

PROPHECIES ABOUT THE NATIONS

(Daniel 11)

SUMMARY

The revelations of Chapter 11 were given to Daniel by an angel (introduced in Chapter 10) in the third year of the reign of the Persian ruler Cyrus II (~ 536 BC; 10:1; *Ezra 1:1*). The prophecies of verses 2-35 predict the rise and fall of several rulers of the Persian and Greek empires over a ~ 365 year period (529-164 BC). Ultimately, verses 36-45 predict the rise and fall of a future satanic ruler that will exist at Israel's end time, just prior to the second coming of Christ to establish His kingdom on earth.

Four Persian Rulers (2; 529-465 BC)

- this prophecy predicts the rise and fall of four Persian rulers that came after Cyrus II and Darius the Mede:
 - Cambyses (529-522 BC)
 - Smerdis (522-521 BC)
 - Darius Hystaspes (521-486 BC; *Ezra 5-6*)
 - Xerxes I (486-465 BC)
 - also known as “Ahaseurus” (*Esther 1*)
 - used his riches to lead a disastrous expedition against Greece in 480 BC

Alexander the Great (3-4; 336-323 BC)

- conquered Persia and established the Greek empire
- his reign was brief, dying at age 32, and leaving no heir
- his kingdom was divided amongst his generals, eventually leading to four weaker rulers/kingdoms:
 - Cassander – Macedonia/Greece
 - Lysimachus – Thrace and Asia Minor (Bithynia)
 - Ptolemy I – Egypt, Palestine and Arabia)
 - Seleucus – Syria, Babylonia and east to India

Seleucid and Ptolemaic Rulers (5-20; 323-175 BC)

- these prophecies concern rulers that were part of the post-Alexander Greek empire:

Verses	NORTH (SYRIA)	SOUTH (EGYPT)
5	Seleucus I Nicator (312-281 BC)	Ptolemy I Soter (323-285 BC)
6	Antiochus II Theos (261-246 BC)	Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246 BC)
7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus (247-226 BC)	Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 BC)
10	Seleucus III Ceraunus (226-223 BC)	
10-13	Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC)	Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203 BC)
14-19	Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC)	Ptolemy V Epiphanes (203-181 BC)
20	Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175 BC)	

- considered the most detailed prophecy in all scripture

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (21-35; 175-164 BC)

- Epiphanes = “glorious”; a self-given title keeping with his desire to be revered as a god; God’s Word describes him as “vile” (21)
- seized power secretly when Seleucus IV died (21)
- persecuted Jews and desecrated the temple (28,30-31)
 - murdered 40,000, enslaved 40,000, and plundered sacred temple vessels (1 Maccabees 1:20-28; 2 Maccabees 5:11-17)
 - sided with Jews willing to forsake the Law and profaned temple by dedicating it to Zeus (2 Maccabees 6:1)
 - forbade OT sacrifices; sacrificed a pig on the altar; erected an idol of Zeus in the holy place (31; foreshadows Mt 24:15)
- attempted to corrupt Jewish faith; martyred many that resisted (32-35)
 - resulted in a purified, strong remnant of Jewish faith (35)
- he foreshadows the future Antichrist (36-45; Mt 24:15)

The Ruler of Israel’s End Time (36-45; Future)

- exalts himself above the true God and false gods (36-37)
- adores and pursues military power (38)
- a conqueror that apportioned territories to his allies (39)
- prevails against attacks from the north and south (40)
- conquers Israel, Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia, but not Jordan (Edom, Moab and Ammon) (41-43)
- destroys armies that approach from the east and north (44)
- establishes his rule in Jerusalem (45)
- ultimately destroyed at Christ’s return (45; Rev 19:20)