

Daniel Continued

Now before we go into the rule of the Greeks, what is the involvement of Israel in these years?

There is a lot of history in verse 2 of chapter 11.

Three more kings arise in Persia.

Cambyses, Pseudo-smerdis and the Third king was ***Darius Hystaspes***.

But what is going on in **Israel** during this time?

Zechariah lived 520—490 bc

The Prophet Haggai 520—505 bc

Zechariah 520—490 bc

The Jews have started to return under Cyrus...536 bc

Restoration of Jerusalem began in 517 bc

End of the 70 year captivity with the rebuilding of the Temple.

For the record, in 509 bc, the Roman Republic was founded.

In 444 bc came the command to rebuild the Walls of Jerusalem.

Many Jewish men were high up in the administration of the Persian Empire. Daniel was second in command at various times. Nehemiah was in the group of royal advisors in the Persian Empire. Nehemiah's brother Hananiah was a member of the royal advisors.

So while God is working out his plan among the Gentile nations He is also working out His plans for **His Chosen People**.

DANIEL 11:2

² and now I will tell you the truth (WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF TRUTH) *Behold three more kings are going to arise in Persia.*

Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece

THIS FOURTH PERSIAN KING WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS IN HISTORY.

Xerxes

Xerxes assumed the throne of the Media-Persian Empire in 486 BC and ruled until 465 bc.

Why is this mentioned in the Word of God? For two (2) reasons.

Firstly:

This is the Xerxes who brought a Jewish girl named Esther into his royal court. The book of Esther occurred during the reign of Xerxes. Xerxes was used by Haman to try to get rid of all the Jews in the Persian Empire. The demon Prince of Persia wanted to exterminate all the Jews but the guardian angel of Israel Michael protected them.

Secondly:

Xerxes I raised what is believed to be the largest army in history to that date (1 million) to move against Greece.

But he will be defeated –now what is significant here is that in the future—to Daniel a Persian King (Xerxes) will move against country at the time of Daniel was not even known...Greece. And Greece will become powerful and what is important is that the Greeks never forgave the Persians for invading them and this is why Alexander the Great will move Eastward against Persia. Driven by hatred—revenge and set into action the fall of Persia.

³ “And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.

This, of course, is **Alexander the Great**

We have studied the military feats of Alexander, but I want you to see how God uses the volition of man, even unbelievers. As to the all-important phrase... and do as he pleases: Wherever Alexander went, from victory to victory, from country to country, he imposed the Greek culture on all the people he conquered.

Alexander was determined that Greek would be the language of the world. Unbeknownst to him, Alexander was preparing the world for the spreading of the Gospel. If it had not been for Alexander the languages of the world would have been so diverse, it would have made it difficult for the gospel to spread so quickly. The New Testament is written in Alexander's Greek. And here he is in Daniel's vision.

Verse 4 **Rise and Fall of Alexander the Great**

Alexander was marching his army around the Mediterranean Sea (the Great Sea).

Alexander the Great



approximation from coinage

After a prolonged but successful siege of Tyre he moved eastward, toward Jerusalem. And a strange, yet wonderful, event occurred as he approached Jerusalem.

The historian Josephus relates what happened as he came near Jerusalem. As Alexander approached the city of Jerusalem, the High Priest, dressed in their finest came out and met Alexander.

Quoting Josephus: *“FOR ALEXANDER WHEN HE SAW THE MULTITUDE AT A DISTANCE IN WHITE GARMENTS WHILE THE PRIESTS STOOD CLOTHED WITH FINE LINEN AND THE HIGH PRIEST IN PURPLE AND SCARLET CLOTHING HAVING THE GOLDEN PLATE WHEREON THE NAME OF GOD WAS ENGRAVED HE APPROACHED BY HIMSELF AND ADORED THAT NAME AND HE GREETED THE HIGH PRIEST FIRST (THIS WAS AN ASTOUNDING THING, EVERYWHERE ALEXANDER WENT AS HE CONQUERED HE WOULD ACCEPT PEOPLE GREETING HIM BUT WHEN HE CAME TO STATE OF ISRAEL A MOST UNUSUAL THING HAPPENED. ALEXANDER CAME TO THE JEWS AND HE GREETED THEM FIRST)...”*

To further see God working in history, Josephus continues *“THE JEWS DID ALSO ALTOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE THEN GREET ALEXANDER AND ENCOMPASSED HIM ABOUT WHEREUPON THE KINGS OF SYRIA AND THE REST WERE SURPRISED AT WHAT ALEXANDER HAD DONE AND SUPPOSED HIM DISORDERED IN HIS MIND. HOWEVER, ONE OF THEM ALONE WENT UP TO HIM AND ASKED HIM HOW IT CAME TO PASS THAT WHEN ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES ADORED ALEXANDER HE SHOULD REVERSE THINGS AND ADORE FIRST THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE JEWS. ALEXANDER REPLIED, “I DID NOT ADORE HIM BUT THAT GOD*

