

The Book of Daniel⁷²

Lesson 12

Daniel Chapter 11:30-45 and Daniel Chapter 12

The End Time

Continued from Chapter 11:1-29

521 BC

Kittim's Ships

Daniel 11:30 "For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened, and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

Memphis falls to Antiochus IV, as the Roman "ships of Kittim" anchor in the harbor, four miles from Alexandria. Antiochus IV receives an ultimatum to leave the friends of the Romans alone. Antiochus IV tries to use flattery to get away saying, "Give me a few days to think about this," but the commander draws a circle around him and says, "Before you step out of this circle, you give your answer." Antiochus IV says, "If it pleases the senate, we must depart." Antiochus IV leaves Egypt. Essentially, the belly of bronze in Nebuchadnezzar's dream bows to the waist and thighs of iron. The four-headed leopard cedes power to the great beast even though both kingdoms will continue for a while.

Temple's Desecration

Daniel 11:31 "And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

In revenge, Antiochus IV returns to Jerusalem and attacks the Temple as well as the town buildings and massive walls. He decrees a universal religion and a universal law that all must obey. He stops Jewish sacrifices, he destroys the Scriptures, he changes the feasts, and he builds an altar to Zeus, erecting an Asherah Pole, the sex symbol of the Canaanite worship. The death penalty goes to anyone who disobeys Antiochus IV. He dedicates the temple to Jupiter Olympus and to himself, ordering the people to worship him as a god.

God's People

Daniel 11:32 "And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

Antiochus IV has gone too far. God's remnant rises up in Matthaius and his sons are the wise men of the prophecy who "know their God will display strength and take action." They attempt to make things right in the midst of all the persecution.

Matthaius serves as a priest in a little town called Modan. One of Antiochus IV's officials approaches him and instructs him to offer a sacrifice to Zeus. Matthaius not

⁷² All Scriptures in this lesson entitled "The Book of Daniel" are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, Copyright (C) 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1988, by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.



Picture 32: Judas Maccabeus

only refuses to offer the sacrifice; he also kills the official. When Antiochus IV hears about the death, he sends officials to enforce the decree. A skirmish occurs and the officials die. Matthaius and his son, Judas Maccabeus, lead a group of religious rebels who cut deeply into the troops of Antiochus IV.

When Matthaius dies, Judas Maccabeus takes the lead. Many join Judas in the fight and the Maccabeans rise as a major force in Israel.

Jew's Turmoil

Daniel 11:33 "And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for *many* days. ³⁴ "Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. ³⁵ "And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because *it is* still *to come* at the appointed time.

Antiochus IV repeatedly attacks the Jews on each Sabbath, knowing that they will not fight on that day. On the Sabbath, Antiochus roasts, strangles, cuts into pieces and crucifies many Jews. Others he sells into slavery or robs. Six years after Antiochus IV placed Menelaus in the position of High Priest in Jerusalem, Judas Maccabeus and his men march on the city, ousting Antiochus IV and reclaiming the city. They repair, cleanse, and rededicate the Temple on the 2,300th day of Menelaus' false service as High Priest. The Jewish Maccabeans add this day to their calendar as a joyous feast day and they call it the Feast of Dedication.

Defeated, Antiochus IV returns to Antioch in the north where he dies within the year of a disease in 163 BC, and his nine-year-old son takes the throne, ruling for only part of two years. With Antiochus IV's death in 163 BC, Daniel's prophecy in verse 35 sets the stage to jump to the "end time" and the next ruler from the area will come "at the appointed time," and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods.⁷³

History records the fulfillment of Daniel 11:1 – 35; however, the prophecy in Daniel 11:36 – 45 still remains unfulfilled.

Antiochus IV was the little horn that grew off the long horn of the four horns of the goat in Daniel Chapter 8. Both Daniel 8:14-27 and 11:36-45 jump far into the future to reveal many of the facets of the final events at the end times, but history continues to unfold in the meantime.

History Continues to Unfold

The histories of the kings of the North and South continue even though the prophecies of Daniel fail to cover them in detail.

The Northern Kingdom of Syria continues to feel the oncoming threat of Rome for many years. Finally, in 83 BC, Antiochus VIII takes the Syrian throne, but his kingdom includes just a minute portion of the original empire. In 64 BC, Pompey kills Antiochus VIII and the Syrian Kingdom of the north ceases to exist.

