

The Most High God
Ruler of Heaven and Earth

A Vision of the Latter Days
Daniel 11
Lesson 11

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
August 10, 2014

The Most High God, Ruler of Heaven and Earth

- ▶ Course of world history (Daniel 1-7)
 - Sovereign rule by the Most High God
 - Four kingdoms followed by the eternal Kingdom on earth
 - Persecution for relationship with the Most High God
 - Do not defile self; trust God; be devoted to God
- ▶ The Beautiful Land in world history (Daniel 8-12)
 - The Promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - Dramatic beginning; tragic course; termination
 - State of Israel, 1948 – How does it fit into Daniel?

Israel in world history (Daniel 8-12)

- ▶ 70 years (in Babylon)
- ▶ 70 weeks – 490 years (in world history)
 - Daniel 9:24
 - 7 – 62 – 1
 - The anti-Christ

A Vision of the Latter Days (8-12)

- ▶ 8:19 – It pertains to the appointed time of the end
- ▶ 8:26 – It pertains to many days in the future
- ▶ 9:24 – 70 weeks . . . finish . . . make an end . . . bring in everlasting righteousness . . . seal up the vision.
- ▶ 10:14 – in the latter days . . . the vision pertains to days yet future
- ▶ 11:35 – until the end time
- ▶ 11:40 – at the end time
- ▶ 12:1-3 – at that time . . . resurrection of just and unjust
- ▶ 12:4, 9 – seal up until the end of time
- ▶ 12:13 – at the end of the age

Greek Empire

- ▶ Greek Empire replaced Persian Empire
- ▶ Greek Empire disintegrates into 4 parts
- ▶ Two divisions of the Greek Empire emphasized
- ▶ The Anti-Christ is revealed in type

The Anti-Christ – 2 little horns

- ▶ Little horn (3rd Kingdom) – typical
 - 8:9-12; 22-25; 11:21-35
- ▶ Little horn (4th Kingdom) – actual
 - 7:8, 20-22, 24-27; 9:26-27; 11:36-45

Daniel 11 – the vision of the latter days

- ▶ Persian Empire (11:2)
- ▶ Greek Empire (11:3-4)
- ▶ The kings of the north and the south (11:5-20)
- ▶ The despicable person (11:21-35)
- ▶ The willful king (11:36-45)

Four kings in Persia (11:2)

- ▶ Telling the truth (10:1, 21; 11:2)
- ▶ Cyrus (539-529 BC) – current ruler
- ▶ Cambyses (529-522 BC)
- ▶ Smerdis (522-521 BC)
- ▶ Darius Hystaspes (521-486 BC)
- ▶ Xerxes (486-465 BC) – Ahasuerus
- ▶ 7 more kings of Persia – ca. 130 years

A mighty king (11:3-4)

- ▶ Male goat with large horn (8:5-8)
- ▶ Alexander the Great (336-323 BC)
- ▶ Kingdom broken up into 4 parts

Kings of the South and North (11:5-20)

- ▶ Ptolemy Soter, satrap of Egypt (11:5-6)
- ▶ Seleucus Nicator, satrap of Babylon (11:6)
- ▶ Antiochus III the Great ruled 46 years (11:13-19)
- ▶ Seleucus IV (11:20)

Antiochus Epiphanes (11:21-35)

- ▶ A despicable person
- ▶ Took throne from nephew by intrigue
- ▶ War with Egypt
- ▶ Against the holy covenant
 - Desecrate temple
 - Stop sacrifice – made them illegal
 - Abomination of Desolation
- ▶ Hypocrisy and purification

The Willful King (11:36-45)

- ▶ No historical correlation
- ▶ Distinct from the kings of the North and South
- ▶ Will prosper until the indignation is finished
- ▶ Daniel 12:1-2 – the end of the age – resurrection

Blasphemous

- ▶ Exalt and magnify himself above every god
- ▶ Blaspheme the God of gods
- ▶ No regard for
 - gods of his fathers
 - desire of women
 - any other god
- ▶ Honor a god of fortresses
- ▶ Wars (11:40-44)
- ▶ Pitch tents between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain
- ▶ He will come to his end (7:11, 26)
- ▶ Little horn (4th Kingdom) – 7:8, 20-22, 24-27; 9:26-27; 11:36-45

How shall we live?

- ▶ The Ruler of Heaven and Earth
- ▶ A spiritual warfare
- ▶ Daniel's lesson to us
 - Do not defile yourself
 - Trust in the Lord alone
 - Love the Lord your God only and fully
 - Be faithful stewards in a wicked world

Daniel 11		
2-4	3 more kings in Persia	Cyrus (539-529 BC) – current ruler Cambyses (529-522 BC) Smerdis (522-521 BC) Darius Hystaspes (521-486 BC)
	4 th king far richer – stir up against Greece	Xerxes (486-465 BC) – very rich – attacked Greece – (7 more kings in the Medo-Persian empire)
	then . . . a mighty king with great dominion	Alexander the Great (336-323 BC) – imposed will on army – extended dominion from Greece and Egypt to India (greater than Medo-Persia) – kingdom broken up among 4 generals – none had his authority
<p>Focus upon 2 of the 4 divisions of the Geek empire King of the South – Egypt King of the North – Syria</p>		
5	King of the South will become strong	Ptolemy Soter – highly capable general under Alexander – made satrap of Egypt (323 BC) – declared himself king of Egypt – Seleucus Nicator served under Ptolemy – S.N. became king of Babylon, Syria, Media – both proclaimed themselves king in 304 BC
6	At the end of some years, they shall join forces	Alliance between North & South around 250 BC – son of Ptolomy with grandson of Seleucus – Berenice (daughter of Ptolomy, king of South) married Antiochus II Theos (king of North) – 2 years later, Ptolomy died and Antiochus II put away Berenice and took back his first wife (Laodice) – Laodice poisoned Ptolomy and killed Berenice with her attendants and child – proclaimed her son Seleucus II Callinicus (245-227 BC) as king
7-8	From a branch of her roots one shall arise Come with army against king of North and prevail	Brother of Berenice – Ptolomy III Euergetes (245-221 BC) – came to avenge sister and defeated Syria army – killed Laodice – successful campaign as far as Tigris River – outlived Seleucus II Callinicus

