

# EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ  
Spring 2022-2023

## PART 6, SECTION 5 — DANIEL'S VISION OF A GREAT WAR, PART 2

**DANIEL 11** — *Date:* 537 BC — Daniel received this vision in "the third year of Cyrus king of Persia" (10:1)

### Key Questions

- Where is God in these events being prophesied?
- Why did God bother to send a messenger to give Daniel (and the Jews) this prophecy?

### Prophecy & Fulfillment

*This analysis of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel 11 is adapted from Mark Mangano, Esther and Daniel, The College Press NIV Commentary (College Press, 2001), pages 289-301. Some details also come from The NIV Archaeological Study Bible (Zondervan, 2005), pages 1399 and 1405-1408.*

### **THE PERSIAN & GREEK EMPIRES — 537-323 BC**

**11:2** — The current king of Persia was Cyrus (539-530), who had conquered the Babylonian Empire. The next 3 Persian kings were Cambyses (530-522), Gaumata (522), and Darius I Hystaspes (522-486). The fourth king after Cyrus was Xerxes I (486-465), who invaded Greece in 480 and burned Athens, but was soon driven out of Greece.

**11:3-4** — By 330, 150 years after Xerxes invaded Greece, the Greek Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire. His new Greek Empire only lasted 7 years, though; he died suddenly in 323, and over the next several years his empire was divided up among 4 of his generals. None of his descendants ruled any of the 4 resultant nations, nor were those nations ever as powerful as the brief Greek Empire had been.

### **CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH — 323-170 BC**

- the South = Egypt, ruled by the family of Ptolemy
- the North = Syria, ruled by the family of Seleucus

**11:5** — "The South" and "the North" in Daniel 11 refer to 2 parts of Alexander's broken empire: Egypt, ruled by the family of Ptolemy, and Syria, ruled by the family of Seleucus. Ptolemy I took control of Egypt and reigned 322-285. Seleucus I initially supported Ptolemy, but (with Ptolemy's help) took control of Syria and became stronger than Ptolemy.

**11:6** — About 250, Ptolemy II (285-246) tried to form an alliance with the Seleucids by marrying his daughter, Berenice, to their king, Antiochus II. But their marriage failed after 2 years, and both Antiochus and Berenice were killed by Antiochus's first wife.

**11:7-9** — Ptolemy III (246-221), after becoming king, avenged his sister Berenice's death by invading Syria, where he briefly captured the capital, Antioch, and plundered it. In 242, Seleucus II invaded Egypt, but the invasion failed and he had to retreat.

**11:10** — The next 2 kings of the North were Seleucus III (226-223) and Antiochus III (223-187). In 219, Antiochus captured some Egyptian territory, including Seleucia, a fortified port on the Mediterranean Sea.

**11:11-12** — In 217, Ptolemy IV (221-203) attacked Northern forces, killing 10-14 thousand men in one battle.

**11:13** — 14 years later, Antiochus III again invaded Egyptian territory.

**11:14** — When Ptolemy IV died, his son Ptolemy V (203-181) was still a baby. The nation was ruled by a chief minister, who ruled oppressively, sparking insurrection. He was eventually assassinated.

**11:15** — Antiochus III invaded the South again and captured the fortified city of Sidon in 198.

- 11:16** — Antiochus III took control of the Jewish homeland during this time. Egypt (the Ptolemies) had ruled Palestine from 323-200 BC. Now the Seleucids controlled it.
- 11:17** — Antiochus III hoped to undermine Egypt by marrying his daughter Cleopatra (ancestor of the famous, first century BC Egyptian queen by the same name) to Ptolemy V. But Cleopatra supported her husband, who allied himself with the rising power of Rome.
- 11:18** — Antiochus III attacked Macedon, Thrace, and Greece, but was defeated by the Romans in 191 and 190. He became a vassal to Rome, and his younger son Antiochus IV was taken to Rome as a hostage.
- 11:19** — Antiochus III returned to Syria and was assassinated in 187.
- 11:20** — The next king of the Seleucid kingdom was Seleucus IV (187-175). To collect the funds to pay tribute to Rome, he appointed a finance minister. But Seleucus's younger brother, Antiochus IV, plotted against him and had him assassinated.

#### **ANTIOCHUS IV EPHIPHANES (175-164 BC)**

- 11:21** — Antiochus IV took sole control of the Seleucid kingdom in 170 BC, though he was not the rightful king.
- 11:22-24** — The "prince of the covenant" is the high priest, Onias III. The Seleucids deposed him in 175 BC, replacing him with his brother, Jason, who had bribed Antiochus IV and supported Antiochus's goal of imposing Greek culture on the Jews.
- 11:25-26** — In 170 BC, an Egyptian army attempted to recapture Palestine (the homeland of the Jews). Antiochus IV defeated that army and took control of much of Egypt. It is possible that the Southern king failed because one of his border fortresses was betrayed to the Seleucids, or because of duplicitous counsel given by his advisors.
- 11:27** — Antiochus IV and Ptolemy VI began to work together to reclaim Egypt from Ptolemy VII (brother of Ptolemy VI), but they failed.
- 11:28** — In 169, Antiochus IV visited Jerusalem. He entered the temple sanctuary and plundered many of its holy things and treasures.
- 11:29-30a** — Antiochus IV again invaded Egypt, in 168. But a Roman legate stopped him and ordered him to leave Egypt. Antiochus returned to Judea.
- 11:30b-31** — Antiochus IV heard about a revolt in Jerusalem and went there to end it. In the process of putting it down, he ordered a slaughter that took 40,000 lives in Jerusalem, including most of the men; another 40,000 people were captured and sold into slavery. Antiochus also ended the daily sacrifices at the temple and set up an altar to his god, Zeus, on the Lord's altar of burnt offering. A pig was offered on that altar on December 25, 167 BC; this was the "abomination that causes desolation."
- 11:32** — "Those who have violated the covenant" refers to the newest high priest, Menelaus, and his followers, who sided with Antiochus IV.
- 11:33-34** — The Jews rebelled against Antiochus IV, led by Mattathias and his 5 sons, particularly Judas Maccabeus.
- 11:35** — "The persecution has its purpose in God's plan ('that they may be refined, purified, and made spotless')" (Mangano, page 299). After a war of about 3 years, the Jews were victorious, and the Maccabees began to rule Judah (they ruled until the Romans took control of the region in the 60s BC). Hanukkah celebrates their triumph and the restoration of the daily sacrifices at the newly-purified temple.
- 11:36-39** — These verses describe Antiochus IV's character during this time. He called himself "Epiphanes," which means "manifest," as in "God manifest." On his coins, he called himself "God." He despised and plundered God's temple in Jerusalem. He replaced Apollo with Zeus as the official god of his family and nation. "The one desired by women" might be an Egyptian goddess like Adonis or Dionysus whom Antiochus offended. He was successful for a time—but only for the short time permitted by God.
- 11:40-45** — This is a summary of Antiochus IV's conflicts with Egypt and the Jews. Shortly after losing his war with the Jews, Antiochus heard reports of trouble with the Parthians in the northeast. He died in Persia shortly thereafter, in 164 BC.