

Kings of North & South

Daniel 11:1-28

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Daniel 10 Summary: Daniel sees a vision of Christ in His glory and prophecies about Persia and Greece.

Observations and applications...

Spiritual warfare is real... Both God and Satan have assigned powerful angels to influence rulers and nations

- Demonic forces can delay the answer to our prayers but that does not mean we should lose heart and give up! Daniel persevered and so should we.

Persian Empire, Dan 11:1-4

“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.

v1-2 – An angel speaks to Daniel and tells him what is in the ‘Book of Truth’... What does he reveal?

While Darius ruled Babylon, the king was Cyrus and after him there would be three more Persian rulers over the land of Israel:

1. Cyrus II (550-530 BC) (Ezra & 2 Chron 36:22-23)
2. Cambyses (529-522 BC) (Not referenced in the Old Testament)
3. Darius I Hystaspes (521 – 486 BC) (Ezra 5:6)
4. Xerxes I (486 – 465 BC) (Ezra 4-6) (Esther)

Persia would actually have more rulers after Xerxes but after him, the empire declined.

- Xerxes invasion of Greece was the beginning of the end for Persia because it raised up Alexander who united Greece and began his conquest of the world.

What else do we know of Xerxes?

The Persian King, who we know as Xerxes I, took as his queen the Jewish woman Hadassah, called Esther in the Persian language (Esther 2:16-17)

v3-4 – Who is this mighty king who will have great dominion until his kingdom is divided four ways?

Alexander the Great of Greece who invaded Persia in 334 BC. Alexander was the first and last sole ruler of the Grecian Empire. With no natural heir when he died, his four generals divided up the empire.

What does it mean, *his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these?*

The Roman Empire will eventually replace the four Greek generals who inherited the Greek Empire from Alexander the Great.

Kings of North & South, Dan 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.

v5-14 – Who are the kings of the North and South?

Verses 5-14 trace the history of the Greek empire to the rise of Rome; the perspective is North & South of Israel.

- The King of the South will be one of the Ptolemies based in Egypt; The King of the North refers to the line of Seleucid based in Syria.

What do we know of the intrigue that went on between the Kings of the North & South in that day?

- To form an alliance between the warring parties, Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt gave his daughter Berenice in marriage to Antiochus Theos of Syria.
- Since Antiochus was already married to Laodice, he divorced her.
- After two years, Ptolemy Philadelphus died so Antiochus Theos divorced Berenice and took back Laodice.
- Laodice poisoned Antiochus Theos and ordered the death of Berenice and her son putting her own son, Seleucus Callinicus on the throne.

Kings of North & South, Dan 11:7-9

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.

Do you think the King of the South took revenge?

Ptolemy Euergetes, brother of Berenice raised an army to attack Syria capturing the fort which was the port of Antioch in that day.

With what did the King of the South leave Syria?

It is recorded that along with captives, Ptolemy Euergetes took to Egypt as booty 4,000 talents of gold, 40,000 talents of silver, and 2,500 idols (their gods).

Kings of North & South, Dan 11:10-14

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. 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 fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall.

What did the King of the North do in response?

The sons of Seleucus Callinicus were the rulers of Syria:

- Seleucus III Ceraanus (226-223 BC)
- Antiochus III the Great (223-287 BC)

They kept the feud going between Syria and Egypt with continuous warfare. Israel had a propensity to side with the wrong king and found herself being made captive by one then the other and many died as a result.

Roman Empire, Daniel 11:15-19

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. 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. 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.

v15-19 – Who is the King of the North in these verses?

Rome... These verses briefly describe the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. The purpose here seems to be to complete the record as it does not seem to have anything of importance regarding the last days.

Where does this King of the North stand?

Glorious Land, Israel will be part of the Roman Empire.

Who are the upright ones joining this King of the North?

This is following the time of Christ when the growth of the church took off in the Roman Empire... they were Rome's best citizens despite persecution. And this was finally realized in the time of Emperor Constantine...

What is represented by this daughter of women?

In prophecy, “a woman” represents the church (bride of the Bridegroom, Christ). When the Roman power made the church a state church (the daughter, v17), it was corrupted and became the Roman Catholic Church.

v18 – What does it mean the King of the North turns his face to the coastlands?

This can be explained by the colonial period of the Western Nations that came from the Old Roman Empire.

What is the ruler who turns his back on the King of the North, or the ruler of Western Civilization?

I believe this reflects the rise of the 10-king oligarchy that rules the world. The conventional wisdom will be that Western Civilization got wealthy not through the blessings of God but by oppressing people... this 10-king oligarchy will set out to correct this systematic imbalance and nations of Western Civilization will suffer.

v19 – What does this verse have to say about the future of nationalism?

It will fail... the spirit of the age is collectivism, also known as globalism. Unless you are on board with the vision to build the world's community of nations into a socialist utopia, you will fall.