9-10	King of North shall come to King of South	Unsuccessful attack by Seleucus II v. Ptolomy III Sons of Seleucus II – Seleucus III Ceraunus (227-223 BC) – Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC) Sons tried to re-establish prestige of Syria – Antiochus III extended border of Syria to southern Palestine in two separate campaigns
11-12	King of South fight king of North	Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-204 BC) – attacked Antiochus II and defeated great army – proud man – returned to life of decadence – people dissatisfied with him so he was weaker after the victory than before.
13	King of the North will return	Antiochus the Great (through verse 19) – several years after defeat, he returned to battle – Ptolomy IV died; succeeded by son Ptolomy V (age 4 years) – Antiochus attacked with larger army
14	Many shall stand against the king of the South	Enemies of Ptolomy V: – Antiochus the Great – Philip V of Macedonia – Revolutionary Jews
15-16	King of the North shall come and raise siegeworks and capture a fortified city . . .	Antiochus the Great captured Sidon (203 BC) Ptolomaic rule of Palestine ended and Antiochus gained authority over Palestine
17	He shall set his face . . .	Antiochus determined to control Egypt – did not attack militarily – sent daughter (Cleopatra) to marry Ptolomy V (10 years old at time of agreement) – marriage in 193 (4 years later) – purpose: subdue Egypt as he planned to attack Rome; have Cleopatra promote Syrian goals – However, Cleopatra was a proper wife (Egypt actually aided Rome so Antiochus' plan failed)
18-19	He shall turn his face to the coastlands	Antiochus (post treaty with Ptolomy V) undertook a vigorous campaign into the Aegean and Asia minor regions. – Seized part of Thrace and invaded Greece – Roman general, Lucius Cornelius Scipio drove him out of Asia minor – Antiochus died the next year and little is known about his last year

20	There shall arise in his place . . .	<p>Seleucus IV Phiopator (187-176 BC), son of Antiochus the Great</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inherited empty coffers and great debt to Rome - sent Heliodorus to seize Temple treasury in Jerusalem - Seleucus died after 11 years - mysteriously, probably by assassination (poisoning) by his son
Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 BC)		
21	A contemptible person	<p>Epiphanes = manifest or illustrious called Epimanes = madman</p> <p>Seized the throne from rightful heir (his nephew and son of Seleucus) - used political intrigue</p>
22-23	With force of a flood . . .	<p>Antiochus turned back invading armies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - general reference to all invaders - particular reference to Egypt <p>Prince of the Covenant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - uncertain identity - may refer to Ptolomy V who was steward of the covenant made with Antiochus the Great - may refer to the High Priest in Jerusalem who was killed by Antiochus in 4th year - the league with Egypt was based upon marriage of his sister (Cleopatra) with father of current king. He went back on the promised dowry (two states including Palestine)
24	He shall enter peaceably . . .	<p>He spoiled the wealthy areas and distributed to the poorer areas to curry favor</p>
25	He shall stir up . . . against the king of the South	<p>Invaded Egypt, ruled by his nephew, Ptolemy Philometor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ptolemy sought to regain the dowry states - North defeated South in 170 BC - Ptolemy was partial victim of treachery by his own forces
26-27	Those who eat of the portion of his delicacies . . .	<p>His trusted counselors betrayed him and he was captured by Antiochus</p> <p>Antiochus professed friendship with Ptolomy because Ptolomy's brother had seized the throne in Memphis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Antiochus sought to use Ptolomy to gain power - Ptolomy did not trust Antiochus - Finally the two Ptolomy brothers arranged a joint rulership and Ptolomy Philometer married his sister (Cleopatra, named for her mother)

28	He shall return to his land with great booty . . .	On return trip, he worked havoc in the Temple – Jews reacted against high priest Menalaus who was supporter of Antiochus – Antiochus put down the revolt and desecrated the Temple (cf. 8:11)
29-30	He shall return to the South . . .	A second invasion 2 years later (168 BC) – intended to break the brothers' coalition – prevented from battle by Rome – He sought to stamp out Mosaic observances and enlisted the help of Menalaus the high priest
31-32	Defile the Sanctuary	Erected statue of Jupiter (Zeus) or substitute altar
33	Those of the people who understand . . .	Mattathias Maccabeus, father of 7 sons, refused to offer the sacrifices and began the Maccabean revolt. Antiochus defeated the revolt.
34-35	Now when they fall . . .	Some of the people offered help but not sincerely Divine purpose – refine, make white until the time of the end
The Antichrist		
36	The king shall do according to his will . . .	The King – not used for Antiochus Exalt above all gods – Antiochus served Greek gods Duration until wrath accomplished
37-38	He shall not regard . . .	Despise God of fathers, desire of women (Christ?), gods Honor the gods of power
39	He shall act against the strongest fortress . . .	No fear Honor his associates
40-45	King of South attack king of the North . . .	No historical time to correlate with this text A time of great wars ending with the termination of the Antichrist.