

DANIEL 11

REVIEW...

- Daniel received his 4th and final vision – comprising **Daniel 10-12**
 - Daniel fasted for 3 weeks – Samaritans stopped the Jews from working on the Temple – **Ezra 4**
 - In answer to his prayer – he saw a vision of Jesus Christ - **Revelation 1:13-15**
 - Other men who were with Daniel could not see the vision - but a great terror fell on them!
 - Daniel was left alone – and his strength left him – so that fell face down onto the ground!
 - But an Angel appeared and touched him – spoke to him – so he was able to stand up
- From the first day Daniel started praying – the Angel was sent with the answer...
 - But the prince of Kingdom of Persia – demonic power - withstood the Angel for 21 days...
 - Until Michael the Archangel (*chief captain over Israel*) came to help him...
 - The Angel came to give understanding about what will happen to Israel in the later days...
 - He was there to reveal the future events that had already been determined by God!

HISTORY IN ADVANCE... (4 THINGS)

- 1ST – THE RISE OF ALEXANDER... VS. 1-4
 - 1st – The fall of Medo-Persia... vs. 1
 - Chapter 11 picks up right where chapter 10 left off – with the angel still speaking to Daniel...
 - That in the first year of Darius – when power passed from Babylon to the Medo-Persian...
 - He stood by Michael - until he succeeded in turning Persian favor toward Israel...
 - Speaking of God influencing Cyrus to send the Jews back to rebuild the Temple – **Ezra 1**
 - The angel goes on to give Daniel a detailed survey of the history of Israel in advance...
 - His starting point is a little later on than the visions of chapter 2 and chapter 7...
 - But he starts at the same point as the vision of the ram and the goat in chapter 8...
 - But this vision would not use symbols (*beasts*) – it would instead be full of vivid details!
 - There would be 4 more Kings (*prominent – not complete list*) who would rule Persia...
 - Cambyses (*Ahasuerus*) – **Ezra 4:6** / False Smerdis the Magian (*Artaxerxes*) – **Ezra 4:7**
 - Darius I - **Haggai 1:1 - Ezra 4:24** / and Xerxes (*Ahasuerus*) - book of **Esther**
 - The climax of Persian rulers (*though not the last*) came with Xerxes...
 - He used his riches to gather a great army amounting to hundreds of thousands of men...
 - Then launched a war in 480 B.C. against Greece that was disastrous (*300 Spartans*)...
 - Allowing for the rise of Alexander the Great - the 'mighty king' who did 'according to his will'
 - Who conquered the Persian Empire to repay Xerxes for attacking Greece!
 - The kingdom of Alexander would be broken and divided to the four winds...
 - At the death of Alexander – the kingdom was divided among his four generals...
 - Greece (*west*) went to Cassander / Asia Minor (*east*) to Lysimachus...
 - Egypt (*south*) went to Ptolemy / while Babylon (*north*) went to Seleucus!
 - The empire was not given to his posterity - his sons Hercules / Alexander - were murdered!
 - Amazingly this was written in 539 B.C. – and fulfilled 200 years later in 323 B.C.!
 - People are fascinated by prophecy – they want to know what will happen in the future...
 - It makes the works of men like Nostradamus - and his 1000 *quatrains* - famous...
 - But where Nostradamus is vague – and far more often than not inaccurate...
 - Biblical prophecy – like this chapter – gives us unprecedented details and 100% accuracy!
 - Because ONLY God has the ability to see the future – **Isaiah 46:10**
 - Meaning if we want to know how the story end – go to the one who has seen it!

● **2ND – THE KINGS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH... vs. 5-20** (READ ONE SECTION AT A TIME)

o **1st – The rise of the Ptolemy and Seleucus... vs. 5**

- Beginning in verse 5 - the angel lays out the struggle between kings of the South and North...
 - The south refers to Egypt (*General Ptolemy*) - the north refers to Syria (*General Seleucus*)...
 - Seleucus I Nicator (*conqueror*) - 312-281 B.C. – conquered from Asia Minor to India
 - So he became more powerful than Ptolemy in Egypt - 'He shall gain power over him'
 - This laid the basis for two lines of rulers who would battle over almost two centuries!
- Jerusalem – located between these two warring kingdoms – was in the middle...
 - It has often been asked why did God choose Israel to be His Land...
 - It is nothing special to look at - no natural resources / just a bunch of rocks...
 - But God does not do anything by accident - His Land has a strategic purpose...
 - Israel is the center of the world - crossroads of 3 continents - Africa / Asia / Europe...
 - It allowed for the message of the Gospel to go out into the whole world in Acts!

