

The First Two Post-Babylonian Kingdoms

Daniel 11:2-4

²“And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all ~~against~~ **[especially]** the kingdom of Greece. ³Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills. ⁴And as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these.

- v. 2 The next three kings of Persia are Cambyses (530-522 BC); Gaumata (522); and Darius I (522-486)
The fourth king was very rich- Xerxes (486-465 BC) and waged war on Greece, uniting the city-states
- v. 3 The mighty king with a short reign, replaced by four rulers is Alexander the Great (324-323 BC)

Read Daniel 11:5-35 – the Long and Detailed Prophecy

- v. 5-6 The Kings of the South = Ptolemaic Egypt (beginning around 323 BC)
The Kings of the North = Seleucid Syria/Mesopotamia (beginning around 312 BC)

The Fulfillment in Greek History

Every verse is fulfilled in miraculously accurate detail! It takes about 15 pages of Steinmann’s commentary to tell the history- it is dramatic, political, and fascinating, but maybe a bit excruciating to go through today!

- vv. 33-35 Faithful Jews resist Antiochus IV Epiphanes

The Ptolemies and the Seleucids

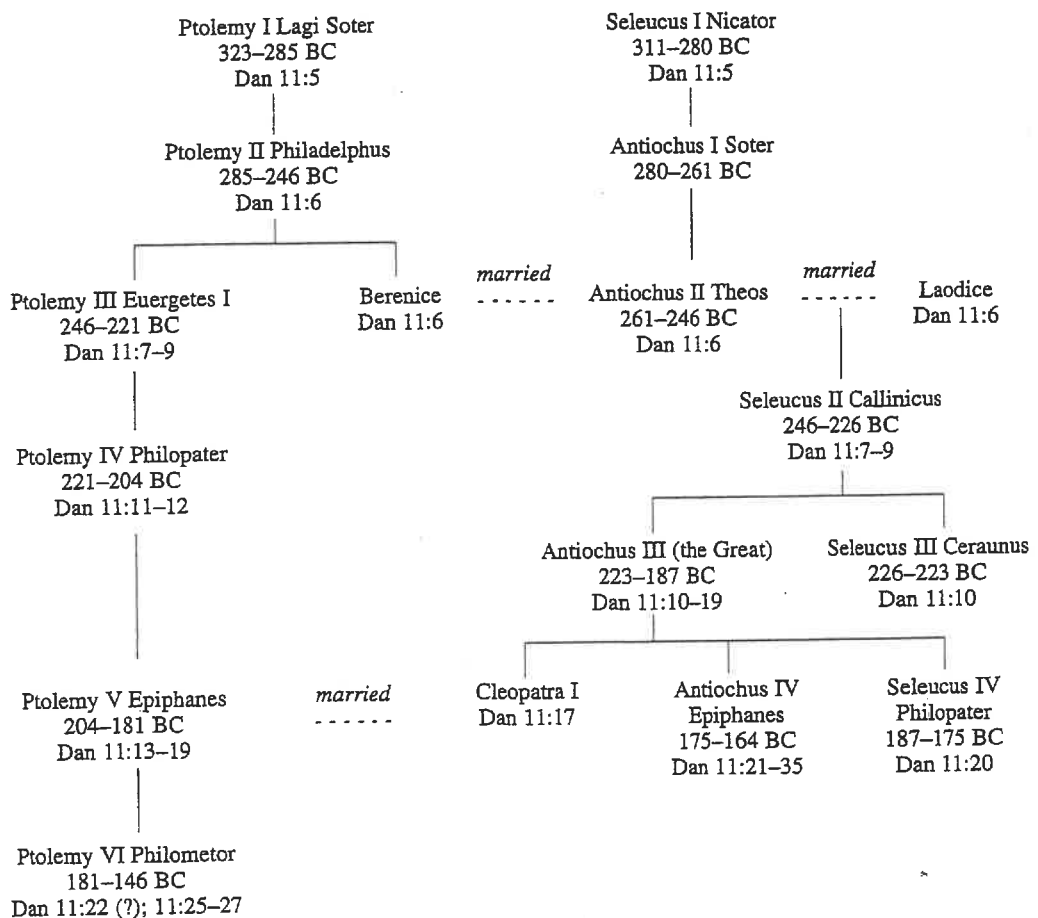


Figure 15 from A. Steinmann’s commentary, page 521.

The Antichrist and the Time of the End

Daniel 11:36-45- ³⁶“And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. ³⁷He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, *he also will not favor desire of women or to the one beloved by women.* He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. ³⁸He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. ³⁹He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.

⁴⁰“At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. ⁴¹He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. ⁴²He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. ⁴⁴But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. ⁴⁵And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

Are vv. 36-45 a continuation of the description of Antiochus IV Epiphanes?

Or do they describe an End Times ruler who is called “antichrist” in the New Testament?

It cannot be Antiochus IV – for three reasons

They describe an evil ruler of the End Times.

Saint John refers to this as the antichrist (1 John 2:18-22; 4:2-3; & 2 John 7)

Saint Paul refers to this as “man of lawlessness” and “son of destruction” (2 Thess 2:3-12)

- This was the interpretation of the early Church, the Lutheran reformers, and modern Christians
- Dan. 11:35 signals a switch in TIME- to the end times
- Dan. 11:36 signals a switch in RULER- he is “The King”, not designated north or south

The Antichrist depicted in Daniel 11:36-39

- chiefly characterized by his willful arrogance, primarily religious in nature (11:36)
- main characteristic is that he elevates himself over every other god (11:36)
- speaks “wonderful things” against the true God, usurping God’s place as savior (11:36)
- prospers mightily throughout this time until God/Christ destroys him (11:36)
- perverts the church in hopes of making it a temple/fortress for himself (11:36-39)
- comes from among the people of God (11:37-38; 2 Thess 2:4; 1 Jn 2:19)
- rejects the devotion of marriage to a woman or devotion toward any god but himself (11:37)
- relates to others only through wealth and power (11:38-39)
- so his only relationship is with “a god of fortresses” – a symbol of temporal power
- deals with other temporal power (“strongest fortresses”) with his foreign god of fortresses (11:38-9)
- honors those who acknowledge his power and gives them power over people and territory (11:39)

The Antichrist’s final days depicted in Daniel 11:40-45 “at the time of the/his end”

- it is represented as a great military conflict, with much symbolism
- Antichrist symbolized by “king of the north” like Antiochus IV before him (11:40)
- The antichrist’s rival is symbolized by the king of the north’s rival – the king of the south
- there will be a power struggle where antichrist overcomes (11:40, 42-43)
- God’s people (“the glorious land”) will be affected by this, thousands falling in martyrdom (11:41)
- the theological enemies of Christ will be spared (Edom, Moab, Ammon- 11:41)
- Something alarms him, he’ll persecute many while fortifying his position in the church (pitching his royal tents toward the “glorious mountain”- 11:44-45)
- Even with all this he cannot withstand God’s judgment (11:45)