

DANIEL 11:1-35

The NIV translation was used for this study, but I have replaced some words and phrases with my own translations from the Hebrew text.

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The bold, italic print is the Scriptural text and the normal print is used for my glosses, historical comments, and notes.

An angel is speaking to Daniel:

1. *In the first year of Darius the Mede, I came as an encouragement and a protection for him.*

(Darius the Mede, who died in 536 BC, was a sub-king who ruled the Kingdom of Babylon under Cyrus the Great. He was almost certainly a relative of Cyrus the Great—maybe an uncle. Cyrus’s mother was a Mede princess and his father was a Persian king.) Darius the Mede was also almost certainly the Gobryas mentioned in the Babylonian Chronicle who was conquered Babylon for Cyrus the Great.

2. *And now I will tell you the truth. Behold three more kings are going to arise in Persia* (Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis, and Darius the Great). ***Then a fourth*** (King Xerxes ruled 486-465 BC) ***will gain more riches than all of them, and as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the entire*** (Persian) ***Empire against the realm of Greece*** (Hebrew: “Javan”).

(Xerxes—the Ahasuerus of the Book of Esther-- attacked and destroyed Athens in 480 BC, but he was defeated by the Athenian navy in the great naval Battle of Salamis. The next year his army was crushed in 479 BC by a Greek army led by the Spartans at the Battle of Plataea in northern Greece. The Persians never again tried to invade mainland Greece. In the Book of Esther in the Old Testament, Haman’s attempt to exterminate all of the Jews in the Persian Empire took place after Xerxes was defeated by the Greeks and had returned to Persia.)

3. *A mighty king* (Alexander the Great) ***will arise*** (and defeat the Persian Empire in 331 BC), ***and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.***

(It should be noted that there are about 150 years between Daniel 11: 2 and Daniel 11:3.)

4. But as soon as he (Alexander the Great) **has arisen** (he will die suddenly in 323 BC, and) **his kingdom will be broken up.** (See Daniel 8:8) **It will not be given to his own descendants, but it will be parceled out to the four points of the compass** (four Greek families who were descended from his generals will split up Alexander's empire), **but they will not rule with the same great authority that he wielded. His** (Alexander the Great's) **sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others** (the Antigonids, Attalids, Seleucids, and Ptolemies.)

(It was this four-way division of Alexander's Empire that greatly aided the growth of the Roman Republic which evolved into the later Roman Empire. These four kingdoms were not only disunited, but they were also almost always fighting with one another, which made it easier for Rome to pick them off one at a time.)

5. Then the King (Ptolemy I 322-283 BC) **of the South** (Egypt) **will grow strong. But one of his generals** (Seleucus I 312-280 BC) **will become stronger than he and will rule a kingdom larger than his.**

(Alexander left behind a wife, who was a pregnant Persian princess named Roxane, but she, her son by Alexander, Alexander's mother Olympias, and Alexander's brother Philip III will eventually all be killed by Cassander, the son of one of Alexander the Great's generals. Consequently, Alexander had no descendants to continue his family's dynasty. In the confusion and fighting that took place between his generals after the death of Alexander the Great, the General and future King Seleucus I double-crossed his boss King Ptolemy I and used one of Ptolemy I's armies to seize his own Seleucid Kingdom in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia. The capital of the Seleucid Kingdom was eventually the city of Antioch, and the capital of the Ptolemaic Kingdom was Alexandria. Seleucus I's kingdom was the largest of the four kingdoms that arose out of the old kingdom of Alexander the Great.

The term King of the North in the Book of Daniel refers to the Kingdom of the Seleucids north of Israel in Syria, Persia, and Mesopotamia. The term King of the South refers to the Kingdom of the Ptolemies south of Israel in Egypt. The Seleucid kings of Syria and the Ptolemaic kings of Egypt will fight a long series of wars over the areas of Israel and Lebanon which lay between them and which both wanted. Lebanon contained essential wood for ships and good ports for the sea trade, and there were important land trade routes that ran through both Israel and Lebanon.)

