

Daniel 11 – The Final Vision Continued

By Holly Effiom

V1

Who stood with Darius?

“Also...”: In addition to whom? What was the relationship between the Medes and the Persians?
Were they enemies? Dan 5:28

Was God for or against the Persians? How do you know? Isa 44:28; 45:1-4

What does it mean to stand, confirm, and strengthen?

What would the job of a prince be?

So, considering the prince of Persia, would he stand, confirm, and strengthen the kings of Persia?
See Dan 10:13

So, would the vision be fighting against the prince of Persia, if He is supporting the kings of Persia?

“...even I...”: If this is a theophany, why would He take such a personal interest in the Medes and Persians? Isa 45:4

According to Dan 10:13, when the vision was “contending” with the prince of Persia, who was He protecting?

So, if the prince of Persia was indeed an enemy, was he fighting against the kings of Persia?

LESSON: There is so much to unpack in just this first verse of Daniel 11. Firstly, this chapter is a continuation on the conversation taking place in Daniel 10. It does not follow the same pattern of a new vision per chapter, like chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Secondly, the question of how Daniel 10:13 is interpreted is raised again. Understanding the history of Persia in prophecy with regard to God foretelling the advent of Cyrus in Isaiah 44:28 and clearly speaking of who Cyrus was to Him in Isaiah 45:1-4; and understanding the relationship between the Medes and Persians, especially as it relates to the conquest of Babylon (Dan 5:28), makes it more likely that the vision was fighting on behalf of the prince of Persia, not against him.

This raises the question, why would God take such a personal interest in the affairs of the Medes and Persians? The answer is found in Isaiah 45:4, “For Jacob my servant’s sake, and Israel mine elect...”

One glorious message of this section of scripture is the fact that God Himself, even though He banished the children of Israel to exile because of their sin, continues to take a personal interest in their care.

This was the case in regards to Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and Cyrus. If this is His manner with those with whom He covenants, what confidence should the Christian have? His covenant with Israel was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This same Jesus Christ is in covenant with the Christian.

Also, if the vision is indeed a theophany, and further, an image of the “pre-born as a man and crucified Jesus”, we learn that He battled His enemies, and won... and possibly lost, battles. Wow! That is unsettling... Could God possibly lose some battles?

Thank you, Jesus, for the Revelation – we know Who wins the war!

VV2-4

What does the vision tell Daniel about the Persian king?

What will the last Persian king do with his strength and riches?

Who will win the contest with Greece?

Who could’ve possibly been the adversary against whom the prince of Persia was fighting?

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What will happen to the first king? What will happen to his kingdom?

Will that first king's children take over and conquer more areas?

According to the scripture, will the kingdom even remain in Greek hands?

LESSON: If we hold this interpretation up next to Daniel 2, Daniel 7, and Daniel 8, we would see that this section of scripture is describing the transition of the metals in Daniel 2, from silver to bronze; the beasts of Daniel 7, from the bear with one side higher than the other to the leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads; and the two-horned ram of Daniel 8, with one horn higher than the other, being killed by the rough goat with a single prominent horn. Furthermore, verse 4 makes it clear that dominion will not remain long in the hands of those 4 generals.

Let's take a step back...

The things that are being revealed to Daniel are far into the future – Daniel will not be around to see most of it happen. So, why is this message being conveyed to Daniel? And, to whom is it expected that this message would go?

Based on our understanding of how God and the angels interact with mankind – responding to *precisely* to what is requested – I believe, that on some level, Daniel requested this understanding. Where did Daniel ask for this understanding? I suspected for a moment that it must have been subliminal; however, this morning, God reminded me of Daniel's demand for the "details" in Dan 7:19-23 – back in the first year of Belshazzar, son of Nebuchadnezzar, the last "Babylonian" king. A response had indeed been given at that time and repeated since in Chapters 8; however, notice that the interpretation wasn't sitting right with Daniel.

Here we are now, in the third year of Cyrus, and God is showing up, personally, to help Daniel's understanding – this message to Daniel's people of the future must be very important!

VV5-8

Which of the 4 kings remains strongest?

