

Daniel Chapter 11:1-35

Detailed Prophecies Concerning the Medo-Persian and Grecian Empires

In chapter 11:1-35, we come to the message Gabriel brought Daniel, after Daniel wrestled in prayer for twenty-one days. It's a bird's-eye view—prophetically for Daniel and historically for us—of the events that happen in the Middle East. Scholars have counted 135 specific prophecies given in chapter 11, all fulfilled to the most minute detail.

Because of the detail of the prophecy, I will summarise the events as it would take weeks to explain all the history behind each individual prophecy.

The outline of the last three chapters goes like this. The long introduction of chapter 10 to the fourth and final vision (chapters 11 and 12) given to Daniel is followed by chapter 11 by the revelation of important events beginning with and extending to the last Gentile ruler in the time of the end. Chapter 11 naturally divides into two major sections. The first, verses 1–35, describes the major rulers of the Persian Empire beginning with Darius the Mede (539 B.C.) and then gives in great detail some of the major events of the third empire following Alexander the Great, concluding with Antiochus Epiphanes (175–164 B.C.). This covers a period of 375 years.

The entire period from the death of Antiochus Epiphanes to the time of the end (tribulation period or Daniel's seventieth week) is skipped over with no reference to events of the present church age, and the second section, verses 36–45, deals with the last Gentile ruler who we know as the antichrist who will be in power when Christ comes in His second coming. This is followed in chapter 12 by further prophecy of the last 1335 days, a period including the great tribulation (the second half of the 7 year tribulation period, the second coming of Jesus, and the beginning of the fifth or millennial kingdom.

Probably no other portion of Scripture presents more detailed, specific and accurate prophecy than Daniel 11:1–35, and this has prompted the sharpest attack of critics seeking to discredit this prophetic portion.

“Interestingly enough, it was the eleventh chapter of Daniel with its detailed prophecy of about two hundred years of history that prompted the heathen philosopher Porphyry (third century A.D.) to attack the book of Daniel as a forgery. In his study, Porphyry established the fact that history corresponded closely to the prophetic revelation of Daniel 11:1–35, and the correspondence was so precise that he was persuaded that no one could have prophesied these events in the future. Accordingly, he solved the problem by taking the position that the book of Daniel was written after the events occurred, that is, it was written in the second century B.C.”

However, there are numerous passages in the Bible which contain detailed and specific prophecy. For example, the 332 prophecies for the first coming of Jesus, the Median conquest of Babylon as a result of the drying up of the Euphrates River and the Babylonian drunken feast is anticipated in detail in Jeremiah 50–51, and the list goes on and on.

This just goes to prove two things.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Isaiah 46:10 NKJ - Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.'

Isaiah 46:10 NLT - Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

Prophecy is a powerful evidence that the bible is indeed has its origins beyond time and space. Its ultimate author is God.

Remember the MAPS acronym for evidences for the truth and reliability of the Scriptures:
M = manuscripts (the manuscript evidence, which show that the writings of the bible have not been changed in any significant way since they were first written)
A = Archeology (the historical evidence that supports the truth and accuracy of the stories and history of the bible - places, people and events)
P = Prophecy (God writing history — His story — in advance)
S = Science (Observational science never contradicts the bible, e.g. young earth, biology, geology , dinosaurs, astronomy etc.)

Chapter 11

¹ "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.) ² And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. ³ Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. ⁴ And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

Warring Kings of North and South

⁵ "Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion. ⁶ And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times. ⁷ But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail. ⁸ And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the North.

⁹ "Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land. ¹⁰ However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife.

¹¹ "And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be

given into the hand of his enemy. ¹² When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail. ¹³ For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment.

¹⁴ “Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall. ¹⁵ So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist. ¹⁶ But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.

¹⁷ “He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him. ¹⁸ After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. ¹⁹ Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

²⁰ “There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle. ²¹ And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honour of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. ²² With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. ²³ And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. ²⁴ He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.

²⁵ “He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him. ²⁶ Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. ²⁷ Both these kings’ hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. ²⁸ While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.

The Northern King’s Blasphemies

²⁹ “At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. ³⁰ For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage.

