

Daniel Chapter 11

Pastor Mike Wells Study Notes

Overview of Daniel 11: In review of Chapter 10, God had sent an angel while Daniel was in prayer in Daniel 10. Here, the angel now reveals to Daniel further prophecy. Verses 1 - 35 deal with events, which from our perspective have already been fulfilled (the final details of the Persian Empire and the coming Greek empire). The details of the prophecy in verses 1-35 of the Seleucid era of history are remarkable in their precise detail. These detailed prophecies have been precisely fulfilled historically. From verse 36 onward, the prophecy shifts to the Day of the Lord. As we put end-time prophecy together, we understand that the antichrist's rise to power is by warfare, though initially his platform is of peace. (See Revelation 6:1-8; 9:13-21). From Daniel 11, we will see that much of this warfare is in the Middle East. Some of the opposition to the rise of the antichrist will be the king of the south, most likely Egypt and much of the Arab world. Perhaps they are in opposition to the 'covenant' (of Daniel 9:27) that the antichrist makes with Israel. But another major player will be the king of the north. From Ezekiel 38 and elsewhere, this most likely is Russia moving down from the north into the Middle East. It appears from Daniel 11 that the antichrist, the Egyptians (along with much of the Arab world), and the Russians will be involved in a major war that will center in Israel. The immediate winner will be the antichrist. The ultimate winner will be Jesus Christ.

Daniel 11 : 1 - Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

- The speaker remains the angel of the previous verse and chapter.
- He tells Daniel that it was he who enabled Darius the Mede to consolidate and strengthen his rule after he overthrew Belshazzar in Daniel 5:31.

Daniel 11 : 2 - And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

- The angel now proceeds to explain to Daniel the prophecy which God had given him.
- The beginning focus is on the young Persian Empire.
- History shows that the three kings to rise to power after Darius were Cyrus, who reigned alone after the death of Darius the Mede (his uncle); Cambyses, the son of Cyrus; and Darius Hystaspes.
- The fourth king, richer than the rest was Xerxes.
- For four years, Xerxes gathered forces from throughout the Persian Empire for war against Greece.

Daniel 11 : 3 - And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

- The mighty king mentioned is Alexander the Great, rising up in Greece to avenge the Greeks against Persia for Xerxes' past invasion.

Daniel 11 : 4 - *And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.*

- The fourfold division of Alexander's empire after his death is foretold.
- Alexander's sons were killed, preventing them from succeeding their father.
- None of Alexander's successors had the wide rule he had.
- The four succeeding rulers of the Greek Empire will be other lesser leaders who would rule over only fragments of the Greek Empire.

Daniel 11 : 5 - *And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.*

- The division of the Greek Empire to the south went to Ptolemy Lagus, one of Alexander's generals, who seized Egypt for his share.
- And, indeed, he was a powerful ruler.
- A subordinate, Seleucus seized the region of Syria for his part of the empire.

Daniel 11 : 6 - *And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.*

- The time looks ahead to when Bernice, daughter of Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt entered into an agreement with the Seleucid kingdom.
- However, through treachery, Ptolemy died by poisoning and Berenice's scheme of a united, greater kingdom fell apart.

Daniel 11 : 7 - *But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail.*

- Ptolemy Euergetes, brother of Berenice, succeeded Philadelphus and avenged her death by overrunning Syria.

Daniel 11 : 8 - *And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. 9 So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.*

- Ptolemy Euergetes, returned to Egypt with silver, precious vessels, and images, including Egyptian idols, which Cambyses had carried from Egypt into Persia.
- Ptolemy Euergetes then lived for four years longer than Seleucus.
- Ptolemy Euergetes then returned to Egypt.

Daniel 11 : 10 - *But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress.*

- The prophecy then records that the sons of Seleucus, Ceraunus and Antiochus the Great, would assemble a great army.

- However, Ceraunus died and Antiochus alone continued the war with Ptolemy Euergetes until he had recovered all the parts of Syria.
- After winning the war, Antiochus pursued all the way to an Egyptian fortress on the border of Egypt.

Daniel 11 : 11 - *And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.*

- Ptolemy Euergetes enraged over being defeated by Antiochus, re-gathered an army and marched to Raphia, a city near Gaza.
- There, he personally joined in and battled with Antiochus and his armies.
- The angel described to Daniel that the multitude of the army of Antiochus would be delivered into the hands of Ptolemy Euergetes.
- Historians say that Antiochus lost ten thousand footmen, and three hundred horsemen; four thousand footmen were taken, three elephants slain, and two wounded, which afterwards died.

Daniel 11 : 12 – *And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it.*

- When Ptolemy Euergetes, king of Egypt, had defeated the army of Antiochus he became very prideful
- Though he had defeated the large army of Antiochus, he gained nothing from it.
- Antiochus was defeated in battle but yet he escaped.

