

Coming to the Fullness of Time

God's Movement in History to Bring About the Birth of Christ

Daniel 11:32–35 (NASB95)

31 “**Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.**

Two divisions of Jews—throughout all history

32 “**By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.**

“**By smooth words** you will note that *words* is not in the original because the Hebrew word is ***deceitful words of flattery*** it is amazing how girls, people of a nation are so deceived by flattery words **he** Antiochus IV to Jews **will turn to godlessness** this word in the Hebrew means to be defiled, to pollute, to corrupt.

There are sins, but then there are sins that defile, or corrupt a

person, you should always consider **the effect of these sins**, sins actually can **defile** a person; there are sins that **shame** a person, there are sins that **alarm and shock** a person, there are sins that **warn** us, but there are sins, acts of rebellion that actually **defile** a person **within**. But note those who are deceived by Antiochus to become godless

those who act wickedly toward the covenant, they are already polluted.

Question: When did Eve fall?

When she ate of the forbidden tree or when the thought entered her soul?

These Jews have already **acted wickedly toward the Covenant**. This is the Abrahamic Covenant which promised them a nation. These Jews have already been guilty of acting against this covenant. For example they have stopped the ordinance of circumcision, becoming uncircumcised in their bodies as in their souls. Again, in The Tribulation, there will be many Jews who will not flee Jerusalem when the *abomination that makes desolation* is set up in the temple as they are commanded to do. No, they will remain in Jerusalem, trusting the Anti-christ instead of trusting the Word of God.

This is one group of Jews—those who went against the Abrahamic

Covenant. But there is another group of Jews who lived by trusting God and what God promised in the Abrahamic Covenant.

but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

How did they and how do we come to *know God*?

1. Here we have the all importance of studying the Word of God—to know Him! not Knowledge for Knowledge sake but to know Him in a personal relationship, to possess Knowledge Him in such a way that it encourages you to trust Him in the most adverse of circumstances.
2. We know Him as we allow the HOLY SPIRIT to open our eyes about Him.
3. We come to know Him as we walk by faith
4. What do they know about Him, that causes them to take action for Him? We learn of His faithfulness, we learn of His truthfulness and therefore we learn when He tells us to do or not to do certain things. We listen and out of faith obey Him.
5. This kind of intimate Knowledge of Him motivates the believer to **display strength** this is the causative Hiphil of the Hebrew verb meaning to

be courageous, to be caused to be courageous to have the courage to stand up in a battle. There is nothing to indicate if one has believed in Jesus Christ as Savior; but there is much to be displayed if one is walking in the power and leading of the HOLY SPIRIT, if one has a true, intimate Knowledge of God that causes them not only to profess Him but to worship and serve Him.

So here we are introduced to the second group of Jews **but the people**, Jewish people **who know their God** from the study of the Bible and have lived their lives by Faith **will be caused to display** because of their Knowledge of Him, and their having trusted Him in the past and the power of HOLY SPIRIT.

And something else about these people could not be drawn away from Him by flatteries, by love of money, by promotions or threatenings (fear); death, all the schemes of Satan to cause believers to be drawn away from the Lord.

2 Cor. 2:11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

It is so easy for our ISN (INHERITED SIN NATURE) to cause us to be distracted from serving the Lord

these will be caused to display courage and take

action This phrase occurs some 6 times in the Old Testament:

And those occurrences include 5 in Daniel, 4 of which are here in Daniel 11. In 9:19 Daniel prays to His God to take action, and then in 11:28 we saw it used of Antiochus IV where he will take deadly action against the Jews. And now in 11:32 we see with the reaction of the faithful Jews against the action taken by Antiochus IV against Judea after being humiliated and forced to leave Egypt.

In Maccabees I and II, in the Apocrapha describing the horrible events of the time of Antiochus IV. How he came in and openly slaughtered Jewish men, women and children. How he desecrated the temple and was trying to force all Jews to worship the Sun god who resembled him, setting it up in the temple as the abomination that causes desolation. We have already studied these brave Jews who knew the truth and would worship only their true God.

Where in a small village named Modein, lived an old priest named Mattathias, who refused to worship such an idol and before Antiochus' forces could do anything another priest stepped up and was going to offer a pig on the town altar. Mattathias rose up and took action. First he gave a challenging speech in saying: "Even if all nations that live under the rule of the king obey him and have chosen to do **his** commandments, excepting each one from the religion of his fathers, my sons and my brothers will live by the commandments of **our** fathers. Far be it from us to desert the law

and the ordinances, we will not obey the king's word by turning aside from our religion to the right or to the left."

