

DANIEL 11 | Antiochus IV Epiphanies and the Antimesiah!

1 And as for me,² in the first year [539 bc] of Darius [Gobyras] the Mede, I [Gabriel] stood up to confirm and strengthen him [Darius] (עָמַדְתִּי לְמַחֲזִיק וּלְמַעֲזִיז לְוִי).³

Alexander the Great

2 And now I [Gabriel] will reveal truth to you [Daniel] (וְעַתָּה אֶמְתֵּן אֱמֻנָה לְךָ).⁴ Behold, three more kings [Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis, Darius I Hystaspes] will arise in Persia,⁵ and a fourth [Ahasuerus/Xerxes]⁶ will be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he will stir up all against the kingdom of Greece (וְעָמַד מְלֶכֶת גְּבוּרָה יִנְוֶה הַפֶּלֶא אֶת מְלְכוּת יוֹן).⁷ 3 Then a mighty king [Alexander the Great] will arise (וְעָמַד מְלֶכֶת גְּבוּרָה) who will rule with great dominion (וּמְשָׁל מִמְּשָׁל רַב) and do as he pleases (וְעָשָׂה כְּרָצוֹנוֹ).⁸ 4 And when he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken (וּבְעָמְדוֹ תִּשְׁבֵּר מְלְכוּתוֹ), and it will be divided to the four⁹ winds of heaven (וְתִתְּחַץ לְאַרְבַּע רוּחוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם), but not to his posterity (וְלֹא לְאַחֲרֵיתוֹ), nor according to the authority with which he ruled (וְלֹא כְּמִשְׁלוֹ אֲשֶׁר מִשָּׁל), for his kingdom will be plucked up (כִּי תִנְתָּשׁ מְלְכוּתוֹ) and go to others besides these (וְלְאַחֲרֵים מִלְּבַד־אֵלֶּה).

¹ Daniel 10-12 is one unit, one vision. It involves great conflict (Da 10:1) and is Israel-focused (Da 10:14).

² Da 10-12 is a unit and must be read together.

³ This verse should be in ch. 10. The good fortune the Jews are now experiencing is the result of successful angelic warfare and the strengthening of Darius, which happened two years before this vision.

⁴ Contra postmodernism, truth does exist, and we can confidently know the truth.

⁵ Again *Daniel* cycles back through the empires introduced in Da 2. This vision focuses on the second, third, and fourth empires. The first (Babylon) has already passed. Daniel has seen for himself the passing of the first empire to the second, so he can be sure the rest of the empires will come about.

⁶ See Es 1:1. Possibly this is Artaxerxes (Ne 2:1).

⁷ Xerxes attacked Greece in 480 bc with a huge army, estimated by Herodotus at one million men, but he suffered defeats by sea at Salamis and on land at Plataea.

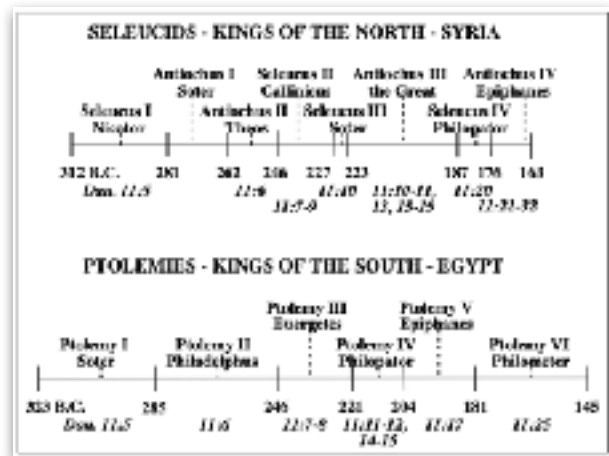
⁸ Cf. Da 2:32, 39; 7:6; 8:5-8, 21. Alexander defeated the Persians at the Granicus river (334 bc) and Gaugamela (331 bc). It took him only five years to conquer the ancient near east (334-30 bc). He died at the age of 32 in Babylon in 323 bc. His two sons were murdered as boys, so there was no descendant to take his place.