6. After some years they (Ptolemy II 283-246 BC and Antiochus II 261-246 BC) **will form an alliance, and the daughter** (Berenice) **of the King of the South** (Ptolemy II) **will be sent to be the wife of the King of the North** (Antiochus II), **in order to make a peace treaty.**

(According to the provisions in this peace treaty Antiochus II was to divorce his first wife Laodice, who was a Seleucid, and any son born from his new Ptolemaic wife Berenice would be named as heir to the Seleucid throne. In less than a year after her marriage to Antiochus II, Queen Berenice had a baby boy who was then named as heir to the Seleucid throne in place of Laodice's son, the future Seleucus II.)

But she (the new Queen Berenice from Egypt) **will not retain her position of power, nor will he** (her husband, the Seleucid King Antiochus II) **remain in power. She** (Queen Berenice) **will be handed over to** (Antiochus II's first wife Queen Laodice) **to be killed along with her royal escort, her child, and the one** (the Seleucid official) **who had supported her.**

(After the powerful King Ptolemy II of Egypt died in 246 BC,—probably poisoned by a traitorous Ptolemaic official hired by Laodice—Laodice asked her former husband Antiochus II to restore her young son Seleucus II as heir to the Seleucid throne in place of Berenice's baby boy. Seleucus foolishly gave in to her request and again made his oldest son, the future Antiochus II, his heir. As soon as her son was restored as heir, Laodice had her former husband Antiochus II assassinated. Her own young son then became King Seleucus II, for whom she ruled as regent. Using the political authority of her son, King Seleucus II, Laodice had her rival Queen Berenice murdered, and then at the same time she executed Berenice's baby son, her Egyptian entourage, and the Seleucid official who made the diplomatic deal that brought Berenice as queen to the Seleucid capital city of Antioch.)

7. One from her family line (Berenice's brother King Ptolemy III 246-223 BC) **will arise to take the throne** (in Egypt and will seek revenge for the murder of his sister). **He will attack the army of the King of the North** (King Seleucus II 246-226 BC), **and he** (Ptolemy III) **will capture his** (Seleucus II's) **palace fortress** (in Antioch in 244 BC). **He** (Ptolemy II) **will fight and be victorious.**

(Ptolemy III will defeat Laodice and her young son Seleucus II in battle, and he then marched on to the north to capture their fortified palace in their capital city of Antioch,

which he looted. However, Laodice and Seleucus II will escape capture by fleeing from Antioch.

8. (After conquering Antioch), **he** (Ptolemy III) **will seize their gods** (idols of their gods), **their metal images, and all their valuable articles of gold and silver.** **He** (Ptolemy III) **will then carry his booty back to Egypt, and he will refrain from attacking the King** (Seleucus II) **of the North for a number of years.**

9. Then the King (Seleucus II) **of the North will attack** (Egypt in 235 BC after Ptolemy III died) **and invade into the realm of the King** (Ptolemy III) **of the South,** (but his attack will not succeed) **and he will return to his own kingdom** (without conquering Egypt).

10. However, his (Seleucus II's) **sons** (Seleucus III 226-223 BC and Antiochus III 223-187) **will mobilize and assemble a huge army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his** (the new King Ptolemy IV's) **palace fortress** (in Alexandria).

(After the death of Ptolemy III, the brothers Seleucus II and Antiochus III, who jointly ruled the Seleucid Kingdom at that time, attacked the new King Ptolemy IV and conquered nearly all of Egypt except for the fortified capital city of Alexandria. Seleucus II died or was murdered in 223 BC, and Antiochus III then ruled the Seleucid Kingdom alone from the city of Antioch).

11. The King of the South (Ptolemy IV 221-204 BC) **will be enraged and will go out to fight with the King of the North** (Antiochus III). **The king of the North** (Antiochus III) **will raise a huge army, but he** (Antiochus III) **will be defeated** (by Ptolemy IV at the Battle of Raphia in 217 BC).