Recalling the great words of Joshua after taking the land:

'Joshua 24:15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

After giving his words Mattathias then reached into his robe, pulled out a sword and stabled that man who was going to offer a pig, then he told his sons to take care of the Kings forces and his sons stabbed and killed every one of them. This began the Maccabean revolt.

Mattathias died leaving his son Judas in command of the counter revolutionist. Judas was given the nickname 'the hammer' The Hebrew word for hammer is '*maccabeas*' so the war is called the Maccabean revolt.

Question: Why was he known as Judas the Hammer?

For 400 years the Jews had not been trained in military skills.

For 400 years there was no Jewish combat experience.

Judas started a Jewish army with zero experience and within the short time of three or four years. Judas wiped out four complete armies of Antiochus IV with his band of totally inexperienced men. One of the things he did in training his men was that he went back to the book of Deuteronomy and enacted the ceremony for Holy War. Deuteronomy 20.

“The Maccabean revolt began in **167 bc** Judas Maccabeas led the counter revolution from 166-160 bc. Three years after the war began 164 bc a peace was negotiated with Roman pressure and the temple was cleansed and rededicated called Hannakuh.

The following years:

Judas was killed in battle in 160 bc. His brother Jonathan took over and led the counter revolution 160-143BC when he was killed in battle. His brother Simon took over leadership from 143 to 134 bc the legitimate High Priest was reinstated under Jonathan

But what about this Antiochus IV the anti-type of the dictator of the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE in The Tribulation? He died in a mysterious way, which nobody knows. He was on a campaign and suddenly dropped dead. This is fulfillment of prophecy of Daniel 8:25 which declares that he will be broken without human agency which means God or the angels will take him down.

Conclusion

The period of the reign of Antiochus IV (Antiochus Epiphanes) is a story of the fulfillment of Divine Prophecy. It was prophesied to let the children of Israel know that their God is in control of all history, including their own.

This is the principle of John 14:29

“Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. this is not speaking of *believing* in Jesus as Savior.

There are many, many areas of belief in our Christian journey.

This is believing that Jesus is God and as God He knows the future. and so in our study, Daniel was written that the people of Israel might know that He is God and He knows all things therefore they should walk by Faith.

Always remember Hanukah is the celebration of the cleansing of the temple Verses 33-35 leave the Maccabean period and briefly cover the post-Maccabean period and prepare for the Roman rule over the Jews. And prepares us for the study of the Gospels and that period of history.

Lessons from Daniel 11

Remember that Daniel is in the Wisdom section of the Hebrew Bible, not the Prophecy section. We have noted this wisdom as we

went through each chapter, so lets note a few points of wisdom from Daniel 11.

1. How the believer can live and function in a secular society, even one that is hostile to Christianity and remain distinct without being combative.
2. As to the counter revolution led by Mattathias and his sons. This kind of civil disobedience is to be conducted only when personally ordered to do something specifically forbidden in Scripture or not to do something.
3. Even then in such circumstances the Christian is to conduct himself/herself in respect of the pagan government as was well demonstrated by Daniel.
4. Avoid false and unnecessary conflict. We are to be at peace with others if at all possible. The ISN (INHERITED SIN NATURE) loves conflict. Don't cater to the arrogant pride of man that loves a cause and go into rebellion. Be very careful in picking where you will stand.

Example: Because of the Bible we are opposed to homosexuality. But that is for us, not for society. We do not get involved in these causes that on the surface seem biblical, but they are for us, not

for society.

5. The believer following the example of Daniel focuses on God's long term plan and doesn't make a major issue out of everything that comes along. Believers need to focus on God's plan for the ages, God's plan for the nations, the alignment of nations and where history is going.
6. The believer should do whatever he can to impact his society by leading others to Jesus Christ as Savior, one by one within the framework of government, remember that there is no law formed against the fruit of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Galations 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

7. We are not here to change the world, we are not here to bring in some perfect ideal of how a society should function. We saw this in Daniel 11:14 where Jewish radicals sought to

manipulate history and usher in the Millennium themselves.

