemy IV.
- The king of the North... shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army...No one shall stand against him: This was fulfilled when Antiochus III invaded Egypt again, gaining final control over the armies of Ptolemy V and over the Holy Land.
 - Many shall rise up against the king of the South: Jews living in the Holy Land helped Antiochus III defeat the king of the South. This was because the Jewish people resented the

rule of the Egyptian Ptolemies (violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision).

- He who comes against him shall do according to his own will... with destruction in his power: The Jewish people of the Glorious Land initially welcomed Antiochus III as a liberator from Egyptian rule. Their decision to support Antiochus III proved unwise when he turned destruction upon the Glorious Land and its people.
- She shall not stand with him: This was fulfilled when Antiochus III gave his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V of Egypt. He did this hoping to gain permanent influence and eventually control in Egypt. To the great disappointment of Antiochus III, the plan did not succeed because Cleopatra wasn't faithful to her Egyptian husband at all.
 - This was not the most famous Cleopatra from ancient history, but this was the ancestor of the more famous Cleopatra. The more famous Egyptian woman lived some 100 years after the time of this Cleopatra.
- He shall turn back on him: After the disappointing effort through the daughter Cleopatra, the king of the North would turn his efforts towards the coastlands – until he was stopped by one formerly under reproach, until he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.
- He shall stumble and fall: This was fulfilled when Antiochus III turned his attention towards the areas of Asia Minor and Greece. He was helped by Hannibal, the famous general from Carthage. But a Roman General, Lucius Cornelius Scipio, defeated Antiochus in Greece. Antiochus planned to humiliate Greece but was humiliated instead. He returned to his former regions, having lost all that he gained and died shortly after.
 - After this defeat Antiochus III had an inglorious end. Needing money badly for his treasury, he resorted to pillaging a Babylonian temple and was killed by enraged local citizens.
- There shall arise on in his place, one who imposes taxes...within a few days he will be destroyed: Seleucus III was assassinated, probably by his brother Antiochus IV.

A Vile Person (Daniel 11:21-35)

- In his place shall arise a vile person: The angel told Daniel that after the brief reign of the former king of the North, the next king would be a vile person. He would not be recognized as royalty, but shall take power by intrigue.
- In his place: This was fulfilled in the successor of Seleucus III, named Antiochus IV. He did not come to the throne legitimately because it was strongly suspected that he murdered his older brother, the previous king. The other potential heir (the son of Seleucus III) was imprisoned in Rome.

- He shall come in peaceably: Apart from the murder of his older brother, Antiochus IV didn't use terror to gain power. He used flattery, smooth promises and intrigue.
- "He *flattered Eumenes*, king of Pergamus, and *Attalus* his brother, and got their assistance. He *flattered* the Romans, and sent ambassadors to court their favour, and pay them the arrears of the tribute. He *flattered* the Syrians, and gained their concurrence." (Clarke)
- Antiochus IV took the title *Epiphanes*, meaning *illustrious*. Others derisively called him *Epimanes*, meaning *madman*.
- He shall stir up his power: This was fulfilled when Antiochus Epiphanes carried on the feud between the dynasties but pretended friendship and alliance to catch them off guard. Despite massive efforts and epic battles, Antiochus Epiphanes did not stand, and his army was swept away.
 - The defeat of Antiochus Epiphanes at his second campaign against Egypt was important, because Egypt beat Antiochus with the help of Rome. At the end of it all, Antiochus Epiphanes and his kingdom were under the dominion of Rome.
 - In a famous battle, the Roman Navy defeated the navy of Antiochus Epiphanes. After the battle, a Roman general drew a circle around Antiochus in the dirt and demanded to know if he would surrender and pay tribute to Rome – and demanded to know before he stepped out of the circle. From that point on there was no doubt: Antiochus Epiphanes took his orders from Rome and was under Roman dominion.
 - Those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him: This was fulfilled in the treachery against Antiochus IV by his own counselors.
- His heart shall be moved against the holy covenant: When the vile person returned to his land, he would attack the land, people, and the temple of Israel. It will be a time of great courage and great treachery among the people of God.
- So he shall do damage and return to his own land: This was fulfilled when Antiochus Epiphanes returned from Egypt, bitter from defeat. He vented his anger against Jerusalem, which was already shaken because Antiochus sold the office of High Priest and persecuted the Jewish people to conform to Greek culture, forsaking the faith and traditions of their fathers.
 - While returning to his land with great riches: Failing in his invasion of Egypt, Antiochus Epiphanes returned home with only great plunder to soothe his wounded pride.
 - Ships from Cyprus shall come against him: This was naval assistance from the Romans, who helped the Egyptians turn back Antiochus Epiphanes.
 - They shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation: Antiochus Epiphanes set up an image of Zeus at the temple altar. He demanded sacrifice to