⁹ In 301 bc, 22 years after Alexander's death (323 bc), the Grecian empire was divided among Alexander's four generals (cf. Da 8:22). Cassander ruled Macedonia and Greece; Lysimachus ruled Thrace and Asia Minor; Seleucus I Nicator ruled Syria and Israel; and Ptolemy I Soter ruled Egypt. Only Ptolemaic Egypt and Seleucid Syria relate to Israel. That's why they get the attention of Gabriel and Daniel. Both the Ptolemies and Seleucids wanted control of the land between them.

The Ptolemies of Egypt Prevail

5 Then the king of the south [Ptolemy I Soter]¹⁰ will be strong (וַיִּתְּזַק מֶלֶךְ־הַיָּבֵיט), but one of his princes [Ptolemy II Philadelphus or Seleucus I Nicator]¹¹ will be stronger than he and rule, and his authority will be a great authority (וּמִשָּׁל מִמְּשָׁל רַב מְמִשְׁלָתוֹ).¹² 6 After some years they will make an alliance (וַיִּתְחַבְּרוּ שְׁנַיִם יְתִחַבְּרוּ), and the daughter of the king of the south will come to the king of the north [Antiochus II Theos]¹³ to make agreements (לַעֲשׂוֹת מִישָׁרִים). But she will not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his arm will not endure, but she will be given up, and her seed (וְלֹא יַעֲמֹד וְזַרְעוֹ), he who fathered her, and he who supported/obtained her in those times (וְהַיִּלְדָּה הִיא וּמְבִיאֶיהָ וְהַיִּלְדָּה).¹⁴

7 And from a branch from her roots one [Ptolemy III Euergetes]¹⁵ will arise in his place (וַעֲמֵד מִנְצָר שְׂרָשֵׁיהָ בְּנֹו). He will come against the army (וַיָּבֵא אֶל־הַחַיִל) and enter the fortress of the king of the north (וַיָּבֵא וַיַּעֲזֹז מֶלֶךְ הַצָּפוֹן) [Seleucus II Callinicus],¹⁶ and he will deal with them and will prevail (וַיַּעֲשֶׂה בָהֶם וְהִתְחַזַּק). 8 He will also carry off to their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold to Egypt (וְגַם אֶל־הֵיחָם עִם־נְסֻכֵיהֶם עִם־כְּלֵי חֲמָדָתָם) (בְּכֶסֶף וְזָהָב בְּשִׁבְי יָבֵא מִצָּרִים), and he for some years will refrain from attacking the king of the north (וְהוּא שְׁנַיִם יַעֲמֹד מִמֶּלֶךְ הַצָּפוֹן). 9 Then the latter [Seleucus II Callinicus] will come into the realm of the king of the south (וַיָּבֵא אֶל־אֲדָמָתוֹ), but will return to his own land (וַיָּבֵא בְּמַלְכוּת מֶלֶךְ הַיָּבֵיט).



From Thomas Constable, “Notes on Daniel”

¹⁰ Ptolemy I Soter ruled Egypt from 323 to 285 bc. He proclaimed himself king in 304 bc. His dynasty ruled Egypt until 30 bc.

¹¹ Seleucus I Nicator was one of Alexander’s best generals. After Alexander’s death, Ptolemy I Soter helped Seleucus retain power over Syria, so in a sense he was Ptolemy’s “prince.” Seleucus’s dynasty lasted until 64 bc.

¹² Ptolemy II Philadelphus ruled from 285-46 bc. He was friendly toward the Jewish people and sponsored a translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek, the Septuagint.

¹³ Antiochus II Theos ruled from 262-46 bc. He was the third Seleucid king.

¹⁴ Ptolemy II Philadelphus and Antiochus II Theos were bitter enemies, but they entered an alliance around 250 bc, sealed with the marriage of Ptolemy’s daughter, Berenice, to Antiochus. When Ptolemy died in 246 bc, Antiochus took back his first wife, Laodice, whom Antiochus had divorced in order to marry Berenice. Laodice had Berenice and her infant son by Antiochus murdered. She also poisoned Antiochus and briefly ruled in his place. Her son, Seleucus II then became king in 246 bc. Berenice is the woman referred to in this verse. Laodice is the woman for whom the town of Laodicea in Asia Minor was named (Re 3:14). The towns of Antioch, in Syria and in Asia Minor, received their names from Antiochus II Theos. Antioch of Syria was the capital of Syria during the Seleucid dynasty.