Understanding history

History is being shaped for the coming of the Messiah
Galations 5:4

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, we spent time on all that God did to get

Daniel from Judea to Babylon. We studied an outline of events in the nations to move Daniel to Babylon. There we started in 760 bc with Jonah down to when Nebuchadnezzar in his battles with Egypt came to Jerusalem and eventually took Daniel, back to Babylon as a hostage. Now let us take a look at all God did in the preparing of **the fullness of time**. Time of the Son of God, the Savior of the world to come into the human race.

Hebrew 2:14

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

What are some of the historical circumstances that God orchestrated to bring in the **fullness of time** for His Son, our Savior to enter into the human race?

Brief Outline:

- I. Division of Alexander the great empires 301 bc
into 4 empires
- II. Antiochus IV Epiphanes 175-164 bc
- III. The Maccabean Period 166-142 bc
- IV. The Hasmonian Period 142-63 bc
- V. Roman rule 63 bc to 70 AD
- VI. Christ born in **Fullness of Time** Bethlehem
ca. 4/3 bc

Now let us go over some details of these periods of history up to the **fullness of time** and the birth of Jesus Christ.

I We well covered in Daniel the division of the Alexandrian Empire under the rule of four of his generals in 301 bc.

Lysimachus Thrace and Asia Minor

Cassander Greece

Ptolemy Egypt

Selucide Syria

All around the Great Sea (Mediterranean) setting the stage for the rise of the Roman Empire.

(The following is taken from the combine work of Charles Clough, Robby Dean & Thomas Ice, with occasional inserts from Mattox)

DURING THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE BREAKUP OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE. DURING THIS PERIOD JUDEA WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO GREAT EMPIRES, THE PTOLEMIES IN EGYPT IN THE SOUTH AND THE SELEUCIDS IN THE NORTH.

DURING THE FIRST PART OF THIS PERIOD FROM CA 320 TO 180 THEY WERE PRIMARILY UNDER THE DOMINATION OF EGYPT.

BUT WITH THE RISE OF THE POWER OF SYRIA, THEY BEGAN TO ALLY THEMSELVES THERE.

INTERNAL POWER POLITICS INVOLVED THE PRO-SYRIAN FACTION, THE PRO-EGYPTIAN FACTION, PLUS VARIOUS RELIGIOUS FACTIONS.

THE MACCABEAN REVOLT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO UNDO THE DAMAGE OF DANIEL 11:14 WHERE BELIEVERS HAD TRIED TO BRING IN FREEDOM AND INSTEAD HAD LOST FREEDOM.

33 Daniel 11:33 *‘And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days.*

34 Daniel 11:34 *‘Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.*

35 Daniel 11:35 *‘And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.*

These verses leave the Maccabean period and go into the post-Maccabean period.

Since Daniel 11:36 starts a prophetic section of Daniel 11 (*prophetic in the sense that by 2002 it has not yet been fulfilled*) we know that Daniel 11:33–35 deals with the historical period from the Maccabeas down to the return of Christ.

The Maccabean Revolt

This began in 166 when Mattathias the old priest in Modein, about 20 miles from Jerusalem, refused to obey the order of Antiochus to sacrifice to the pagan gods. When a Jew attempted to comply, Mattathias killed the Jew, the Syrian general and destroyed the altar. He called for a revolt and with his sons and many other villagers they fled into the Judean hills and lived in caves and conducted a guerrilla warfare against the Syrians.

During the next 2 years they waged war against the Jews who compromised with Antiochus, raiding villages, tearing down altars, circumcising children, and calling for a widespread revolt.

Mattathias died soon after the revolt began and left the war in the hands of his third son Judas, who was a brilliant general and tactician. He defeated three of the best Syrian generals at Emmaus and then defeated Lysias the Syrian regent. **He then restored**

the worship at the Temple and cleansed the temple exactly 3 years after its desecration. This is the basis for the Jewish Feast of Dedication or Lights, hanukkah.

In 163 Lysias had renewed the attack and had Judas trapped when events in Syria involving the succession after the death of Antiochus caused him to break of the siege and head for home.

The conflict continued and Judas continued the struggle for full independence. In 160 he was killed at the battle of Eleasa and the pro-Syrian forces seemed to have won.

