

Chapter 11:1-35

“A Tale of Two Dynasties”

Summary

- Chapters 11 and 12 contain the vision Daniel was prepared for in Chapter 10
- 11:1-35 contains prophecy that for us has been fulfilled
 - These prophecies were fulfilled in between the Old and New Testaments
- 11:35 - 12:13 contains prophecy that has yet to be fulfilled

Outline

- I. The angel begins the message - vs. 1
- II. The prophetic message
 - A. Four rulers of Persia - vs. 2
 - B. Alexander the Great - vs. 3-4
 - C. Intrigues of the Ptolemies and the Seleucids - vs. 5-10
 - D. Wars of the Ptolemies and the Seleucids - vs. 11-20
 - E. The career of Antiochus Epiphanes - vs. 21-35

Notes

- Daniel is given these visions in about 534 B.C. (10:1)
- vs. 5 - “king of the south” - the Ptolemies in Egypt
- vs. 6 - “king of the north” - the Seleucids in Syria
- vs. 5-6 - Only one ruler from either line is skipped over entirely - Antiochus I Soter.
- vs. 30 - “Chittim” is an ancient name for Cyprus. The reference here is meant to be west of Chittim, or Rome.

Fulfilled Prophecy in Chapter 11

- NOTE - Dates given are for the rulers reign, not life span, and are all B.C.
- vs. 2 - Four kings of Persia (following the current Cyrus)
 - Cambyses (529-522)
 - Pseudo-Smerdis (522-521)
 - Darius I Hystaspes (521-486) - Ezra 5 and 6
 - Xerxes I (486-465) - “Ahasuerus” in Esther
- vs. 3 - mighty king = Alexander the Great (336–323)
- vs. 4 - four way split of Alexander’s kingdom
- vs. 5 - Ptolemy I Soter (323-283) and Seleucus I Nicator (312-281) took the titles of king of Egypt and king of Syria respectively in 306 B.C. They formed an alliance against Antigonus of Babylon, whose defeat led to great gains by Seleucus.
- vs. 6 - Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246) gave his daughter Berenice to marry Antiochus II Theos (261-246) in about 252 B.C. Ptolemy soon died and Antiochus took back his former wife Laodice. Berenice in revenge murdered Antiochus, Laodice, and their infant son.
- vs. 7-8 - Berenice’s brother Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-222) defeated Seleucus Callinicus (225-223) and captured Syria. He took over 4,000 talents of gold, 40,000 talents of silver, and 2,500 idols back to Egypt with him.
- vs. 9 - Seleucus Callinicus is the subject of this verse. He later mounted an attack against Egypt, but returned home in defeat.

- vs. 10 - Antiochus III the Great (223–187) led campaigns against Egypt and was able to take territory as far south as Gaza.
- vs. 11-12 - Ptolemy IV Philopater (221-205) defeated Antiochus III at Raphia. Antiochus lost an army reported to be 70,000 strong and barely escaped. Ptolemy didn't pursue his advantage, and an uneasy peace ensued.
- vs. 13 - Antiochus III grew strong again, conquered more territory toward the east and north, but turned again toward Egypt.
- vs. 14 - Israel is caught in the middle. The “robbers” are those Jews who rebelled against the Ptolemies, who evidently treated Israel well, and sided with Syria. This sets the stage for the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes.
- vs. 15 - Antiochus III defeats the Egyptian forces, forcing them to surrender at Sidon. The Seleucids now have control over Israel.
- vs. 16 - the character of Antiochus III's reign over Israel
- vs. 17 - Rome helped to force an uneasy truce between Egypt and Syria. Antiochus III gave his daughter Cleopatra (not *that* Cleopatra) to marry the seven-year-old Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204-181). Antiochus may have expected her to work against the Ptolemies, but she sided with her husband against her father.
- vs. 18-19 - Antiochus III turned his forces toward Greece with little success. The “prince” refers to the Romans, specifically perhaps to Lucius Scipio Asiaticus (d. 183) who helped defeat Antiochus in Greece. Antiochus returned home in defeat.
- vs. 20 - Seleucus IV Philopater (187-175) taxed his subjects, especially the Jews, in order to pay an annual tribute to Rome.
- vs. 21 - Enter the “little horn” of Chapter 8, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175–164)
- vs. 22 - Antiochus Epiphanes led many successful military campaigns, including those against the Jews. The “prince of the covenant” is believed by many to be High Priest Onias III, whom Antiochus had murdered.
- vs. 23 - An example of Antiochus' meddling in foreign affairs is his backing of Ptolemy VI Philometor (180-145) against Ptolemy Euergetes for control of Egypt.
- vs. 24 - Antiochus used his riches, not to enrich himself, but to buy support
- vs. 25-26 - Antiochus renewed the old Ptolemy vs. Seleucid wars.
- vs. 27-28 - After forging a treaty neither Egypt or Syria meant to keep, Antiochus Epiphanes turns his attention toward Israel.
- vs. 29-30 - Antiochus Epiphanes was not as successful in his later expeditions against Egypt. While in Egypt in 168 B.C., he is confronted by the Roman consul Gaius Popillius Laenas who warns him to leave or face the wrath of Rome. Antiochus leaves Egypt, basically forfeiting the area to the Romans.
- vs. 31 - as prophesied in 8:23-25
- vs. 32-35 - Pictures the campaign of Antiochus Epiphanes to eradicate the Jewish faith and those that stayed faithful and true. Those faithful Jews were led by the Maccabees, who eventually led in reestablishing a semi-independent Jewish state.

