

Bible Study – Daniel

Week 14 – Chapter 11b

I. Daniel 11:21-24

²¹“In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue. ²²“The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant. ²³“After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small *force of people*. ²⁴“In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest *parts* of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but *only* for a time.

- a. Vs 21-35 describe Antiochus IV Epiphanes
- b. He referred to himself as Epiphanes – “Manifest One” or “Illustrious One” but others called him Epimanes – “Madman”
- c. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was not the successor to the throne, Demetrius I Soter (son of Seleucus IV) was, but he was being held hostage in Rome.
- d. Epiphanes came to Syria during a peaceful and “secure” period. He was able to take over by influencing key political people.
- e. Ptolemy VI Philometor attacked the Syrians with a large army but failed. Ptolemy VI was captured and held hostage. He is called “the prince of the covenant” because he made a deal with Antiochus IV to help him regain the throne which was seized by his brother, Ptolemy VII. Antiochus IV agreed because he thought it would give him a foothold in Egypt.
- f. Ptolemy VI regained the throne in Egypt but broke his covenant with Syria when he allied back with his brother Ptolemy VII in order to drive Syrian troops from Pelusium, a fortress on the Egyptian border.
- g. Antiochus IV invaded the rich regions, plundered them, and divided the loot among his followers, not the people.
- h. Antiochus IV was allowed to reign for a while by God, but not beyond His timeframe.

II. Daniel 11:25-28

²⁵“He will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him. ²⁶“Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain. ²⁷“As for both kings, their hearts will be *intent* on

evil, and they will speak lies *to each other* at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still *to come* at the appointed time. ²⁸“Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be *set* against the holy covenant, and he will take action and *then* return to his *own* land.

- a. Vs. 25 refers back to the conquest that is described in vs 22.
- b. “Those who eat his choice food” refers to Ptolemy’s counselors who urged him to attack Syria and Palestine.
- c. Customary to the time, it was very despicable to speak lies at the table. When a table was offered in hospitality, it was viewed as being extremely low to practice deception.
- d. As Antiochus IV returned home after this campaign, he went through Palestine, where there was a revolt underway. He put down the revolt and punished the Jewish people by killing thousands.

III. Daniel 11:29-30

²⁹“At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. ³⁰“For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

- a. In 168BC, Antiochus IV attacked Egypt again, but was unsuccessful
- b. Kittim is an ancient name for Cyprus (Roman Empire).
- c. Antiochus was met by a Roman general outside of Alexandria. The general gave Antiochus a letter that said if he proceeded to attack, he would be at war with Rome. The general then drew a circle around Antiochus with his sword and told him that he had until he stepped outside of the circle to come to a decision.
- d. Antiochus left humiliated and went back home.
- e. To pay for his war, in 167BC, Antiochus IV sent Apollonius, his chief tax collector, to Jerusalem. At first, Apollonius pretended to come in peace, then he attacked the Jews on the Sabbath day, plundering the city.

IV. Daniel 11:31-35

³¹“Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. ³²“By smooth *words* he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. ³³“Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for *many* days. ³⁴“Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. ³⁵“Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because *it is still to come* at the appointed time.

- a. The “fortress” is the Temple.
- b. All Jewish religious practices were forbidden on penalty of death.

- c. The abomination of desolation occurred when a statue of Zeus was set up in the Temple. Also, after that a sacrifice of swine was likely offered in the temple.
- d. Despite his “smooth words” many of the Jews held to their beliefs and wouldn’t do anything unclean.
- e. The revolt is detailed in the Maccabees. This is an extra-Biblical book. It may have some historical accuracies, but it is not an inspired work.
- f. The purpose of this oppression of the Jews was to cleanse them and make them pure.
- g. Antiochus died in 163BC, ending his reign of terror. He evidently died insane.

V. Daniel 11:36-45

³⁶“Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. ³⁷“He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all. ³⁸“But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor *him* with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. ³⁹“He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with *the help* of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him* and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price. ⁴⁰“At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow *them* and pass through. ⁴¹“He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many *countries* will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. ⁴²“Then he will stretch out his hand against *other* countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. ⁴³“But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians *will follow* at his heels. ⁴⁴“But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵“He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

- a. There are two distinct views over who is being discussed starting in vs. 36.
 - a. Some scholars maintain that this is still speaking of Antiochus. Some problems exist with this view.
 - i. It says that this will take place at the “time of the end”, “the time of distress”
 - ii. He worshiped Zeus, a known figure of the day
 - iii. He will be present during the resurrection of the saints
 - b. Other scholars view this passage as being eschatological and referring to the Antichrist, the “little horn”.
- b. The Antichrist may be an atheist given the behavior that is described. Though, somehow, he uses religion to come to power.
- c. He will be blasphemous against God

- d. He will not honor any of the gods or God of his ancestors, instead, he will favor only military might.
- e. He will increase the size of his army through using “gold, silver, costly stones, treasures...”
- f. Using his great army, he will destroy anyone who opposes him. He will reward those who support him, and increase his power over them.
- g. Unlike previous verses, there is nothing here that limits the use of the word “end”. Therefore, it could be referring to the end of all things.
- h. Three characters are described here, the King of the North, King of the South, and the Antichrist.
- i. The Antichrist will be the focus of many wars in the last days. He is successful with some, and others not. His final headquarters will be in the beautiful land.
- j. Revelation describes this final battle. It will happen at Megiddo. The Lord will descend from Heaven and put an end to the Antichrist.

VI. Significance

- a. Daniel was written before any of the events in chapter 11 actually transpired.
- b. The words in chapter 11 were delivered by an Angel to Daniel so he would have knowledge of God’s plan for the Jews and the rest of the world.
- c. Having foreknowledge of the future is an excellent proof for apologetics that the Bible is the inspired work of God and that every claim it makes is true.