¹⁵ Ptolemy III Euergetes ruled from 245-21 bc. He was the third Ptolemaic king.

¹⁶ Seleucus II Callinicus ruled from 246-26 bc. He was the fourth Seleucid king.

The Seleucids of Syria Prevail

10 His sons [Seleucus III Ceraunus¹⁷ and Antiochus III the Great¹⁸] will wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces (וּבְנוּ יִתְגַּדְּרוּ וְאָסְפוּ הַמִּזְוֹן תְּחִלָּים רַבִּים), and they will keep coming, overflow, and pass through (וַיָּבֹא בּוֹא וְשֹׁטֵף וְעָבַר) and again will battle as far as his stronghold (וַיִּשָׁב וַיִּתְגַּדְּרוּ עַד-מַעֲזָה). 11 Then, moved with rage, the king of the south (וְהַעֲמִיד הַמֶּלֶךְ הַדָּבָר) [Ptolemy IV Philopator]¹⁹ will come out and fight against the king of the north [Antiochus III the Great]. And he will raise a great multitude (וְהַעֲמִיד הַמֶּלֶךְ הַדָּבָר), but it will be given into his hand (וַיִּתֵּן הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּיָדוֹ). 12 And when the multitude is taken away, his heart will be exalted (וַיִּשָׂא הַהֶמְוֹן יָרִים לְבָבוֹ), and he will cast down many (וְהִפִּיל) (רַבָּאוֹת), but he will not prevail (וְלֹא יַעֲזֹז). 13 For the king of the north [Antiochus III the Great] will again raise a multitude, greater than the first (וְהַעֲמִיד הַמֶּלֶךְ הַדָּבָר) (מִן-הַרְאֵשׁוֹן). And after some years (וַיִּלְחֹץ הָעֵתִים שָׁנִים) he will come on with a great army and abundant supplies (יָבֹא בּוֹא בְּתַיִל גָּדוֹל וּבְרַכּוּשׁ רַב).

14 In those times many will arise against the king of the south (וּבְעֵתִים הַהֵם רַבִּים יַעֲמְדוּ) [Ptolemy V Epiphanes]²⁰, and sons of violence/lawlessness among your own people [Israel] will lift themselves up [in alliance against the Ptolemies] in order to fulfil the vision, but they will fail (וּבְגֵנוּ פְּרִיצֵי עִמָּךְ יִשְׁאָצוּ לְהַעֲמִיד חֲזוֹן וְנִכְשְׁלוּ). 15 Then the king of the north [Antiochus III the Great] will come, throw up siegeworks (וַיִּשְׁפֹּךְ) (סוּלָלָה), and take a well-fortified city (וְלָקַד עִיר מְבֻצָּרוֹת). And the forces of the south will not stand (וְזִרְעוֹת הַגָּבֹל לֹא יַעֲמְדוּ), even his best troops (וְעַם מְבַתְּרָיו), for there will be no strength to stand (וְאֵין כֹּחַ לַעֲמֹד). 16 But he who comes against him [Antiochus III the Great] will do as he desires (וַיַּעַשׂ הַבּוֹא אֵלָיו כְּרָצוֹנוֹ), and none will stand before him (וְאֵין) (עוֹמֵד לְפָנָיו). And he [Antiochus III the Great] will stand in the glorious land [of Israel] (וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּאַרְצֵי-הַצִּבְיָה)²¹ with destruction in his hand (וְכָלָה בְּיָדוֹ). 17 He will set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom (וַיִּשָׂם פָּנָיו לְבֹא בְּתַקְוָה כָּל-מַלְכוּתוֹ), and he will bring terms of an agreement and perform them (וַיִּשְׁרִים עִמּוֹ וַעֲשָׂה) [?]. He will give him [Ptolemy V Epiphanes] the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom (וַיִּשְׁרִים עִמּוֹ וַעֲשָׂה) (וְלֹא תַעֲמֹד וְלֹא-לוֹ), but it will not stand or be to his advantage (וְגַבַּת הַנְּשִׂים יִסּוּדֵן-לוֹ לְהַשְׁחִיתָהּ). 18 Afterward he [Antiochus III the Great] will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many of them (וַיִּשָׁב פָּנָיו לְאֵיִם וְלָקַד רַבִּים), but a commander will put an end to his insolence (וְהַשְׁפִּית קִצְיוֹן הַרְפָּתוֹ לוֹ). Indeed, he will turn his insolence back upon him (בְּלִתִּי בְּתָתִי). 19 Then he will turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land (וַיִּשָׁב פָּנָיו לְמַעוֲזֵי אֲרָצוֹ), but he [Antiochus III the Great] will stumble and fall, and will not be found (וְנִכְשַׁל וְנָפַל וְלֹא יִמָּצֵא).

