Daniel 11 - God Rules History

NB - I've included at the end of this study a brief History of the periods covered by this chapter and visual guide to how this chapter overlaps with chapter 8 and the key players alluded to. It may be helpful to refer to it as you go through…

Daniel 11:2-20

(1.) What is the significance of the word 'given' in verse 4 and how has this been a consistent point through the book?

- As in 1:2 - God's Sovereignty over kings and kingdoms - despite what they may think!

(2.) Verses 5–20 are a detailed account of the battle for power between the 'king of the South' and 'king of the North'. What are some of the characteristics of human power and ambition revealed in these verses?

- There's all sort of things - pride, arrogance, greed, violence - just a question to get the group to dig and draw out what's there

(2.a.) How are the manifestations of human power we see here timeless in their application?

- Ie - How do we see these things on display in geo-politics today…Power games, strife, violence, etc?

Daniel 11:21-35

(3.) Verses 21–35 focus on Antiochus IV Epiphanes and his persecution of God's people. What do we learn in these verses about Antiochus and how different groups reacted to the persecution?

- Two groups are contrasted - firstly, those who are seduced by Antiochus' flattery and abandon God and the covenant and secondly, others who stand firm and resist him.
- Two phrases are used to describe the faithful who stand firm: 'the people who know their God' (v. 32) and 'those who are wise' (v. 33).

(3.a.) When God's people face stressful times / intense periods of persecution, what are the key messages of this vision that we need to remember?

- God's in control - and we can stand firm in His strength as those who 'know Him' - can also link back to chapter 10 - the striking vision of Majestic Power and of Gentle touch

Daniel 11 - God Rules History

Daniel 11:36-45

(4.) Verses 36–45 point beyond Antiochus, and this particular period of persecution in the second century b.c., to all antichrists through history and to the Antichrist at the end of history and the period of intense distress associated with the Antichrist. Who is the Antichrist? How does the text of the vision characterise the Antichrist?

- Anti as in 'opposed to' rather than 'false' (ie not someone pretending to be Christ - but seeking to destroy him and his work) Powerful, seemingly unstoppable, Self obsessed and self glorifying

(4.a.) Read 2 Thess 2:1-4 - Paul use the term Man of Lawlessness to describe the Antichrist - how is the language similar to Dan 11:36

(4.b.) What is his future v45? How is that encouraging for Daniel and for us?

- Striking how brief and to the point it's stated - almost as if will be forgotten about and brief footnote in history… God's power and authority is absolute

Application

(5.) What is the relevance of this detailed vision to us today? What are the key messages of this vision that we need to remember?

(6.) How is God's rule worked out in the details of history? How important is it that God rules over the detail as well as the big picture?

(7.) What confidence does this vision give us in the inspiration and reliability of God's Word?

(8.) Two phrases are used to describe the faithful who stand firm amidst intense persecution: 'the people who know their God' (v. 32) and 'those who are wise' (v. 33). What do you think that means? How does Daniel exemplify this? What's the challenge for you and I from it?