Daniel 11 : 13 - *For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.*

- Antiochus renewed the war fourteen years later with an even more powerful army.

Daniel 11 : 14 - *And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.*

- Other rebels in Egypt combined with Antiochus against Ptolemy Euergetes.
- Rebellious Jews also revolted against Ptolemy and joined in the battle against him.
- The Jews hoped to make Judea an independent state, but failed.

Daniel 11 : 15 – *So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand.*

- Antiochus then would invade Egypt defeating fortified cities.
- The combined forces of Egypt would not be able to withstand the onslaught of Antiochus in battle.

Daniel 11 : 16 - *But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.*

- In invading Egypt, Antiochus the great defeated Ptolemy king of Egypt.
- Because some Jews had allied themselves with Antiochus against Ptolemy, Antiochus aided them in overthrowing an Egyptian leader Ptolemy had placed in Jerusalem.

Daniel 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, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.*

- Antiochus, having conquered Phoenicia and Judea, now wanted the land of Egypt.
- The “*upright ones*” likely were Jews who allied themselves with him.
- Antiochus then remembered that that the Romans were guardians of the king of Egypt.
- He realized that he couldn’t defeat the Romans so he proposed to give his daughter Cleopatra to him (Ptolemy) in marriage, a beautiful virgin called the daughter of women.
- However, upon marrying Ptolemy, Cleopatra favored her husband rather than her father and ruined Antiochus’ scheme.

Daniel 11 : 18-19 – *18 After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him. 19 - Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.*

- Compelled by Rome to give up territories he had conquered, Antiochus, attempting to plunder the temple of Jupiter at Elymais but was slain by his soldiers

Daniel 11 : 20 - *Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.*

- Seleucus Philopator, the eldest son of Antiochus the great, succeeded him.
- The same became a ‘*raiser of taxes*’ in the amount of a thousand talents yearly to pay the Romans as tribute money.
- However, this taxing king did not reign long.
- By the trickery of his treasurer, he was poisoned.

Daniel 11 : 21 - *And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.*

- The focus now turns to the little horn of Daniel 8:35—Antiochus Epiphanes.
- Antiochus Epiphanes was brother to Seleucus Philopator and succeeded him.
- He was a vile, very immoral man, given to drunkenness, lasciviousness, and cruelty.
- He did not assume rule by force because it was given upon him by his flattery, scheming, and conniving
- Antiochus Epiphanes took over the kingdom.

Daniel 11 : 22 - *And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.*

- Daniel foretold how that Antiochus Epiphanes would invade Egypt with overwhelming force.
- Some understand the overthrow of the prince of the covenant to be Judas Maccabaeus or perhaps the high priest in Jerusalem.

- Others think Seleucus Philopator his brother is meant.
- However, he was already dead.
- The most likely identification is Ptolemy Philometer, the son of Cleopatra, Antiochus' sister, who was joined in covenant with him.

Daniel 11 : 23-24 – 23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. 24 He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

- Antiochus under the guise of friendship betrayed Ptolemy Philometer.
- His predecessors had long coveted after Egypt, but had not been able to conquer it.
- Yet, Antiochus accomplished what his forefathers had not been able to do.
- He then scattered his forces throughout Egypt, taking stuff at will.
- He also plotted strategies against the remaining military strongholds in Egypt.

Daniel 11 : 25 - And 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 forecast devices against him.

- Philometer assembled a large army for battle, but Philometer was defeated.
- Antiochus meanwhile continued to plan further strategies against his defeated foe.

Daniel 11 : 26 - Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.

- With remarkable detail, Daniel's prophecy continues to reveal how that Philometer's own subordinates would turn on him and destroy him.
- His army would dissipate like water and fall slain.

Daniel 11 : 27 - And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.

- The prophecy continues to reveal how that both Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria, and Ptolemy Philometer, king of Egypt, connived against each other and were deceitful.
- Though Philometer was the loser in the war, even the victor Epiphanes did not prosper in the long run.
- God was not through with him.

Daniel 11 : 28 - Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.

- Antiochus Epiphanes, with the spoils of Egypt, would return to Syria
- However, on his way back to Syria, he attacked Jerusalem and overturned the covenant he had made with the Jews that they should be a distinct and peculiar people, having their own religion and laws.
- He ordered his soldiers to slay all they met, without mercy, old and young, women and children, virgins and young men; and in three days' time eighty thousand were slain, forty thousand bound and sold

- He went into the temple, and took all the vessels in it, and all the gold and silver, and hidden treasures of it.
- Antiochus Epiphanes certainly made himself a foreshadow of the man of sin, the antichrist, who will do similarly to Israel during the Tribulation.