¹⁷ Seleucus III Ceraunus ruled from 226-23 bc. He was the fifth Seleucid king.

¹⁸ Antiochus III the Great ruled from 223-187 bc. He was the sixth Seleucid king.

¹⁹ Ptolemy IV Philopator ruled from 221-203 bc. He was the fourth Ptolemaic king.

²⁰ Ptolemy V Epiphanes ruled from 203-181 bc. He was the fifth Ptolemaic king.

²¹ Lit., the land of ornament/splendour/decoration (*HALOT*, 996).

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

20 Then will arise in his place one [Seleucus IV Philopator²²] who will send an exactor of tribute for the glory of the kingdom (וְעָמַד עַל־כַּנּוֹ מֵעֵבֶיר נוֹגֵשׁ הַדָּר מַלְכוּת). But within a few days he will be broken, neither in anger nor in battle (וּבְיָמִים אֲחָדִים יִשָּׁבֵר וְלֹא בְאַפִּים) (וְלֹא בְמַלְחָמָה). 21 In his place will arise a contemptible person (וְעָמַד עַל־כַּנּוֹ נְבִיזָה) [Antiochus IV Epiphanes]²³ to whom royal majesty has not been given (וְלֹא־נִתְּנָה עָלָיו הַדָּוָה) (מַלְכוּת). He will come in without warning (וַיָּבֵא בְשֵׁלֶוֹה) and obtain the kingdom by flatteries (וְהִתְחַזְּקָה מַלְכוּת בְּחַלְקָהּ לְקוֹחַ). 22 Armies will be utterly swept away before him (וַיִּזְרְעוּת הַשָּׁטָף יִשְׁטָפוּ מִלְּפָנָיו) and they will be broken, even the prince of the covenant (וַיִּשָּׁבְרוּ וְגַם נָגִיד בְּרִית) (וַיַּעֲשֶׂה מְרָמָה) 23 And from the time that an alliance is made with him (וּמִן־הַתְּחַבְּרוֹת אֲלָיו) he will act deceitfully (וְעָלָה וְעַצָּם בְּמַעֲט־גֹיִם) and he will become strong with a small people (וְעָלָה וְעַצָּם בְּמַעֲט־גֹיִם). 24 Without warning he will come into the richest parts of the province (בְּשֵׁלֶוֹה וּבְמִשְׁמַנֵּי מְדִינָה יְבוּאָה) and he will do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done (וְעָשָׂה אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָשׂוּ אֲבֹתָיו וְאֲבֹתֹת אֲבֹתָיו) scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods (בְּגֵזָה וְשָׁלַל וְרָכוּשׁ לָהֶם יְבוֹרֵר). He will devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time (וְעָלָה מִבְּצָרִים יַחֲשֹׁב מִחֲשַׁבְתָּיו וְעַד־עֵת). 25 And he will stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south [Ptolemy VI Philometor]²⁴ with a great army (וַיַּעֲרֹ כַּחוֹ וְלָבָו עַל־מֶלֶךְ הַנְּגִבִּי בְּחֵיל גָּדוֹל) and the king of the south will wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army (וּמֶלֶךְ הַנְּגִבִּי יִתְגַּרֵּר לְמַלְחָמָה בְּחֵיל־גָּדוֹל וְעַצּוֹם) (עַד־מְאֹד) but he will not stand, for plots will be devised against him (וְלֹא יַעֲמֵד כִּי־יַחֲשֹׁבוּ) (עָלָיו מִחֲשַׁבְוֹת). 26 Even those who eat his [royal] food will break him (וְאֹכְלֵי פֶת־בָּנָיו) (וְחִילָיו יִשְׁטוּפוּ) and many will fall down slain (וַיִּשָּׁבְרוּהוּ). His army will be swept away (וְחִילָיו יִשְׁטוּפוּ) and many will fall down slain (וַיִּשָּׁבְרוּהוּ). 27 And as for the two kings [Antiochus IV Epiphanes and Ptolemy VI Philometor], their hearts will be bent on doing evil/wickedness/outrage (וּשְׁנֵיהֶם הִמְלִיכִים) (לְבָבָם לְמַרְעֵ). They will speak lies at the same table (וְעַל־שֻׁלְחָן אֶחָד כָּזָב יִדְבְּרוּ) but to no avail (וְלֹא תִצְלַח) (כִּי־עוֹד קָץ לְמוֹעֵד). 28 And he [Antiochus IV Epiphanes] will return to his land [Seleucia] with great wealth (וַיָּשֹׁב אֶרְצוֹ) (וְיִלָּכְבוּ עַל־בְּרִית קְדֹשׁ) and his heart will be set against the holy covenant (וְעָשָׂה וְשָׁב לְאֶרְצוֹ).