o **2nd – Marriage gone wrong... vs. 6-8**

- The daughter of the King of the south will make an agreement with the king of the north...
 - Ptolemy II Philadelphus (*loves his brother*) - was the 2nd king of the south...
 - He forced his daughter Bernice to marry Antiochus II Theos (*god*) the king of the north...
 - But to do so Antiochus II had to divorce his first wife Laodicea first!
- She will not retain her authority – and he will not retain his authority...
 - Shortly after the marriage Ptolemy II died - and Antiochus II took back his first wife...
 - But his first wife then murdered him / Bernice / as well as their infant son!
- But from the branch of her roots – one will arise with an army – and prevail against the north...
 - Ptolemy III (*good*) – brother of Bernice – defeated Seleucus II Callinicus (*beautiful*)...
 - He entered 'into the fortress of the king of the north' - carried off to Egypt their princes...
 - As well as their idols - and their precious vessels of silver and gold!

o **3rd – Be careful who you side with... vs. 9-14**

- The king of the north (*Seleucus II*) will come to the king of the south – and return (*defeated*)...
 - However his sons will stir up strife – and the king of the south will be moved with rage...
 - Seleucus II had several sons – Seleucus III Ceraunus (*thunderbolt*) who died in battle...
 - But his other son Antiochus III (*the Great*) mounted several campaigns against Egypt...
 - But the Egyptian army under Ptolemy IV Philopator (*Father loving*) defeated Antiochus III...
 - Antiochus lost his entire army and was almost captured as he fled to the desert!
- The heart of the king of the south will be lifted up – but the king of the north will return...
 - Antiochus III turned his attention to conquests in the east - gathering strength and wealth...
 - He advanced east to the borders of India and as far north as the Caspian Sea...
 - Ptolemy IV died and was succeeded by his infant son Ptolemy V Epiphanes (*God manifest*)...
 - Then Antiochus III assembled another great army and began a series of attacks on Egypt
- At that time many will rise against the king of the south...
 - A large number of Jews supported Antiochus III – against Ptolemy V...
 - But the angel describes them as violent (*criminal*) – because they were helping a pagan king!
 - I am sure there was a lot of debate in those days – which king was better...
 - Are you for Antiochus (*north*) or are you for Ptolemy (*south*)...
 - It turns out in the politics of God – neither was the right answer – both were criminals!
 - A powerful picture – because we get caught up in which side are we on (*elephant or donkey*)!
 - The best answer is neither – we do not stand with men - we are on God's side!

o **4th – Antiochus the great... vs. 15-19**

- The king of the north will take a fortified city...

- Antiochus III conquered Sidon – resulting in the occupation of Israel (*Glorious Land*)...
- Egyptian leaders tried to rescue the besieged city of Sidon from Antiochus III...
- But their ‘choice troops shall have no strength’ and were unsuccessful...
- He will give the daughter of women to destroy - but she shall not stand with him...
 - Threatened by Rome Antiochus III offered a diplomatic settlement with Egypt...
 - He married his daughter Cleopatra to the young Egyptian king Ptolemy V in 192 B.C.
 - *This is not Cleopatra VII – from the time of Julius Caesar / Mark Anthony.*
 - His plan to marry his young daughter to the 7-year-old Ptolemy V was to ruin his ally!
 - The strategy failed because Cleopatra sided with her husband over her father!
- He will turn his face towards the coastlands...
 - Having defeated Egypt – Antiochus III tried to conquer Greece but was defeated...
 - As a result instead of going down in history as a great conqueror...
 - He had to ‘turn his face towards his own land’ - defeated and broken...
 - And he ‘stumbled and fell’ – he was killed trying to plunder a temple in Elam!
- o 5th – No more taxes... vs. 20
 - One will rise in his place that imposed taxes - Seleucus IV Philopator (*Father loving*)...
 - Because of the rise of Rome - Seleucus IV was forced to pay a tribute of 1000 talents annually...
 - To pay it he had to tax all the lands under his domain - including special taxes from the Jews...
 - He was mysteriously killed-possibly poisoned by the tax collector Heliodorus - II Maccabees 3:7
- 3RD – ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES... vs. 21-35
 - o 1st – The rise of Antiochus IV... vs. 21-28
 - In his place will rise a vile person – whom they will not give the honor of royalty...
 - He will come in peace – and seize the power the kingdom by intrigue...
 - Verse 21-33 are devoted to a ruler of the north – Antiochus Epiphanes...
 - The ‘little horn’ of **Daniel 8:9-14** - who reigned in the decline of the Greece / rise of Rome...
 - He seized the throne rather than obtaining it honorably (*by royal succession*)...
 - When Seleucus IV died he had several sons who should have ascended to the throne...
 - Demetrius was the first son of Seleucus IV – but he was being held in Rome as a prisoner...
 - Antiochus the younger son of Seleucus IV - was still a baby....
 - But Antiochus IV - brother of Seleucus IV - posed as the guardian of young baby son...
 - Shortly after the young baby was murdered – and Antiochus Epiphanes secured the throne!
 - With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken... vs. 22
 - Antiochus launched several campaigns against Egypt – with the force of a flood...
 - In other words he was victorious over his enemy – sweeping them away!
 - The ‘prince of the covenant’ refers to his murder of the high priest Onias...
 - He had the title ‘prince of the covenant’ because he was the head of the theocracy of Egypt
 - After the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully... vs. 23
 - There was a contest for power between two of Antiochus’ nephews in Egypt...
 - His sister Cleopatra had married Ptolemy V – and their 2 sons were battling for control...
 - Antiochus supported Ptolemy VI Philometor (*mother loving*) - but only for his own gain!
 - He will enter peaceably into the richest places... vs. 24-26
 - Always seeking to enlarge his kingdom - either by military devices or intrigue...
 - Antiochus robbed the richest places of the country already under his control...
 - Unlike his father he used his wealth to buy favor /secure the cooperation of others....
 - He dispersed among them the spoils and riches - and devised plans against strongholds...
 - I Maccabees 3:30 - “He feared that he might not have such funds as he had before for his expenses and for the gifts which he used to give more lavishly than preceding kings.”