(Ptolemy IV won the Battle of Raphia in southern Israel by raising a huge army made up of native Egyptian troops. There was a shortage of good Greek soldiers in Egypt. These Egyptian troops were trained to fight like Ptolemy IV's Greek troops. His Egyptian troops won the Battle of Raphia for Ptolemy IV, but when they returned to Egypt, they began a series of revolts that lasted for several decades and greatly weakened Ptolemaic Egypt.)

12. When the army (of his enemy King Antiochus III) **is defeated, the King of the South** (Ptolemy IV) **will be filled with pride, and will kill tens of**

thousands (of the troops of Antiochus III), **yet he will not remain triumphant** (in the end).

(Ptolemy IV won a great victory at Raphia in 217 BC over the huge army of Antiochus III. Thousands of the troops of Antiochus III surrendered, but Ptolemy IV had them all slaughtered. However, as was noted above, Ptolemy IV had won this battle by foolishly using native Egyptian troops, and when they returned to Egypt, these Egyptian troops revolted against their Greek masters.

At least two native Egyptians will arise and claim the throne of Egypt during this series of revolts against Ptolemy IV and his son Ptolemy V. Incidentally, the Ptolemies were full-blooded Greeks and did not have one drop of Egyptian blood in them, even though they did adopt much from Egyptian culture and behaved much like the earlier Egyptian pharaohs.)

13. The King (Antiochus III) **of the North will again raise another army, even larger than before, and after an interval of some years** (and after Ptolemy IV has died), **he will attack with a large well-equipped army.**

(Antiochus III, the King of the North, defeated the young King Ptolemy V, King of the South, in 200 BC at the Battle of Panium (later Caesarea Philippi) in northern Israel. Ptolemy V was weak because he was at the same time dealing with his father's revolting native Egyptian troops. As a result of Antiochus III's victory at Panium in northern Israel, the Jews, who had been formerly ruled by the Ptolemies will now be ruled by the vicious Seleucids).

14. "In those times many (native Egyptians) **will rise against the king of the South** (Ptolemy V). **Those who are violent among your own** (Jewish) **people will rebel as the result of** (a false) **prophecy, but without success.**

(The Egyptian troops, who were trained to fight as Greeks, will continue their revolt against the new King of the South, Ptolemy V. After years of fighting and after he was finally able to defeat this revolt by native Egyptians, Ptolemy V will commemorate his success with a famous victory stele which is today called the "Rosetta Stone."

The Rosetta Stone was inscribed with identical texts in Egyptian hieroglyphic, the Egyptian demotic script, and Greek. The modern French scholar Champollion used the Greek on the Rosetta Stone to decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic. Meanwhile, at that same time, the Jews, who were chaffing under Seleucid Greek rule, believed a false

prophecy that God was going to free them, and they therefore rose up in revolt against Antiochus III, but he crushed their revolt.)

15. Then the king of the North (Antiochus III) **will invade** (Egypt), **build siege ramps, and capture a fortified city** (Peleusium). **The forces of the King of the South** (Ptolemy V) **will be powerless to resist; even his best troops will not have the strength to stand.**

(After his victory at Panium in 201 BC--which was called Caesarea Philippi in the New Testament Period -- King Antiochus III of the North invaded south into Egypt. He cast up siege ramps against the Ptolemies' well-fortified Egyptian city of Peleusium in the northeastern Delta and captured it. Peleusium was a fortress city that the Ptolemies had strongly fortified in order to protect Egypt from invasion by the Seleucids from the north, and it was a key fortress that Antiochus III had to have in order to conquer all of Egypt.

After his capture of Peleusium, Antiochus III went on to attack the rest of Egypt. The military forces of King Ptolemy V of the South (Egypt) will not be able to withstand the army of Antiochus III. Ptolemy V's best--real Greek-- troops will be insufficient to turn the tide of war, since there were not be enough of them to fight against both Antiochus III's army and the rebelling native Egyptian troops.)