“So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. ³¹ And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. ³² Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. ³³ And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. ³⁴ Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. ³⁵ And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

³⁶ “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till

the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. ³⁷ He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. ³⁸ But in their place he shall honour a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honour with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. ³⁹ Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

The Northern King's Conquests

⁴⁰ "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. ⁴¹ He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. ⁴² He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. ⁴⁴ But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵ And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

Let's start in verse 1. Remember that this is simply more detail to what has already been given in previous chapters. The head of gold (Ch 2) or the lion and eagle (ch 7) are the Babylonian kingdom. The chest and arms of silver (ch 2) and the bear (ch 7) are the Medes and Persians. The belly and thighs of bronze (ch 2) and the leopard (ch 7) are the Greeks, and the legs of iron and feet mixed with clay (ch 2) and the terrible beast (ch 7) represent the Roman empire, both past and future. We see the last three kingdoms represented here, with most of the emphasis on the Grecian empire.

Daniel 11:1, 2

"Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him (*Michael*)."

This could refer to when Daniel was thrown into the lions den. There was an active plan to persecute Daniel and therefore the rest of the Jews. But God saved Daniel, and in doing so changed the king's attitude towards the Jews. They would eventually be sent home according to God's plan. This is similar in theme to what happened 4 kings later with Haman and Ester and Xerxes (called A-has-ue-rus - Esther 1:1). Satan has made many attempts to destroy the Jews, but God keeps thwarting Satan's plans and using them against him. Behind all these stories are angelic battles in the unseen realm.

² And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

At this point in Daniel's life, the Babylonians have been overthrown by the Medes and Persians. Now the Persians are in power. And the angel says, "Three kings are going to come in a row and the fourth one shall be richer than the rest and will stir up the entire kingdom against Greece." That's exactly what happened. The fourth king was Xerxes—and he was determined to wipe out Greece. With his vast wealth, he spent four years raising an

army of two and a half million men. It took seven days to march the men across boats that acted as a bridge from the land mass across the Aegean Sea into the region of Greece. The battle was the bloodiest battle in history as the Greeks fought against Xerxes and his two and a half million men. And, although the Greeks lost, the army of Xerxes was decimated.

For the next one hundred fifty-plus years, the Greeks waited to take revenge.

Daniel 11:3, 4

³ Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. ⁴ And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

One hundred fifty years later, a mighty king did indeed arise by the name of Alexander. He took all of the anger and revenge that the Greeks were feeling and began to conquer. By the time he was thirty-three, he had conquered the entire known world. But he died of pneumonia shortly thereafter. Following his death, his son didn't take over the kingdom, but it was divided between four of his generals. And now as the story unfolds, we'll focus on two areas taken over by two of Alexander's generals: the families of the Seleucids and the Ptolemys (silent p). The Seleucids were in Syria, directly north of Israel. The Ptolemys were in Egypt, directly below or south of Israel. Why are these two kingdoms of the four singled out? Because they surrounded Israel. The dynasties of the Seleucids and the Ptolemies fought for some 130 years. The stronger of the two always held dominion over the Holy Land.

Daniel 11:5, 6

⁵ “Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion. ⁶ And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times.

Rather than fight the Syrians or Seleucids, Ptolemy (southern king or Egypt) proposed that they form an alliance. “I have a daughter,” he said to Antiochus in Syria. “Marry her and that will make us one big family like Alexander wanted us to be.”

“I can't,” Antiochus said. “I'm married.”

“Dump her,” Ptolemy said.

Antiochus agreed. The wedding took place—but soon after that, Ptolemy died and Antiochus decided he wanted his first wife back. She returned to him—only to stab him in the back (she had him poisoned) before also killing Ptolemy's daughter and their child, as well.

Daniel 11:7–9

⁷ But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail. ⁸ And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the North.

9 “Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.

Enraged by what had happened to his sister, Ptolemy’s son, Ptolemy III gathered an army, marched through Israel, and did in the Syrians. And while he was there, he rescued 2,500 gods the Syrians had stolen from the Egyptians years earlier.

v8 He shall continue more years than the king of the North: Ptolemy III lived four years past Seleucus II.

9 “Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.

Seleucus (from the Syrian or northern empire) several years after the Egyptian invasion was able to mount a return attack on Egypt about 240 B.C. Seleucus, however, was defeated completely and was forced to “return into his own land.” This, of course, was only the beginning of the seesaw battle between the two nations. The inclusion of this background material leads up to the important point, which is the burden of the prophecy in verses 10-19 —the ascendancy of Syria over Egypt and the return of the Holy Land to Syrian control. This set the stage for the persecutions of Israel under Antiochus Epiphanes, which is the major emphasis of of this prophecy (verses 21–35).

Daniel 11:10

However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife.

In response to the Egyptian invasion, Antiochus III, son of Seleucus II, launched a counterattack against Egypt and, in the process, claimed Israel as part of his empire. Living in Israel, called the glorious land in these chapters, would have been terrible in these years, with angry armies going back and forth. It would be like being caught between two fighting dogs.