- Antiochus used that influence to 'stir up a great army against the king of the South'...
- The outcome of the battle was that the king of Egypt was defeated – 'he shall not stand'!
- Both the kings hearts will be bent on evil... vs. 27-28
 - The struggle between Syria and Egypt led to various agreements that never lasted...
 - Neither the rulers of Egypt nor Syria were honorable in their agreements...
 - And returning to his land with great riches – Antiochus heart was against the Holy Covenant
 - In spite of all he had – he was jealous of the faith he found in the Jews!
 - Because nothing in this world will ever be enough for us...
 - We can try to eat to be happy – but we will only be hungry the next day...
 - We can be pretty to be happy – but the new clothes will wear out and fade...
 - We can try to be rich to be happy – but there will always be something more to buy!
 - Because we were not created by God to be fulfilled by the things of this world...
 - We were created by God to know Him - worship Him - **John 17:3**
 - And only when we use our life for the purpose God intended for it...
 - Worshiping and getting to know our Lord – will we find we are satisfied - **John 4:14**

o 2nd – Abomination of Desolation... vs. 29-31

- He shall return to the south - but it shall not be like the former or the latter...
 - At the appointed time Antiochus invaded Egypt in 168 B.C. – but Rome demanded he leave...
 - The ships of Cyprus are thought to be a reference to Roman power that came from the west!
 - The Romans were reported to have drawn a circle around him – choose before you step...
 - Rather than risk a war with Rome – he left Egypt and conceded Egypt to Roman power!
- Grieved he will return in rage against the holy covenant...
 - The history of the period is recorded for us in 1 and 2 Maccabees...
 - Disgruntled by his defeat in Egypt - Antiochus vented his wrath upon the Jews...
 - Antiochus defiled the temple by offering a pig on the altar - I Maccabees 1:44-54
 - He also set an image of Zeus in the Holiest of All – the abomination of desolation...
 - The parallel prophesy in **Daniel 8:23-25** covers the same series of events!
 - This was just AN abomination of desolation – but not THE one spoken of by Jesus...
 - Because Jesus spoke of it as an event that had yet to take place – **Matthew 24:15**

o 3rd – The revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes... vs. 32-35

- Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery...
 - While those who understand shall fall for many days – 2300 days – **Daniel 8:14**
 - But the people who know their God shall be strong – speaking of the Maccabean revolt...
 - In the resulting conflict many were killed – but it also caused a spiritual revival!
 - While some of the Jews were corrupted by the flattery of the king...
 - It was a time of purging – separating those who were really loyal to the Lord!
 - Antiochus attempted to annihilate those devoted God - but succeed only in purifying them!
- To refine them - purify them - and make them white - until the time of the end...
 - We live in an era of political correctness – the world would love to corrupt us...
 - Making it a lot easier to blend into the crowd – then it is to stand up for the truth...
 - But that persecution has a purpose – it separates the wheat from the chaff...
 - Showing who will endure the fire – knowing the reward that waits for them in the end!
 - **Revelation 3:5** – “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life...”

● 4TH – THE ANTI-CHRIST... vs. 36-45

o 1st – Unfulfilled prophecy...

