

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 16: Deadly Family Feud Breaks Empire
Daniel 11:1 – 13
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Brief Review: Daniel 2 volumes in one book; Compare Outline upon Outline; Repeat and Enlarge; Daniel 10 (Christ in charge / invisible warfare!)

4 prophetic visions with 4 prophetic historical outlines

Visions	Book of Daniel	Prophetic Vision	Prophetic Historical Outline
Vision 1	Daniel 2	Daniel has the kings' dream and interprets it	The Image (rise & fall of 5 kingdoms) 1. Babylon 2. Medio-Persia 3. Greece 4. Pagan Rome 5. Divided Europe
Vision 2	Daniel 7	Daniel has vision of the four great beasts and the investigative judgment scene	Four Great Beast including the little horn (rise & fall of 5 kingdoms)
Vision 3	Daniel 8 - 9	Daniel 8 ~ Daniel has vision of the ram and the he goat. Also question about when the investigative judgment will begin (8:14) Daniel 9:20-27 ~ Interpretation on Daniel 8:14 (9:20-27)	Ram and the He Goat including the little horn (rise & fall of 5 kingdoms). Also gives clues the 5 th empire, the little horn (papacy) will also be the last earthly kingdom.
Vision 4	Daniel 10 – 12	Daniel 10 ~ Invisible warfare revealed Daniel 11 – 12:1-4 ~ More details of rise & fall of kingdoms until the close of probation Daniel 12 ~ Three future timelines 1260 literal days 1290 literal days 1335 literal days	More details of the descriptions of rise and fall of kingdom without prophetic symbolism [Daniel 11 – 12:1, 2] (rise & fall of 7 kingdoms) 2 additional kingdoms revealed.

Daniel chapter 11 Overview

Daniel chapter 11 is the fourth Historical-prophetic Outline that repeats the three Historical-prophetic Outlines of Daniel chapters 2, 7, and 8–9 with more detail. Those previous outlines revealed the rise and fall of five empires. Daniel 11 repeats some of the same kingdoms starting with Media-Persia and reveals a sixth and seventh empire.

The 4th historical-prophetic outline in Daniel 11 is **NOT** written in symbolic language. There are no strange beasts nor a horn in the fourth vision. It is literal language used to describe literal kings and events. Even though the kings are not named they are described by their accomplishments or given descriptive titles such as “raiser of taxes”, “king of the north”, or “abomination of desolation”.

The kingdoms revealed in Daniel chapter 11 lines up with the prophetic book of Revelation. It gives outlines of future events by focusing on great significant events that affect God's people. Daniel 11 IS NOT a detailed commentary of every king and their history. The purpose of Daniel 11 is to give significant events and people that brought about the rise or fall of kingdoms.

VERY IMPORTANT: In Daniel 11 you must match every passage of scripture with sequential historical events.

Forward Progressive MOVEMENT: Each of the prophetic historical outlines move forward in time until the end of time starting with Babylon.

Remember the fourth vision begins in Daniel chapter 10.

Correction: When Babylon was conquered by Media-Persia co-partnership, Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian were co-kings of the Media-Persia kingdom at the beginning. They only ruled together for two years, because Darius the Mede died.

Daniel 10:1 says that the fourth vision of Daniel was given in the "third year of Cyrus king of Persia."

Very important: Here in Daniel 10:1 the third year of Cyrus reign is counting from the time he co-reigned with Darius. Even though this was Cyrus' third year as king, it was his first year as sole ruler of the Media-Persia kingdom.

This was the same year that Cyrus made a decree for captives of Judah to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. This decree officially ended the 70 years of Babylonian captivity as prophesied by Jeremiah. It was prophesied in Isaiah that Cyrus would be the king that would fulfill the prophecy. The details of the fulfillment of the prophecy is recorded in 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 and Ezra 1:1-5. They both record that the decree was given the first year of Cyrus reign. Again this is counting the first year of his sole reign. If counting from the time of his co-reign with Darius it would be his third year as revealed in Daniel 10:1.