16. The invader (Antiochus III) **will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land** (of Israel) **and will have the power to destroy it**

(Antiochus III will take Israel and Lebanon away from Ptolemy V after the Battle of Panium, and he will establish his governmental control over "the Beautiful Land" of Israel. He will make the Jewish High Priest his local governor and tax collector, which was the same position that the High Priest had at times enjoyed under the Ptolemies.)

17. He (Antiochus III) **will decide to come** (to Egypt) **with the full might of his entire kingdom. He will make an alliance with the King** (Ptolemy V) **of the South. He** (Antiochus III) **will give to him** (Ptolemy V) **his daughter** (Cleopatra I) **in marriage in order to maintain rule over the kingdom** (of Egypt), **but his plans will not succeed or help him.**

(Antiochus III will attack Ptolemy V (204-180 BC) and will do as he pleases in Egypt, and no one will be able to stop him. Threatening to use all the military power of his entire Kingdom in a massive attack on Egypt, Antiochus III will propose a peace treaty of

subservience to Ptolemy V, which he was forced to accept. Under this treaty, Ptolemy V will continue to rule Egypt, but as a sub-king of Antiochus III.

In order to seal this treaty and to maintain control over Egypt, Antiochus III gave his daughter Cleopatra I to be the wife of Ptolemy V. Antiochus III intended for his daughter Cleopatra I to help him control Ptolemy V and to help rule Egypt, but she liked her new husband and eventually took his side against her father. Meanwhile, now that he had conquered Egypt, Antiochus III began to think of himself as the new Alexander the Great, and he also began to call himself the “Great.” He then made plans to conquer the two remaining parts of the old Kingdom of Alexander the Great; in other words, he intended to conquer the Kingdom of the Attalids in Asia Minor, and the Kingdom of the Antigonids in Greece.)

18. Then he (Antiochus III) **will turn his attention to the** (Mediterranean) **coastal lands** (of the Attalids in Asia Minor and the Antigonids in Greece), **and he will capture many areas, but a** (Roman) **commander** (Scipio Asiaticus) **will put an end to his arrogance and will turn his arrogance back on him** (at the Battle of Magnesia in 190 BC).

(As was noted above, Antiochus III tried to conquer the kingdoms of both the Antigonids of Macedonia Greece and the Attalids of Asia Minor. But the Roman general Scipio Asiaticus, who was allied with the Kingdom of the Attalids, will defeat Antiochus III at the massive Battle of Magnesia in 190 BC, and will put a stop to his arrogant contempt for Rome’s military power. The Battle of Magnesia was fought in western Asia Minor in the Kingdom of the Attalids. Ancient sources indicate that about a quarter of a million men fought in the Battle of Magnesia, and Scipio crushed the army of Antiochus III.)

19. After his defeat, he (Antiochus III) **will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country, but he will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.**

(After his disastrous defeat at the Battle of Magnesia, Antiochus III “the Great” will be forced to accept a humiliating treaty whereby he has to pay a huge war fine to the Romans, give up his entire navy, give much land to the Attalids in eastern Asia Minor, and send his second oldest son—the future King Antiochus IV Epiphanes-- as a hostage to Rome. Antiochus III will return in total defeat to the fortresses in his own Seleucid Kingdom, and there he will stumble, fall, and die in 187 BC.)

20. "His (son and) **successor** (Seleucus IV) **will send out a tax collector** (his Prime Minister Heliodorus, to collect exorbitant taxes from the Jews) **in order to**

maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he (Seleucus IV) ***will be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.***

(Antiochus III's oldest son Seleucus IV (ruled 187-176 BC) became the next king and sent his oppressive tax collector Heliodorus into Israel in order to collect exorbitant taxes to pay expensive war reparations to Rome and also to fund his own lavish lifestyle. However, after trying and failing to rob the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, Seleucus IV will be destroyed, "but not in anger or in battle." In other words, he was assassinated by his Prime Minister Heliodorus. Heliodorus will then briefly rule the Seleucid Empire as regent for the under-aged son of Seleucus IV).

