

DANIEL 11:1-10

Study by Glenn Palmer

Introduction. Daniel's predictions in this chapter are so precise, so accurate, that many non-Bible believing scholars think that Daniel had to have written this chapter after these events had taken place @ 165 B.C.. No man could have possibly predicted these events so accurately. I agree that no *man* could have predicted these events so accurately, but that is why the angel is speaking these events. Further, if Daniel wrote this in 165 B.C., then Daniel would have had to have lied as in 10:1 he established himself as the author of these chapters in the 3rd year of Cyrus, or in 536 B.C.

Calvin correctly stated that this vision is about the future of the Jews, thus not all the world events are described. The emphasis is on the war between the king of the South (Egypt) and the king of the North (Syria) as their wars deal with the Israel. The rest of the future does not deal with Israel and therefore it is not discussed. Remember that this section is written in Hebrew, not Aramaic.

Daniel 11:2

1. "Now I tell you the truth" - these interpretations are scary to the believer, but God is in charge and what He says is true.
2. "Three more kings will appear in Persia, then the fourth"
 - a. It could mean the fourth king *including* Cyrus
 - 1.) Cyrus (559-530 B.C.)
 - 2.) Cambyses (530-522 B.C.)
 - 3.) Darius the Great or Darius the son of Hystaspis (522 -486 B.C.)
 - a.) Greeks defeated Darius at Marathon in 490 B.C.
 - 4.) Xerxes (486-465 B.C.)
 - b. It could mean the fourth king *after* Cyrus
 - 1.) Cambyses
 - 2.) Smerdis (he was an imposter and ruled only 17 months; Calvin does not call him a king and he is not listed in Carl Roebuck's *The World of Ancient Times*)
 - 3.) Darius the Great or Darius the son of Hystaspis
 - 4.) Xerxes
3. "The fourth who will be far richer than all the others"
 - a. Esther 1:1-4, especially vs. 4: *vast wealth*
 - b. Esther 3:9-11:
 - 1.) How many tons of silver did Haman offer the King Xerxes to kill the Jews? *10,000 talents or 375 tons*
 - 2.) What was King Xerxes response? *Not required*
 - 3.) Why did the King not agree to accepting the money? *He did not need it!!*
 - 4.) Alexander would defeat Darius and captured the Persian treasury of 110,000 talents of gold and silver (3,750 tons of silver and gold)!!!
4. "When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece"
 - a. Xerxes came to the throne in 486 B.C. and he invaded Greece in 480 B.C.
 - b. Esther 1 described the preparations that occurred for the invasion
 - c. Xerxes crossed the Hellespont with a large army from 127 provinces

- 1.) Army was the largest army that had mustered to that time - often battles would be fought by thousands, not tens of thousands
- 2.) Herodotus: 2,317,000 soldiers & 1207 ships
- 3.) Scholars today: 180,000 men & 600 ships

Daniel 11:3

5. *"Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases"*
 - a. Who was this mighty king? *Alexander the Great (r. 336-323 B.C.) invaded Asia in 334 B.C.*
 - b. Was anyone able to defeat him? *No - Alexander the Great conquered the known world*

Daniel 11:4

6. *"After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven"*
 - a. Compare 8:8
 - b. Calvin: "No foreign enemy was the agent in inflicting such heavy punishments . . . his foes sprang from his own home."
 - c. Alexander's empire is not conquered, but it dissolved, partitioned to his generals. See previous lessons (Chapter 8). This was an exact fulfillment of the prophecy.
7. *"It will not go to one of his descendants"*
 - a. Alexander's half-witted half-brother, Philip Arrhidaeus, was put to death in 317 B.C.
 - b. Alexander's 80 year old mother, Olympias, was put to death in 315 B.C..
 - c. Alexander's son, Heracles, by his mistress Barsine was strangled in 309 B.C.
 - d. Alexander's son, Alexander IV, by his wife, Roxanne, was murdered in 310 BC.
 - e. Alexander's wife, Roxanne, was put to death in 310 B.C.
8. *"Nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others."*
 - a. 8:22
 - b. Not a single of his four empires came close to the greatness of Alexander the Great.

