



# The Culmination Of The World Foretold

Isaiah 11

Wednesday Night Bible Study

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First Assembly of God  
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# THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL STATESMAN FOR THE AGES

*Session Eleven / Chapter 11*

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

## THE CULMINATION OF THE AGES FORETOLD

### Brief Review

While the early part of Daniel's book was primarily historical narrative, the final six chapters deal with the future, revealed in four visions given by God to Daniel. These visions foretold events that would take place not only in Daniel's lifetime, but beyond it through the Greek persecution of the Jews to even the Great Tribulation.

The first two of Daniel's visions came during the reign of regent monarch Belshazzar. The other two came during Persian rule. The last vision required the final three chapters of Daniel to articulate - and that's where we are tonight.

Last time we learned of a heavenly visitor who appeared to Daniel who gave information concerning the future to him. It also told of a conflict with an emissary of Satan who hindered heavenly response to Daniel's prayer for a short time. Daniel 10:1 **In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.**

By this time, Daniel is in his 90's and is a revered government official in the Persian government.

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Chapter 11, our study for tonight, is a continuation of the prophecy of the end time. This continuation of Daniel's vision deals primarily with two empires – Persia and Greece.

I have added several pages on the back of these notes written by Tim Lambert, a synopsis of the Persian Empire. This is a fascinating study. On the second page, paragraph 2, there is information about the Persian ruler Xerxes. **This is the King Ahaseurus in the book of Esther.** Upon his return to Persia, following the Greek crushing of his military, he banished Queen Vashti from the palace. The ensuing year-long beauty pageant

1 resulted in a Jewish maiden, Esther, being named Queen. In the providence of God, she  
2 saved the Jews from an attempted genocide of her people. Remember what I have told  
3 you so many times: *The Bible is the story of real people, in real places, in real time!*  
4

5 A great deal of this vision had to do with what we call THE INTER-TESTAMENTAL  
6 PERIOD between the Old and New Testaments, between Malachi and Matthew. Those  
7 500 or so years brought about great suffering for the Jews. Both Syria and Egypt caused  
8 great havoc among them. As these two bordering-to-Israel nations fought each other,  
9 Israel was caught in the middle.

### 10 ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES

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12  
13 Oh...him again!! Remember when Alexander the Great died a drunk at age 32, his  
14 empire was divided among his four main generals (as scripture had so clearly  
15 prophesied). One of those general was Seleucis (Daniel 11:3-4 **And a mighty king  
16 shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. [4]  
17 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided  
18 toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his  
19 dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others  
20 beside those.**) It was from Seleucis, several generations later, that Entiochus came into  
21 the world.  
22

For background material I again recommend James Mitchner's classic book *THE SOURCE*. Long, about a thousand pages, it details the history of the Jews in the Middle East from pre-David to the current state of Israel. I find it one of the most fascinating books I have ever read. It deals at length with Antiochus...and shows what a scourge he was to the Jews between the Testaments. This was clearly prophesied in the final chapters of Daniel.

23 Now for the actual text from the Word:

24  
25 Daniel 11:1-4

26 **Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to**  
27 **strengthen him. [2] And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up**  
28 **yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his**  
29 **strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. [3] And a**  
30 **mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to**  
31 **his will. [4] And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be**  
32 **divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to**

1 **his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others**  
2 **beside those.**

3  
4 The prophecies in chapter 11 are so amazing because history showed them to actually  
5 happen, so amazing, in fact, the critics of the Bible like to claim the book of Daniel had to  
6 be written decades or centuries later and were only reporting history. I agree with what  
7 Dr. J. Vernon McGee once claimed: *“I do not like liberals to be called liberal. To me*  
8 *they are the most narrow-minded people I know anything about. Yet they like to speak of*  
9 *their broad-mindedness and that they don’t have a narrow conception of Scripture.”*

10  
11 Now note carefully: this chapter contains the words of the angel who appeared to Daniel  
12 in chapter 10: Daniel 10:16-21 **And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of**  
13 **men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that**  
14 **stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I**  
15 **have retained no strength. [17] For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this**  
16 **my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is**  
17 **there breath left in me. [18] Then there came again and touched me one like the**  
18 **appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, [19] And said, O man greatly**  
19 **beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had**  
20 **spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast**  
21 **strengthened me. [20] Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and**  
22 **now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the**  
23 **prince of Grecia shall come. [21] But I will shew thee that which is noted in the**  
24 **scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but**  
25 **Michael your prince.**

26  
27 We do not know the identity of this angel; but, ostensibly, it could well have been Gabriel  
28 who brought other messages to humans.