As we learned in our previous study in Daniel chapter 10, Satan did all he could to try to make king Cyrus change his mind. Satan worked hard on Cyrus to try to stop the prophecy from being fulfilled. The angel Gabriel was fighting in that invisible warfare to oppose Satan's attacks of temptations on Cyrus.

(Review) How long was the fight and who had to help him in this invisible warfare?

Daniel 10:13

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Jesus, Michael the GREAT prince, came to the help of Gabriel. Cyrus was stirred up to give the decree to end the 70 years of Judah's Babylonian captivity and rebuild the temple.

In our previous study we learned that the angel Gabriel came to give Daniel more understanding of the prophecies of the rise and fall of kingdoms. **Media-Persia reigned from 539-331 BC [208 years]. Gabriel confirms that Greece would be the third empire since Babylon in Daniel 10:20.** This was also revealed in Daniel 8:21.

Before Gabriel gives further detailed explanations of the vision of the rise and fall of kingdom's what did he promise Daniel?

Daniel 10:21

21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the **scripture of truth**: and **there is none that holdeth [strengthens] with me in these things, but Michael your prince.**

Gabriel confirms that he will show Daniel things that had already been noted in the scripture of truth in previous visions of Daniel and prophetic books such as Isaiah and Jeremiah. Gabriel also reminds Daniel that all his power comes from Michael, the chief over the angels, the Great Prince, Jesus Christ.

What are some details that Gabriel shares concerning the fall of Babylon and the rise of Media-Persia?

Daniel 11:1

1 Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

Gabriel reveals that he was one of the angels behind the scenes who orchestrated the overthrow of Babylon as prophesied by Isaiah and Jeremiah in 539 BC. Remember Cyrus king of Persia who led in the invasion of Babylon and Darius the Mede, was co-king with Cyrus after the overthrow of Babylon. Remember it was King Darius who appointed Daniel over the presidents and princes of the Median-Persian kingdom which brought about the lion's den incident.

What significantly happened within the Media-Persia kingdom that stirred up Greece who many years later conquered them?

Daniel 11:2

2 And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall **stand up yet three kings in Persia**; and the **fourth shall be far richer** than they all: and by his **strength through his riches** he shall **stir up** all against the realm of **Grecia**.

Persian Empire or the Achaemenid Empire

After the death of king Darius the Mede, the Persian kings were the sole rulers of the Media-Persian Kingdom. The Persian side of the kingdom became much more stronger than the Median side. This was depicted as the bear raised up higher on one side in Daniel 7 and the higher horn on one side of the ram in Daniel 8. From the time of king Cyrus' sole reign, history mainly refers to his kingdom as the Persian Empire or the Achaemenid Empire.

Who are the “yet three kings of Persia and the fourth that “shall be far richer than they all”?

The four “official” kings of Persia that came after King Cyrus were:

- 1) **Cambyses II** – reign started in 530 through 522 BC. Son of king Cyrus. Ruled only eight years. He died while en route to put down a rebellion.
- 2) **Bardiya** – also known as **Smerdis**, son of Cyrus the Great and the younger brother of Cambyses II. Ruled in 522 BC for only a few months. He was assassinated by the magus **Gaumāta**. **Gaumāta** tried to impersonate Bardiya.
- 3) **Darius I** – Overthrew Gaumata, Bardiya's “impersonator” and reigned from 522 to—486 BC. Darius I reissued a decree to continue to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The temple was completed the sixth year of his reign (Ezra 6:15).
- 4) **Xerxes I** – son of Darius I. He was also known by his Persian kingly title “Artaxerxes”. Reigned from 486 to 465 BC. After Judah rebuilt the temple, they began to rebuild the walls. At the beginning of his reign in 486 BC, Xerxes I also known as Ahaseurus made an official decree to stop them (Ezra 4:6, 21). It appeared that Satan was going to use Xerxes I to stop the 2300 prophecy that had to start in 457 BC. Xerxes was only around 34 at the beginning of his reign in 486 BC. He did not appear to be sympathetic to the Jews. That was less than 30 years from that time Xerxes stopped Judah from rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem! Xerxes I was still in

