

APPENDIX C

Prophecies of Daniel Chapter 11

1 Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, [even] I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

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.

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

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.

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.

Daniel 10:1 says this vision was given ca. 535 B.C., 3rd year of Cyrus. He had issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to Palestine three years earlier, in 538 B.C. The first verse is a parenthetical statement in which the angel bringing the vision identifies himself as having been involved with the affairs of the Jewish people for many years.

The next four kings of Persia after Cyrus were: Cambyses II (530-522 B.C.), Pseudo-Smerdis (a usurper who reigned only seven months), Darius I Hystaspes (522-486), Xerxes I (485-465), commander of an army that numbered in the millions, and very rich (also known as Ahasuerus in the Book of Esther). He invaded Greece but was defeated at Salamis 480 B.C. There were other Persian kings over the next 130 years, but they are insignificant in this vision. One of them who is not named but was nevertheless important to the nation of Judah was Artaxerxes. He was the king who allowed Nehemiah to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, ca. 445 B.C.

This king was Alexander the Great, who came along later and expanded the Greek kingdom into an empire by defeating Persia in 331 B.C. None were able to resist him. He conquered the known world in only 13 years.

Alexander was king from 336 to 323 but died childless. His kingdom was divided into four parts by his generals: W - Macedonia, under Cassander; N - Thrace & Asia Minor, under Lysimachus; S - Egypt, under Ptolemy; E - Syria, Mesopotamia & Persia, under Seleucus.

The Northern division of Alexander's empire was relatively insignificant; later references in this prophecy to "kings of the North" actually refer to the Seleucid dynasty because Syria, though part of E. portion, is north of Palestine.

This was Ptolemy I (323-285) of Egypt. The "prince" who later surpassed him was Seleucus I Nicator (312-280) of Syria, who was his subordinate before Alexander's death. Seleucus' kingdom started small but greatly expanded. His dynasty is known throughout this prophecy as the "kings of the north."

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.

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:

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.

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.

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.

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].

13 For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall

The northern and southern kings fought for decades. Finally, in an attempt to establish peace, in 252 Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246) of Egypt gave his daughter Berenice in marriage to Antiochus II Theos (261-246), grandson of Seleucus. In order to marry her Antiochus divorced his wife Laodice; however, in a few years he put away Berenice and took Laodice back. In 246 she had Berenice, her son, and her Egyptian entourage killed. She also poisoned Antiochus, thus elevating her own son Seleucus II Callinicus to the throne.

Ptolemy died the same year (circumstances not known by this writer).

Berenice's brother Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221), in revenge invaded Syria and defeated Seleucus (246-227). Seleucus also lost Asia Minor to his own brother, who then lost it to another king not involved in this prophecy.

Ptolemy III carried a great deal of booty into Egypt: 40,000 talents of silver, 2,500 idols, and many precious vessels.

He lived six years longer than Seleucus II.

Seleucus began a counteroffensive in 240, but was unsuccessful because he had to return to his own land to quell a rebellion.

Seleucus II had two sons, Seleucus III Soter (227-223) and Antiochus III the Great (223-187). Antiochus recaptured territory lost by his father as far east as India. He also frequently fought against the Ptolemys.

Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203) used both Egyptian and Macedonian troops to defeat Antiochus III at Raphia (s. of Gaza) in 217. Antiochus had brought an army of 75,000. This was the first time the native Egyptians were forced to fight against the northern attackers.

Antiochus withdrew for 14 years. He used the time to build up his forces. Meanwhile, Ptolemy frequently had to suppress rebellion by the disgruntled Egyptians. He held his throne by killing off potential rivals, including some close relatives.

Antiochus attacked again in 203 against the new king, Ptolemy V Epiphanes (203-181). This time Antiochus had 73,000 footmen, 5,000 cavalry,

certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

and 73 elephants which were used as living battering rams. Ptolemy was unable to withstand him and lost most of his territory outside Egypt.

The armies marched back and forth through Palestine, and some of the battles were fought there. Some of the Jews, hoping for political power, helped Antiochus.

Antiochus captured several cities in Gaza by siege.

By 198, having defeated Ptolemy at Paneas, he was in control of Palestine.

Hoping to complete the conquest of Egypt by stealth rather than military force, in 194 Antiochus gave his daughter Cleopatra I (not to be confused with Cleopatra VII, made famous in the movies) to Ptolemy V in marriage. However, she stood with her husband rather than her father, thwarting his plans.

Attempting to expand his territory, Antiochus began to move westward toward Greece along with his ally Hannibal. He assembled a fleet of 100 large and 200 smaller ships. However, consul Acilius Glabrio (“prince”) of the rising Roman Empire defeated him in 191 at Thermopylae and in 190 at Magnesia. From 188 onward Antiochus was forced by treaty to pay tribute and give up the recently recaptured territory of Asia Minor. He had hoped to impose tribute (reproach) on others; instead, he had to pay tribute himself.

Antiochus was so frustrated that he returned to his own land and attempted to plunder the temple of Jupiter to get money to pay Rome. There are conflicting stories about how he died in 187: some say his people were outraged by this incident and killed him, others say he was assassinated by several men whom he had punished for being drunk at a feast, and others say he died in a battle against the city of Elymais. At any rate, he could “not be found.”

