

The Events of Daniel 11

Daniel 11:2 prophecies the future Persian king: *"And now I will tell you the truth, Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them"* (v.2).

Those were: Cambyses II (530-522), Gaumata The Magian (522), Darius (522-486), and Xerxes (486-465).

Daniel 11:2 also prophecies that the fourth Persian king, Xerxes, would use his vast resources to arouse Greece. *"As soon as (the fourth king) becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece"* (v.2). History records for us that Persian King Xerxes (486-465 BC) took his armies to battle Greece. On September 28, 480 BC, in the Battle of Salamis, the united Grecian city states defeated Xerxes and his vast Persian armies. This battle marks the rise of the Grecian Empire.

Daniel 11:3-4 prophecies the rise and fall of Alexander the Great and the subsequent division of Alexander's kingdom into four regions. *"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"* (vs. 3-4).

History records for us that the Grecian Emperor Alexander the Great (b. 356 BC – d. 323 BC) conquered and ruled the world. Upon his sudden death at the age of 32, there were no heirs to take his throne, so the Grecian kingdom was divided into four separate regions (North, South, East, West) and four of Alexander's generals became "king" of their respective region.

West (Greece) - General Cassander
 East (Asia Minor) - General Lysimachus
 North (Syria/Babylon) - General Seleucus
 South (Egypt/Holy Land) - General Ptolemy

After several decades of internal fighting for control, by 281 BC the East and West Grecian kingdoms had been absorbed into the North and South kingdoms, and so the world was dominated by two Grecian (Hellenistic) Kingdoms - **the North and the South**. For the rest of Daniel 11 (from verse 5 to the end of the chapter), the "**king of the North**" represents the king leading the northern "Seleucid" people (when pronouncing the people of the north it is Sa loo sids with a soft "c"), also known as the Syrian kingdom. Also, for the rest of Daniel 11, the "**king of the South**" refers to the king leading the Egyptian kingdom.

Daniel 11:5-20 prophecies conflict between the North and the South, a proposed peace treaty between the Seleucids (the Northern kingdom) and the Ptolemies (the Southern kingdom) involving the daughter of the King of the South (a woman named Berenice) to marry Antiochus II Theos. This plan had a flaw: Antiochus II was already married. From 250 BC to 170 BC, there's war between the North and the South, with eventually the North dominating. In 170 BC, a king of the North, Antiochus IV, comes to power.

Daniel 11:21- "In his place shall arise a vile person (Antiochus IV)." The Bible says that this great-grandson of Seleucid desires to "Hellenize" Jerusalem and the Jews. He demands to be called **Antiochus IV Epiphanes** ("God manifest") and places a statue of Zeus in the Temple of Jerusalem.

Daniel 11:22-26 – Antiochus IV makes a move to conquer Egypt (Ptolemy). Judea was in the middle of the kingdom of the North (Seleucid) and the kingdom of the South (Ptolemy).

Daniel 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."* (The end of the Covenant).

Daniel 11:28-30 - *"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."* Daniel 11:29-30 describes how Antiochus IV Epihanes marched against Ptolemy, but the Romans ("ships of Kittim") which came to protect Ptolemy stopped Antiochus with General Gaius Popillius Laenas drawing a circle around Antiochus, telling Epihanes, "if you step outside this circles toward Alexandria, Rome is your enemy."

Daniel 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."* To punish the Jews for idolatry, on his way back to Syria, Antiochus Epihanes places a statue of Zeus in the Temple. This abomination of desolation of the Temple occurred in December 167 BC.

Daniel 11:32 -35 - *"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."* These four verses describe the battle of the Maccabees against the Greeks. The Maccabees cleansed the Temple in 164 BC and reigned as High Priests and Kings (one Queen) of Israel until Herod the Great removed Antigonus in 37 BC.

Daniel 11:36-39 – Is a prophecy of Herod the Great (b. 73 BC – d. 3 BC). Herod the Great was appointed King of the Jews in December 40 BC, and defeated Antigonus, the last Maccabean King in July 37 BC.

Daniel 11:40-43 – *"At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through"* (v. 40). This describes Herod's tightrope between serving Marc Antony and Cleopatra of the South and Gaius Octavius of the North, a region now controlled by Rome. *"He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon"* (v. 41). The course Octavius took after his victory over Antony and Cleopatra accurately follows the prophecy. He passed through Syria, Judea (the "glorious land"), and Egypt, but the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon were not invaded. *"He (Octavius) shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape...he shall have power over the treasures."* Octavius becomes **Caesar Augustus** in 27 BC.

Having updated the story flow in verses 40-43 to show the Roman dominance of Judea and the end of the "king of the South," the prophecy now reverts back to its earlier subject, Herod the king.

Daniel 11:44 - *"But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many."* (The wise men came from the east and the north)

Daniel 11:45 – *"He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him."* **At that time (e.g. the end) Michael shall rise.**