

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme: God is Sovereign over History**

**Outline:**

- A. The personal history of the prophet Daniel – Chapter 1
- B. The prophetic history of the Gentiles – Chapters 2-7
- C. *The prophetic history of Israel – Chapters 8-12***

Daniel was uniquely gifted in understanding visions and dreams, as stated in Daniel 1:17. Daniel is the KEY book on prophecy in the OT, as Revelation is the KEY book on prophecy in the NT. And the NT builds on and brings to consummation that which is outlined in the OT.

Prophecy is God showing us the future in advance. It is history given in advance! Only God can do this with complete accuracy. Anyone can guess, but God tells us the future with absolute precision. This is God's glory alone as so stated by God in Isaiah 42:8-9.

After an introduction to godly Daniel and emphasizing his unique giftedness in dreams and visions in chapter 1, Daniel 2-7 then deals with primarily with what is called the **TIMES OF THE GENTILES** during which Israel would be under the domination of the Gentiles starting with **Babylon** and concluding with the final stage of the **Roman Empire under antichrist**.

We are still living in the times of the Gentiles, but all that remains to be fulfilled is the final form of the Roman Empire, which will involve a 10-nation confederacy that, in essence, is a revived form of the Roman Empire related to the area in conjunction with the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Even though throughout the TIMES OF THE GENTILES the Gentiles dominate and afflict Israel - even so the God of Israel is still shown to be sovereign. During this time, He is disciplining His people Israel because of their disobedience and rejection of Him, and ultimately will bring them to repentance.

**Daniel 8-12 deals mainly** with God's specific program for Israel called "***The Seventy Weeks of Daniel***" which involves 490 years of special dealings with them as brought out in Daniel 9:24-27.

483 years of this have been fulfilled, and we now live in a **GAP** period prior to the fulfillment of the last 7-year period of time. The major long-term thing God has been doing in the **GAP** is building His **CHURCH**. That is why we refer to this as the ***CHURCH age***. When God is done building the Church, it will be raptured out of the world, and then God will finish His program with Israel.

The theological word for this view is **DISPENSATIONALISM**. It recognizes that God's program with Israel is distinct from His program with the Church.

In the book of Daniel, God gave 4 visions to Daniel.

### **Slide # 2**

**Daniel 7 Vision:** Overview of the Times of the Gentiles, where Gentile nations are presented as predatory beasts in relation to Israel, climaxing in Antichrist and then comes the kingdom.

**Daniel 8 Vision:** A ram and a male goat representing Medo-Persia and Greece, with a close look at a little horn that emerges out of Greece, known historically as Antiochus Epiphanes.

**Daniel 9 Vision:** 70 weeks of years, that is, 490 years of special dealings with Israel, are in view.

**Daniel 10-12 Vision:** Further details related to prophetic history and how it will culminate in last days' fulfillment.

Daniel 10 is introductory to the prophecy that is brought out in chapters 11-12. In chapter 10, Daniel was visited by heavenly beings. Very possibly one was the preincarnate Christ Himself in conjunction with the ministry of other angels – one very possibly being Gabriel.

Daniel was totally overwhelmed by this experience, and apart from divine enablement via the angel, was not even able to carry on in this conversation. When the heavenly meets the human, it is totally overwhelming. In Chapter 10 we find Daniel earnestly seeking God in prayer regarding the future of His people.

From the first day Daniel began to pray – an angel was dispatched by God to come to him and give prophetic revelation in answer to his prayer. However, this angel was hung up for 3 weeks in spiritual warfare with the prince of Persia – whom we believe was a demon that had particular influence in regard to the government of Persia. We saw last time that prayer and spiritual warfare are realities that we are only given a glimpse of in the Bible in terms of all that is involved – but they are indeed great realities.

We have this great **MYSTERY** involving the Sovereignty of God, spiritual warfare between angels, and the prayers of God's people all in the mix. And in **the middle of this is ISRAEL!**

Behind the social and political realities of what is going on here on earth are spiritual realities related to spiritual warfare. Our part and responsibility in this is prayer (cf. Eph. 6:10-18).