his prime, he was only 33 years old (born in 519 BC)! He still had many more years left. But the invisible war raged on behind the scenes! In the book of Esther Xerxes is also known as Ahaseurus, in the seventh year of his reign Queen Esther, the Jew, his newly chosen wife. God used Esther to stop the grand Jewish genocide plan of Haman. Xerxes I is now more sympathetic toward the Jews because of his wife queen Esther. It appeared that things were turning around and that he would be the one to sign the decree in 457 to restore and rebuild Jerusalem!

However, in 465 BC Xerxes I at the age of 54 was assassinated by Artabanus the commander of the royal bodyguard and the most powerful official in the Persian court. Artabanus ruled as regent, not officially the king, from 465-464 BC.

Artaxerxes I (Arses) was the son of Xerxes I. He began to reign after Artabanus and the son's of Artabanus were killed. It was this Artaxerxes in the 7th year of his reign (Ezra 7:7-25) in 457 BC that made the decree to rebuild and restore Jerusalem as prophesied in Daniel 9:25. This is the start date of the 2300 years prophecy of Daniel 8:14. This had to happen as God foretold!

Xerxes I fulfills the prophecy (Daniel 11:2) that the fourth king since Cyrus “**shall be far richer** than they all: and by his **strength through his riches** he shall **stir up** all against the realm of **Grecia**.”

“Shall be far richer”:

Esther chapter 1 reveals the riches of Xerxes I (also known as Ahaseurus in the book of Esther).

Esther 1:1-4

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, **over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces**;)

2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,

3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:

4 When he shewed **the riches of his glorious kingdom** and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an **hundred and fourscore days (180 days)**.

*Note: In Daniel 6:1 there were 120 provinces. The Persian kingdom expanded to 127 provinces at the time of Xerxes I.

“By his [Xerxes I] strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia”:

Xerxes over the course of his years used his wealth to build up his military strength and had many battles to try to overthrow Greece. Even though Xerxes forces were greater than Greece, they were unable to conquer them! After his death his son Artaxerxes used his riches to fund the enemies of Greece in attempt to overthrow them but the attempt was unsuccessful.

According to the previous prophecies in Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8, and 10 who was prophesied to overthrow the Median-Persian kingdom? Greece in 331 BC led by Alexander the Great

How is Alexander the Great described in Daniel 11:3?

Daniel 11:3

3 And a **mighty king** shall stand up, that shall **rule with great dominion**, and **do according to his will**.

Alexander the Great “a mighty king” that is described as “notable horn” and “great horn” in Daniel 8:5, 8.

What happened to Alexander the Great according to our previous study in Daniel 8:5 – 8?

Daniel 8:5-8

5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.
 6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.
 7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.
 8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones **toward the four winds of heaven.**

How does Daniel 11:4 describe this same event in which the “great horn was broken”?

Daniel 11:4

4 And when he [Alexander the Great] shall stand up, **his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven** [exact phrase in Daniel 8:8]; and **not to his posterity**, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Alexander the Great facts:

- 336 BC proclaimed king of Greece at the age of 20
- He was considered a military strategy genius in which many of his tactics of war are still used today.
- Conquered Media-Persia Kingdom
- Died at the age of 32 in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon
- No capable son to inherit the kingdom (his son was a baby either in or out of the womb at the time)

What happened to Greece after Alexander the Great's death?

Since Alexander did not have a capable son to inherit the kingdom of Greece, it was divided into four sections (“fours winds of heaven” north, south, east, and west) among his four generals (“four notables”)

4 Generals	Direction	Territory
Ptolemy	South	Egypt and North Africa
Seleucus	Northeast	Syria and middle east area
Lysimachus	Northwest	Asia minor
Cassander	Greece	Greece and the area east of it



Daniel 11:5 – 13 gives more significant details of the Grecian kingdom that split. It specifically describes the actions between the Ptolemy (king of the south) and Seleucus (king of the north). The years of war between these two set up the stage for the dominance and rule of Rome.

