

November 27, 2022

Daniel 11:1-35

Rise - Demise, Keep Your Eyes On The Remnant

Vv 1-17

Many skirmishes and vying for power/control among the four divisions of the weakening Greek Empire.

Vv 18-24

Antiochus III established himself in the "beautiful land," Israel. His son is poisoned to death and another, Antiochus IV, the little horn rises to power, he did not come to the throne in rightful succession, nothing was off limits when it came to clamoring for power.

Vv 25-28

The northern portion was not enough to satisfy Antiochus IV, he went on the offensive to overtake the southern portion of the Greek Empire, Egypt. He had partial success at this point and on his return from battle he passed through Israel and desecrated the temple.

Vv 29-32

Two year later he fought against Egypt again, this time he was opposed by Rome. They had come in by ship and demanded that he not engage in war with Egypt. Extrabiblical sources tell us that he asked for time to consider his options, the Roman authority there

drew a circle around him in the sand. He demanded, make your intentions known before you step out of this circle. He grudgingly conceded.

This setback infuriated Antiochus IV. On his return to his home land he had 22,000 soldiers go into Jerusalem and attack them. They killed many and took as hostage many women and children. He also burned the city.

For those left he demanded they no longer have the regular sacrifice, nor any other males circumcised for example. He wanted that religion stamped out! He went into their temple and built an altar to Zeus, then he sacrifice a pig on the altar!

Furthermore, he demanded they celebrate his birthday on the 25th of each month. If a Jew did all of this, things would go well for him with Antiochus IV, they would even receive flattering words from him.

HOWEVER, there was a small remnant that would not bow the knee to this pagan king. In the end this tyrant died in 163 BC in Persia. Historians recorded that he died insane.

Vv 33-35

Those who resisted Antiochus IV were persecuted and/or martyred for their faith. The Maccabean revolt arose out of this. This was a small group who refused to be unfaithful to YAHWEH. They would suffer yet not submit thereby being refined and purified as their movement grew. In [Daniel 8:14](#) it was made clear that the temple would be desecrated for 1,150 days. This time would run its course and then come to a close. This came to pass because God said so. History is His Story. God is sovereign over all.

Hang on to your hats because now, enter the fourth predicted kingdom, Rome.

Application:

The secular world denies that Daniel could have written this in his lifetime, why? Because this section of prophecy is so accurate that the pagan mind just cannot accept that it was written beforehand. For those today who are followers of Jesus Christ and wholeheartedly embrace the infallibility of the Bible, it is no problem at all to accept that this pericope was written by Daniel who received the message of Daniel from God. Now then, since all of this has come to pass just as was prophesied, who among those who claim Christ as Savior would have any occasion to disbelieve any of the prophecy give us by Daniel that has not yet come to pass? The point here is that the Word of God is Truth and it is 100% reliable.

Second, perilous times are predicted for those who believe in Jesus in coming days. They too will be made to stumble and be persecuted, even martyred. This brings about the perseverance of the Saints spoken of in the Bible. The Maccabees resisted, they would not bow the knee to some evil king or to some false god like Zeus. They chose to resist even to the point of death. How about you? If it becomes extremely dangerous or costly in the days ahead to openly be a follower of Christ, will you continue to walk by faith? Are you willing to die for your faith in Jesus?

"The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals." *Charles C. Ryrie*