In Daniel 10, we see this interplay between Daniel praying on earth and spiritual warfare in heaven. The angel relays this spiritual battle not only to the present situation in Persia but also to **the future related to Greece**. (cf. 10:20)

This is significant because, as we move into chapter 11, we see that God's people under Greece in particular are constantly in the middle of power conflicts from the North and from the South. They are being trampled over from both directions, which corresponds to spiritual warfare in the heavens. There is a connection, albeit we don't know a lot about it.

Finally, a leader from out of the Grecian empire emerges that mistreats Israel so similarly to what the Antichrist will do that he is dealt with at some length in Daniel 11:21-35. Historically, he is Antiochus Epiphanes and he is a type of Antichrist. This is followed by giving various details of the character and career of the actual antichrist of the last days in 11:36-45.

Keep in mind that behind the earthly struggles represented in chapter 11 are spiritual warfare realities as seen in chapter 10. It is easy to lose sight of this, but the whole of chapter 10 is introductory to the conflicts of chapter 11, and the essence of the introduction is that a spiritual warfare is going on behind the scenes that corresponds to what is happening on earth.

Old Testament Prophecy revolves around God's program for Israel. It is selective on that basis. Without seeing **Israel as central** and being aware of God's plan regarding this people it doesn't seem to make sense.

Gentile nations essentially come into the picture as they relate to God's people, Israel. God has shown us He is disciplining His people, Israel, and He is using Gentile nations in this long-term process. **Israel is the centerpiece** of this puzzle.

Daniel 11:2-35 is in reference to the third kingdom during the TIMES OF THE GENTILES that would have special dominance over Israel, namely Greece. (cf. 10:20) There are said to be about 135 specific prophecies in this section that were prophecy at the time they were written by Daniel in about 530 B.C., but then were later fulfilled in history.

This whole chapter of Daniel 11 builds to the Antichrist. It gives us the history leading up to Antichrist. It gives us the OT forerunner of antichrist that prefigures the NT Antichrist – namely Antiochus Epiphanes. Daniel 11 is really a miniature picture of what defines the times of the Gentiles and where it ends. Israel is trodden down from all different directions, and then it climaxes in a time of extreme persecution, which produces a faithful remnant but also many apostates.

“Probably no other portion of Scripture presents more minute prophecy than Daniel 11:1-35, and this has prompted the sharpest attack of critics seeking to discredit this prophetic portion.”

- ***John Walvoord***

It is so accurate that critics want to claim (**without any basis** for doing so other than they simply don't believe in prophecy) that a pseudo-Daniel wrote this as history rather than as prophecy. They want to claim the author lived in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. and wrote HISTORY rather than the historical Daniel who lived in the 6th century B.C. who wrote PROPHECY.

Their reasoning goes like this: **Prophecy is impossible – therefore, this has to be history. Just one problem:** There is no objective reason to think it was not written by Daniel, just like the rest of the book. They are **without EVIDENCE** for this view! Their problem is that they don't believe in the inspired nature of the Bible and rationalize based on that presupposition.

This section in Daniel 11 has **many prophetic predictions** which are **now historical details** – so many that I am going to just touch on a few highlights in survey fashion and give you the big picture. For a detailed analysis that gives the historical details you will want to read a good Bible commentary.

**Slide # 3*****Outline of Daniel 10-12***

Daniel 10 – 11:1 - Reception of Vision Described

Daniel 11:2 – 12:3 – Explanation of the Vision

Daniel 12:4-13 – Clarifications Regarding Daniel's Prophecies

When I was taught history in school, it was often frustrating because I did not have a larger context to attach it to. I like to see the BIG PICTURE and then have the details filled in. Daniel gives us the BIG PICTURE and then fills in various details along the way.

Realize that Daniel 11 is giving us prophetic history that will climax in the Antichrist. That's where it is going!

**Slide # 4**

Cyrus

Alexander the Great

Antiochus Epiphanes

Antichrist

In order to properly appreciate what is being said, you need to see this BIG PICTURE of where prophetic history is leading. Now, when we back up and see all the details that get us there, we can appreciate the absolute sovereignty of God as He not only knows but orchestrates this whole thing to a predetermined end.