What's going to happen toward the end of their reign?

When the "end" is mentioned in this section, does it mean "end times"?

What is the point of a "royal marriage" taking place? Does it work?

What does it mean a "branch of her root"?

What does "deal against them" mean?

What will this king bring into Egypt? Why is this significant?

LESSON: Important points to be understood from certain terms:

To "stand up" – in this section of Daniel, this term is understood to mean that a person is ascendant to the estate of "king", and is often, but not always, going to battle against another king. But, in the context of this interpretation, dominion of the earth is being transferred. So, there may have been many kings existing during this time, but only one held dominion over the earth.

"King of the..." – in this section of Daniel, the king of the North or South are the terms that are adopted after the division of Alexander the great's kingdom among his 4 generals. The kings of the North and South are discussed solely, and are titles of the estates, not necessarily any individual or nation. So, when the term king of the South is used, understand, the term addresses generations of kings from a particular region.

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Furthermore, when reading about a “multitude of forces” in this section, any reader of good romance novels understands how long it takes to raise a large army, and how it is done through alliances, as well as conquests of neighboring lands. These armies are made up of people from many different nations, they are a “multitude”.

So, all these armed conflicts between the king of the North and South are fought over a period of decades, if not centuries; and not by any specific nation.

With this understanding, I can see why the beast of Daniel 7:7 is so very diverse from the previous. From the fourth beast on, there was a breakdown in what constituted a “kingdom” or “king”. It was no longer members of the ruler’s extended family that comprised a kingdom. It was now, a bunch of people from the North and a bunch of people from the South.

VV9-10

Whose sons shall be stirred up? Is this the king of the North or South?

Do we know which generation of the king this is speaking of?

How large a force will be mustered?

Whose fortress will the king of the North approach?

VV11-12

Why is the king of the South upset?

In this battle between the kings of North and the king South, who is it that raises the large army?

Who is it that triumphs – the king with the large army?

Why is the conqueror’s heart uplifted?

What does the conqueror do that will be his undoing?

VV13-14

Which king grows an even bigger army?

So, was this the same king that had a large army in VV11-12?

Did he return to fight after just 1 year? How do you know?

This time when the king of the North returns, does the king of the South have a lot of friends?

What does “robbers of thy people” mean? Whose people?

VV15-19

What does “cast up a mount” mean?

Which king casts up a mount? Against whom?

Is the king’s army able to withstand this siege?

Which king loses this time?

What will the victorious king do?

Where is the glorious land? What will this king do to the “glorious land”?

Will this king invade the “glorious land” by force?

What does it mean to give “the daughter of women”?

When are women, on a royal level, mentioned with regard to conquest and usually for what purpose?

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Will this gambit be successful? Why or why not?

After conquering the “glorious land”, what will this king do? Will he be successful?

What is a “prince for his own behalf”?

Is this “prince” related to the king of the North?

What will this prince do? Is it his own will to recompense the reproach? Who’s will is it?

What “reproach” had the king of the North done? What is said about him that is NOT said about the kings of the North or South before him?

Will the “prince for his own behalf”, now king, set out to conquer some other land?

What will happen to this king?

V20

Is this king from the South or from the North?

What is noteworthy about him?

Was he raising taxes for a war?

Does this king reign for a long time?

How is this king destroyed – murdered by a family member?

V21

What do we know about this next king of the North?

1. He’s a vile person.

What is meant by “vile”? What about this king makes him vile?

2. He’s not royal.

How do you know that this king is not royalty?

3. He won’t obtain power and position through war.

What in this scripture proves this king won’t get the position through war? Does this mean he’s peaceful?

4. He will tell people what they want to hear.

What in this scripture proves this king will tell people what they want to hear? Does this mean he’s a truth-teller?

V22

Will this king that enters peaceably go to war?

Who will be a casualty of this war?

Who is the prince of the covenant?

What covenant is being referenced in this book, at this time?

LESSON: We’ve quickly moved through time and around the world, but now we’re back to Israel. This is the nation with whom God has a controversy – they have transgressed their covenant with Him, and in this section of scripture, they will do it again in confirming a covenant with a “vile person” who thinks he’s god.

