

“As The World Turns”
“Daniel—A Testimony to the Power of God” - Part 12
Daniel 11:1-35

*“Fulfilled prophecy is one of the proofs of the
inspiration of the Bible, for only an omniscient
God can know the future.”*
Warren Wiersbe

*“Probably no other portion of Scripture presents
more minute prophecy than Daniel 11:1-35.”*
John Walvoord

1. Daniel chapter 11 covers more than 200 years of history.

A heathen philosopher named Porphyry began attacking Daniel in the 3rd Century A.D. Critics are persuaded that no one could have prophesied these events this precisely. Critics attack Daniel as a forgery.

The attacks prompted Jerome to defend the book of Daniel and write his own commentary on Daniel.

The controversy between Jerome and Porphyry has characterized the discussion of the book of Daniel ever since.

2. Prophecies about Persia (Daniel 11:1-2)

So he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.) Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.”

Daniel 10:20-11:2

Daniel’s prophecy introduces four more kings of Persia, the fourth being the richest of them all. Who are these kings?

Cambyses the son of Cyrus (Ezra 4)

Pseudo-Smerdis

Darius I Hystapes (Ezra 6)

Xerxes (The prominent king of the Book of Esther)

3. Prophecies about Greece (Daniel 11:3-4)

Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

Daniel 11:3-4

The “mighty” king is Alexander the Great.

His kingdom will be divided four ways and not to his descendents.

4. Prophecies about the kings of the North and South (Daniel 11:5-20)

*Daniel's prophecy tallies with the record of history
proving that God's Word can be trusted!*

The Ptolemy line provided kings for Egypt and the Seleucid line provided kings for Syria.

Verse 5: Ptolemy I and Seleucus I—Seleucus was the stronger and ruled a larger empire. It was his alliance with Ptolemy that allowed him to control Syria.

Verse 6: Ptolemy II and Antiochus II—As was often the case, marriage was used as a means to form strong political alliances.

Verses 7-9: Ptolemy III and Seleucus II—The new king of Egypt was the brother of Bernice, and he intended on defending his sister's honor.

Verses 10-20: Ptolemy the IV and Antiochus III the Great—Antiochus the Great regained lost territory from Egypt, but in 217 B.C. the Egyptians defeated the Syrians. That didn't stop Antiochus. He took his army east as far as India.

In 201 B.C., Antiochus gathered another large army and won another great victory against Ptolemy V. Some Jews joined with Antiochus, hoping to break free from Egyptian control.

Verse 16: Antiochus not only conquered Egypt, but "the glorious land" (Israel).

Antiochus negotiated with Egypt to marry off his daughter, Cleopatra I. Ptolemy V was seven years old at the time. He hoped his daughter would undermine the Egyptian government. But Cleopatra was loyal to her husband, so his strategy didn't work.

Antiochus decided to attack Greece but was defeated by the Roman General Lucius Asiaticus.

Verse 20: Antiochus died in 187 B.C. and was succeeded by his son Seleucus IV, who oppressed the Jewish people by extreme taxation. Seleucus IV was probably poisoned by Heliodorus, his own tax collection man.

This opened the way for the wicked Antiochus Epiphanes to seize the throne.

Summary: Our review of history plays like a Soap Opera. The ancient world had its share of intrigue, deception, violence, greed, and war. Lust for power drove men and women to violate human rights, kill, murder, slaughter thousands, plunder the helpless, and even kill their own relatives just to wear a crown.

5. Prophecies about Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 11:21-35)

We have met this wicked man before in Daniel 8.

He named himself Epiphanes—"the glorious one" but the people called him Epiphanes—"the madman."

Antiochus was not heir to the throne but obtained it by guile.

Militarily, Antiochus was very successful using deception and brut force.

Antiochus failed to take all of Egypt in his first campaign, and on his way back to Syria, plundered Israel.

In 170 B.C., he defiled the temple and abolished the daily sacrifice.

Two years later he invaded Egypt again. This time the Romans stopped him, so he once again took out his anger on Israel.

This time Jewish traitors helped Antiochus, because he offered to reward them generously.

On December 14, 168 B.C., Antiochus desecrated the temple, erecting a statue to Zeus and sacrificing a pig on the altar.

Antiochus was doing his best to exterminate the Jewish people and their religion.

According to verses 33-35, there was a small group of faithful Jews who opposed the godless

Antiochus.