Antiochus’ son Seleucus IV Philopator came to the throne at his death in 187. He was a “raiser of taxes,” sending Heliodorus, his minister of finance,

destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

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.

22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

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.

to seize the temple treasury in Jerusalem after he heard false reports of fabulous wealth there. The apocryphal book of II Maccabees says that Heliodorus encountered the judgment of God, lived, and became very favorable to the Jews. In 175 he had Seleucus assassinated. Seleucus' son Demetrius, meanwhile, was taken as a captive to Rome.

Seleucus' younger brother Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the next king (175-164), was not particularly important from a historical viewpoint. However, he is extremely important in prophetic terms because he is considered the clearest foreshadowing of the Antichrist. His actions against the Jewish people (see v. 28) reveal what a vile person he was. Nevertheless, he assumed the throne peaceably. Rather than seizing power in a civil war, he took charge after the death of his brother and the capture of his nephew Demetrius, the rightful heir. He was at Athens, on his way from Rome, when his brother was killed. He received assistance in coming to the throne through flattering the Romans, the rulers of Pergamus, and the Syrians, who were not sure who should be their rightful ruler.

His rivals for the throne were swept away by the forces of his allies Eumenes and Attalus of Pergamus.

Antiochus IV had the Jewish high priest Onias III murdered at his court in 171. He replaced him with his brother Jason, formerly named Joshua until he abandoned Hebrew customs in favor of the Greek culture.

Jason acquired the priestly office by paying Antiochus a great sum of money. However, their agreement was soon thrown out when another contender named Menelaus became high priest by paying even more.

Antiochus "came up" from Rome with just a few followers, but quickly consolidated his power in Syria.

The richest provinces in his dominion, Palestine and Coelosyria, accepted him peaceably.

He was known for giving extravagant gifts and for spending great sums on shows for the public. He would even occasionally go through the streets and scatter handfuls of money to the crowds.

Meanwhile in Egypt, Ptolemy V had died about 181. His wife Cleopatra I, the daughter of Antiochus III who had thwarted his plans by siding with her husband (see v. 17), ruled until their son Ptolemy VI

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.

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.

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.

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.

29 At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as

Philometer (173-145) became king at about age thirteen. She must not have had much love for her brother Antiochus IV. While ruling, she demanded that Antiochus return Palestine and Coelosyria, which their father had seized about twenty years earlier. Antiochus refused, but recognized that war was inevitable. For several years he “forecast devices,” that is, he planned for war, and ensured that the strongholds were ready.

In 170 Antiochus IV invaded Egypt. Though Ptolemy had a large force, he was unable to withstand his uncle’s well-prepared army.

Part of the reason that Ptolemy VI Philometer lost was that Antiochus had corrupted some of the Egyptian officials. They betrayed their king, who had “fed them of the portion of his meat.”

Antiochus deposed his nephew but did not harm him. Ptolemy VII Euergetes, the younger brother of Philometer, declared himself king of Egypt and was accepted by the great city of Alexandria. Antiochus released his captive, the real king. He met with him face to face (“at one table”) in Memphis several times, pretending to be concerned with restoring him to power. Meanwhile, the young man pretended to be a willing subject to his uncle, all the while plotting to rebel against him.

Neither succeeded in his plans.

Antiochus did return with great spoil.

While he was in Egypt, the citizens of Jerusalem heard a false report of his death. They rejoiced greatly at their apparent deliverance from the one who had deposed the high priest and brought in Greek customs.

Antiochus, very much alive, was infuriated. He killed 40,000 of them and carried many others into slavery; he made a broth of boiled pigs’ flesh and sprinkled it in the sanctuary and on the altar (one of the worst things imaginable to a Jew); and he took away all the treasures of the temple, including the golden vessels. Then he returned home.

Meanwhile, the two Ptolemies had patched up their differences and united against him. He marched against them once again with a great army.

the latter.

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.

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.

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].

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.

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

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.

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

However, he did not succeed as he had in his first and second campaigns, for an entirely unforeseen reason.

Antiochus had come to within seven miles of Alexandria when several Roman ships landed there. The Roman Senate had decided that the Ptolemies should remain in power.

They ordered Antiochus to cease the attack and return home. He was humiliated and enraged, but knew that he could not resist the power of Rome.

He vented his anger on Jerusalem. As if he had not done enough already, now he plundered and set fire to the city. He issued orders that only Greek religion would be allowed. Anyone caught practicing the Jewish religion was killed, their dead bodies used to pollute the city. The Temple was rededicated to the god Jupiter Olympius.

In all these things he received assistance from the wicked priest Menelaus and many apostate Jews, who served as spies for him.

“Arms shall stand” - he left a garrison of troops. The other statements seem to be details of v. 30: he polluted the sanctuary with pigs’ flesh, stopped the daily sacrifice, and set up an image of Jupiter in the temple.

At least a partial fulfillment seems to have occurred under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus and his brothers, who led the rebellion described in the apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees.

These verses seem to represent a prophetic jump forward in time, for they also describe the actions of the Romans in Jerusalem ca. 70 A.D. and perhaps of the Antichrist at the time of the end.

Here the passage shifts to “the time of the end.” Thus, while Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadowed the Antichrist in many ways, he is no longer the subject of the prophecy. As these prophecies are fulfilled some time in the future, we will be able to connect them with current events. Until then, we cannot guess who the Antichrist is.

indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

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.

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.

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.

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 horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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