VV23-24

With whom is the league made?

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What is a “league”?

Who is working deceitfully against the “league”?

Will he use weapons of war to conquer?

Will he use a large army, with a bunch of generals?

Why is knowing that a small group of people will be supporting him significant?

Will this king be popular? Will everyone stand behind him and support him?

What does it mean the “...fattest places of the province...”?

What will he do in the “fattest places of the province”?

What is meant by “he shall do that which his fathers have not done, not his father’s fathers”?

Consider: This “vile person”, who would his father be? The Bible does not say anything about his lineage, but the context of this description is leadership – and the term “democracy” didn’t exist at this time. We’re talking about “kings”. With kings, you are usually discussing royalty, which only pertains to family. So, this “vile person” is king, but he does nothing like the kings before him did, even for generations – he’s so different in his approach to ruling. And notice, it does not say “thy fathers” or “thy people” as in other places.

So, what does this king do that is so different from others?

- 1) He shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches
- 2) He shall forecast his devices against the strongholds, even for a time

Kings have, for the benefit of himself and his nation, subverted a common enemy, bought friendship, and given riches to supporters forever. But, what if a king did this to his *own* people, for his own benefit. This would be completely different from any king before.

Kings have, for the benefit of himself and his nation, plotted conquests against other powerful nations and kings forever. But, what if a king was plotting against the power of his own land? This would be completely different from any king before.

VV25-27

What will this “vile person” do?

Why does it mention that he will stir up his courage also? The courage of the king is never mentioned in any of the other campaigns we’ve read about.

Is this “vile person” a king of the North or South?

With whom does the “vile person” go to war? Is this a renewal of an old battle?

What do North and South represent?

Will the king of the South be stirred up also?

Will the king of the South win? Why or why not? How do you know?

What will the character of both the kings be?

Will either of them ever be completely triumphant?

VV28-30

What will the king of the North do next?

Why would he be against the holy covenant? Doesn’t he have an agreement with them? V23

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What is it to do “exploits”?

Will this king of the North quietly stay at home and never go a-conquering again?

Where will the king of the North go this time? Will it be as it’s been before? Why or why not?

What will make this exploit different?

What is “Chittim”? Gen 10:4 Who’s side is it on?

Why would the king of the North be “grieved” by the “ships of Chittim” entering the battle?

Why would the king of the North be angry with the holy covenant?

VV31-35

Who will win the battle, in this indignation against the holy covenant?

What will happen to the sanctuary of strength?

What is the sanctuary of strength

What will the king of the North and his supporters do?

- 1) Take away the daily sacrifice
- 2) Place the abomination that makes desolate

How many times have these events been mentioned before, in Daniel alone? Dan 8:12-13; 9:27

According to Daniel 9 what are the 3 markers we’re looking for to know the timeline to the end?

Is this the final marker?

Is this taking place during the time of the “vile person”, the final king of the North?

Will there be traitors to the holy covenant who are of the holy covenant? Were they deceived?

What will happen to those who are faithful?

What are “exploits” in this context? How are they different from those of V28?

What will those of understanding be doing?

What will happen to those of understanding? Will they be helped?

Why would God allow these leaders to fall?

Where are we on the timeline of events noted in Daniel 2, 7, and 9 when we see these events occur?

LESSON: We have been given so much information in this section of scripture. The timelines of Daniel 2, 7, and 9 are confirmed in this interpretation and while the name of the “vile person”, the final king of the North, is not provided, his character is being fleshed out, and the events that will occur, based on his character, are described.

Dan 11:4 aligns with Dan 7:6-7a

Dan 11:5-21 aligns with Dan 7:7b-8

Dan 11:22-31 aligns with Dan 8:11-14; 9:27

V36

Is this a new king, or the same “vile person” from V21? How do you know?

What will this king do?

Will he fail in anything that he tries to do?

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Will what he does make people wonder if there is a God?

Will there be people who come to believe this king is a god?

What is the “indignation”? See Isa 10:25; 26:20

What does indignation mean?