Rise of Antichrist, Dan 11:20-24

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. ²¹ And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. ²² With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. ²³ And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. ²⁴ He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.

v20 – What is the glorious kingdom?

This has to be Israel, the mother of the Messiah and promised nation from where Messiah will rule the world.

Who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom?

- This certainly could be Rome and the events described here could be Rome fighting against some un-named King of the South but it really doesn't fit history because it leads up to a reference to the "abomination of desolation" (Daniel 11:31).
- Or this could still be talking about events prior to Rome during the Grecian Empire and the "abomination of desolation" is a reference to the act committed by Antiochus Epiphanes but Jesus' Olivet Discourse referred to this event as in the future so...
- This has to be yet future when a new global empire raises taxes on all nations including Israel... so, let's assume that and see how it meshes with the rest of Scripture...

v20-21 – If the Antichrist is this raiser of taxes, how is he replaced with a vile person?

Revelation 13:1,3 – *I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns... I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.*

The raiser of taxes is different from the 10 regional kings who precedes him because he has the power to tax. He rules only a short while before he is mortally wounded by a sword...

Revelation 13:14 – [The False Prophet tells] *those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived*

The Antichrist miraculously recovers to become the vile person of Daniel 11 who will go on to rule even more ruthlessly.

- The description of "vile person" perfectly describes the Antichrist possessed by Satan himself.

The sword wound is also foretold in Zechariah which makes it clear that his "resurrection" will be a bit short of a glorified body...

Zechariah 11:17 – *"Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; his arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded."*

v21 – How will this vile person come to power?

Not give the honor of royalty – The Antichrist will not be a king which often involves the sanctioning of God but has to settle for being a dictator instead.

He shall come in peaceably – He doesn't assume power via a coup or by assassinating his boss, he comes to power by political (and probably democratic means) being appointed by the 10 rulers who preceded him...

Revelation 17:12-13 – *The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.*

Seize the kingdom by intrigue – The KJV says, *obtain the kingdom by flatteries* – There will be some deception involved in the Antichrist coming to power... indeed, this is the stock and trade of politicians, saying what people want to hear in order to gain power. The Antichrist will be a consummate politician.

v22 – Who will be swept away before him?

The Antichrist will be invincible...

Rev 13:4 – *they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

v22-23 – Who is the prince of the covenant who is also swept away?

Probably the leader of Israel who is the benefactor of the peace covenant that the Antichrist confirms with the many (Daniel 9:27). The Antichrist breaks the covenant at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

How is it the Antichrist will be strong with a small number of people?

He has the help of Satan and his minions so he doesn't need a lot of people to follow him.

How can an evil minority exert its will over a majority of people?

- That is how evil can flourish... if righteous people do not stand up against it.
- British statesman Edmund Burke, "Evil will triumph when good men do nothing." ...biblical principle:
Ephesians 5:11 – *have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them*

How can the righteous expose the unfruitful works of darkness?

Remind people what the Bible says. Indeed, we are obligated to do this...

Ezekiel 3:18-19 – *When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.*

What is the application of our obligation to warn the wicked in the here and now?

We need to help others see their need to embrace God's provision for salvation before its too late.

v24 – What will the Antichrist do?

- Enter Israel peacefully, disperse plunder, spoil, riches and make war plans
- This spreading the wealth around that he has taken is what socialism does.

What does it mean he will do what his fathers have not done?

- If the Antichrist is a Muslim, he will not be a "good" Muslim.
- If the Antichrist is a secular humanist, he will demonstrate his religiosity.

Rise of Antichrist, Dan 11:25-28

²⁵ *"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 devise plans against him. ²⁶ Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept*

away, and many shall fall down slain. ²⁷ Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. ²⁸ While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.

v25-27 – Who is this opposing the Antichrist?

The king of the South... maybe one of the 10 kings of which three are subdued by him

Daniel 7:7-8 – *It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots.*

This King of the South who opposes the Antichrist, does that mean he is a good guy?

No, he is just after power and thinks he can defeat the Antichrist; per verse 27, "*Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil.*"

v28 – What does the King of the North (Antichrist) do?

He returns to his homeland North of Israel with spoil from defeating the King of the South. While he goes through Israel, he takes advantage of the opportunity to do damage there.

Why would the Antichrist do damage to Israel just passing through?

He hates the Jews and...

Matthew 7:17 – *every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit*

As Jesus said of the Pharisees,

John 8:44 – *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning*

Murder and destruction are what Satan and the Antichrist do. Indeed, Satan is called Apollyon, or Destroyer in Revelation 9:11.

So, what are the lessons learned that stand out from this passage of Scripture?

- God indeed declares the end from the beginning in great detail.
- We are seeing increasing foreshadows of the spirit of Antichrist in our day.
- You don't want to find yourself on the wrong side of history... get on God's side before it is too late.