Daniel 11:11–14

11 And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy. 12 When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail.

v11 The king of the South shall be moved with rage: The angel told Daniel that the king of the South would attack and meet a **great multitude** of soldiers from the king of the North. The king of the North would lose in battle and his **multitude** would be defeated.

v12 He will not prevail: This was fulfilled when Antiochus III was defeated at the battle of Raphia (the border of Israel and Egypt). Because of that loss he was forced to give back dominion over the Holy Land to Ptolemy IV.

13 For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment.

¹⁴ “Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall.

Back and forth the battle went, now centering in Israel. Finally Antiochus V came on the scene, determined to solve the problem once and for all. So he persuaded the Greeks to join him in invading Egypt once again.

Daniel 11:15–17

So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist. ¹⁶ But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.

The king of the North ... shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army: The angel told Daniel that the northern dynasty would answer back and defeat the king of the South in an extended siege. This victory would give the king of the North dominion over **the Glorious Land**.

¹⁷ “He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him.

As tensions began to ease, Antiochus said to the house of Ptolemy, “I’ve got a beautiful daughter. You have a son. I’ll ship my daughter down to you in Egypt. She’ll hang out there, wait for your son to grow up, and then they can be married.” What he was really after, however, was to place his daughter inside the palace of the Ptolemys to act as a spy so he could gain power and influence over the king of the south. The woman’s name? Cleopatra. It was a good idea—until Cleopatra actually fell in love and refused to spy on the house of Ptolemy. She sided with her southern husband and not her northern father.

This was not the most famous Cleopatra from ancient history, but this was the ancestor of the more famous Cleopatra. The more famous Egyptian woman lived some 100 years after the time of this Cleopatra.

Daniel 11:18

After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him.

Antiochus then turned his face toward the Greek isles, determined to conquer them. But when he went north to vent his frustration by conquering the Greek islands, he came into contact with and was defeated by the emerging Roman Empire, which kept him from carrying out his plan.

Daniel 11:19, 20

¹⁹ Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

²⁰ “There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.

He turned back to his own land and died inside the temple of one of his gods. The problem is, all of his military ventures had taken a tremendous financial toll on the country north. They had a huge deficit. So in 187 B.C., the next Antiochus announced that he would send 1,000 tax collectors throughout the northern empire to tax the people. But someone slipped some poisonous mushrooms into his dinner and he died. Maybe this is why politicians these days are so scared of raising taxes. All of this sets the stage for the remainder of the chapter.

The year is 175 B.C. Out of these two groups of people, one individual from the north emerges: Antiochus Epiphanes—a very important person prophetically, for he is a picture, a foreshadowing of one who is even more vile: antichrist.

Daniel 11:21, 22

²¹ And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honour of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. ²² With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.

In 175 B.C., Antiochus Epiphanes, a great public orator, appeared on the scene and, with great trickery and flattery, seduced the people into acknowledging that he was the rightful king—not only of Syria, but of Israel as well. And when he came to power, he overthrew the legitimate high priest and put his own false priesthood in place. We have met him already in chapter 8 of Daniel, where he is referred to as the “little horn” - Dan 8:9-14, 23-25.

v21 He shall come in peaceably: Apart from the murder of his older brother, Antiochus IV didn't use terror to gain power. He used flattery, smooth promises and **intrigue**. In other words, he he would deceive. We have seen before how this little horn from the second kingdom, the Medes and Persians, is a type of the little horn or antichrist who is yet to come from the 10 toes or horns of the fourth kingdom, the Roman empire.

As far as the big picture, as far as world events go - Antiochus IV was not very important. He was the Syrian ruler who was on the throne from 175 to 164 B.C., previously alluded to as the “little horn” (Dan 8:9–14, 23–25). He reigned in the days of the decline of the Syrian power and the rise of Rome to the west, and only his death in 164 B.C. prevented his humiliation by Rome. He's only mentioned here because of the huge impact he had on the people of Israel.

Daniel 11:23, 24

And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. ²⁴ He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.

Edom, Moab, all of Palestine, into Syria—Antiochus took control of the “fattest” or richest real estate.

Daniel 11:25, 26

²⁵ He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans

against him. ²⁶ Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.

When he waged war against the Egyptians, Antiochus renewed the old rivalry but did it with treachery by tricking some of the servants of Ptolemy to turn against their king. Thus, the king of the south was betrayed by his own people.