LESSON: When God conferred dominion on man again – this iteration on Nebuchadnezzar – it was the zenith of a kingdom, power, strength, and glory (according to Dan 2:37-38). The beasts of the earth and birds of the air were given into man’s care. From God’s perspective what was given was a “head of gold”. Great dignity.

In Daniel 11, we see all that “dignity” being used against those who have been placed in his care. When you use what God has given you to harm those God has placed in your care, you are no longer gold, but rather clay, with flecks of metal inside. Indignation. In essence, your actions speak great words against the God of heaven.

VV37-39

What does it mean that he won’t “regard the God of his fathers”?

Where else in the chapter does it mention this king doing things “differently” from his fathers? V24

What is significant about this king doing things differently from prior kings?

Why does the scripture mention “nor the desire of women”? What does this mean?

Why won’t this king regard any god?

So, which god will this king honor? How will he show honor on this god?

Where will this king worship this god?

What is a stronghold? It’s mentioned in other verses of this chapter? What were strong holds in the time of king James?

Will the king be secretive about his idolatry? Will he spread his idolatry? How do you know?

Who will be ruling over many?

What land will be divided for gain? Who’s gain?

LESSON: We learn that this king of the North will consider himself a god. This is definitely something his fore-fathers had never done! And, he will use his position as king to honor the god of war. How might this “honoring” be manifested? One way would be to focus the country’s wealth on war-like activities and endeavors. This can include going to war with other nations, but also the buying of weaponry, as well as undermining the things that create and keep peace. In fact, this section describes a king that will “divide the land for gain”.

How can a king benefit from creating division in his own land? And, what form might that division take?

There is a common saying, and actually a battle strategy called, “divide and conquer”. If your interest is to conquer and take what belongs to your enemy, one approach you might take is to exacerbate divisive issues in the target community, wherever there is weakness. The section of scripture explains that this “vile person” will introduce his idolatry into the land – elevating those who likewise honor the god of war and having them rule over many of those who do not. NOTE: This king of the North came into power with only a few people, so he would have to “recruit” people – those like himself – to try and maintain control over the land.

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Now, consider the term “stronghold”. We discussed earlier that the vile person will “forecast his devices against the strongholds, even for a time”. We talked about the strongholds being the fortresses where those of the holy covenant were resisting the rule of this villain (V24-30). So, when we speak of strong holds in the “end times”, what might a strong hold be? If this king of the North is introducing idolatry to the populace, who would stand in the way of this happening? What other organization even cares about the teaching of idolatry and such influences? The church.

I believe that it will be the end times church that will be the “stronghold” of their time. And yet, verse 39, says that the king of the North will be “practicing” his idolatry *within* SEVERAL strongholds! Could this be a description of several of the seven churches, to whom Jesus Himself gave messages, falling, such that only 2 “witnesses” remain standing in Revelation 11?

VV40-45

Will the king of the North have issues with the king of the South again?

What does the king of the North have to do to gain control again?

Will the king of the North or the king of the South win this time?

Which nations will “escape out of the hand” of the king of the North?

Who are the Edomites, Moabites and the chief of the children of Ammon?

Where is Ammon today?

How are Edom, Moab, and Ammon related to Israel?

Who will not “escape out of the hand” of the king of the North?

Who are the Egyptians, Libyans, and the Ethiopians? Gen 10:6

Knowing the family names from Gen 10, what could be one explanation of the difference between the king of the North and the king of South?

What did the king of the North get after conquering the king of the South?

Was it good or bad tidings? From where?

How will these tidings effect the king of the North? Will he be more or less destructive?

What will he do in his wrath?

Will he continue to prosper?

LESSON: We’ve learned a lot from this interpretation about the end times – what we will see happening and the character of that last king – little horn, king fierce countenance, vile person, willful king. It’s like this chapter tied together the visions from Daniel 2, 7, 8, and prophecies from Daniel 9 and 10. The book of Daniel is one book, with a plan and purpose in its layout.

What do we know about the little horn (Dan 7:8; 8:9), the king of fierce countenance (Dan 8:23-25), the prince that shall come (Dan 9:26), the vile person – the final king of the North (Dan 11:21), the willful king (Dan 11:36)?