Daniel 11:5

9. *"The king of the South will become strong"*
 - a. South = Egypt
 - b. Alexander the Great's generals fought among themselves, and Ptolemy I Soter son of Lagus became the satrap (ruler) of Egypt from 322- 305 B.C. In 305 B.C. he became the king of Egypt until he died in 285 B.C. and his line would rule Egypt until Cleopatra committed suicide in 31 B.C. So the Ptolemies reigned in Egypt for almost 300 years. (By contrast, Julius Caesar's line lasted just over one hundred years (44 B.C. - 68 A.D..))
 - c. Ptolemy stole/got the corpse of Alexander the Great and held the corpse in Egypt, like a son wanting to bury his father while a proper tomb was built
 - d. Ptolemy soundly defeated Perdiccas, the general in charge of Babylon.
10. *"But one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power."*

- a. Seleucus I Nicator
 - 1.) Was said to be strong enough to stop a bull by his horns.
 - 2.) Received Babylon in 321 B.C. but forced to flee shortly thereafter. He fled to Egypt and becomes one of Ptolemy's generals.
 - 3.) In 312 B.C. he reconquered Babylon and became one of the four great rulers of Alexander's empire. (See lesson on Daniel 7 & 8). He ruled to 280 B.C..
- b. His empire was the largest of the four and included Asia Minor, Syria, Babylon, and east to India. He also claimed Thrace and Macedonia. He gave up some of India to Chandragupta, but got 500 war elephants in return.
- c. Founded Antioch, which would become one of the largest cities in the Roman Empire.
- d. Had a son Antiochus I (r. 280-261 B.C.) (not mentioned in Daniel 11) who had a son Antiochus II

Daniel 10:6

11. *"After some years, they will become allies."*
 - a. Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246 B.C.) (Egypt) and Antiochus II Theos (Seleucus I's grandson) (r. 261-146 B.C.) fought for years but signed a peace treaty in 253 B.C..
 - b. Antiochus II Theos married Laodice and he has two sons by her:
 - 1.) Seleucus Callinicus
 - 2.) Antiochus Hierax - (the hawk)
12. *"The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance"*
 - a. 248 B.C. - Antiochus II Theos divorced his wife Laodice.
 - b. Then, Antiochus II married Ptolemy II's daughter, Berenice, in a great ceremony
13. *"But she will not retain her power, and he and his power [offspring] will not last. In those days she will be handed over, together with her royal escort and her father [her child] and the one who supported her."*
 - a. 246 B.C.
 - 1.) Berenice's father, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, died
 - 2.) Antiochus II Theos divorced his wife Berenice and remarried his first wife Laodice
 - 3.) Laodice poisoned her husband Antiochus. He was unfaithful once already. This way he would never again be unfaithful.
 - 4.) Laodice's son, Seleucus Callinicus, murdered his step-mother Berenice and her infant son (his half-brother)
 - 5.) The rest of the Egyptians were murdered or fled

Practical application: Was this God's judgment on divorce?

Daniel 11:7

14. *"One from her family line will arise to take her place."*
 - a. Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III, became king (r. 246-221 B.C.)
15. *"He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress. He will fight against them and be victorious."*
 - a. 3rd Syrian War: Ptolemy III invaded Syria, defeated Seleucus Callinicus (r. 246-226 B.C.). He sacked Antioch, and executed Laodice, who had murdered his sister.
 - b. Marched on Babylon and captured it.

Daniel 11:8

16. *“He will seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone.”*
- a. For five years he is the master of the Seleucid empire. He conquered as far west as Ephesus.
 - b. When the gods are seized, that is total capture.
 - 1.) Isaiah 46:1-2
 - 2.) Jeremiah 48:7
 - 3.) Jeremiah 49:3
 - c. Ptolemy III captured
 - 1.) 40,000 talents of silver. Haman offered Xerxes 10,000 talents (375 tons). This is 40,000 talents (1,500 tons)!!
 - 2.) 2,500 images and objects from the temple
 - d. Ptolemy III was so successful that he earned the sobriquet “Euergetes,” which meant “well doer.”

Daniel 11:9

17. *“Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the kings of the South but will retreat to his own country.”*
- a. Because of that great defeat, Seleucus Callinicus wanted revenge. So he invaded, but is soundly defeated by Ptolemy in 240 B.C.

Daniel 11:10

18. *“His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress.”*
- a. Ptolemy Philopator (r. 222-204 B.C.) became king of Egypt. He was given that sobriquet (lover of his father) as ridicule as he had killed his uncle, poisoned his mother Berenice, and had boiling water poured on his brother Magas (or Magus) who was so scalded that he died. He may have also killed his father. He was not well loved.
 - b. Seleucus Callinicus’s sons, Seleucus Ceraunus (r. 226-223) and his younger brother Antiochus the Great, (r. 223-187) decided to invade Egypt because Ptolemy had to be weak. Easy pickings and the 4th Syrian War began in 217 B.C.
 - c. Their armies (68,000) were larger than Ptolemy’s and they captured Tyre and marched south through Syria and Israel and got to southern Palestine - either Gaza or Raphia.
 - d. Seleucus Ceraunus died (murdered by his servants?) en route to the battles.

Practical Application: This prophesy is about the theme of the book of Daniel: GOD is the LORD of lords and KING of kings. God predicts exactly what will happen and it is fulfilled exactly.

Because God is in charge, we need to pray to Him as only He can answer our prayers.