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27 has been called the greatest prophecy ever given because of its precision in dating, predicting right to the very day when the Messiah would be officially presented to Israel as her Messiah in His Triumphal Entry.

But in terms of the sheer number of prophecies given that have been fulfilled to the letter in history, Daniel 11 is unrivaled. Prophecy experts have numbered around 135 specific prophecies in this chapter, making Daniel 11 totally unique in all the Scriptures in terms of the volume of prophetic truths presented in one chapter.

No other chapter in all of Scripture gives us such an awesome exhibition of God's power to foretell the future. – ***John Phillips***

### **Slide # 5**

Daniel 11:1-35 – Fulfilled Prophecy (Building toward the Antichrist)

Daniel 11:36-45 – Yet to be Fulfilled Prophecy (About the Antichrist)

#### **Daniel 11:1–20 (NKJV)**

**1 “Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)**

Verse 1 actually belongs to the flow of thought in chapter 10. In chapter 10 we have Michael the archangel coming to help the interpreting angel in the matter of spiritual warfare behind the scenes. In 10:20 he indicates that this ongoing spiritual war with a demonic prince over the territory of Persia continues and then it will continue on with the a demonic prince who will be over the territory of Greece.

At the end of verse 21 he said, “***No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.***” It was just this angel and Michael the archangel who were carrying on in this context in spiritual warfare.

11:1 now continues the thought. In 10:13 he said Michael came to help him, but now in 11:1 the interpreting angel says he stood up to confirm and strengthen Michael. They worked together as a team to strengthen each other.

The first year of Darius was in 539 BC – the time when Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians. It was now about three years later, in the third year of Cyrus (536), that Daniel received this vision related to Daniel 10-12 (cf. Dan. 10:1). This illustrates the reality of ongoing spiritual warfare in the angelic realm.

The timing here relates very closely to when the Jews would be allowed to return to their homeland. So, perhaps when he speaks of strengthening Michael the archangel in the context of spiritual warfare, this relates to the Jews being allowed to return home. We are not sure, but again, spiritual warfare in heaven relates to what is happening here on earth, especially in relation to Israel, which is the emphasis in context.

**2 And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.**

Verses one and two deal with the Medo/Persian Empire. The angel here says that three more kings will follow Cyrus in Persia.

And then a fourth prominent figure will emerge who will be richer and stronger than the previous Persian leaders.

### **Slide # 6**

Persian kings who followed Cyrus...

- 1) Cambyes – 530 – 522
- 2) Gautama or Smerdis (522)
- 3) Darius I Hystaspes 521-486
- 4) Xerxes** (486-465)

**Xerxes** is also called Ahasuerus in Esther. Ahasuerus is the Hebrew equivalent of the Persian name Xerxes.

The reason for mentioning the Persian kings is to introduce Xerxes who repeatedly attacked Greece and in so doing infuriated them. And they never got over it.

Over a four year period, Xerxes assembled an army estimated to have perhaps been as large as 1 million soldiers to attack Greece, which he then did in 480 BC.

150 years later Alexander the Great would use this as **motivation for rallying his troops** to battle the Persians and overthrow them and so usher in the third great world power of Greece as seen in Daniel's outline of history. This is in perfect accord with the prophecy given in Daniel 8:6-7.

### **Slide # 7**

**Daniel 8:6–7 (NKJV)**

**6** Then he [**Alexander the Great**] came to the ram that had two horns [**Medo/Persia**], which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

**7** And I saw him confronting the ram; he was **moved with rage against him**, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.

And so exactly as God predicted Xerxes greatly “stirred up” the realm of Greece to where 150 years later they retaliated under Alexander the Great!

This is now history, but when given was prophecy hundreds of years in advance.

God, through Daniel, is filling in the **background** that leads to Antiochus Epiphanes, who is a type of antichrist, and then to antichrist himself. But he is doing it prophetically, which then became history in due time.

Verses 3-4 now deal with the Grecian Empire...

**3 Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.**

This mighty king was Alexander the Great of Greece. He came on the scene as a young man like a blow torch and set the world on fire. In 10 short years, he conquered Persia and the known world of his day. He ruled from 336 to 323 BC.

Indeed, he ruled “with great dominion” and did “according to his will” proving to be unstoppable! He was able to conquer and rule a vast territory covering some 11,000 miles. This prophecy is now fulfilled in history! You can read about it in any history book! But it was prophecy FIRST!

### **Slide # 8**

The ancient historian Flavius Josephus recorded that the Jewish high priest showed this passage of prophetic Scripture to Alexander himself, and that this was responsible for the conqueror’s favorable attitude toward the Jews. – **Charles Feinberg**

God providentially used Alexander in a great way. Everywhere he went, he spread the Greek culture and language, which prepared the world for the Greek New Testament and the spread of the gospel!



**4 And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.**

No sooner had Alexander come to rule the world and then as a young man at about age of 33 he died in 323 BC.

Neither of his sons succeeded him as they were both murdered.

In the process of time his kingdom was broken up into four parts with four of his generals each having a part of the kingdom.

Thus, this prophecy was fulfilled to the letter being given about 200 years in advance!

From here on out from verse 5 through verse 35 the focus is on the dynasty of two of these four, namely **Ptolemy** who took Egypt who became “king of the south” and **Selucus** who took Syria and became “king of the north”.

These two had seesaw battles for 150 years. **Right in the MIDDLE** of this ongoing conflict was Judah and Jerusalem – the HOLY LAND.

And that is why this whole piece of history is so significant. Israel was being trampled down from one side to the other (cf. Lk. 21:24).

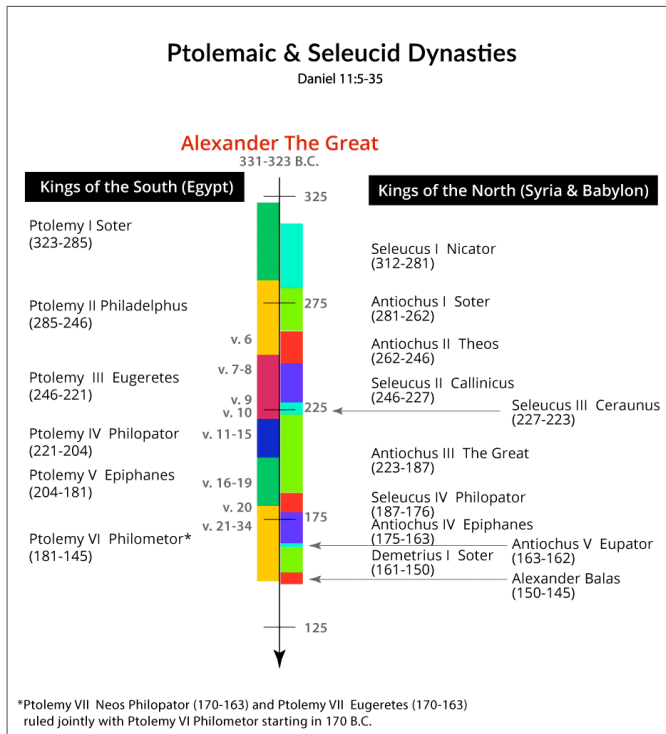
These two are emphasized in particular because they and their dynasties specifically impacted God’s people, Israel, in the Holy Land during this time.

It is for this reason that they become the center of prophetic interest.

The emphasis of prophetic history which revolves around Israel and the Gentile countries that receive prominent treatment, are so treated because of their association with Israel.

Verses 5-20 deal with the ongoing conflict of 2 of these dynasties in the North (Seleucus) and in the South (Ptolemy).

**Right in the MIDDLE** of this on going conflict was Judah and Jerusalem – the HOLY LAND.

**Slide # 9****Slide # 10**

As you can imagine 150 years of history involves many assorted details. Over 100 of them are mentioned in Daniel 11:5-20. If I try to cover them all I will lose you in the mi·nu·ti·ae, so I will simply point to some of the highlights and try to give you the BIG PICTURE overview.