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Dan 7:24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He will be different from kings that went before.▪ He will speak words against the most high God.▪ He will subdue 3 kings.▪ He will attempt to change times and law.▪ He will make the saints of the most high God suffer.
Dan 8:10-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He will be very powerful.▪ He will conquer in the south, and east, and toward the pleasant land.▪ He will war against the chosen ones and even against the angels.▪ He will conquer some of the chosen ones and even the angels, and completely destroy them.▪ He will magnify himself as god, even to the leader of the chosen ones.▪ He will put an end to the daily sacrifices, and the sanctuary of the prince of the host destroyed.▪ Some of the chosen ones will support this little horn, because they themselves are caught up in transgression of the law of God.▪ He will be a liar.▪ He will sustain himself and prosper through lies.▪ His assault on the daily sacrifice, setting up the transgression of desolation – treading underfoot both the sanctuary and the chosen people – will last 2300 days, before the sanctuary is cleansed.
Dan 8:23-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The little horn is one and the same as the “king of fierce countenance”.▪ He will arise during the end times, during a time when transgressors will be rampant.▪ He will have an understanding of using words to control and destroy.▪ He will be powerful, but not from himself – he will be empowered by someone else.▪ People will wonder at his destructive ways and despite them, he will not be judged or stopped – he will continue to prosper.▪ He will destroy the powerful and chosen people.▪ Through his policies he will make deceit prosper.▪ He will see himself as a god.▪ Through his concept of “peace” many will be destroyed.▪ He will even have the audacity to come against the Prince of princes, Himself.▪ He will be broken, but not by man, by God Himself.
Dan 9:26-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He is that prince that will come, after Messiah was cut off in the 62nd week, that will destroy the city and sanctuary.▪ He will cause war and desolations until the very end.▪ He will make a covenant with in the final (70th) week.▪ He will break the covenant in the middle of the week, evidenced by the cessation of the daily sacrifice and the setting up of the abomination of desolation.
Dan 11:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He is a vile person.▪ He is not royal, yet he will have power.▪ He will come into power via peaceful means.▪ He is a liar, telling people what they want to hear.▪ He is not peaceful – conquering everyone, even the leader of Israel.

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Dan 11:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He will make an agreement with the leader of Israel, and immediately start working against it.▪ He is deceptive.▪ He will come to power, supported by few people.
Dan 11:25-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He is a coward.▪ He will use deception in his conquest of the king of the South.▪ The hearts of both the king of North and South will be wicked and deceptive, even while discussing treaties.▪ He will be enriched through conquest.▪ His heart will be against the holy covenant.▪ He returns to his own land.
Dan 11:29-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He will again go toward the south to fight, but this time there will be a battle on another front, Chittim.▪ The confrontation with Chittim interrupts his progress toward the fight in the south.▪ He will return to battling those of the holy covenant, conspiring with those of the holy covenant who have forsaken it.▪ He will successfully use arms to overcome those of the holy covenant, polluting the sanctuary.▪ He will put an end to the daily sacrifice.▪ He will set up the abomination that makes desolate.
Dan 11:36-39	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He will do every and anything that he wants.▪ He will exalt himself above all gods.▪ He will speak against the God Almighty until the time of indignation is completed▪ He will not care about the God of the forefathers.▪ He will not care about or desire women.▪ He will magnify himself above every god.▪ The only god he will honor is the god of war – the god his forefathers never knew.▪ He will honor the god of war with the nation's treasury.▪ He will openly practice his idolatry in the most strongholds.▪ Those who practice the same idolatry he will elevate and give positions above those who do not.▪ He will divide the nation for his own gain.
Dan 11:40-45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The king of the South will rebel against him at the very end.▪ He will bring all of might to conquer the king of the South, once and for all.▪ He will conquer all countries in his path, except: Edom Moab Ammon▪ He will conquer Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia (Dan 7:8b) and enrich himself with their wealth.▪ He will have rebellions in the east and north, which will make him even more wrathful and destructive.▪ In his wrath and destruction, he will claim the glorious land as his own.▪ He will be destroyed, and no one will come to his aid.