Daniel 11 - God Rules History

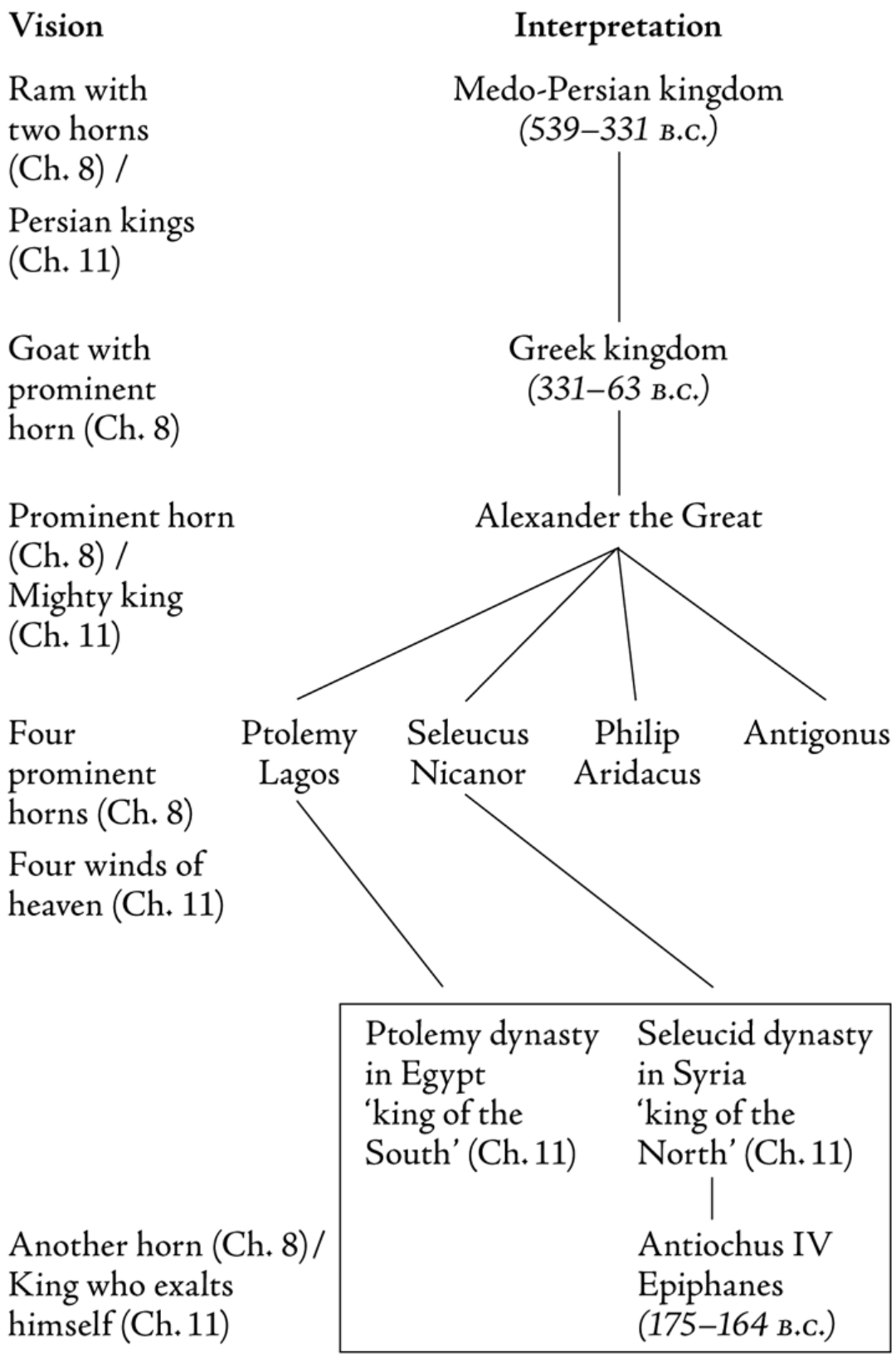
Historical summary:

The Babylonian kingdom ruled the Ancient World from 625–539 b.c. The conquerors of Babylon were the Medo-Persian kingdom (539–331 b.c.). In time they were conquered by the Greek kingdom (331–63 b.c.) and their first king, Alexander the Great. Alexander dominated the Ancient World, conquering all before him but died as a young man at the height of his power. He was succeeded by four of his generals—Ptolemy Lagos, Seleucus Nicanor, Philip Aridacus and Antigonus—and his kingdom was divided into four (v. 4).

Two of these generals, Ptolemy and Seleucus emerged as dominant and their respective dynasties vied for power over the next hundred years—the Ptolemy dynasty in Egypt (the 'king of the South') and the Seleucid dynasty in Syria (the 'king of the North'). In the first quarter of the second century b.c. the Seleucid dynasty had emerged as dominant and in their succession of kings, Antiochus IV Epiphanes came to the throne in 175 b.c. He ruled until 164 b.c. He hardly features in the annals of world history, yet in the annals of biblical history he is a major player. In a three and a half year period from 167–164 b.c. he systematically persecuted God's people and nearly destroyed them until a resistance movement under Judas Maccabaeus routed Antiochus and his Syrian army in 164 b.c. and God's people were liberated.

Fyall, B., & Sydserff, R. (2016). *Teaching Daniel: From Text to Message* (D. Jackman & A. Reynolds, Eds.; pp. 324–325). PT Resources; Christian Focus.

Daniel 11 - God Rules History



Fyall, B., & Sydserff, R. (2016). Teaching Daniel: From Text to Message (D. Jackman & A. Reynolds, Eds.; p. 310). PT Resources; Christian Focus.