21. "He (Seleucus IV) ***will be succeeded by a contemptible person*** (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) ***to whom the honor of kingship had not been given. He will invade the*** (Seleucid) ***kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it*** (the kingdom) ***through intrigue.***

(With an army provided by King Eumenes II of the Kingdom of the Attalids in Asia Minor, Antiochus IV Epiphanes invaded into Syria in order to win the throne of the Seleucid Empire. Near Antioch, he defeated and killed Heliodorus in battle. Antiochus IV will deceive the people of Antioch into accepting him as king by marrying his brother's widow and by naming his young nephew, the son of his deceased brother Seleucus IV, as his heir.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (176-164 BC) also used flattery and bribes given to his brother's governmental officials in order to gain entrance into Antioch without fighting and thus seize the throne of the Seleucid Empire. As this passage from Daniel 11:28 indicates, Antiochus IV Epiphanes was a usurper and not the royal heir with the right to the Seleucid throne, which rightly belonged to his young nephew. Once he had established his political and military control over the Seleucid Empire, Antiochus IV Epiphanes had his young nephew murdered).

22. Then a huge army (led by King Ptolemy VI of Egypt) ***will be swept away by him*** (Antiochus IV); ***both this enemy army and a prince of the covenant*** (the Jewish High Priest Onias III) ***will be destroyed.***

(A massive invading army sent north by King Ptolemy VI of Egypt (ruled 180-145 BC) will launch an attack against Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 170 BC, but he will crush it. Antiochus IV Epiphanes had learned of Ptolemy IV's coming attack and battle plan from his spies in the Egyptian government, and he had consequently set a trap for Ptolemy VI in southern Israel. Shortly after this battle in 170 BC, a Prince of the Covenant (the fired

and exiled High Priest Onias III) was assassinated in the city of Antioch by an official of Antiochus IV.)

23. After coming to an agreement with him (the High Priest Onias III), **he** (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) **will act deceitfully, and with only a few** (Jewish Antiochene) **supporters he will exercise power** (over the majority of the Jews in Israel).

(After first naming the authentic High Priest Onias III as his governor over the Jews, Antiochus IV Epiphanes then deceitfully removed him as High Priest and replaced him with two other Jewish men in succession, the second of whom, a man named Menelaus, was not a priest or even a Levite. Antiochus IV made an agreement with his new High Priest Menelaus and with other compromising Jews for the founding of a branch of his new, pagan Antiochene Republic in Jerusalem.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes, whose father Antiochus III had been crushed by the Roman Republic at the Battle of Magnesia, tried to copy the strength of the Rome Republic by establishing his own “Antiochene Republic.” Antioch was his capital city, just as Rome was the Roman capital. Therefore, he re-named his Seleucid Kingdom the “Antiochene Republic.” Only a relatively few, rich, upper-class, compromising Jews became citizens of the pagan Antiochene Republic. However, Antiochus IV Epiphanes considered anyone who would not become an Antiochene citizen to be a traitor, but most Jews would not join because of the requirement that they had to participate in polytheistic, pagan religious sacrifices.)

24. When (his own) **richest provinces feel secure, he** (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) **will invade them and will do what neither his fathers nor his forefathers ever did** (attack cities in his own kingdom). **He will distribute plunder, loot, and wealth** (from these cities) **to his** (Antiochene) **followers. He will plot the overthrow of the fortresses** (in Egypt), **but only for a period of time.**

(During a time of peace with Egypt, Antiochus IV Epiphanes will do something that his ancestors had never done before, he attacked and looted the richest cities and temples in his own kingdom. There were cities in his kingdom which would not join his new Antiochene Republic and also would not allow the traditional worship practices and gods worshipped in their temples to be changed.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes wanted all people in his Antiochene Republic to be Antiochene citizens, to speak Greek, and to all worship the same pagan gods. The Seleucid Empire at

that time was made up of diverse ethnic groups who worshipped a variety of pagan deities. Antiochus IV Epiphanes distributed plunder from these resisting cities to his army and to the new loyal citizens of his Antiochene Republic. He then devised a plan to attack the strongholds of his great enemy—who was also his nephew--King Ptolemy VI of Egypt. It should be recalled that earlier Ptolemy V, the father of Ptolemy VI, had married Cleopatra I, the sister of Antiochus IV Epiphanes.)

