

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

## BOOK OF DANIEL

### ALEXANDER AND FRIENDS (DANIEL 11:2-10)

The angel gives the prophecy about the conflicts during the "70 weeks" mentioned in chapter 9. It covers roughly 450 years of the 490 prophesied.

#### THERE WILL BE 3 MORE KINGS OF PERSIA

After Cyrus (539-529 B.C.), will be Cambyses (529-522 B.C.), Darius Hystaspes (521-486 B.C.), and Xerxes (485-465 B.C.) who was "far richer than the others"

#### XERXES WILL MARK A TURNING POINT

Famous to us because of the stories of Ezra and Esther. In his wealth and power, launched a campaign against Greece. The feast in Esther 1 describes the preparation for this. Xerxes put all he had into avenging losses to the Greeks by his father Darius Hystaspes, but was unsuccessful.

#### ALEXANDER THE GREAT (V3-4)

The "warrior king" is Alexander, not a Persian king like casual readers would think

- After his death (age 33), the Greek Empire was divided between four generals, none of which were his descendants or had the power he did.

#### THE "KING OF THE NORTH" AND "SOUTH" (V5-6)

One of the 4 after Alex was Ptolemy Soter, a protégé of Alex that took control of Egypt, making him "King of the South." Another of the 4 was Seleucus Nicator who came to rule Syria, thus "King of the North"

#### AN AGREEMENT GONE BAD

The "daughter" (v6), a descendent of Soter, was sent to marry a descendent of Nicator, but she was murdered by a jealous wife.

- Her brother attacked the army of the north, which led to counter attacks. This is the beginning of many battles between Egypt and Syria.

### ANTIOCHUS THE GREAT (DANIEL 11:11-20)

#### THE GRANDSON OF THE KING OF THE NORTH

Antiochus the Great, along with his brother, launched a large attack on Egypt and was met by Ptolemy Philopator, who won the battle and slaughtered the troops.

- 14 years later Antiochus came back to conquer Egypt after Ptolemy Philopator had died, and he had discovered the new king was 4 yrs old.

#### MANY APOSTATE JEWS HELPED ANTIOCHUS

They joined the Syrians because much of the fighting took place in Palestine

- They even helped capture a "well-fortified city" which was likely Sidon, a city in Israel before the Syrians "establish...in the beautiful land," Israel

#### INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, ANTIOCHUS THOUGHT HE COULD CONTROL EGYPT THROUGH AN AGREEMENT.

He sent his daughter to 10 year old Ptolemy V hoping she could control the king and promote a Syrian agenda in Egypt, but Cleopatra fell in love with the boy

#### ANTIOCHUS TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO CONQUERING GREECE BECAUSE IT WAS WEAK, BUT HE DID NOT COUNT ON THEM CALLING IN ROME TO HELP

As he retreated from the Romans, an army of 30,000 defeated his army of 70,000 near Sardis. A famous commander Lucius Asiaticus "put an end to his taunting"

#### BACK TO THE "FORTRESS OF HIS OWN LAND"

Antiochus agreed to stay in Syria, and to ensure this, Rome took 20 hostages

#### HIS SUCCESSOR SELEUCUS PHILOPATOR HAD A SHORT RUN (V20)

He faced enormous national debt from the wars of his father, and owed Rome money. So, he planned to plunder Israel and his "tax collector" Heliodorus intended to raid the temple. Legend says angels prohibited Heliodorus. History tells us he went back and assassinated Seleucus with poison.

### ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES (DANIEL 11:21-35)

#### "...A DESPISED PERSON WILL ARISE"

Antiochus Epiphanes was the brother of Seleucus, and not heir to the throne. Since Seleucus' son was a hostage in Rome, Antiochus "seized the kingdom by intrigue"

#### A PHONY TRUCE AND MAJOR CONFLICTS

v25-28 is about the final major conflicts of Syria and Egypt. The "Little Horn" of chap. 8 marched down Palestine to Egypt, and Ptolemy was betrayed by his own people (v27) with a phony truce. On his way back to Syria, he plundered the temple

#### ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES RETURNED TO FIGHT EGYPT AGAIN

This time the Romans got involved and the outcome was different. As he approached Alexandria, the Romans gave him a cease and desist, which he did.