Daniel 11 : 29 - *At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.*

- The time appointed evidently refers to the same thought in verse 27.
- Antiochus Epiphanes returns again against Egypt, though apparently not successful as in the former two invasions of Egypt.

Daniel 11 : 30 - *For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.*

- Chittim refers to the islands of the Aegean, Cyprus, and Phoenicia.
- Naval forces from this region would join in alliance against Antiochus Epiphanes
- History records that these forces were actually under the direction of Rome.
- He was forced to retreat.
- Because worship of Jehovah had been restored at Jerusalem, he vented his wrath and frustration on the Jews.

Daniel 11 : 31 - *And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.*

- Antiochus would send forces for his part against Jerusalem who in turn polluted the Temple with drunkenness and open fornication with harlots in the sanctuary.
- The prescribed Levitical daily sacrifices of the Temple were stopped.
- Historians tell us that on the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty-fifth year, they set up the *abomination of desolation* on the altar
- It was the image of Jupiter Olympius, erected upon Jehovah's altar of burnt offerings.
- The altar was made similar to that of the antichrist during the Tribulation.

Daniel 11 : 32 - *And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*

- Sadly, some Jews were corrupted by flattering promises and helped in the wickedness.
- However, those who knew the Lord would stand strong and do great exploits.

Daniel 11 : 33 - *And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.*

- The thought very well may look forward to the Maccabees, their followers, and their influence.
- Sadly, these would fall by the sword and at the stake of Antiochus and his soldiers.
- Multitudes of the Jews died

Daniel 11 : 34 - *Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.*

- Seeing the temporary victories of the Maccabeans, some previously disloyal Jews joined them, but not sincerely.

Daniel 11 : 35 - *And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.*

- During this time of wavering loyalties, some who stood for the truth would try and purge the disloyalty and apostasy from Judaism, seeking to restore it to its biblical base.
- This section of Daniel's prophecy ends with the pronouncement that the time for all these things was appointed—they would come to pass.
- Remarkable is the detail of this section of prophecy.
- It all was fulfilled during the Seleucid and Maccabean periods of Jewish history.
- The detail is so remarkable that many a liberal theologian has rather sought to proclaim this as a history section and not prophecy.
- Yet, the time of its writing, the first year of Darius the Mede, makes clear the events portrayed herein are prophetic.

Daniel 11 : 36 - *And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.*

- A significant shift takes place at this point.
- Whereas the prophecy to this point has been largely about the little horn of Daniel 8:35 (Antiochus Epiphanes), the focus now seems to leap ahead to the little horn of Daniel 7:8 (the coming antichrist).
- The details prophesied from this point forward do not mesh with recorded history and therefore can only be future still in their application.
- In addition, the '**king**' described below does fit the mosaic of end-time events and other descriptions of the antichrist.
- Though there may be applications to Antiochus, the greater application is the end times.
- The spiritual and moral character of the king noted (antichrist) is revealed.
- Notice that he will:
 - (a) Do according to his own will.
 - (b) He will exalt and magnify himself above all world religions.
 - (c) He will speak marvelous (awesome) things against the God of gods.
 - (d) He shall prosper until the end of the indignation (The Tribulation).

Daniel 11 : 37 - *Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.*

- Because the antichrist is received by many in Israel as their messiah, it has been assumed that this man of sin will be a Jew ethnically.
- Here, this man is described as disregarding the God of his fathers.
- The fact that he has no desire for women implies that he may be a homosexual.

- Disregarding any god implies that he worships himself and probably demands worship of himself by others.
- He will magnify himself above all others— earthly or heavenly.

Daniel 11 : 38 - *But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.*

- The man of sin will honor power and force.
- Pagans have routinely honored many gods.
- However, the prophecy foretells how this man of sin will honor “*a god whom his fathers knew not.*”
- Implied is a people who are monotheistic—the Jews.
- This again lends credence to the theory that the antichrist will come be Jewish.
- Moreover, this little horn will honor his special god—perhaps the image of the beast—with large sums of money. See Revelation 13:15ff. See also II Thessalonians 2:3-4.

Daniel 11 : 39 - *Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.*

- The little horn, the man of sin, will then climb to power.
- He will also establish his strange god—the image of the beast and show himself as God in the Temple of God.
- By the middle of the Tribulation, the antichrist will have extended his rule over the entire earth, ruling over many.
- He will then divide the land of Israel for personal gain.
- This may be a part of his double cross of the Jews alluded to in Daniel 9:27, breaking his covenant with them.