25. "With a large army he (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) will stir up his strength and courage against the King of the South (Egypt). The King of the South (Ptolemy VI) will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him.

(When he had everything prepared, Antiochus IV Epiphanes moved his large army south to attack King Ptolemy VI (180-145 BC) of Egypt, who had also mobilized his own extremely large and mighty army for war, but, as was noted above, Ptolemy VI was defeated by Antiochus IV Epiphanes near the city of Gaza in southern Israel in 170 BC. Ptolemy VI was defeated mainly because of treasonous plots against him which were led by his rebellious sister-wife Cleopatra II, by his younger brother the future Ptolemy VIII, and also by some of his own governmental officials.

At one point, Ptolemy VI and Antiochus IV met and agreed to a peace treaty, which neither expected to keep. Meanwhile, Cleopatra II and Ptolemy VIII had jointly seized control over the capital city of Alexandria. However, when Antiochus IV Epiphanes broke his peace treaty with Ptolemy VI and began invading and looting further into Egypt, the three siblings made a troubled peace agreement. However, the relationship between Ptolemy VI and his brother Ptolemy VIII remained strained.

Two decades later in 145 BC, Ptolemy VIII engineered the assassination of his brother Ptolemy VI. Ptolemy VIII then married his brother's wife—and his own sister--Cleopatra II. He briefly pretended to rule for his young nephew Ptolemy VII, the son of his new sister-wife Cleopatra II. However, it was not long before the vicious Ptolemy VIII had his young nephew and stepson, Ptolemy VII, killed. Cleopatra II apparently did not object to the murder of her son and continued to be Ptolemy VIII's queen)

26. Those (Egyptian government officials Eulaeus and Lenaeus) who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him (Ptolemy VI). His army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.

(Two traitorous Egyptian officials named Eulaeus and Lenaeus, who ate choice food from Ptolemy VI's provisions, will plot against Ptolemy VI. It appears that these two officials were allies of Ptolemy VIII and Cleopatra II. It is also likely that it was these two officials who were the spies who betrayed Ptolemy VI's battle plan to Antiochus IV Epiphanes before the Battle of Gaza in 170 BC. As was noted above, Ptolemy VI's army was defeated by his uncle Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 170 BC in this battle, and many of his troops were killed. It was because of the renewed invasion of Antiochus IV into Egypt that King Ptolemy VI was forced to make peace with his sister-wife Cleopatra II and his younger brother, the future King Ptolemy VIII.)

27. The two kings (Antiochus IV and Ptolemy VI), ***with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because their end will still come at the appointed time.***

(After his defeat by Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 170 BC, but before he made peace with his sister-wife Cleopatra II and his brother Ptolemy VIII, King Ptolemy VI met with King Antiochus IV Epiphanes in Egypt in order to negotiate a peace treaty. At this meeting, Ptolemy VI agreed to become a sub-king under Antiochus IV. However, both kings were lying and also plotting against each other. They will speak lies to one another at the same negotiating table. But this treaty will not last, because neither really intended to keep it.

28. The King of the North (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) ***will return*** (from Egypt) ***to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against*** (the people of) ***the Holy Covenant*** (who were pious Jews and who would not become Antiochene citizens). (On his way back to Syria), ***he*** (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) ***will take action against it*** (the Old Testament Covenant), ***and then he will return to his own country.***

(After breaking his treaty with Ptolemy VI in 169 BC, Antiochus IV Epiphanes continued his invasion and looting of Egypt. He will capture almost all of Egypt except for Alexandria. As was noted above, Antiochus IV Epiphanes' invasion and looting of Egypt will cause the brothers Ptolemy VI, Ptolemy VIII, and their sister Cleopatra II to make a peace treaty and to settle their differences.