- In his anger, he attacked the Jews again and made deals with apostates

### WANTING MORE THAN POLITICAL POWER AND MONEY

v8:23-25 prophesied an event that came in 168 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Jewish temple by placing a statue of Jupiter or Zeus. In Maccabees 6:2 it suggests the temple was renamed Temple of Zeus Olympus (Matthew 24:15)

#### SOME WILL BEND, OTHERS WILL STAND FIRM

v32-33 mentions that some will go along with pagan worship, but others will oppose this and suffer persecutions for it. This is foreshadowing the future tribulation.

- The groups that arose from this resistance were the Pharisees, who Jesus argued with, and the Essenes, who gave us the Dead Sea Scrolls.

#### V35 IS A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

Many think this is still in reference to Antiochus, others see it as a bridge leading into unfulfilled prophecies about the Antichrist and the coming tribulation.

- "time of the end" is where the controversy comes in. If one is a premillennialist, the next passage moves us into the "70th week" of Daniel's prophecy

### ANTICHRIST (DANIEL 11:36-45)

#### PREMILLENNIALISM

This is the belief that Jesus will return to lead a 1000 years of peace and harmony before one last rebellion and Satan is cast into the "Lake of Fire" in Revelation 20.

- Premillennialism is not a new idea, it has been circulating at least since Saint Jerome in the 4th Century A.D.

#### PREMILLENNIALISTS BELIEVE THIS IS ESCHATOLOGY

There is a parallel between Daniel 11:36-45 and the depiction of the Antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13 and 17.

- These parallels are even more clear when we get into chapter 12, which describes the same future events as the end of chapter 11

#### "NOT SHOW REGARD FOR THE GODS OF HIS FATHERS"

Some believe the Antichrist will be Jewish based on v37, but this is referring to the Antichrist's disregard for any religion, and the creating of worship centered on him

- "nor the god desired by women" may be about Jewish women wanting to birth the Messiah, his cruelty of women, or a goddess such as Adonis

#### HE WILL MAKE WAR HIS GOD

"He will honor a god of fortress" shows great skill of conflict, which may lead one to believe this is not talking about Antiochus.

- The Antichrist will manipulate people with bribery and false promises "making them rulers" as a reward. Remember, he will be a **charismatic politician** with the aid of a false prophet (Revelation 13).

#### THERE WILL BE WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

Matthew 24 talks about wars at the end, and Dan prophesies a war somewhere in the Middle East similar to the wars of Syria and Egypt

- v41 mentions Israel being in the middle of the attacks. Not all countries will fall, and Isaiah 11 mentions these countries being controlled by a restored Israel

#### NORTH AFRICA IS NOT SO FORTUNATE

Daniel says North Africa will be dominated by the Antichrist. While there, he receives news that causes him to travel back to the Middle East in a fit of rage

- Many believe this leads him to "pitch his royal tents" in Israel's Valley of Megiddo between the Dead and Mediterranean Seas (Revelation 16:16)

#### ARMAGEDDON

Megiddo lies on a major route connecting Syria and Egypt, and though no one can say absolutely this is where the final battle of good and evil takes place, no interpretation makes more sense.

- "he will meet his end with no one to help him" shows the inevitability of the Antichrist's fate from Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:19-21)

### NOT LOSING THE MESSAGE

- It is easy to get lost in End Time details, but Chapter 11 reaffirms the thesis of the whole Book of Daniel: God is Sovereign
- Revelation 19 correlates with Daniel 11, and adds more detail of the sovereignty and nature of God.

### THE NATURE OF GOD

- He is the King that conquers evil and the Righteous Judge of all humanity
- Sovereign regardless of our comprehension
- Gracious to give historical, genealogical, biological, and archeological evidence to support another gracious gift, the Bible
- He is the loving and generous husband to His bride, us.