Daniel 11 : 40 - *And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horse- men, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.*

- What lends credence to the supposition that this portion is eschatological is that the prophet again refers to this time as the “*time of the end.*”
- Others have sought to apply this to a final invasion of Egypt by Antiochus.
- Though such an expedition did occur, the greater context remains outside details of recorded history.
- The primary thought remains focused on the end times.
- The phrase “*at the time of the end*” is a reference to the seventieth week of Daniel, also known as the Day of the Lord and the Tribulation.
- At this time, war apparently will break out in the Middle East.
- The king of the south (Egypt) goes to war with this fellow (the antichrist) who represents the western (Roman) alliance.
- At the same time, the king of “*the north shall come against him like a whirlwind.*”
- Notice how the king of the north shall enter “*into the countries and shall overflow and pass over.*”

- The word in Hebrew here for *countries* is (myUra) *eretzim*.
- This is the root word Israelis use to this day to refer to *the land*—the land of Israel.
- The fact that it is plural may have to do with the fact that Israel today is a combination of national territory and the ‘occupied territories.’
- So, the king of the north enters and passes through the land.
- His invasion is not only by land but also by sea.
- Perhaps the description “*like a whirlwind*” might refer to an airborne assault such as military attack helicopters.
- If one were to assume these details pertain to Antiochus Epiphanes and his wars against Egypt (As Reform Theology Believes), the analogy completely breaks down at this point.
- There is no historical record of a northern *and* southern king attacking Antiochus in the latter years of his reign and prevailing.
- Also, in this end times war, the king of the south (Egypt) will join forces against the *king* in question.
- So, a king from the north and a king from the south will attack the king as described from 11:36 onward.
- There is no historical record of such events during the latter reign of Antiochus.
- During the Tribulation, Egypt will join in an attack against the antichrist, perhaps for his alliance with Israel.
- Ezekiel 38 goes into further detail how that the Russians will invade Israel at the time of the end.
- There, Meshech and Tubal, Gog and Magog are ancient names for the Russian bear.
- In Ezekiel 38 it also details the alliance of nations which will come with the Russians against Israel. (Iran, Ethiopia, Libya, Eastern Europeans, the region of Georgia and the Caucasus).
- These are all bascially Muslim nations.
- Exactly, who starts the war is not clear, but what is clear is the antichrist (perhaps initially in alliance with Israel) winds up in a war against the Russians and the Islamic world.

Daniel 11 : 41 - *He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.*

- The invaders from the north (the Russians also known as the king of the north) enter into the “*glorious land*” Israel.
- Many other countries will also be overrun by the advancing Russian bear.
- However, Edom, Moab, and Ammon are bypassed.
- These ancient nations are basically now known as the modern day State of Jordan.
- Interestingly, modern-day Jordan will be spared.
- In recent wars with Israel, Jordan has not interfered with the Israelis.

Daniel 11 : 42 - *He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.*

- The advancing Russian army takes over Egypt and occupies it also.

Daniel 11 : 43 - *But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.*

- In this war during the middle of the Tribulation, the Russians will take over the treasury of Egypt.
- Also, Libya and Ethiopia will ally themselves with the Russians, if for no other reason than to avoid destruction at their hand.

Daniel 11 : 44 - *But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.*

- But suddenly bad news from the northeast comes to the Russian bear.
- Remember by now, he has advanced into Egypt.
- North and east from Egypt is none other than the land of Israel.
- In as much as the Russians have moved violently right through Israel into Egypt, the assumption is that the antichrist had been seemingly eliminated in Israel.
- Perhaps coming out of the northeast for the Russians, is the antichrist who has arisen from the dead
- Revelation 13:3,12,14, and 17:8 clearly indicate that the antichrist is killed by a sword (warfare) and yet comes to life again.
- Of course, Satan mimics the work of Christ.
- The Russians have killed this man we call the antichrist and yet he has come back to life.
- This causes the Russians to return to the land of Israel.
- They return “*with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.*”
- In other words they are coming to destroy many.

Daniel 11 : 45 - *And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.*

- The Russians return and occupy the mountains of Judea between the seas—the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea.
- There they set up their military command tents (tabernacles) on the mountains of Israel, near Jerusalem.
- Then and there is where God destroys them. (See Ezekiel 38:18 to 39:1-12)
- This supernatural destruction of the Russians allows the antichrist to now assume complete control of the world.
- He, to this point, has risen to power from the western world with its military might.
- There is no country left strong enough to oppose him.
- From Daniel 12:1, which is within the immediate context of these events, the indication is that this takes place at about the middle of the Tribulation.
- The “*time of trouble*” spoken of there is the last half of the Tribulation.
- So, the events spoken of here evidently take place just prior to the middle of the Tribulation.
- After prevailing in that middle-eastern war, the antichrist assumes leadership of the world for the next forty-two months.
- It is at this time he turns against Israel, defiles the temple at Jerusalem, and institutes his world wide system of the mark of the beast. (See Revelation 13.)