

05–27–2020 Daniel 11.1–10 Bible Study

Read Daniel 11.1–10 in your favorite translation. I will print the NET–2 translation.

11:1 And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood to strengthen him and to provide protection for him.) 2 Now I will tell you the truth.

“Three more kings will arise for Persia. Then a fourth king will be unusually rich, more so than all who preceded him. When he has amassed power through his riches, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece. 3 Then a powerful king will arise, exercising great authority and doing as he pleases. 4 Shortly after his rise to power, his kingdom will be broken up and distributed toward the four winds of the sky—but not to his posterity or with the authority he exercised, for his kingdom will be uprooted and distributed to others besides these.

5 “Then the king of the south and one of his subordinates will grow strong. His subordinate will resist him and will rule a kingdom greater than his. 6 After some years have passed, they will form an alliance. Then the daughter of the king of the south will come to the king of the north to make an agreement, but she will not retain her power, nor will he continue in his strength. She, together with the one who brought her, her child, and her benefactor will all be delivered over at that time.

7 “There will arise in his place one from her family line who will come against their army and will enter the stronghold of the king of the north and will move against them successfully. 8 He will also take their gods into captivity to Egypt, along with their cast images and prized utensils of silver and gold. Then he will withdraw for some years from the king of the north. 9 Then the king of the north will advance against the empire of the king of the south, but will withdraw to his own land. 10 His sons will wage war, mustering a large army that will advance like an overflowing river and carrying the battle all the way to the enemy’s fortress.

COMMENTS:

The Messenger continues to speak in chapter 11. He informs Daniel that since the 1 year of Darius the Mede, Michael had worked to strengthen and protect him. Since this vision for Daniel is about his people, he tells him in greater detail what will come.

Antisemitic hatred has a long history. You need to know that Persia and Israel had a long history of dislike for each other. To get a taste of it, go back and read Esther and review Nehemiah and the opposition he encountered rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

In chapter 1 we are told Daniel until the first year of Cyrus. Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return from Babylon. Daniel supported and befriended Darius the Mede and then about 50 years later the Jewish woman, Esther becomes Queen of Persia and is enabled to save the lives of the Jew from extermination in Persia. God works in the affairs of kingdoms on earth.

Three kings in Persia are going to arise. They were Cambyses (530–522 BC), Pseudo-Smerdis (522 BC), and Darius I Hystaspes (522–486 BC). Ahasuerus was the fourth king who would be far richer than the others.

The warrior king predicted here was Alexander the Great (336–323 BC). As prophesied, his kingdom was divided to the four winds of heaven, referring to the division of his empire among his four generals rather than his descendants.

The king of the South is Ptolemy I Soter of Egypt (323–285 BC), who was outstripped by one of his commanders, Seleucus I Nicator (311–280 BC), who had abandoned Ptolemy I to become

ruler of Babylonia, Media, and Syria, and establish the Seleucid kingdom that grew to be greater than that of Ptolemy's Egypt.

The king of the South, Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285–246 BC), would make an alliance with the king of the North, Antiochus II Theos (261–246 BC), sealing the agreement by giving his daughter, the Ptolemaic princess Berenice, to marry Antiochus. Yet Berenice would not retain power, as Antiochus's former wife Laodice would murder Antiochus, Berenice, and their child.

One from Berenice's family, her brother Ptolemy III Euergetes (246–221 BC), would avenge her murder by storming Antioch, the fortress of the king of the North, Seleucus II Callinicus (246–226 BC), and killing Laodice. Ptolemy III would even seize Seleucid gods and valuables, bringing them back to Egypt.

The sons of Seleucus II—Seleucus III Ceraunus (226–223 BC) and Antiochus III (223–187 BC)—would wage war as far as the Ptolemaic fortress Raphia in southern Israel.

REFLECTION QUESTION: Kings and Queens were many times a war with each other or other family members just as we have political parties waring against one another today. It is no wonder why it is so difficult for the ordinary person to get ahead because corrupt leadership is primarily interested in what they can get for themselves. Humble, peace loving, and people caring leaders are hard to find. That is why God's people are urged to pray for kings and those in authority. Leaders which are not moved by the cries of those they serve, can be moved by the God who created them. I believe God's suggestion is, "Pray more and complain less."