29  
30 The angel told Daniel there would be four notable kings of Persia Cyrus. From your  
31 history books we know exactly who they were, just as the angel noted:

- 32  
33 • Cambyses 529 BC  
34 • Pseudo-Smerdis 522 BC  
35 • Darius Hystaspis 521 BC  
36 • Xerxes (Ahaseurus (book of Esther) who invaded Greece in 480 BC

37  
38 Then the angel announced this blockbuster in verse 3: **AND A MIGHTY KING**  
39 **SHALL STAND UP, THAT SHALL RULE WITH GREAT DOMINION AND DO**  
40 **ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.** That mighty king would be Alexander the Great who



*This picture came from a floor mosaic in Pompeii and ostensibly showed how Alexander might have appeared.*

came to power in 335 BC. He put down Persia and assumed world dominion! This all happened long after the angel informed Daniel it would happen. No wonder critics are nonplused by this amazing prophecy!

#### ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Alexander the Great was a world ruler and many historians rate him as the most outstanding military strategist of all time. Married numerous times, he died a drunk in Babylon in 323 BC bemoaning the fact there were no more “worlds to conquer.” His main generals did not inherit the entire empire for it was divided four ways (just as the angel announced - verse 4). This was basically the division:

- Cassander took Macedonia (northern Greece, Philippi, etc.)
- Lysimachus took Asia Minor (Turkey today)
- Seleucus Nicator took Syria and the remainder of the Middle East
- Ptolemy took Egypt

Rome later ended their domination of these areas. It is of interest, I think, that upon conquering the area we know as Israel Alexander did not treat the Jews unduly. His conquest was generally a peaceful one.

#### THE KING OF SOUTH

Daniel 11:5 **And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and**

1 **he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great**  
2 **dominion.**

3  
4 Usually in Scripture, the land of Israel is the focal point. So....the king to the south  
5 would have been the Pharaoh of Egypt who would have been one of the Ptolemies.  
6

7 **Daniel 11:6 And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the**  
8 **king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an**  
9 **agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor**  
10 **his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her,**  
11 **and he that strengthened her in these times.**

12  
13 Here again we encounter one of the four entities to come from the Alexandrian era - the  
14 Seleucidae. About 250 BC this prophecy was fulfilled when an alliance was formed  
15 between the warring families of north and south. Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt gave  
16 his daughter Berenice in marriage to Antiochus Theos of Syria. Now....follow this soap  
17 opera storyline: Antiochus was already married to Laodice whom he divorced. After  
18 two years, Ptolemy Philadelphus died; so Antiochus Theos put away Berenice with her  
19 son and took back his first wife, Laodice. She, in turn, poisoned Antiochus Theos and  
20 ordered the death of Berenice and her son. Then Laodice put her own son, Seleucus  
21 Callinicus, on the throne. Which is what the angel told Daniel would happen several  
22 hundred years earlier.

23  
24 Then:

25  
26 **Daniel 11:7-9 But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate,**  
27 **which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the**  
28 **north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: [8] And shall also carry**  
29 **captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of**  
30 **silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. [9]**  
31 **So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own**  
32 **land.**

33  
34 This was Ptolemy Euergetes, brother of Berenice, who came with an army and captured  
35 Syria and also the fort which was the port for Antioch in that day. The angel prophesied  
36 the loot which Ptolemy would take in verse 8. History records he took four thousand  
37 talents of gold. Each talent would be worth today about \$800,000. Ptolemy also took  
38 40,000 talents of silver. In other words....he did very well by himself.  
39

40 Without going into all the history of Israel during that time several hundred years before

1 Christ, suffice it to say that Israel was run from pillar to post between Egypt and Syria,  
2 being made captive first by one and then the other. There could be so much said about  
3 this time, but probably not of great value to someone who is not passionate about history.  
4 I will summarize it say that it all led up during the Greek era for the rise of Antiochus  
5 Epiphanes, about whom I have talked in earlier studies.  
6  
7

**Why is Antiochus even important to us? Because he was the prototype of the Antichrist who will rule the world during the tribulation period following the Rapture of the Church.**

## 8 9 THE ANTICHRIST

10  
11 Daniel 11:36-45

12 **And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and**  
13 **magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God**  
14 **of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is**  
15 **determined shall be done. [37] Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the**  
16 **desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. [38]**  
17 **But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew**  
18 **not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant**  
19 **things. [39] Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he**  
20 **shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over**  
21 **many, and shall divide the land for gain. [40] And at the time of the end shall the**  
22 **king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like**  
23 **a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall**  
24 **enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. [41] He shall enter also**  
25 **into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall**  
26 **escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of**  
27 **Ammon. [42] He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of**  
28 **Egypt shall not escape. [43] But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and**  
29 **of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the**  
30 **Ethiopians shall be at his steps. [44] But tidings out of the east and out of the north**  
31 **shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly**  
32 **to make away many. [45] And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between**  
33 **the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall**  
34 **help him.**  
35

36 Antiochus was overthrown in Israel through the heroic efforts of the Maccabees, led by  
37 the father, Mattathias the priest. They lived in Modin just west of Jerusalem. In 166

1 BC, Mattathias spawned a revolt that spread like wildfire. Just as Antiochus was  
2 eliminated, so will be the Antichrist, as we shall see in even more prophecies.

3  
4 To give you some idea of the horror of Antichrist, Scripture gives us a list of the names or  
5 titles given him by God:

- 6
- 7 • The bloody and deceitful man Psalm 5:6
- 8 • The wicked one Psalm 10:2-4
- 9 • The man of the earth Ps 10:18
- 10 • The adversary Ps 74:8-10
- 11 • The head of many countries Ps 111:6
- 12 • The violent man Ps 140:1
- 13 • The Assyrian Isa. 10:5-12
- 14 • The king of Babylon Isa. 14:2
- 15 • The Spoiler Isa. 16:4-5
- 16 • The Nail Isa. 22:25
- 17 • The branch of the terrible ones Isa 25:5
- 18 • The profane, wicked Prince of Israel Ezek. 21:25-27
- 19 • The little horn Dan. 7:8
- 20 • The prince that shall come Dan. 9:26
- 21 • The idol shepherd Zech 11:16-17
- 22 • The man of sin II Thes. 2:3
- 23 • The son of perdition II Thes 2:3
- 24 • The lawless one II Thes 2:8
- 25 • The angel of the bottomless pit Rev.9:11
- 26 • The Beast Rev. 11:7 and 13:1
- 27 • And man, many more which aren't on this list.

28  
29 When he appeared to Daniel, the angel gave a warning of this beast which is to come.  
30 John saw even more about him in our Lord's appearance to him on the Isle of Patmos -  
31 which is revealed in the magnificent final book in the Bible, Revelation.

32  
33 Rev. 13:1-10

34 **And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea,**  
35 **having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his**  
36 **heads the name of blasphemy. [2] And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard,**  
37 **and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the**  
38 **dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. [3] And I saw one of**  
39 **his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the**  
40 **world wondered after the beast. [4] And they worshipped the dragon which gave**





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*There are many interesting artists' concepts of Antichrist. Scripture says he will appear falsely as an angel of light. This artist's idea is interesting.*

**power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? [5] And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. [6] And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. [7] And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. [8] And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. [9] If any man have an ear, let him hear. [10] He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

From Daniel 11:40:

1. And at the time of the end....not the end of time. Antichrist's rule in the tribulation will not always be without attack from his enemies. Daniel saw that the king of the

1 south - Egypt - would revolt against him. But as verse 42 reveals....Egypt shall not  
2 escape his fury.

3  
4 2. Verse 41 of Daniel 11: He shall enter the glorious land....and many countries shall  
5 be overthrown....

6  
7 Israel will be in for a very rough time following the Rapture. Many Israelis will flee for  
8 their lives (some believe into Jordan and Petra).

9  
10 Verse 44 intrigues me: Daniel 11:44 **But tidings out of the east and out of the**  
11 **north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and**  
12 **utterly to make away many.**

13  
14 As the tribulation period reaches its climax, Antichrist will be sitting in Jerusalem, ruling  
15 (he believes) the whole world. Suddenly, tidings from the east arrive. A vast army of  
16 millions of troops is heading his way. I believe this to be an amalgamation of oriental  
17 armies. Is Antichrist upset? (Line 11) He will be furious and head out to destroy  
18 them all. That brings us to Armageddon.

19  
20 We resume this study of Daniel in several weeks upon my return from Israel.  
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# A HISTORY OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

*By Tim Lambert*



## **The Persian Empire**

The Persian Empire was created by Cyrus II, known as Cyrus the Great (559-529 BC). Cyrus first defeated another Iranian people called the Medes, then in 547 Cyrus defeated the kingdom of Lydia (in what is now Turkey) at the battle of Pterya and he became the ruler of most of Asia Minor. Soon afterwards Cyrus also defeated the Greek cities on the Turkish coast. (These had been founded by the Greeks as colonies many years before).

However Cyrus adopted a policy of allowing conquered areas autonomy (a certain amount of independence) provided they paid their taxes. The Persians were also very tolerant of local religions. Later Persian rulers also followed this policy. Under Darius the Persian Empire was divided into areas called satrapies and each was ruled by a man called a satrap.

In 539 BC the Persians conquered the rich and powerful city-state of Babylon. The king of Babylon had ruled Syria and Phoenicia (modern day Lebanon) and both of these were now added to the Persian Empire.

Cyrus was followed by Cambyses II (529-522 BC). In 525 BC he conquered Egypt. He died in 522 BC and was replaced by Darius.

For the first part of his reign Darius had to deal with rebellions in his empire. He then fought wars with Greece. In 499 BC the Greek cities on the coast of Turkey rebelled. Darius quickly crushed the revolt but in 490 BC he decided to invade Greece to punish the Greeks for assisting the rebels. However the Persians were defeated by the Athenians at the battle of Marathon.

In 480 BC another Persian ruler, Xerxes, invaded Greece. This time the Persians captured Athens and they burned the Acropolis. However their fleet was crushed at a naval battle at Salamis. In 479 BC the Greeks won a decisive battle at Plataea, which assured Greek independence. Xerxes was assassinated in 465 BC.

Despite its brilliance the Persian Empire declined after 400 BC. For one thing the empire suffered from its sheer size, which made it difficult to control. The empire suffered a series of rebellions. It also suffered from political instability. Another ruler, Artaxerxes III, was assassinated in 338 BC. Finally the great Persian Empire was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 331 BC.

## **Farming in the Persian Empire**

To deal with the arid climate the Persians developed an irrigation system. They built underground canals. These irrigation tunnels were often several kilometers long. They sloped slightly so gravity moved the water.

Persian farmers grew wheat, barley, olives and wine. They raised cattle, goats and sheep. Hunting and fishing were also an important source of food. (Rich Persians also enjoyed hunting wild animals).

Moreover because of the vast size of the Persian Empire crops from one region were introduced to another. Rice and flax were introduced into Mesopotamia. Sesame was introduced into Egypt.

## Homes in the Persian Empire

Rich Persians lived in palaces of timber, stone and brick. They had comfortable upholstered furniture such as beds, couches and chairs. Tables were overlaid with gold, silver and ivory. The rich also owned gold and silver vessels, as well as glass vessels. They also owned tapestries and carpets.

Rich people in the Persian empire also had beautiful gardens. (Our word 'paradise' comes from the Persian word for garden).

For the ordinary people in Persia things were quite different. They lived in simple huts made from mud brick. If they were quite well off they might live in a house of several rooms arranged around a courtyard. However poor people lived in huts of just one room. Any furniture was very basic.