⁷³ Daniel 11:36

The Southern Kingdom continues under the rule of the Ptolemys and their queens. Most of the Egyptian queens bear the name Bernice or Cleopatra, until the life of Cleopatra VII, the queen most people remember. When Cleopatra VII's husband, Ptolemy XIII, dies on January 13, 47 BC, she enters into a formal marriage with her brother, Ptolemy XIV, in name only because she becomes the mistress of General Julius Caesar, he controls Rome while she controls Egypt. She and Julius Caesar bear a son and name him Caesarean.

After Caesar's murder in 44 BC, Cleopatra falls in love with Mark Antony and they bear twins, a girl and a boy, and later another son.

In 44 BC, with Julius Caesar's assassination, Octavius takes control of the Roman Empire. Upon obtaining complete control, he changes his name to Augustus. We know him as Augustus Caesar, the ruler who decreed, "that the entire world should be taxed." He places Herod the Great on the throne as the "king of Judea" in 37 BC.

When Mark Antony loses the battle of Actium against Augustus, he commits suicide. Cleopatra, not wanting to fall into the hands of Augustus, allows a snake to bite her on August 12, 30 BC and she dies. The four-headed leopard of Daniel's vision cedes to the beast. The power of the belly of bronze in Nebuchadnezzar's dream transfers to the power of the waist and thighs of iron. Unlike the fall of the Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian Empires, no single battle turns the Greek Empire over to the Romans. Rather, the Greek Empire melts into the Roman Empire and continues to hold a great influence over it for as long as the Roman Empire lasts.

In 4 BC, the birth of Jesus occurs in Bethlehem. His death and resurrection transpire in 30 AD in Jerusalem. John completes the last words of the New Testament in 96 AD and the church continues to exist through the centuries. Prophecy assures that a king from the same area will come in the future to fulfill the remaining prophecies in Daniel chapter 11:36-45.

King's Monstrous Words

Daniel ^{11:36} "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

Lest we forget, Daniel still stands in the presence of King Darius I in an effort to encourage him. For the two, all of chapter 11 remains to be fulfilled; today the annals of secular history provide no insight into verses 36-45, but the pages of God's Word provide significant prophecies to aid in developing a picture of the future.

At some time in the future a new king will capture and dominate the control of the revived Roman Empire, a nation recreated from the brittle but strong ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's statue. Exalting and magnifying "himself above every god," he "will speak monstrous things against the God of gods." Some try to argue that this monstrous king lived during the time of the Roman Empire, but scriptural prophecies remain unfulfilled. When the king arrives, he must present himself with certain traits and actions. Second Thessalonians 2 calls him both the "man of sin" and the "son of perdition." Revelation 13 presents him as the beast that comes out of the sea to lead the new kingdom of ten countries with seven kings and one ultimate ruler. Revelation 17 casts him as "the beast whose deadly wound was healed." In Revelation 6, he rides into the scene on a white horse touting peace with a bow in

his hand and a crown on his head. His religion, an apostate faith with a false cleric in charge, contradicts that of Christ.

King's Disregard

Daniel ^{11:37} "And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all.

At some point in his rule, the monstrous beast forgoes the religious regulations of his ancestor's gods and the desire of women or any other god. Because the Lord inserts the phrase, "the desire of women" between two references to stone gods, the phrase must refer to a female stone deity worshipped by women. The Assyrian Empire names her Ishtar. In the Babylonian Empire she carries the name Beltis or Mylitta. Other names for the same goddess include:

Phoenicia - Astarte	Persia - Tanata
Egypt - Isis	China - Shing Moo or Holy Mother
Greece - Aphrodite	Ephesus - Artemis or Diana
Rome - Venus	Scandinavia - Frigga.

Stone gods of any empire hold no influence on the beast in charge of the new, reconstructed Roman Empire. Although he uses religion to obtain his initial position of power in the new kingdom by allowing its false prophet to convince the people to choose the beast from the sea as their leader, he disregards the religion during his reign, demanding worship of no other but himself.

King's God of Fortresses

Daniel ^{11:38} "But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor *him* with gold, silver, costly stones, and treasures.

Daniel exposes the king's true purpose, which is to "honor a god of fortresses," a phrase better translated in English as, "honor a god of forces." In Luke 4:5-8, Jesus says,

It is written, "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE." And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

Undoubtedly, the king bows in worship to the "god of forces," the same devil who offered his entire domain to Jesus, if He would worship him. The devil instigates all wars in the world. When the king reaches his zenith of power, he reveals his debt to the devil, his god, with expensive gifts.

King's Delegation

Daniel ^{11:39} "And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with *the help of* a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him*, and he will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

All the superpowers of the world recognize the power of the new king. He blesses the leaders of those nations who support him by placing them in delegated positions of power and prestige, but not without a price. To be in his organization, the delegates must pay to participate; the more a person pays, the more land he can control.

