

ALEXANDER, ANTIOCHUS and ANTICHRIST

Daniel 11

Introduction

Today's lesson is part of the message that the angel brought to Daniel from God. It took him 21 days to reach Daniel because an evil angel stopped him and would not let him go until Michael came to help him. God's message answered some of Daniel's questions about the future of his people, Israel. He learned that they were going to endure much suffering in the days ahead, but in the end they would be blessed by God. Today's lesson will tell about their suffering, especially from two men, Antiochus Epiphanes and Antichrist. The prophecies in verses 1-35 which included Antiochus were fulfilled so precisely that liberal scholars do not believe Daniel wrote it. They believe someone wrote it after it happened and put Daniel's name on it to make it look like prophecy. But Daniel simply wrote what God revealed to him. It is God that knows the future and He reveals some of it to special men like Daniel to show that He is the omniscient, all-knowing God (Ps 139:1-6). He wanted Daniel to write about two very evil men that Satan was going to use to try to corrupt Israel and destroy God's plan to restore righteousness on planet earth by His Son. God does know the future and He has revealed some of it to His prophets.

Aim of the Lesson: Pray for believers to be bold witnesses for Christ even when Satan uses evil men to hurt them. Paul asked believers to pray this prayer for him: "that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph 6:19).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

PROPHECIES ABOUT RULERS IN CERTAIN EMPIRES – 11:1-39

The natural way of interpreting prophecy is the only way to understand Daniel 11:1-35. The words he used are to be understood as people normally use words. What he prophesied came to pass exactly as he said it would because he got those words from God. Do not try to see a deeper or hidden meaning in reading prophecy. When Daniel described the wicked deeds by two men against Israel, his prophecy about the first man has already been fulfilled exactly as he wrote it in words with normal meanings. So understand his words about the second man in the same way -- that is the way they will be fulfilled.

We must understand the words of prophecy in the same way as we would read a letter from a dear missionary friend telling us that he is being attacked by ungodly men. Then we should pray for such missionaries to be bold in witnessing to those who persecute them.

I. MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE – 11:1-2

1. Who was the king that the angel established and strengthened during his first year? (11:1)
2. Who was the king that infuriated the Greeks by attacking them? (11:2) .

II. GRECIAN EMPIRE – 11:3-35

3. Who was the king that conquered Medo-Persia and suddenly died? (11:3-4)
4. How many kingdoms did the generals make out of the Grecian Empire? (11:4)
5. Which two Greek kingdoms continued to rule over the Jews? (11:5-20)
6. Who is the Greek king that polluted the Temple of God and desecrated His altar? (11:31-32)
7. What people attacked this wicked king and drove him out of Jerusalem? (11:32-35)

III. REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE – 11:36-39

8. Who will be like this wicked Greek king in the future, only worse? (11:36-39)
9. Tell one thing you know about this future wicked Roman king in each of the verses below:

11:36	11:38
11:37	11:39
10. Will you make a deliberate effort to pray for believers that are being attacked by wicked men?