WHO HAD HONORED HIM WITH HIS HIGH PRIESTHOOD FOR I SAW THIS VERY PRIEST IN A DREAM IN THIS VERY CLOTHING WHEN I WAS IN MACEDONIA WHO WHEN I WAS CONSIDERING WITH MYSELF HOW I MIGHT OBTAIN THE DOMINION OF ASIA THIS PRIEST EXHORTED ME TO TAKE NO DELAY BUT BOLDLY TO PASS OVER THE SEA FOR THAT HE WOULD CONDUCT MY ARMY AND WOULD GIVE ME THE DOMINION OVER THE PERSIANS. WHENCE IT IS THAT HAVING SEEN NO OTHER IN THAT PARTICULAR CLOTHING AND NOW SEEING THIS PERSON IN IT AND REMEMBERING THAT VISION AND THE EXHORTATION WHICH I HAD IN MY DREAM I BELIEVE THAT I BRING THIS ARMY UNDER THE DIVINE CONDUCT AND SHALL THEREWITH CONQUER DARIUS AND DESTROY THE POWER OF THE PERSIANS THAT ALL THINGS WILL SUCCEED ACCORDING TO WHAT IS IN MY OWN MIND', AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS TO PARMINIO AND HAD GIVEN THE HIGH PRIEST HIS RIGHT HAND THE PRIEST RAN ALONG BY HIM AND HE CAME INTO THE CITY AND WHEN HE WENT UP INTO THE TEMPLE HE OFFERED SACRIFICE TO GOD ACCORDING TO THE HIGH PRIEST'S DIRECTION AND MAGNIFICENTLY TREATED BOTH THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE PRIEST."

"AFTER ALEXANDER'S PARTY WENT INTO THE TEMPLE AND AS THEY OFFERED THE SACRIFICE THEN THE PRIEST CAME OUT AND OPENED THE SCROLL AND TURNED TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL AND WHEN THE BOOK OF DANIEL WAS SHOWN TO ALEXANDER WHEREIN DANIEL DECLARED THAT ONE OF THE GREEKS SHOULD DESTROY THE EMPIRE OF THE PERSIANS HE SUPPOSED THAT HIMSELF WAS THE PERSON INTENDED AND AS HE WAS THEN GLAD HE DISMISSED THE MULTITUDE FOR THE PRESENT BUT THE NEXT DAY HE CALLED THEM TO HIM AND BADE THEM ASK WHAT FAVORS THEY PLEASED OF HIM

WHEREUPON THE HIGH PRIEST DESIRED THAT THEY MIGHT ENJOY THE LAWS OF THE JEWS AND MIGHT PAY NO TRIBUTE ON THE SEVENTH YEAR (THIS SO THAT THE JEWS WOULD BE ABLE TO OBSERVE THE SEVENTH YEAR REST IN NO PRODUCING ANYTHING, LETTING THE LAND LIE FALLOW WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO PAY THE TAX WITH ON THE SEVENTH YEAR) ALEXANDER GRANTED ALL THAT THE JEWS DESIRED AND WHEN THEY ENTREATED HIM THAT HE WOULD PERMIT THE JEWS IN BABYLON AND MEDIA TO ENJOY THEIR OWN LAWS ALSO HE WILLINGLY PROMISED TO DO HEREAFTER WHAT THEY DESIRED AND WHEN HE SAID TO THE MULTITUDE THAT IF ANY OF THEM WOULD ENLIST THEMSELVES INTO HIS ARMY ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE LAWS OF THEIR FOREFATHERS AND LIVE ACCORDING TO THEM HE WAS WILLING TO TAKE THEM WITH THEM, MANY WERE READY TO ACCOMPANY HIM IN HIS WARS."

Some observations:

Many liberals do not believe Josephus's account, especially about the dream and about all that occurred in Jerusalem. But it cannot be denied historically that Alexander was totally different with the Jews than any other peoples. Also he kept his word about their paying no taxes in seventh year and about those who served in his army. So, Josephus explains all these changes in Alexander actions.

Also this gives us further understanding as to why God gave this information to Daniel in his vision. It would later be used to honor their God and to honor the Jews. Also note they partly learned from the seventy years captivity in keeping the Sabbath year.

And, also, Alexander favorable treatment of the Jews sets the conditions for what is going to happen in the following verses.

⁴ ***“But as soon as he (ALEXANDER THE GREAT) has arisen, (GREAT EMPIRE IN HISTORY IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME, AND AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS EMPIRE... HE DIED IN 323 BC)***

He conquered all the developed nations around the Great Sea (Mediterranean). And this is where his empire ends, for any further movement eastward would not have been of any significance to Biblical Prophecy.

Now what happened to his empire is of extreme importance to ISRAEL.

His kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass.

(Chapter 8: his empire is divided into 4 parts by 4 of his generals: Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander and Lysimachus) ***though not to his own descendants,***

How accurate is the Prophecy of God, down to fine points! Lets take a quick look at how much is involved in this little line of Scripture.

First, Alexander, a genius, had a brother named Philip, who was probably a half-wit.

But Alexander also had a powerful and aspiring mother named **Olympia**. Well, Olympia was afraid that the half-wit brother might try to assume the empire so she poisoned him, eliminating him.

