



COLLEGE OF THE SCRIPTURES

Greater Christ Temple APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

“End Times”

Part 02.5 – Visions From The Book of Daniel

Apostle Mark A. Haywood

pastor / teacher

GreaterCTC.org



Kings of the North and Kings of the South

Daniel 11:1-4

1 "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.) **2** And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. **3** Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. **4** And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

- Vs. 3 introduces us to the rise of Alexander the Great. The language in vs. 4 clearly suggests that this mighty conqueror was going to have a comparatively brief reign. In seven or eight years he accomplished the most dazzling military conquest in human history. But he lived only four years more and died of a fever in 323.

- Alexander’s kingdom was divided “among four smaller and weaker empires”. Alexander’s infant son had been murdered in 310 and an illegitimate brother assassinated in 317, thus there were no descendants or blood relatives to succeed Alexander himself. So his kingdom was not divided “among his posterity” (**Vs. 4**).
- Alexander’s generals warred for control of his empire. The ensuing struggles for domination eliminated all but four, who became heads of the four divisions of his empire. The four were Cassander, reigning in Greece and the West, Lysimachus in Thrace and Asia Minor, Ptolemy in Egypt and Seleucus in Syria. Of these four, two—Ptolemy and Seleucus—expanded their rule and territory. These were the kings of Egypt and Syria, respectively.
- The machinations that follow relate to these two. They are referred to as the king of the South (Ptolemy/Egypt) and the king of the North (Seleucus/Syria) because of their location relative to Jerusalem.



Daniel 11:5-6

5 "Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion.

6 And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times.

- The king of the South was to be Ptolemy I. The biblical expression "one of his princes" refers to Seleucus. He had originally served under Ptolemy. In the intrigue after Alexander's death, Seleucus ultimately gained control over Syria and became king of the North. Seleucus eventually wielded more power than Ptolemy. The dynasty of the Seleucid line was to continue until 64 B.C.
- A state of tension and hostility existed between the king of the South and the

- king of the North. Ptolemy I died in 285 B.C. In 252 B.C. the two powers attempted a treaty under which Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy II (king of the South/Egypt), was to marry Antiochus II (king of the North/Syria). Laodice, the first wife of Antiochus II, was angry because he had divorced her. In retaliation, she manipulated a conspiracy from her place of banishment. She had Berenice and her infant son assassinated. “Not long afterward the king himself (Antiochus II) was poisoned.

Daniel 11:7-10

7 But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail. **8** And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the North. **9** "Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.

- Retaliation followed. A series of military actions, which came to be known as the Laodicean War, resulted. Ptolemy II died soon after Laodice killed his daughter, Berenice. Ptolemy III sought to avenge his sister's death. He attacked the king of the North and captured the Syrian capital of Antioch. Vs. 8 describes the recapture by Ptolemy of "long-lost idols and sacred treasures" that had been stolen from Egypt by the Syrians in 524 B.C.
Peace was concluded between Ptolemy III and Seleucus II in 240, and hostilities ceased until 221 B.C., when Ptolemy III died.

Daniel 11:10-12

10 However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife. **11** "And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy. **12** When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail.

- The sons of Seleucus II attacked the king of the South after their father died. One of these sons, Seleucus III, reigned for only three years. His military activity was relatively minor. He died by poisoning. Another son, Antiochus III (the Great), did “overwhelm and pass through.” He conquered Judea (which was under the control of Egypt).
- Ptolemy IV, the king of the South, retaliated (**Vs. 11**) and defeated the larger army of Seleucus III at the Battle of Raphia. After his victory Ptolemy turned to a life of debauchery during which he slaughtered tens of thousands of Jews in Egypt (**Vs.12**). Through all this he weakened his kingdom.

Daniel 11:13-16

13 For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment. **14** "Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment⁸ of

the vision, but they shall fall. **15** So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist. **16** But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.

- The phrase “at the end of some years” refers to an incident when, 14 years after his defeat, Antiochus III (king of the North) came against Ptolemy V (king of the South), who was still a young boy. (Ptolemy IV had died in 203.) The Egyptian provinces were in turmoil because of the wretched rule of Ptolemy IV. Many of the people—including Jews sympathetic to the king of the North—joined with Antiochus against the king of the South. The rebellion was ultimately crushed by the Egyptian general Scopus (**Vs. 14**).
- king of the North responded with another invasion. He captured the city of Sidon (“a fortified city”), where Scopus surrendered (**Vs. 15**). Antiochus acquired complete control of the Holy Land, the “Glorious Land” (**Vs. 16**). ⁹

Daniel 11:17

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 to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him.

- Having defeated Scopus, Antiochus desired to gain control of Egypt itself. He gave his daughter, Cleopatra, to Ptolemy V in marriage. Antiochus believed she would act in his favor and betray the interests of her husband. But she frustrated his plans by siding with Ptolemy.

Daniel 11:18-19

18 After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. **19** Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

- In his frustration, Antiochus attacked islands and cities of the Aegean area. He also gave asylum to Rome's enemy, Hannibal of Carthage, who assisted him in landing in Greece. Rome responded by attacking Antiochus and inflicting defeat on his forces. The Romans deprived him of much of his territory and took several hostages to Rome, including Antiochus' son. Rome exacted heavy tribute of him (**Vs. 18**).
- Antiochus returned in disgrace to his stronghold, Antioch. Unable to pay the heavy fees exacted by the Romans, he attempted to plunder a pagan temple. His action so enraged local inhabitants that they killed him, bringing him to an inglorious end (**Vs. 19**).

Daniel 11:20

20 "There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle."

- Antiochus' other son, Seleucus IV, was also unable to pay the taxes. Seleucus sent a Jew, Heliodorus, to plunder the temple at Jerusalem. Heliodorus went to the holy city but obtained nothing. Seleucus was later poisoned by Heliodorus, and so killed, "but not in anger or in battle."
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