However, before he had completed his conquest of Egypt by capturing Alexandria, Antiochus IV Epiphanes heard that the Jews had revolted in Jerusalem. It appears that the Ptolemies had intentionally spread a false rumor to the Jews that Antiochus IV Epiphanes had died in Egypt. They did this hoping that the Jews would revolt. This rumor had its intended result and caused pious Jews to revolt and to attack Antiochene Jews in Jerusalem.

Because of this revolt by pious Jews against his Jewish Antiochene citizens, Antiochus IV Epiphanes was forced to put aside his conquest of Egypt and to return back north to crush this revolt in Jerusalem. As he went back north through Israel, he was carrying with him the great riches which he had obtained from his looting of Egypt. However, because he was forced to abandon his conquest of Egypt, his heart was set against the rebellious pious Jews and their Holy Old Testament Covenant. He used his army to kill thousands of Jewish rebels in Jerusalem. He then returned back to his capitol city of Antioch.)

29. "At the appointed time he (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) **will invade the South** (Egypt) **again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before.**

The very next year Antiochus IV Epiphanes again invaded with plans to complete his conquest of Egypt by capturing Alexandria, but events will turn out very different than they did the year before.

30. Roman (Hebrew: Kittim) **ships will oppose him, and he** (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) **will lose heart. He will then turn back and vent his rage against the Holy Covenant. Afterwards, he will return back to the north** (through Israel to Antioch) **and show favor to those** (Antiochene Jews) **who had forsaken the Holy Covenant.**

(While Antiochus IV Epiphanes was for the second time invading and trying to conquer all of Egypt, a small fleet of Roman ships led by the Roman Senator Popillius Laenas appeared in the harbor at Alexandria. Popillius Laenas will meet with and threaten Antiochus IV Epiphanes with war with Rome unless he immediately left Egypt. Rome depended on grain shipments from Egypt to feed its people, and the Roman Senate did not want their food supply controlled by Antiochus IV.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes was intimidated, and he was forced to leave Egypt and return back home to the north. However, he was furious with believing Jews, and he will take harsh military action against those faithful Jews who believed in the Holy Covenant of the Old Testament. Antiochus IV blamed believing Jews for costing him the conquest of Egypt the year before. He also saw them as traitors because they were opponents of his Antiochene Republic. As a result, he will decide to exterminate the Jewish religion, and will begin a severe persecution of believing Jews. However, he will continue to show favor to those Jews who forsook the Holy Covenant by becoming citizens of his pagan Antiochene Republic.

31. "His (Antiochus IV's) *armed forces will desecrate the temple and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the (idol of) abomination that causes desolation.*

(Antiochus IV Epiphanes's army will slaughter thousands of pious Jews, and at the same time in 168 BC, he will pollute the Holy Temple in Jerusalem by converting it into a place of pagan Greek religion. He will also place an idol called an "Abomination of Desolation" in its interior. This Abomination of Desolation was almost certainly a large pagan idol of Antiochus IV Epiphanes himself looking like the god Zeus. His coins indicate that he taught that he was the god Zeus in the flesh. Incidentally, his nickname Epiphanes, which he gave to himself, translates as "god manifest."

Pagan sacrifices to the idol of Antiochus IV Epiphanes--including pigs--were offered in the Jewish Temple. He also set up the idols of other Greek gods in the Temple and introduced religious prostitution—probably in the worship of the goddess Aphrodite/Venus-- into the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. The Book of II Maccabees states that he crucified Jewish mothers who had their sons circumcised, and while these pious mothers were dying, he hanged their babies from their necks.)

32. *With flattery he will corrupt those (Antiochene Jews) who have violated the Covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.*

(Using flattery and favoritism, Antiochus IV Epiphanes will convince many compromising, upper-class, Antiochene Jews to adopt his pagan religion in the polluted Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, and also to violate the Holy Covenant of Moses found in the Old Testament. Anyone who possessed an Old Testament scroll was executed. But pious Jews, "who know their God" and who were led by the Hasmonean priest Mattathias and his sons, will begin a very effective guerilla war against Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The Hasmoneans are better known in history today as the Maccabees.)