King's War

Daniel ^{11:40} "And at the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen, and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow *them*, and pass through.

The kings of Egypt and Syria return to the world stage to thwart the new king's war efforts but their strength cannot match his. Satanically energized, he moves as he wishes through neighboring countries, doing as he pleases, absorbing Egypt and Syria. In the Scripture, the reference to the kings of the North and the South always implies the rulers of Syria and Egypt; therefore, no reason can prevail to imply any other country.

King's Losses

Daniel ^{11:41} "He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many *countries* will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

On his march, the new king enters many countries including the Beautiful Land, a reference to the Promised Land. Although not indicated in this passage, he negotiates a seven-year peace treaty. Edom, Moab and Ammon join in the treaty but somehow, in God's plan, they escape his control.

King's Conquest

Daniel ^{11:42} "Then he will stretch out his hand against *other* countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. "But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians *will follow* at his heels.

During the new king's war efforts, he dominates Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia, confiscating their hidden wealth.

King's Worry

Daniel ^{11:44} "But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

Still in the continent of Africa, the new king hears rumors from the Far East and the North. From the Far East, word arrives that hordes of soldiers march toward the Promised Land. The Euphrates becomes dry, allowing the soldiers to cross with ease. Marching toward Jerusalem, the northern king intends to take the city and the nation of Israel which feels protected under the peace treaty. But the satanic power of the new king energizes him and he marches into the Promised Land to destroy the northern king.

King's Tent

Daniel ^{11:45} "And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

The new king establishes his living quarters somewhere between the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Galilee and Mount Moriah an area called the Valley of Megiddo or the Valley of Jezreel. For three years he camps there before he meets his eternal end in the valley. Although millions join him there, "no one will help him" because their combined strength cannot match that of the Lord when he arrives.

Israel's Distress

Daniel ^{12:1} "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."

When the new king pitches his tent outside Jerusalem, Michael "will arise." For centuries, Michael has acted as the guardian angel of the nation of Israel and all its inhabitants, but now, he stops protecting them so they can experience the worst distress ever to descend upon Israel since its establishment in Egypt's bondage. Over the next 3 ½ years, all of Israel suffers with dwindling supplies. No other nations offers Israel any help. The entire book of Joel describes the famine of that time and includes the Lord's call for Israel to return to Him in a solemn assembly. As Daniel tells this vision to Darius, details - including the end time plagues, the attack and destruction of half of Jerusalem, the beating of the farm tools into weapons, and the coming of the Lord - add nothing to the king's time of encouragement. Therefore, Daniel assures Darius of Michael's promise that those with their names engraved in the book need not fear.

Man's Resurrection

Daniel ^{12:2} "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

Michael's promise also extends to those who have already died. All bodies already in the ground will awake or resurrect. As with the details of the end days, Michael omits the details of the future resurrection. In his statement, Michael says one group resurrects to everlasting life and another to disgrace and everlasting contempt. In other places the Scripture indicates that the two different groups resurrect at two different times. The resurrection to everlasting life occurs before the 1,000-year-kingdom and the resurrection to everlasting contempt after.⁷⁴

God's Leaders

Daniel ^{12:3} "And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Over the course of history many faithful people with keen insight into the Lord's plan have served Him faithfully by leading people into His righteousness. They will continue to do so until the end. God rewards His leaders with two promises. They

⁷⁴ John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:5-6

"will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven," and "like the stars forever and ever." In Scripture, "the expanse of heaven" and "the stars" describe high and lofty positions and great power. The Lord promises such rewards for those who belong to Him. He will give these rewards at His judgment seat during the marriage of the Lamb.

Because the time of great distress applies to Israel during the last 3 ½ years before the Lord's 1,000-year-kingdom, in context, Michael's promise may refer to the 144,000 Jew who witness their relatives during the distress and to the two witnesses who bring about the economic distress on the nation of Israel until it recognizes the Lord.

Daniel's Instruction

Daniel ^{12:4} "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."

As Daniel tells the story to Darius, he includes the instruction given him to "conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time." Has Daniel told Darius all he has seen and heard in the vision? No one knows! If the Lord granted Daniel the same vision that He reveals to John 617 years later, Darius hears only a short synopsis of the important points. Nothing else of importance remains for the prophet to consider.

Daniel's Remembrance

Daniel ^{12:5} Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river, and the other on that bank of the river.

Daniel returns to his memory of the vision at the Tigris River with the Lord hovering over the water and an angel standing on each side of the bank.

