

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Daniel – week 11



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the many fulfilled prophecies in Daniel chapter 11?
2. What does v.2 tell us about Persia? (**Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them.**)
3. What does v.3 tell us about Greece? (**Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he will.**)
4. What does v.6 in the Amplified bible tell us? (**After some years the Syrian king of the North and the Egyptian king of the South will make an alliance.**)



Let's go deeper

5. Who will arise according to v.21? (**In Syria will arise a despicable and despised person, to whom royal majesty has not been given.**)
6. What does v.28 tell us about the person? (**He shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be against the holy covenant.**)
7. What does v.31 tell us? (**Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.**)
8. What does v.32b tell us about the people of God? (**...The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.**)



Let's apply this

9. Daniel 11:2; And now I will show you the truth...

2 Peter 2:20 – 21; Knowing first of all, that no prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- What prophecies from God to you have come true?
- Are you praying and reminding God of His prophecies to you?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of past prophecies.

SUMMARY:

Daniel: Week 11 – A remarkable prophecy

Read: Daniel 11:1 – 35

vv.1 – 2; Prophecies about Persia. The four kings were Cambyses (BC 529-522); Smerdis (BC 522-521); Darius I Hystapes (BC 521-486), and Xerxes (BC 496-465). The most important and wealthiest of the four kings, was Xerxes, see the book of Esther. His empire reached from Ethiopia to India, and he wanted to conquer Greece.

vv.3 – 4; Prophecies about Greece. The mighty king of v.3 is, Alexander the Great, who was determined to punish the Persians for Xerxes' invasion. The Persian empire tried to destroy the Jews during the reign of Xerxes, and the Greek empire tried to destroy the Jews during the reign of Antiochus IV.

vv.5 – 20; The kings of the South (Egypt) and the North (Syria). Israel was caught between these two great nations. The Ptolemy I line provided the rulers in Egypt, and the Seleucid I line the rulers in the north (Syria). These two kingdoms fought for some 130 years, with the stronger of the two ruling over Israel. After the death of Ptolemy I, Seleucus II took the throne of Syria, and the new king of Egypt was Ptolemy III, the brother of Berenice (daughter of Ptolemy I). Seleucus II had two sons Seleucus III and Antiochus III, both were generals. Seleucus III ruled only a short time, and was succeeded by his brother Antiochus III, who ruled from 223 – 187. Antiochus III took back the Holy Land from the dominion of the Ptolemies. Antiochus III was defeated at the battle of Raphia and had to give back dominion over the Holy Land to Ptolemy IV.

vv.21 – 35; Prophecies about Antiochus Epiphanes and Syria.

Antiochus Epiphanes is a picture of the antichrist, and Gabriel calls him a despicable and despised person in v.21. v.28, prophesied that he will turn his attention to Israel and the wealth in the temple this was fulfilled in the year BC.170. He plundered and defiled the temple, abolished the daily sacrifices, killed a great many Jews, and left soldiers behind to keep things in control.

On December 14, 168, Antiochus desecrated the temple by erecting an altar to Zeus and by offering a pig as a sacrifice. Gabriel calls this "the abomination of desolation" in v. 31. The future Antichrist will put his own image in the Jewish temple when he breaks his covenant with the Jews. In his attack on Jerusalem Antiochus IV is said to have killed 80,000 Jews, taken 40,000 more as prisoners, and sold 40,000 as slaves.

There was a small group of faithful Jews who opposed the godlessness of Antiochus and trusted God to enable them to fight back. A Jewish priest named Mattathias, with his five sons, gathered an army and fought back. His son Judas, nicknamed Maccabeus ("the hammerer"), was one of the heroes. On December 14, 165, the temple was purified and the altar dedicated. The Jews celebrate this occasion as the Feast of Lights (Hanukkah). Antiochus Epiphanes died in Persia in 163.