33. *Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.*

(Those pious Jews who were led by the Maccabees and who had spiritual insight will instruct their Jewish brethren and give them religious understanding of God's spiritual expectations. Many of these believing Jews--including all 5 Hasmonean brothers--will be killed in battle or be executed, and they will also suffer flames, captivity, and plunder.)

34. When they (pious Jews) **fall, they will receive a little help** (from Judas Maccabaeus and the other Maccabees), **but many who are not sincere will join them.**

(When the Maccabees were finally successful and eventually won Jewish freedom from the Seleucids, many of the former Antiochene Jews insincerely converted back to Jewish religion.)

35. Some of the wise (the early Maccabees and their followers) **will stumble, so that they** (pious Jews) **may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.**

(When they are being attacked by the military forces of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, these faithful, believing Jews were granted a little divine help by the brilliant Judas Maccabaeus and his four brothers. Pious Jews joined Judas's guerilla army that was fighting against the armies of Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Antiochus IV Epiphanes suddenly died in 164 BC, and Judas Maccabaeus captured Jerusalem that same year. He then cleansed the Temple, thus celebrating the first Hanukkah festival. Incidentally, as the New Testament relates, Jesus Christ celebrated Hanukkah.

Judas and two of his brothers died in battle fighting against the Seleucids. Another brother was treacherously slain by a nephew of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who had pretended friendship. The last brother was assassinated by his own wicked son-in-law—who came from a former Jewish Antiochene family-- who wanted to rule the Jews. Under the early Maccabees, the Edomites/ Idumaeans were forced to convert to Judaism or leave southern Israel. Earlier the Edomites had been basically driven out of Edom into southern Israel by the Nabataean Arabs who built their famous city of Petra in Edomite territory.

Unfortunately, many former Antiochene citizens and insincere Idumean converts joined themselves to the Maccabees /Hasmoneans who came to rule the Jews. For the short period of about 80 years, the Jews were free of foreign rule. But, the great spirituality of the early Hasmoneans was lost in that family in just a few generations.

The later Hasmonean rulers of Israel became evil very quickly. For example, the Hasmonean King Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BC) crucified 800 Pharisees who revolted against him, and while they were dying on their crosses, he murdered their wives and children—including pregnant women—before their eyes. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, the Jewish King and High Priest Alexander Jannaeus watched them die and celebrated their deaths by feasting with his concubines. In 2019 archaeologists excavating in Jerusalem found a mass grave of some of the women and children slaughtered by Alexander Jannaeus, and one skeleton was that of a pregnant woman!

In 64 BC, because of a civil war between two sons of Alexander Jannaeus who were fighting over both the High Priesthood and over the throne of Israel, the Roman Consul Pompey the Great captured Jerusalem and made Israel into a Roman province. When he returned back to Rome, Pompey left behind a new friend named Antipater, who was an Edomite/ Idumaeen noble whose family had earlier converted to Judaism. Pompey made Antipater the de facto Roman governor of Israel. Incidentally, the infamous Herod the Great was the son of this same Antipater. Daniel 11:35 ends the prophecies about the period of Greek control over the Israelites.)

DANIEL 11:36-45

I will not here discuss Daniel 11:36-45. I believe, contrary to my former professor, Jonathan Goldstein, that there is a great time gap between Daniel 11:35 and Daniel 11:36. Daniel 11:36-45 is all future prophecy which gives very detailed information about the great Antichrist who is yet to come. "The King who does as he pleases" in 11:36 is the Antichrist, and not Antiochus IV Epiphanes. However, much like Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Antichrist will pollute a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem with a second Abomination of Desolation,—see Matthew 24:15-- and he will also try to kill all believing Jews who will not join his new idolatrous religion. His attacks on believing Jews (and also on believing Gentiles) will be the greatest persecution that God's people will ever have to suffer. The Antichrist will for a few short years be very successful, but he and his followers will be destroyed by Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation.