

DANIEL 11a

THE LORD OF HISTORY

Readings: Daniel 10:18-11:21

We are about to see the extraordinary level to which God knows, and governs the actions and interactions of men and nations.

 Dan. 10:12-14

THIS IS AN UNDERSTANDING OF FUTURE EVENTS IN RESPECT TO ISRAEL.

This is not about The US. The FOCUS is God's people IN Israel.

 **11: 1 / ANGEL: Note the angel's personal involvement with Dairus the Mede coming to power.**

There is divine action behind the scenes even in the rise and fall of pagan leaders.

And in this case, those antagonistic to God's own People!

 **11: 2 / COMING REGIMES: History reveals these four successive kings as: The time Daniel is seeing this is about 539 B.C. Cyrus will die and...**

a. CAMBYSES (530-522) – To protect his own power, he had his brother SMERDIS killed to prevent his taking over.

b. PSEUDO-SMERDIS (522 – only 7 months) This guy looked just like Smerdis, and he seized the throne while Cambyses was away at war.

People didn't care because of a 3-year tax break.

On the way back to re-take the throne, Cambyses was killed.

c. DARIUS HYSTASPES (522-486) Son-in-law to Cyrus

d. XERXES (486-465) This is the same guy who marries Esther to make her Queen in the book of Esther.

He wages a 3 year campaign against the Greeks that they never forget. They will retaliate later.

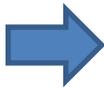
 **11:3-4 / ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THE 4 WAY SPLIT (336-323)**

a. Ptolemy (Egypt)

b. Seleucus (Syria)

c. Cassander (Macedon)

d. Lysimachus (Asia Minor)

 But the focus is upon:

1. The Ptolemaic Empire – Egypt – “SOUTH”
2. The Seleucid Empire – Syria – “NORTH”

Israel becomes the political football between these two for the next 300+ years.

 **11:5 / Egypt leads at first and the Seleucid empire dominates.**
(316)

Ptolemy declared himself the successor of the ancient Pharaohs and adopted Egyptian worship.

 **11:6 / An attempt to wed the kingdoms by marriage creates more antagonism.**

Bernice marries the grandson of the original Seleucid king.

He divorces his wife Laodice and sends his 2 sons off to Asia minor.

Bernice has a son, but she & Antiochus don't get along.

He leaves her to go live with his ex-wife again.

The Ex poisons him, in order to secure the throne for one of her sons – Seleucus Callinicus.

She then returns to Antioch and has Bernice and her son killed.

 **11:7-9 / Bernice's brother wages war and wins.**

Bernice's Father – Ptolemy II dies about the same time and her brother Ptolemy III takes the throne. He is enraged at what happened with his sister.

Laodice's son (Seleucus Callinicus) who is ruling runs back to Asia Minor for cover and Ptolemy plundered the kingdom.

Callinicus tried a counterattack but failed, and died in an accidental fall from a horse a short time later.

 **11:10 / The 2 sons of Callinicus now ruling together, decide to retaliate.**

Ceraunus (the younger one) dies before the plan is launched.

Antiochus the Great is ferocious and attacks with 75,000 men.

 **11:11-12 / Ptolemy Philopator (221-204) fights back successfully.**

Ptolemy 4 fights at the southern border of Israel. He wins, but is such a moral wreck that when he dies, Egypt is left very weak. He wins, but yet fails. In his victories, he is spoiled and wastes his power.

 **11:13-14 / Antiochus the Great regroups.**

With help from Macedon and enlisting Jews to help throw off their Egyptian oppressors – He attacks viciously again.

But he is still unable to actually conquer Egypt.

 **11:15-16 / Antiochus wins decisively @ Sidon.**

After 100 years of Egyptian rule over Israel - In 198 Antiochus regains control of the Israeli lands from Egypt in the battle of Gaza.

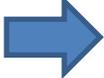
The Egyptian General Scopias, being defeated at Paneas, flees to the fenced “well fortified” city of Sidon. He is killed there in the seige.

He wins a big one, which lasts about 36 years.

 **11:17 / Unable to conquer Egypt, he decides on diplomacy.**

Antiochus decides to marry of his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V, King of Egypt, hoping she will serve as a weakening influence on him.

It doesn't work – “it shall not stand” – she loves her husband and sides with him.

 **11:18 / Still not satisfied, he now attacks other Mediterranean lands.**

This gets the new and growing Roman Empire ticked off.

The Roman Commander Lucius Scipio Asiaticus is sent to stop him in his tracks.

He had to give back the conquered lands, hand over his navy, and was sent packing and put under heavy taxes for the next 12 years.

 **11:19 / He finally “stumbles” and is “not found”.**

Back home in humiliating defeat, he decides to make himself feel better by sacking the Temple of Jupiter at Elymais. The citizens are outraged and he is killed in the fray. He “stumbles”.

 **11:20 / Seleucus Philopater (187-176) now rules, and seeks greatness through taxation.**

He sends Heliodorus to Jerusalem to sack the Temple there.

Heliodorus comes back and kills Philopater after ruling a mere 11 years compared to his father's 40 years.

 **11:21 / The rise of the Contemtable Person – the type of the Anti-Christ.**

Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164)

Epiphanes = Illustrious or “God manifest”

Epimanes = Madman

1. APPLICATION: God is Lord even over human intrigues. Just look at the soap opera going on in all of this.

2. APPLICATION: God is Lord even over the most wretched of pagan and godless men and nations.

Don't get me wrong – each of US, even as each of them makes our own decisions.

The wonder displayed here is the God is God even over man's free decisions.

He is not stymied and constantly playing “fix it” – These are all figured into His plan and purposes from the beginning.

Isa. 46:8 – 13 / “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, **9** remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, **10** declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ **11** calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. **12** “Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness: **13** I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.”

Acts 15:16-18“ ‘After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, **17** that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things **18** known from of old.’

Beware you neither fall into FATALISM [God is MAKING everyone do these things] nor OPEN THEISM [God is a helpless observer and a victim of history]

3. APPLICATION: God is Lord of the PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

The global past and YOUR past

The global present and YOUR present

The global future and YOUR future

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Heb. 13:8

4. APPLICATION: Just because we do not have this same prophetic detail given to us in our place, does not mean God is any less in absolute rulership over our nation and the things that impact it.

God's eternal end plan WILL be carried out. Not just in spite of opposition, but in actually incorporating all opposition into its final outworking.