But the fifth son, Jonathan continued the war against Hellenism. Continued internal problems in Syria allowed Jonathan to consolidate his gains. Finally in 150 Alexander Balas, who claimed to be the son of Antiochus, won the kingdom and made Jonathan governor and High Priest of Judah. Balas was eventually defeated by the son of Demetrius I, Demetrius II in 145 bc. Demetrius II confirmed Jonathan's position though and Eventually the Jews were given a measure of independence and in 142 a new period began. When Jonathan died he was succeeded by his older brother Simon the second oldest son of Mattathias.

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people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for *many* days.

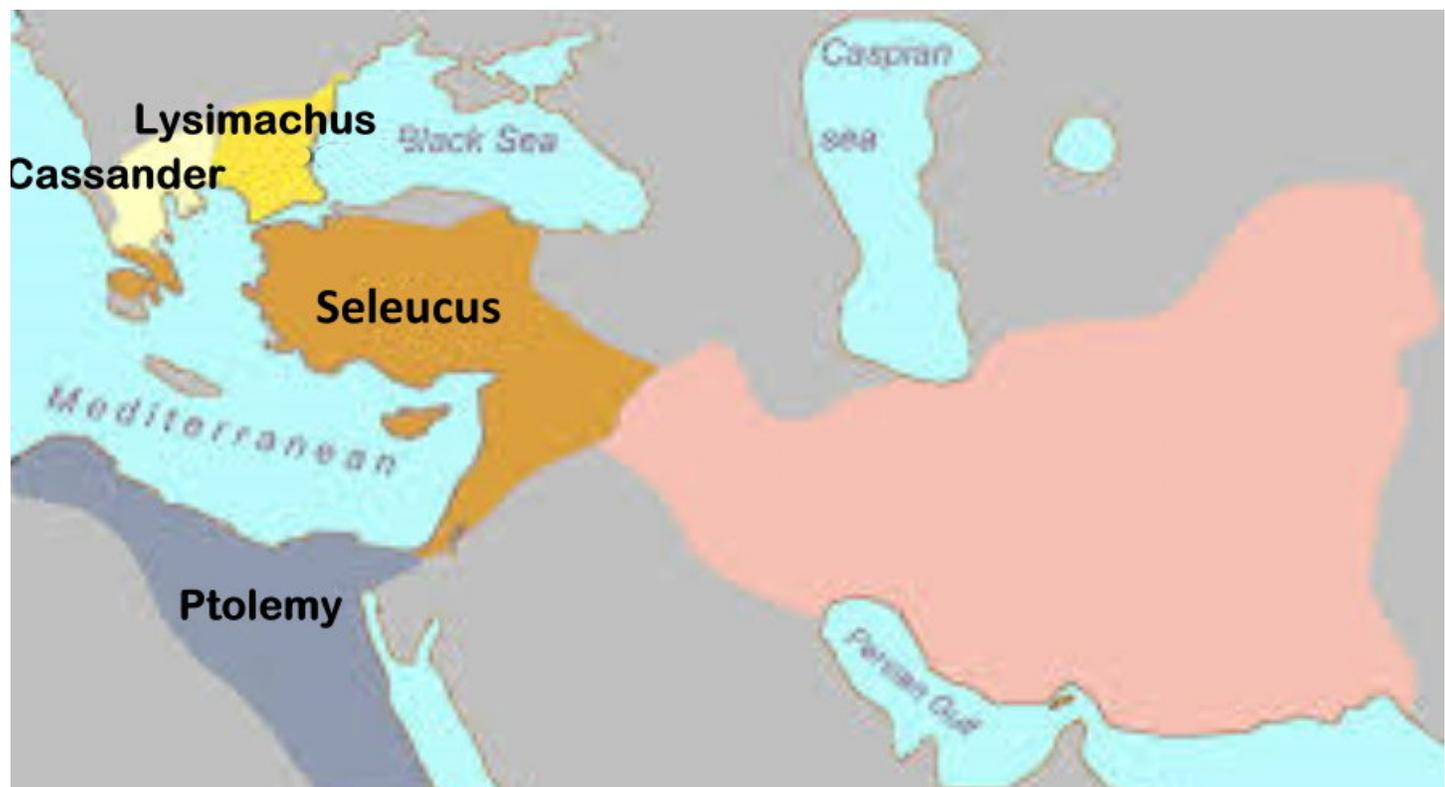
34 “Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.

35 “Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because *it is still to come* at the appointed time.

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



Alexander Greco-Macedonian Empire Map



Always Remember - God Is In Control