²² Seleucus IV Philopator ruled from 187-175 bc. He was the seventh Seleucid king.

²³ Antiochus IV Epiphanes ruled from 175-163 bc as the eighth Seleucid king. He was the younger son of Antiochus III the Great. He is the “little horn” of Da 8. **Da 8:9-14** 9 Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land [Israel]. 10 It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. 11 It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. 12 And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot? 14 And he said to me, For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state. **Da 8:23-25** 23 And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. 24 His power shall be great—but not by his own power. And he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. 25 By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

²⁴ Ptolemy VI Philometor ruled from 181-45 bc. He was the sixth Ptolemaic king.

29 At the time appointed he [Antiochus IV Epiphanes] will return and come into the south (לְמוֹעֵד וָשׁוּב וְבָא בְּגֵב), but it will not be the second time as it was the first time (וְלֹא־תִהְיֶה כְּרִאשׁוֹנָה וְכַאֲחֻרְיָהּ). 30 For ships of Kittim [Rome]²⁵ will come against him (וְבָאוּ וְזָרְעִים מִמִּגְדוֹ וְחִלְדָּו), and he will withdraw in fear, turn back, hurl curses, and act against the holy covenant (וְנִכְאָה וְשָׁב וְנָעַם עַל־בְּרִית־קֹדֶשׁ וְעָשָׂה). He will turn back and pay attention/give heed to those who abandon the holy covenant (וְשָׁב וְנָבִיז עַל־עַזְבֵי בְרִית קֹדֶשׁ). 31 Forces from him will appear and profane the temple-fortress/stronghold (וְזָרְעִים מִמִּגְדוֹ יַעֲמִדוּ וְחִלְדָּו), remove/abolish the regular offering (וְהִסִּירוּ הַתְּמִיד), and set up the abomination/abhorrence/object of horror that desolates/destroys (וְנִתְּנָה הַשְּׂקוּיָן מְשׁוּמָם). 32 Those who make themselves guilty over the covenant he will ruin/seduce with smooth words (וּמְרַשְׁיָעֵי בְרִית יַחֲסִיפוּ בְּחִלְקוֹת),²⁶ but the people who know their God will stand firm/be strong/prevail and take action (וְעַם יָדְעֵי אֱלֹהֵי יַחֲזִקוּ וְעָשׂוּ). 33 And the wise/understanding/insightful among the people will make many understand/explain/teach (וּמְשֻׁכְּלֵי לֵב יַעֲזִיבוּ לְרַבִּים), though for some days they will stumble/stagger/fall/collapse by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder (וְנִכְשְׁלוּ בְּחֶרֶב וּבְלִהְבָה בְּשָׂבִי וּבַבְּזָה יָמִים). 34 When they stumble, they will receive a little help/assistance (וּבְהִכְשָׁלָם יַעֲזֹרוּ עִזָּר מְעַט). And many will join themselves to them with smoothness/intrigues/hypocrisy (וְנִלְווּ וְעָלִיָּהֶם רַבִּים בְּחִלְקִלְקוֹת),³⁵ and some of the wise/understanding/insightful will stumble/stagger/fall/collapse (וּמִן־הַמְשֻׁכְּלִים יִכְשְׁלוּ), in order that they may be refined/smelted, sifted/sorted out and whitened/cleansed until the time of the end (לְצַרְרוֹת בָּהֶם וּלְבַרֵךְ וּלְלַבֵּן), for it still awaits the appointed time (כִּי־עוֹד לְמוֹעֵד עֹדֵת קוֹץ).

Antimesiah

36 And the king [the antimesiah]²⁷ will do as he desires (וְעָשָׂה כְּרִצּוֹנוֹ הַמְּלֶכֶד). He will exalt himself and magnify himself above every god (וְיִתְרַוֵּם וְיִתְגַּדֵּל עַל־כָּל־אֱלֹ), and against the God of gods he will speak astonishing things (וְעַל־אֱלֹ אֱלִים יִדְבַר נִכְלְאוֹת).²⁸ He will prosper until the indignation is accomplished (וְהִצְלִיחַ עַד־כְּלֵה וְעַם), for what is decreed will be done (כִּי נִחְרָצָה וְעָשְׂתָה). 37 He will pay no attention to the gods of his

²⁵ The fourth empire, Rome, now enters the picture. Rome prevents Antiochus IV Epiphanes from total control of the Middle East.

²⁶ **Mt 24:23-26** 23 If anyone says to you, Look, here is the Messiah! or There he is! do not believe it. 24 For false messiah and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, Look, he is in the wilderness, do not go out. If they say, Look, he is in the inner rooms, do not believe it.

²⁷ The referent very likely changes here from Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the type, to the antimesiah, the antitype.

²⁸ **2 Th 2:3-12** 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day [of the Lord Jesus] will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness [antimesiah] is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ... 8 Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power, false signs, and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. **Re 13:5-6** 5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

fathers (וְעַל־אֲלֹהֵי אֲבֹתָיו לֹא יִבְיֹן) or to the one beloved by women (וְעַל־הַמְּהַמָּת נָשִׁים). He will not pay attention to any other god (וְעַל־כָּל־אֱלֹהִים לֹא יִבְיֹן), for he will magnify himself above all (כִּי עַל־כָּל יִתְגַּדֵּל). 38 He will honour the god of fortresses instead of these (וְלֹא־לֹהֶם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעָהוּ אֲבֹתָיו וְכַבֵּד בְּזָהָב וּבְכֶסֶף) (מַעֲזִים עַל־כֵּנוּ וְכַבֵּד). A god whom his fathers did not know he will honour with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts (וּבְאֶבֶן וּבְקָרָה וּבְחַמְדוֹת וְעֵשֶׂה לְמִבְצָרֵי מַעֲזִים עִם־אֱלֹהִים גָּדוֹר). 39 He will deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god (אֲשֶׁר הַכִּיר יִרְבֶּה כְּבוֹד).²⁹ He will make them rulers over many and divide the land for a price (וְהַמְשִׁילֵם בְּרַבִּים וְאֲדָמָה יִחַלְקֵם בְּמַחִיר).³⁰

