

Daniel 11

When we first started the study of book of Daniel we spent some time on how the book of Daniel is the most challenged book of the bible by various scholars of the Bible.

Chapter 11 is the most challenged chapter of the Bible

1 Historical development of the study of the Bible.

To begin with you must always bear in mind that **Satan seeks to discredit the bible**, the Word of God. And he started this right from the beginning in the garden where he challenged the Word of God with Eve.

2 We are all encouraged in the Bible to carefully, diligently to study the bible to determine what it is saying. (Ezra 7:10-11; Acts 8:26-31 and 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15) This has come to be called "lower criticism" or "textual criticism". Here we study the manuscripts of the text to determine original writing and meaning of the text. Here we are totally dependent upon the HOLY SPIRIT to illuminate each passage for us. This demands a great deal of time of study.

3 Lower Criticism –textual criticism is strongly opposed by what is called today "Higher criticism" or "Historical criticism" They are more concerned about "the world behind the text", than they are the **text** itself.

4 Fundamental to *Higher criticism* is the view that **the God of the Bible cannot tell what is going to happen in the future**. Therefore any book (Daniel) that declares what is going to happen and subsequently it happens *must have been written after the fact*. **God simply cannot tell the future.**

5a We have noted many times that the ability to tell what is going to happen --and it happens—is one of the great tests on who is sufficient to be God.

Isaiah 40:18

...to whom then will you liken God?

Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

Isaiah 40:25

... to whom then will you liken Me?

That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One.

5b Then there are a number of tests as to just who is sufficient to be God, and one of those tests is the ability to tell accurately what is going to happen in the future.

Isaiah 41:21-24

²¹ "Present your case," the LORD says.

"Bring forward your strong arguments,"

The King of Jacob says.

²² Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming;

²³ Declare the things that are going to come afterward, That we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together.

²⁴ Behold, you are of no account, And your work amounts to nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination.

Our God tells us of the purpose and meaning of things past—including the creation of the world and of mankind.

God also tells us what is yet to come—

Our God is the only one who can do these things...not Allah, not Buddah, there is no one to compare with our God.

So when you come to the study of the Word of God, you must have a biblical view of God—that He can accurately tell what is going to happen in the future. And a Biblical view of the Bible—***divinely inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God.***

6 The foundation of *higher criticism* is that God cannot tell what is going to happen in the future. Therefore, when the book of Daniel came on the scene and foretold about the **Medo-Persian Empire**, followed by the **Greek empire**, followed by the **Roman empire**, it certainly must not have been written in fifth century as the internal or *lower criticism* reveals, but it must have been written in the second century after all these empires came into history and the first two faded from powerful empires.

7 But the first chapter of the Bible to be directly attacked was the 11th chapter of Daniel.

Why the 11th chapter?

Daniel 11 reveals the most concentrated details of history that came about just as Daniel prophesied Daniel prophesied this in the fifth century and these events did not happen until 323-164 bc. What is the 11th chapter of Daniel about? A detail of events of the Ptolemaic and Seleucid control of the middle east---Jerusalem. You should recall that Ptolemy and Seleucid were two of the four generals of the division of Alexander's empire.

So, therefore, the higher critics must contend, without evidence that Daniel was written after 164 bc, not in the 5th century bc.

8 What is now called *higher criticism* actually began by a philosophical genius in the third century AD, named Porphyry of Tyre. AD c.234-c.305. He is the founder of the Neoplatonic philosophers.

“**Neoplatonism** is a system of philosophical and theological doctrines composed of elements of **Plato** and **Aristotle** and **oriental mysticism**. He wrote a work “*Against the Christians*, in fifteen books, but only fragments remain.

In it, he famously is quoted as having said, "***The Gods have proclaimed Christ to have been most pious, but the Christians are a confused and vicious sect.***"

Porphyry acknowledged Jesus Christ only as an outstanding philosopher. This is rather interesting since he also calls Christians, those who follow the teaching of JESUS CHRIST as confused and vicious sect.

Porphyry realized that one of the most vulnerable places to attack Christianity and the Bible was to attack it's **PREDICTIVE DECLARATIONS** (Prophecy) and he started with Daniel, namely **DANIEL 11**. If you are thinking, it should be obvious why Satan attacked the prophetic declarations of the Bible, because he wanted to prove that God was not God as per the challenge in Isaiah as to who can tell what things are yet to occur.

- › WE CANNOT PROVE JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD— It is by Faith
- › WE CANNOT PROVE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST— It is by Faith
- › WE CANNOT PROVE ONE MIRACLE JESUS CHRIST PERFORMED— It is by Faith
- › WE CANNOT PROVE THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS CHRIST HAS ETERNAL LIFE AND EVERYONE WHO REFUSES TO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST WILL SPEND ALL ETERNITY IN LAKE OF FIRE. — It is by Faith

FAITH – FAITH – FAITH - FAITH

But it has been pointed out that the only 'miracle' that we can prove and that all of the world can observe is **FULFILLED PROPHECY**.

Therefore this must be attacked and the only real attack is just to deny, (*without evidence*) that fulfilled prophecy was always written after the historical fulfillment.