Angel's Question

Daniel ^{12:6} And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long *will it be* until the end of *these* wonders?"

Daniel remembers the question the angel asked the Lord. The question shows the limited knowledge of the angels. He does not know "... how long *will it be* until the end of *these* wonders." Angels, like humans, cannot see into the future. Unlike God, angels are not omnipotent, omnipresent, or omniscient. Only God knows the future.

Lord's Reply

Daniel ^{12:7} And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half *a time*; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these *events* will be completed.

Raising His hands in reverence and swearing by God the Father, Jesus tells Daniel that from the time Michael rises until the new ruler sets his tent outside Jerusalem and stops the ceremonial pseudo Jewish sacrifices in the temple, it will take "time, times, and half *a time*." In the Scripture, "time, times, and half *a time*" translates into "one year, two years and half a year" or 3 ½. When the new ruler and his followers complete their onslaught on the Jews, the 3 ½ years will be over.

Daniel's Question

Daniel ^{12:8} As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?"

The angels may have understood the Lord's answer; Daniel does not. Daniel's attention focuses on the outcome of the events for his people rather than the time span.

Angel's Instruction

Daniel ^{12:9} And he said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.

The Lord instructs Daniel to conceal and seal the words that are included in his book until the end. He is to add nothing to it and take nothing away from it for the words within it will be fulfilled in the future because every word is without error and infallible. The Lord does not tell John to seal the vision 617 years later because those prophecies will soon start with the demise of the seven churches.

Jew's Change

Daniel ^{12:10} " Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.

During the 3 ½ years, the Lord will purge Israel of their wickedness, purify the Jews and refine the descendants of Jacob to prepare them for their Lord and coming King. At that time, the wicked will act as the agents of the Lord to purge, purify and refine Israel. Because of their refusal to turn to the Lord, they will be punished for their wicked acts. Those who know the words that Daniel "sealed up" in his book will understand.

Israel's Distress

Daniel ^{12:11} "And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days.

The Lord defines the number of days in the 3 ½ years as 1,290. On the Hebrew Lunar Calendar of Daniel's day, 3 ½ years equals 1,239 days. After 320 AD, the Jewish priest Hillel added a month every three years to the Hebrew Lunar Calendar causing 3 ½ years to equal 1,260 days. Yet, on the Gregorian Calendar, 3 ½ years equal 1,278 days, short of the 1,290 by 12 days. Why the discrepancy? No one knows and no commentator can accurately interpret the meaning. However, some standard facts must remain constant in the timing. First, the Lord always allows the wicked to fully obtain their goals and bask in their own glory before He strikes them down so that when He brings His judgment, the wicked will have no one to blame but themselves. Second, the Lord is omniscient. Daniel did not know that the Jewish priest would alter the Hebrew calendar in 320 AD, but the Lord did. Daniel did not know that Pope Gregory would present a calendar in February of 1582 AD that would alter the number of days in the year to align the seasons with the same months each year, but the Lord did. Third, Daniel did not know that the new king of the last Revived Roman Empire will attempt to alter the times and seasons, but the Lord does. When the events of this part of the vision occur, the calendar days of the 3 ½ years will equal 1,290 days. Why would they not? The Lord has fulfilled the majority of Daniel's prophecies with exacting detail; why would we expect Him to fail to fulfill this one?

Israel's Blessing

Daniel ^{12:12} "How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

To the 1,290 days the Lord adds 45 for a total of 1,335. Blessings will come to those who live through all the distress of the last seven years and are still alive on the 1,335th day.

Daniel's Blessing

Daniel ^{12:13} "But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* for your allotted portion at the end of the age."

The Lord has a blessing for Daniel too. Close to 100 years of age if not older by this time, Daniel will soon close his eyes and enter into his peaceful rest in the bosom of Abraham. But that will not be the end of Daniel's life and mission. One day his body will rise from the grave and he will receive his allotted portion of his reward. When will that occur? The Lord tells Daniel to look forward to his resurrection at the "end of the age." Daniel lived in the age of the law. Later, when Jesus broke forth from the grave, the age of grace began. Daniel's resurrection will occur 551 years later when Jesus becomes the first to be resurrected. Daniel, along with all the Old Testament saints rose with Him to make their way out of Abraham's bosom and ascend to the pearly gates of heaven.

Therefore, the book ends, abruptly and without any further discourse from the faithful unknown writer who penned the scrolls for Daniel. One thing remains certain in its pages; the Lord faithfully maneuvered history to assure the fulfillment of the majority of the stories in Daniel. Why would anyone doubt that the Lord will not fulfill the rest of the prophecies exactly as stated in Daniel?