40 At the time of the end, the king of the south will attack him (וְבַעַת לְזֶמַּן יִתְנַבֵּחַ עִמּוֹ מֶלֶךְ), but the king of the north [the antimessiah] will rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and many ships (וַיִּשְׁתַּעֵר עָלָיו מֶלֶךְ הַצָּפוֹן בְּרֶכֶב וּבַפָּרָשִׁים וּבְאֵנָיוֹת) (הַנִּגְב).³¹ And he will come into lands, overflow, and pass through (וַיָּבֵא בְּאֶרְצוֹת וְשִׁטַּף וְעָבָר).³¹ 41 He will come into the glorious land [of Israel] (וּבֵא בְּאֶרֶץ הַצְּבִי), and many will fall (וַרְבוֹת יִפְשְׁלוּ). But these will be delivered out of his hand: Edom, Moab, and the main part of the Ammonites (וְאֵלֶּה יִמְלֹטוּ מִיָּדוֹ אֶדוֹם וּמוֹאָב וְרֵאשִׁית בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן).³² 42 He will stretch out his hand against lands (וַיִּשְׁלַח יָדוֹ בְּאֶרְצוֹת), and the land of Egypt will not escape (וְאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֹא תִתְּנֶה לְפִלְטָה). 43 He will become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt (וְיִשְׁלַח בְּמִכְמֵי הַזָּהָב וְהַכֶּסֶף וּבְכָל חַמְדוֹת מִצְרַיִם), and the Libyans and the Cushites will be in his footsteps (וְלִבְיָיִם וְכִשִּׁיִּים בְּמַצְעָדָיו).³³ 44 But reports from the east and north will alarm him (וַיִּשְׁמְעוֹת וּבִהְלָהוּ מִמִּזְרָח וּמִצָּפוֹן), and he will go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction (וַיֵּצֵא בְּחֵמָא גְדוֹלָה לְהַשְׁמִיד וְלַהַחֲרִים) (רַבִּים).³⁴ 45 And he will pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy

²⁹ Mt 4:9 9 Satan said to [Jesus], All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.

³⁰ Da 9:27 27 [The antimessiah] will make a strong/forceful covenant with many [Jews] for one week.

³¹ Re 13:3-4 3 One of [the beast's] heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marvelled as they followed the beast. 4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast saying, Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?

³² Because of their connection with Abraham (through Lot and Esau), a remnant from Moab, Ammon, and Edom will be spared from destruction by the antimessiah and enter the messianic kingdom. The remnant of Israel will take refuge in the land of Edom, Moab, and Ammon during the great tribulation.

³³ Re 13:7-8 7 Authority was given [the beast] over every tribe, people, language, and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it.

³⁴ This reminds of Adolf Hitler. Once Hitler acknowledged Nazi Germany would be defeated, he accelerated the killing of Jews. Probably Antiochus IV Epiphanes and Hitler were directly motivated by Satan. Da 7:23-25 23 As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth that shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them. He shall be different from the former ones and shall put down three kings. 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change the times and the law. And they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. Da 9:27 27 For half of the week [the prince who is to come] shall put an end to sacrifice and offering [in Jerusalem]. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate. Re 13:7 7 [The beast] was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.

mountain (וְיָטַע אֶהְלִי אֶפְדָּנוּ בֵּין יָמִים לְהַרְצִיבֵי־קֹדֶשׁ). Yet he will come to his end, with none to help him (וְכֹא עֲדִיקָיו וְאִין עֹזֵר לוֹ).³⁵

Overview

1. Daniel 11 is a play-by-play before the game even starts. It is a remarkable accurate prophecy. Da 11:2-35 concerns Messiah's first coming. Da 11:36-12:4 concerns his second coming.
2. It is the land and people of Israel that matter here.
 - a. Historically, the land of Israel was controlled by the Babylonians (586-39 bc), the Persians (539-323 bc), the Greeks (323-64 bc), including the Ptolemies of Egypt (323-204 bc), the Seleucids of Syria (204-165 bc), and the Hasmonean Jews (165-64 bc), and the Romans (64 bc-ad 136).
 - b. Most of this chapter is about the Seleucids and Ptolemies, two kingdoms of Greece.
3. Daniel 11:36-45 refers to the antimessiah, not to Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
4. The primary message is that before Messiah and his kingdom finally comes, things are going to be very difficult for the Jewish people.

Application

1. We are not be seduced by smooth words (v. 32).
2. We are to know our God, stand firm, and take action (v. 32).
3. We are to seek wisdom/understanding/insight and then explain it to/teach others (v. 33).
4. Even those with insight sometimes stumble (v. 33).

³⁵ **Da 2:44-45** 44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. **Da 7:21-22** 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. **Da 7:26-27** 26 The court shall sit in judgment, and [the horn's] dominion shall be taken away to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 And the kingdom, the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High. **Da 9:27** 27 On the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.