- The amazingly detailed prophecies of the first 35 verses - contain 135 prophetic statements...
 - The fact all of them are now fulfilled give an impressive introduction the final 10 verses...
 - But these last 10 verses are quite controversial – with 2 main interpretations...
 - The first is that they are a continuation of the prophecy concerning Antiochus Epiphanes...
 - Yet unlike the first 35 verses – there are no historical events that match these last 10!
- Therefore it is more likely they refer to events that have yet to be fulfilled...
 - These verses are the parallel of **Daniel 2** - the stone striking the feet of the statue...
 - The destruction of the little horn of **Daniel 7** / and the events in **Revelation 6-19**!
 - We see this introduced in verse 35 with the expression - 'the time of the end'!
 - There is a 2000-year gap between verse 35 and 36 – when a 'new king' comes to power!
- o 2nd – The king who shall come – the Anti-Christ... vs. 36-39
 - He will do his own will – magnify himself above every god – speak blasphemy against God...
 - And he will prosper till his wrath is accomplished / what is determined is done...
 - This is none other than the big mouth – **Daniel 7:8** - the man of sin - **II Thessalonians 2:3**
 - Who will be a leader that will rise out of the Revived Roman Empire – to rule the world...
 - He will present himself as the Messiah – raised from the dead – **Revelation 13:3**
 - But only for as long as God allows it – till what is determined is done – 3 ½ years...
 - **Revelation 13:5** - "And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months."
 - How frustrating it must be for satan – even his greatest rebellion has a pre-determined end!
 - Which should give us peace – because no matter how crazy things get – God is in control...
 - It also gives us hope – because we know everything will unfold according to His plan!
 - He will not worship the God (*ellohim*) of his fathers... vs. 37
 - This could mean he will just not worship any gods – he will reject all religions...
 - But the phrase God of his fathers is a very Jewish phrase...
 - Likely meaning he will have Jewish heritage – to be received as the Jewish Messiah!
 - Nor the desire for women – couple of views.... vs. 37
 - It is possible that this refers to the fact he will be Homosexual (*not likely*)...
 - More likely it refers to his rejection of the Hope of the Messiah to save the world...
 - It was the desire of every Jewish girl to be privileged to bear the Messiah...
 - So he will not share the desire of women to see the world saved by Jesus...
 - Note the end of the verse: 'Nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them all*.'
 - This king will 'honor the God of fortresses'... vs. 38-39
 - The sole confidence of the final world ruler will be in military might...
 - He will be a materialist – rather than a man who trusts in the divine...
 - And those cooperating with him are given the opportunity 'to rule over many!
 - Our enemy would love to try get us to trust in our might / the things of this world...
 - But nothing the devil says is true - everything that comes from him is a lie – **John 8:44**
 - Cause if we trust in the world – though it make work for a while – it takes our eyes of Jesus!
- o 3rd – Armageddon... vs. 40-43
 - At the time of the end the king of the South and North shall attack him...
 - Notice that both kingdoms now come against this final king...
 - The Anti-Christ will be at war with many countries – but he will 'overwhelm them'...
 - He will overthrow many countries – including Israel / Egypt / Libya / Ethiopia...
 - But Edom / Moab / and Ammon - modern day Jordan - will escape...
 - Jordan will not be taken - because the Jews will flee there for protection – **Isaiah 16:1-5**
 - To the rock city of Petra (*Sela*) - where they will be preserved by God for 3 ½ years!
 - But news from the east and the north shall trouble him... vs. 44

- After conquering Egypt – the Anti-Christ will get word of a gigantic army coming...
- Probably referring to the gigantic invasion described in **Revelation 9:13-21**...
- An army of 200 million men that cross the Euphrates and descend upon the Holy Land...
- China today claims to have a militia numbering two hundred million!
- He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain...
 - Speaking of Armageddon - yet he shall come to his end - and no one will help him!
 - The Antichrist will gather his army to the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
 - It will be the place where the nations come to battle – armies of the North / East / West
 - **Joel 3:2** – “I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat.”
 - Then Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings / Lord of Lords...
 - With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8!**
 - And the Antichrist will be the first to be thrown into the Lake of Fire – **Revelation 19:20!**
 - An amazing prophesy – both in historical accuracy – and future revelation...
 - There is no doubt about what happened – or what is about to take place...
 - The only question we are left with – what are we going to do with the time we have left...
 - We tend to fill our days with things that in the end - mean absolutely nothing...
 - We ‘waste’ our time ‘foolishly’ on being mindlessly entertained by TV / games...
 - When there is a world full of people who do not know Jesus - a world going to hell...
 - Seize the moment - use every day - to tell people about Jesus Christ!
 - **Ephesians 5:16** - “Redeem the time, because the days are evil.”