Note: Israel, God’s people, was in the middle of the fighting for several years.

How is Ptolemy's kingdom (king of the south) described after the split between Greece's four generals?

Daniel 11:5

5 And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.

No More War, BUT MARRIAGE!

Ptolemy was in the area of modern and ancient Egypt. They built up a strong military with the aspirations to be the next superpower. Ptolemy kingdom wanted to expand its power by taking over the north, Seleucus. History reveals that there were wars between the two for many years but neither one prevailed, so they tried to join by marriage (see next text).

How was this marriage between Ptolemy (king of the south) and Seleucus (king of the north) described in Daniel 11:6?

Daniel 11:6

6 And in the end of years they shall **join themselves together**; for the **king's daughter of the south** shall come to the **king of the north** to make an agreement: but **she shall not retain the power of the arm**; neither **shall he stand, nor his arm**: but **she shall be given up**, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.

According to history who is the king's daughter of the south (Ptolemy) and the king of the north (Seleucus) that married?

Prophecy fulfilled: History reveals that Berenice Ptolemy of Egypt (daughter of the king of the south) married Antiochus Theos, third king of Syria [the Selucid kingdom-king of the north] in an attempt to produce a great empire. They had a child together. He would be king over this union which would join these two kingdoms together.

But there was a major problem. Antiochus was already married to Queen Laodice before he married Berenice. Queen Laodice was NOT happy! She poisoned king Antiochus and had both Berenice and the child of Berenice and Antiochus (heir to the throne) killed! Also, those Egyptians that came and supported Berenice were killed.

What happened next? Do you think Berenice's family in Egypt were happy about this?

Daniel 11:7-9

7 But out of a **branch of her roots** shall **one stand up in his estate**, which shall come with an army, and shall enter **into the fortress of the king of the north**, and shall deal against them, and **shall prevail**:

8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt [king of the south] their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.

9 So the **king of the south** shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

Prophecy fulfilled: "The branch of her roots" refers to Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III Euergetes. He took revenge for his sister's death!

Wikipedia's Historical account Daniel 11:6 – 9. "Around 252 BC, following the peace agreement of 253 BC between Antiochus and Ptolemy to end the Second Syrian War, she married the Seleucid monarch Antiochus II Theos, who divorced his wife Laodice I and transferred the succession to Berenice's children.

In 246 BC, when Ptolemy died, Antiochus II took up again with his first wife, Laodice. Antiochus died shortly thereafter, many suspect from poisoning. Queen Berenice claimed the regency for her infant son Antiochus however, she and her son were both killed by Laodice. Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III Euergetes, succeeded

their father and set about to avenge his sister's murder by invading Syria and having Laodice killed. This is also mentioned in the Book of Daniel 11:6.” - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berenice_\(Seleucid_queen\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berenice_(Seleucid_queen))

Great Family Feud!

How did this feud between the ruling families of Egypt (south) and Syria (north) continue?

Daniel 11:10

10 But his sons [king of the north] shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress.

Historical Fulfillment: The sons of the king of the north who were named Seleucus III Ceraunus, and Antiochus III Magnus. They had multiple military campaigns at Egypt for revenge!

Who were in the middle of these kingdoms of the south and north battling it out for years? Israel!

How did the Egyptians (south) retaliate?

Daniel 11:11

11 And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.

Even though Egypt (king of the south) waxed strong what does prophecy say would happen to them?

Daniel 11:12

12 And when he hath taken away the multitude, **his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it.**

What would the king of the north do?

Daniel 11:13

13 For the king of the north shall return, and **shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.**

Because of the constant family feud within the Empire of Greece (north and south). It became weak and brittle!

What happened next?

Daniel 11:14

14 And in those times there shall **many stand up against the king of the south:** also **the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision;** but they shall fall.

Who are the “robbers of thy people”? How did Pagan Rome conquer Greece and become the fourth kingdom according to the prophecies of Daniel. **TO BE CONTINUED...**