Daniel 11:27, 28

Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. ²⁸ While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.

The southern king knew he'd been had. Although they came to the peace table and set up peace agreements with the northern king Antiochus, both were lying through their teeth. Neither side kept their agreements.

v 28 Antiochus, returning from Egypt with great riches, began to manifest his hatred against the people of Israel and his covetousness in relation to the wealth of the temple. This is indicated in the statement, *His heart shall be against the holy covenant.*

Daniel 11:29, 30

²⁹ "At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. ³⁰ For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage.

"So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

Years passed and Antiochus decided to make another military venture into Egypt about 168 B.C.. The ships of Chittim, or Cypress, were Roman galleys that prevented Antiochus from advancing.

He was met near Alexandria by a Roman consul, Gaius Popillius Laenas, who demanded that he leave Egypt or attacked by Rome. The Roman consul is reported to have drawn a circle around Antiochus and told him that his decision had to be reached before he stepped out of the circle. Rather than risk a war with Rome, Antiochus, although greatly displeased, withdrew from Egypt immediately and conceded Egypt to Roman power.

Daniel 11:31

And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

Prevented from going to Egypt, in his frustration and anger, Antiochus headed north—right into Jerusalem, where he vented his anger on the Jews. Upon his arrival, 40,000 were killed. By the time his anger was vented, 100,000 had been slaughtered. Then came the "abomination of desolation"—when he went into the temple, killed a pig on the altar, smeared the blood on the walls of the temple, and demanded the remainder be drunk by the Jewish priests. Then he erected a statue of either Zeus or himself and demanded that it be worshiped. It was a sickening scene. That's why the Jews called him not Antiochus Epiphanes, or "Antiochus the Shining One," but Antiochus Epinanes, or "Antiochus the Madman." Indeed, along with Caesar, Nero, and Hitler, he is one of the most insane rulers in history.

Daniel 11:32

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

At this point, 170 b.c., the Jews were devastated by the holocaust of Antiochus. Yet there was one family who decided to stand up to the madman. A man named Judah and his brothers—known as the Maccabees, launched a guerilla war against Antiochus that lasted until 165 B.C.—when they overthrew the Antiochus and threw them out of Jerusalem. We studied this in more detail in Daniel ch 8, where we saw that there would be exactly 2300 days till worship would be restored.

Daniel 11:33–35

³³ And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. ³⁴ Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. ³⁵ And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

Verses 2 through 34 chronicle four hundred and seventy consecutive years of Jewish history. Suddenly, verse 35 leapfrogs over centuries. Why? Because the first thirty-four verses are a part of Daniel's sixty-nine weeks, while verse 35 speaks of Daniel's seventieth week. In between verses 34 and 35 is the church age. When the church age is over, when the believers are raptured, Daniel's seventieth week—the time of the Tribulation—dawns. That's why Daniel jumps from Antiochus Epiphanes to the end times yet to come. Antiochus Epiphanes was part of the first sixty-nine weeks. Next week in verse 36-45 we go to the seventieth week, where one even more vile than he comes on the scene. His name is Antichrist...

To finish, I would like to go back to verse 32...

v33 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong: When Antiochus Epiphanes turned on Jerusalem, the Jewish people were divided. Some forsook their covenant with God and embraced Greek culture. Those who knew their God made a stand for righteousness in the face of incredible persecution.

Quote from John F Walvoord:

Some of the Jews succumbed to the flattery of the king and defected from their fellow Jews as they revolted against Antiochus. It was a time of purging and separation of the true from the false, of those who were courageous from those who were fainthearted...

In like manner, a Nicodemus and a Joseph of Arimathaea were induced by the very death of Christ on the cross to confess their allegiance to him. Thus Antiochus attempts to annihilate the party among the Jews that is devoted to its God, but succeeds only in contributing to its purifying."

This is why I think persecution is needed in the church. The false converts, the luke-warmers, the backsliders will all have to make a choice. Suffer with the faithful or run with the wicked. Comfort leads to complacency. We need to be careful that we don't get too comfortable.

One final exhortation:

No matter how big the enemy might be, how dark the day might seem, how large the battle might loom, the people that truly know their God will be strong and do exploits because they realise that, if God be for them, who can be against them? (Romans 8:31). The gutsiest people in the world are believers who know their God, who don't back down or give up in the face of challenge, but who simply say, "I know the Lord is with me and no matter how dark the day might be, I'm going to continue doing what He's called me to do."

That's why we study the Word—that we might know God and do great exploits.