this image, and later desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig on it. “It was in truth an abomination, which brought a desolate condition to the Temple, for now no one would come to worship at all.” (Wood)

- Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong: When Antiochus Epiphanes turned on Jerusalem, the Jewish people were divided. Some forsook their covenant with God and embraced Greek culture. Those who knew their God made a stand for righteousness in the face of incredible persecution.
- For many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering: In his attack on Jerusalem Antiochus IV is said to have killed 80,000 Jews, taken 40,000 more as prisoners, and sold another 40,000 as slaves. He also plundered the temple, robbing it of approximately \$1 billion by modern calculations.
- Until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time: This terror could only last for as long as God had appointed it, and God had a purpose even for such persecution and blasphemy.

The Antichrist (Daniel 11:36-45)

- He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god: The angel explained to Daniel that this king would blaspheme God and exalt himself until the wrath has been accomplished and what has been determined shall be done.
- Above every god: Here we shift from what *was* fulfilled in the Ptolemies and the Selucids to what *will* be fulfilled in the Antichrist, the final world dictator. Daniel was told that this revelation pertained to *the latter days* ([Daniel 10:14](#)), and [Daniel 11:36](#) begins to look more towards this final world dictator, who is sort of a “last days Antiochus Epiphanes.”
 - We know that everything about this prophecy was not fulfilled during the career of Antiochus Epiphanes. Jesus specifically said the *real* abomination of desolation was still in the future ([Matthew 24:15](#)). The Apostle Paul paraphrased [Daniel 11:36](#) in reference to the coming Antichrist: *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God* ([2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)).
 - Antiochus Epiphanes is important, but mostly as a historical preview of the Antichrist. This is why so much space is given to describing the career of one evil man – because he prefigures the ultimate evil man. Antiochus Epiphanes is the “trailer” released well before the Antichrist, who is like the “feature.”

- He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god: Antiochus Epiphanes certainly did this in the general sense that all sinners oppose God. Yet he remained loyal to the Greek religious tradition, which revered the entire Olympian pantheon. Antiochus Epiphanes put a statue of Zeus in the temple, not of *himself*. This statement will be far more precisely fulfilled in the Antichrist, who *sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God* (2 Thessalonians 2:4).
- Shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished: Antichrist will do much damage, but he is on a short chain and will only work into God's plan. God's purpose will be accomplished.
- He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women: Based on this, some Bible scholars believe that the Antichrist will be of Jewish descent, and perhaps will also be a homosexual. These things may not be popularly known about the man, but they may be true nonetheless.
- He shall honor a god of fortresses: The Antichrist will take and hold power with military might and the shrewd use of great riches.
- At the time of the end: The angel described to Daniel a confederation of kings coming against this great leader, with a battle in and near the Holy Land.
- King of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind: Prophetically speaking, a precise identification of peoples mentioned is difficult. The king of the South may be Egypt or represent the Arab community. The king of the North may be the Antichrist's domain (as the "new Antiochus Epiphanes") or it may be Russia.
 - The precise points may be cloudy, but the general idea is clear. The end will be marked by great conflict, culminating in the world's armies gathering in the Promised Land to do final battle.
- Yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him: In the end there is no hope for the Antichrist or for any of his followers.

Sources:

The Bible

Enduring Word Commentary