A Church Father named Jerome (AD 347-420) answered Porphyry in the first commentary ever written on a book of the Bible and that book was Daniel.

(the following is a most informative paragraph from *Truthnet*.)

“Daniel chapter 11 gives a detailed history of the transitions of kingdoms from time of Darius until the time of Antiochus IV. This detailed history has caused skeptics of the Bible to dismiss the accuracy as written after the fact. Porphyry a third century pagan attacked the book of Daniel as a Maccabean forgery. Jerome responded

with his own commentary on the book of Daniel, defending its 5th century B.C. authorship. The detailed history forces the reader to come to one of two conclusions, either the book of Daniel was supernaturally inspired by God, who revealed to Daniel the history of nations before the event, or Daniel was written by a lying imposter who claimed to be a 5th century B.C. prophet”

OUTLINE OF DANIEL 11

Daniel 11 has basically two parts:

A. DANIEL 11:1-35

B. DANIEL 11:36-12:2

1 THE FIRST PART; 1-35 COVERS THE TIME FROM DARIUS THE MEDE (WHOM WE WERE INTRODUCED TO IN CHAPTER 6) TO ANTIOCHUS IV EPIPHANES (175-164 BC; REMEMBER THAT DANIEL WROTE THIS IN THE 5TH CENTURY 534 BC).

2	THE SECOND PART (DAN. 11:36-12:2) COVERS THE LAST GENTILE RULER, WHO IS IN POWER AT THE TIME OF THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, THAT IS IN THE LAST 7 YEARS OF HISTORY PROMISED TO ISAIAH OR THE TRIBULATION.
3	IT IS THOSE FIRST 35 VERSES THAT HAS CAUSED DANIEL 11 TO BE THE MOST CONTESTED CHAPTER OF THE BIBLE. THIS IS BECAUSE THESE VERSES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN HISTORY, EXACTLY AS THE BIBLE HAD PROPHESED, AND THERE EXIST A GREAT NUMBER OF BIBLE SCHOLARS WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT A GOD WHO CAN FORETELL THE FUTURE. DANIEL WROTE THESE IN 534 BC AND THEY WERE FULFILLED BY 164 BC. IN OTHER WORDS DANIEL WROTE SOME 300 YEARS BEFORE THESE FINAL EVENTS OCCURRED.
4	THE GREAT PROBLEM IS THAT IF GOD CAN AND DOES CORRECTLY TELL OF FUTURE EVENTS, THEN ALL HE SAYS IN REGARDS TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND HEAVEN AND HELL, MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. SO THEY MUST ATTACK PROPHECY THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED.
5	THERE IS A LONG GAP BETWEEN VERSES 35 AND 36. THIS GAP COVERS THE LAST 150 YEARS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ALL OF THE CHURCH AGE. (<i>OVER 2000 YEARS, SO FAR</i>)

6 THESE FIRST 35 VERSES OF DANIEL 11, CORRECTLY PROPHESED THE PERSIAN RULE, FOLLOWED BY THE GREEK EMPIRE ESTABLISHED BY ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THEN THE DIVISION OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE INTO FOUR PARTS LED BY 4 GENERALS, WHICH SETS UP THE LAST PART OF VERSES 1-35. TWO OF THESE GENERALS LED THE TWO EMPIRES THAT DANIEL 11 DEALS WITH; THAT IS THE PTOLEMIC KINGDOM (PTOLEMY) AND THE SELUCIDE KINGDOM (*SELEUCUS*)

7 *A map-chart of the flow of Daniel 11:2-35*

Persian Empire

Greek Empire

Ptolemy Empire

Selucide Kingdom

Church Age (The Great Gap)

Tribulation (Daniel 11:36 thru 12:2)

Persian Empire



Greek Empire



Ptolemy



Seleucid Kingdom (SELEUCUS)



*Church Age (The Great GAP)
Between Daniel 11:35 and 36*



Tribulation (Daniel 11:36 thru 12:2)

**Daniel 11:36
thru
Daniel 12:2**

8 **QUESTION:**

WHY DID GOD GIVE DANIEL SUCH DETAILED PROPHECY THAT WOULD BE FULFILLED EVEN BEFORE THE INCARNATION OF HIS SON?

(TO CONFUSE THE SCHOLARS OF HIGHER CRITICISM)

NO, NOT NECESSARILY TRUE

THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS IN PART THE PURPOSE OF THE WHOLE BOOK OF DANIEL, AND ALL THE PROPHECIES GIVEN HERE.

How often in your life do **YOU** need encouragement from Word of God?

Well, this prophecy was given to give encouragement to the Jews.

If you think the 70 years Babylonian captivity was something, well, as the saying goes, **you haven't seen anything yet.**

What they will suffer under Antiochus IV Epiphanes will be an introduction to their history.

They will need wisdom and encouragement.

To go through over 2000 years of tribulation under foreign rule will demand *perseverance, or endurance.*

Romans 5:3-5

³ And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 15:4-5

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

God Cares About
His People... Jews
and
In the Church Age... Christians