A Jewish priest and his five sons gathered an army and was able to fight back. His son Judas, nicknamed Maccabeus "the hammer," was one of the heroes of the revolt. Many Jews laid down their lives for their city, their temple and their faith, and finally won. On December 14, 165, the temple was purified and the altar dedicated. Jews celebrate this occasion annually as the Feast of Hanukkah.

Antiochus died in Persia in 163 B.C.

The section closes with the angel reminding Daniel that what he had related has implications for Israel in the "End Times."

Antiochus Epiphanes is a clear picture of the future Antichrist.

Daniel could see that his people would endure; some would apostatize, join the enemy, and others would remain faithful and do great exploits.

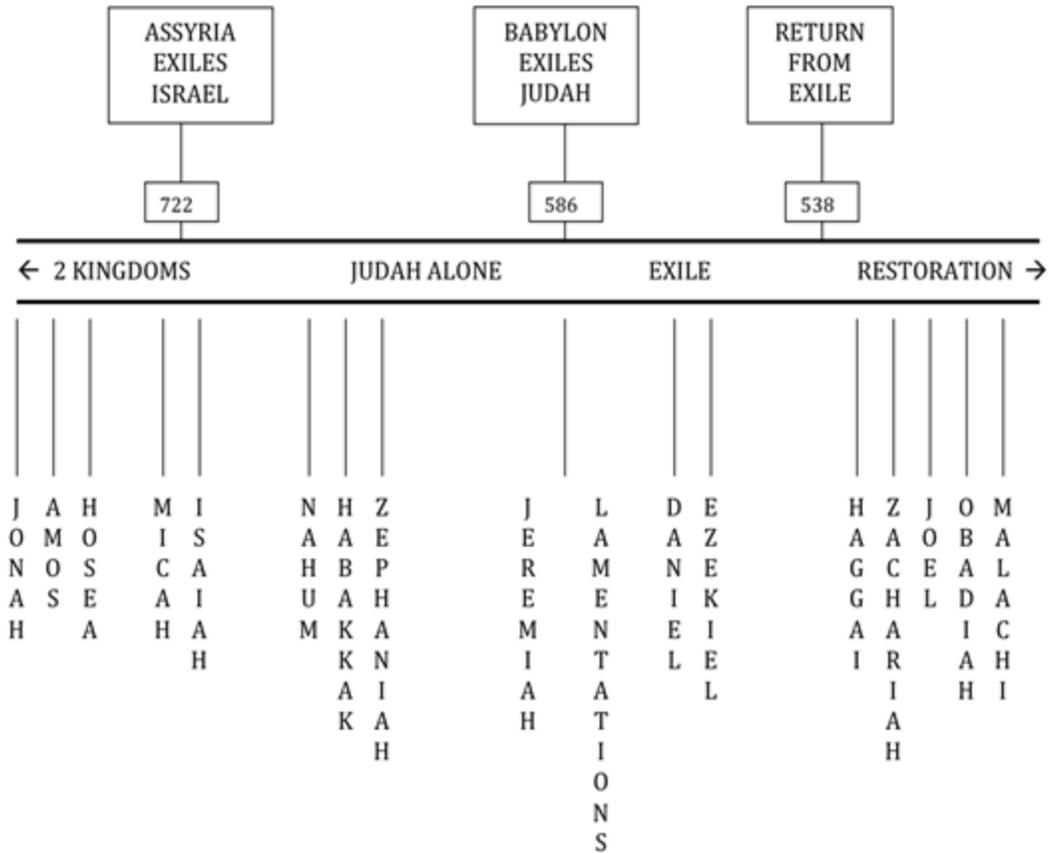
Application: No matter how difficult the times, God will keep his covenant to His people. When we think we are all alone, we must always remember: God always has a faithful remnant.

...The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:11-15

"As The World Turns" is thirteenth in a series titled, "Daniel—A Testimony to the Power of God." August 18, 2013. All verses are from the New International version unless noted.

PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



	TO ISRAEL	TO JUDAH	TO FOREIGN NATION
ASSYRIAN AGE	Amos (760) Hosea (760-730)	Isaiah (740-700) Micah (737-690)	Jonah (770)
BABYLONIAN AGE		Habakkuk (630) Zephaniah (627) Jeremiah (627-580) Lamentations (585) Daniel (605-530) Ezekiel (593-570)	Nahum (650)
PERSIAN AGE		Haggai (520) Zachariah (520-518) Joel (500) Malachi (433)	Obadiah (500)