Alexander had a wife named **Roxanna** and she was pregnant and bore Alexander, a son, *after he died*.

She named him Alexander but a different middle name so he was not Alexander, Jr. He would have been the legitimate heir to Alexander the Great empire.

Now, Olympia was so determined that she planned that she and Roxanna would hold Alexander's empire together until Roxanna's son reached an age where he could assume rulership.

Well, some high ranking generals had other plans and **so they killed Olympia, Roxanna and the young Alexander**. This was the end of the heirs of Alexander and the prophecy of Daniel 11:4 came about just as prophesied.

In fact, **Alexander the Great did not name anyone**, he said...

“to the strongest” who turned out to be 4 great generals of Alexander's army.

And, also, notice that all the prophecy
of Daniel's vision deals with Israel.
What effects Israel?

NOR ACCORDING TO HIS AUTHORITY WHICH
HE WIELDED, FOR HIS SOVEREIGNTY WILL BE
UPROOTED AND GIVEN TO OTHERS BESIDES
THEM.

Look back at the end of verse 3... *“as he pleases”* in
scripture reading. He cannot do as he pleases; **remember God
Is In Control**, not man. Control by man is an illusion; even for
Alexander and his mother, Olympia.

Alexander died in 323 bc – prophesied in Daniel 8:8 and Daniel 11:4.

His empire was divided up among *four generals* prophesied in
Daniel 7:6—**four heads** and the *four conspicuous horns* of
Daniel 8:8 and the **four points of compass** in 11:4.

The four strongest generals divided Alexander's empire:
Lysimachus, Ptolemy, Selucus, Cassander.

Daniel wrote in 539 bc;

Alexander died in 323 bc -- over 200 years later.

Yet we see the accuracy of Daniel's prophecy

The **WORD of GOD**

told the events that were to occur
some two-hundred years later.

And you can see why the liberal unbelievers have to claim a later date for its writing.

Remember that all this history is told as it affects Israel!

**And so now the prophecy narrows down to where it
directly affects Israel's historical struggles.**

Daniel 11:5-6

5"Then the king of the South PTOLEMY I (SOTER) will grow strong, along with one of his princes SELUCID who will gain ascendancy over him PTOLEMY and obtain dominion; his SELUCIDE domain will be a great dominion *indeed.*

Ptolemy I (Soter) --323-285 will form an agreement with Selucus who took over Syria.

Ptolemy took over Egypt and it's domain—Northern Africa.

And Seleucus I (Nicator) 312-281 bc took over Syria and Asia Minor.

Now as Ptolemy and Selucus were building their control over their domains, they were being attacked by Antigonus of Babylon. So they joined forces and defeated Antigonus and then they made an agreement to respect each other's domain.

So the Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt and the Seleucid dynasty of Syria were firmly established. As it will turn out these two dynasties never do get along—constantly fighting with each other ...right up to today, between Syria and Egypt.

And as these two countries would fight each other...look who they had to cross—**Israel**. Back and forth across Israel for next 200 years always causing tremendous suffering for **Israel**.

⁶ "After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in those times."

Egypt and Syria would attempt to make an alliance and (*as was the custom*) one's daughter would be given to the other king to solidify the agreement.

6 *Daughter of the king of the South* (EGYPT) is the daughter of Ptolemy II; Philadelphus 285-246 bc. Her name was Bernice and she is given to the King of the North, (Syria) Antiochus II (Theos) 261-246 bc.

Even here there is intrigue – Ptolemy II wanted this agreement so badly that he forced his daughter, Bernice, to marry the King of Syria (Antiochus II) and to be a spy for him if Syria did anything against Egypt. She really did not want this marriage

But neither did Antiochus II want this marriage, for this meant he would have to divorce his wife, Laodicea (city in Revelation) and this of course is not going to set well with Laodicea.

Bernice marries Antiochus II –Theos;

But two years after the marriage Ptolemy II died.

6 *But she* BERNICE *will not retain her position of power* IN EGYPT BECAUSE PTOLEMY DIED.

6 *Nor will he remain with his power* THAT HE GAIN BY MAKING THIS AGREEMENT, FOR HE DIES.

(now Ladies, get ready for this)

And as soon as Ptolemy II died Antiochus II took back his wife, Laodicea, but Laodicea was very mad (*you wonder why?*) so Laodicea murder Antiochus II and murdered Bernice;

Therefore the phrase: *she will be given up* SHE WILL BE MURDERED!!

6 *Along with those who brought her IN* LAODICEA HAD THEM ALL MURDERED! AND MURDERED THEIR INFANT SON.

All of this threw the relationship between the two countries into chaos.

The Power of Syria was shaken and never really regained its powerful status. And this is going to cause great tribulation to ISRAEL, for ISRAEL will have to bear the anger and hatred of the king of Syria.

And this is why all of this is recorded in Daniel's vision...it severely effect ISRAEL's history.

Ancient Maps of the

*Alexandrian and Post-Alexandrian Era
are found on the next page.*



Alexander Greco-Macedonian Empire Map

