

Daniel 11: Those Who Know Their God.

I. (1-2): Four future kings.

This chapter contains one of the most specifically fulfilled prophecies of the Bible, predicting history over some 375 years, and to the end, with amazing accuracy. The chapter is so specific, that many critics who deny supernatural revelation, have insisted that it is *history*, written after the fact, fraudulently claiming to be prophecy.

The angel tells Daniel that there will be three more kings in Persia until a fourth arises. The **fourth** king will be strong, rich, and oppose **the realm of Greece**. This strong, rich **fourth** king was fulfilled in the Persian King Xerxes.

The Persian Empire tried to wipe out the Jewish people during the reign of Xerxes, through the plot of Haman (as shown in the Book of Esther).

The Greek Empire tried to wipe out the Jewish people during the reign of Antiochus IV, when he attempted to kill every Jew who did not renounce their commitment to God and embrace Greek culture.

II. (3-4) The rise of a mighty king.

Then a mighty king shall arise: This is fulfilled in Alexander the Great, who certainly was a **mighty king**. Alexander died at 32 years of age of a fever after a drunken party in Babylon. After the death of all Alexander's possible heirs, four generals controlled the Greek Empire, but none of them **according to his** (Alexander's) **dominion**.

The rest of this prophecy focuses on two of the four inheritors of Alexander's realm, and the dynasties they established. Only two are focused on because they constantly fought over the Promised Land.

III. (5-9): The kings of the North and the kings of the South.

The king of the South shall become strong: One of the four inheritors of the empire of the *mighty king* will become stronger and greater than the others.

This was fulfilled in Ptolemy I of Egypt, who exerted his control over the Holy Land. Soon after the division of Alexander's Empire, the Ptolemies dominated this region.

The Seleucids are identified with the *Kings of the North*, and the Ptolemies were the *Kings of the South*.

The dynasties of the Seleucids and the Ptolemies fought for some 130 years. The stronger of the two always held dominion over the Holy Land.

They shall join forces: This was fulfilled in the marriage between Antiochus II (of the Seleucids) and Berenice (daughter of Ptolemy II). There was peace for a time because of this marriage, but it was upset when Ptolemy II died.

Shall not retain the power of her authority: Once Ptolemy II died, Antiochus II put away Berenice and took back his former wife, Laodice.

Neither he nor his authority shall stand: Laodice didn't trust her husband Antiochus II; so she had him poisoned.

She shall be given up, with those who brought her: After the murder of Antiochus II, Laodice had Berenice, her attendants, and an infant son of Antiochus II and Berenice killed. After this reign of terror, Laodice set her son (Seleucus II) on the throne of the Syrian dominion.

From the South, an army defeats the kingdom of the North:7-9.

Who shall come with an army: This was fulfilled in the person of Ptolemy III. He was the sister of Berenice (the **branch of her roots**). Avenging the murder of his sister, Ptolemy III invaded Syria and humbled Seleucus II.

He shall continue more years than the king of the North: Ptolemy III lived four years past Seleucus II.

The sons of the king of the North and their victory:10.

His sons shall stir up strife: This was fulfilled in Seleucus III and Antiochus III, the two sons of Seleucus II. Both were successful generals, but Seleucus III ruled only a short time and was succeeded by his brother. In a furious battle, Antiochus III took back the Holy Land from the dominion of the Ptolemies.

The king of the South gains an upper hand over the king of the North:11-12.

The king of the South shall be moved with rage: This was fulfilled when Antiochus III was defeated at the battle of Raphia. Because of that loss he was forced to give back dominion over the Holy Land to Ptolemy IV.

The king of the North and his occupation of the **Glorious Land: 13-16.**

This was fulfilled when Antiochus III invaded Egypt again, gaining final control over the armies of Ptolemy V and over the Holy Land.

Many shall rise up against the king of the South: Jews living in the Holy Land helped Antiochus III defeat the **king of the South**. This was because the Jewish people resented the rule of the Egyptian Ptolemies (**violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision**).

The Jewish people of **the Glorious Land** initially welcomed Antiochus III as a liberator from Egyptian rule. Their decision to support Antiochus III proved unwise when he turned **destruction** upon the **Glorious Land** and its people.

[The king of the South will give his daughter to the king of the North: 11:17.](#)

This was fulfilled when Antiochus III gave his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V of Egypt. He did this hoping to gain permanent influence and eventually control in Egypt. To the great disappointment of Antiochus III, the plan did not succeed because Cleopatra wasn't faithful to her Egyptian husband at all.

[The king of the North is stopped and stumbles: 18-19.](#)

This was fulfilled when Antiochus III turned his attention towards the areas of Asia Minor and Greece. He was helped by Hannibal, the famous general from Carthage. But a Roman General, Lucius Cornelius Scipio, defeated Antiochus in Greece. Antiochus planned to humiliate Greece but was humiliated instead. He returned to his former regions, having lost all that he gained and died shortly after.

After this defeat Antiochus III had an inglorious end. Needing money badly for his treasury, he resorted to raiding a Babylonian temple and was killed by enraged local citizens.

[The brief reign of the succeeding king of the North: 20.](#)

This was fulfilled in the brief reign of Seleucus III, the eldest son of Antiochus III. He sought to tax his dominion (including the **glorious kingdom**, the Holy Land) to increase revenues. His plan to plunder the Jerusalem Temple was set aside when his ambassador had an angelic vision of warning. Seleucus III was assassinated, probably by his brother Antiochus IV.

[Antiochus IV, known as A Vile Person:21.](#)

This was fulfilled in the successor of Seleucus III, who was named Antiochus IV. He did not come to the throne legitimately because it was strongly suspected that he murdered his older brother, the previous king. The other potential heir (the son of Seleucus III) was imprisoned in Rome.

The vile person fails to conquer the king of the South: 22-27.

This was fulfilled in a famous battle, the Roman Navy defeated the navy of Antiochus Epiphanes. After the battle, a Roman general drew a circle around Antiochus in the dirt and demanded to know if he would surrender and pay tribute to Rome - and demanded to know before he stepped out of the circle. From then on, there was no doubt: Antiochus Epiphanes took his orders from Rome and was under Roman dominion.

Those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him: This was fulfilled in the treachery against Anitochus IV by his own counselors.

The vile person turns on the Holy Land with violence: 28-35.

This was fulfilled when Antiochus Epiphanes returned from Egypt, bitter from defeat. He vented his anger against Jerusalem, which was already reeling because Antiochus sold the office of High Priest and persecuted the Jewish people to conform to Greek culture, forsaking the faith and traditions of their fathers.

While returning to his land with great riches: Failing in his invasion of Egypt, Antiochus Epiphanes returned home with only great plunder.

Ships from Cyprus shall come against him: This was naval assistance from the Romans, who helped the Egyptians turn back Antiochus Epiphanes.

They shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation: Antiochus Epiphanes set up an image of Zeus at the temple altar. He demanded sacrifice to this image, and later desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig on it. "It was in truth an abomination, which brought a desolate condition to the Temple, for now no one would come to worship at all." (Wood)

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong: When Antiochus Epiphanes turned on Jerusalem the Jewish people were divided. Some forsook their covenant with God and embraced Greek culture. Those who knew their God made a stand for righteousness in the face of incredible persecution.

In his attack on Jerusalem Antiochus IV is said to have killed 80,000 Jews, taken 40,000 more as prisoners, and sold another 40,000 as slaves. He also plundered the temple, robbing it of approximately \$1 billion.

Proverbs 18:10 - *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

Matthew 16:13-16 - *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

John 10:27-30 - *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. "I and My Father are one."*