**5 “Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion.**

IN the Bible, directions are given (unless specifically stated otherwise) from the perspective of the HOLY LAND – Israel.

South here refers to Egypt with the dynasty leader being Ptolemy I Soter who ruled from 323-285 BC.

One of his princes, who initially was subservient by the name of Seleucus I Nicator, left him to become ruler over Syria in the north. He ruled from 312-281 BC.

In this process, Syria became strong and became one of the largest divisions of the Grecian empire. Once again, we see the exact precision of fulfilled prophecy in history!

Thus from verse 6- through 20 begins a **seesaw struggle** back and forth with all kinds of intertwining details that were fulfilled to the letter. What we see here is amazing detailed prophecies with perfect fulfillment in history!

### **Slide # 11**

The nations here are Egypt (south) and Syria (north), and the rulers change regularly. The little nation of Israel was caught between these two great powers and was affected by their conflicts.

***-Warren Wiersbe***

**6 And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times.**

This verse involves a lot of moving parts! This involves Ptolemy II (king of the south) and his daughter Bernice. The king the north was Antiochus the II. They reached an agreement that would unite them, involving Bernice becoming the wife of Antiochus. But in order for this to happen, Antiochus was forced to divorce his wife Laodice.

Shortly thereafter, Ptolemy II died, and Antiochus went back to his first wife, Laodice. Then Laodice, out of bitter jealousy, had Bernice and all her attendants killed, thus fulfilling “***she shall not retain the power of her authority***”, and “***she shall be given up, and those who brought her***”.

Also, the child of Bernice who by terms of the original marriage agreement, was to be heir to the throne was also killed!

Then, too, she had her husband Antiochus poisoned, thus fulfilling, “***he nor his authority shall stand***”. In his place Laodice put on the Syrian throne her own son named Seleucus Callinicus (246-227 BC).

Perhaps this is where the saying hailed from: “***Hell has no fury like a woman scorned.***”

OH THE DRAMA! But it was specifically spelled out in prophecy long before it happened!

**7 But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail.**

“***From a branch of her roots***” refers to one of her siblings. This is a prophecy about a brother of Berenice named Ptolemy III (246-221 BC), who fought against Syria to avenge the death of his sister and was successful. He proceeded to have Laodice killed. Mission accomplished!

**8 And he shall also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the North.**

So overwhelming was the victory of Ptolemy III over Syria that he took their gods with him back home to Egypt. In a previous conflict, they had been taken from Egypt, so he saw this as rightfully restoring what belonged to Egypt.

Along with various members of the royal family, he took precious articles of silver and gold as the spoils of victory.

The last part of verse 8 in the Legacy Standard Bible is translated as “***and he on his part will stand back from attacking the king of the North for some years.***”

**9 “Also the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.**

After such a humiliating defeat, Seleucus II Callinicus tried to come back with an invasion of Egypt but was unsuccessful and returned home to Syria, only to die by falling from his horse.

**10 However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife.**

Verses 10-20 tell the saga of a seesaw battle back and forth between the North and the South.

The sons of Seleucus II who succeeded him, namely Seleucus III and Antiochus III stirred up the people and assembled a large army. Antiochus III succeeded in pushing the Egyptians back to the southern borders of Israel in his war campaign of 219-217 BC.

**11 “And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy.**

The king of the South here is Ptolemy the IV (221-204 BC). In response to being driven back by Antiochus III, Ptolemy IV came to meet him in southern Israel and stopped the advance, slaughtering many tens of thousands of Syrian warriors.

**12 When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail.**

As a result of his victory over the north, Ptolemy IV became very proud, but his position of victory was to be short-lived.

**13 For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment.**

**14 “Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall.**

About 15 years later, Antiochus III again returned, this time with a much larger army, and this time he was successful in overcoming the southern king (c. 203 BC). Back and forth we go!

Egypt had numerous enemies (such as Macedonia) and they also joined in this fight against Egypt as did some Jews.

### **Slide # 12**

Many Jews (**your own people**, i.e., Daniel's people, the Jews; cf. "your people" in 9:24; 10:14) also joined Antiochus against Egypt. Perhaps the Jews hoped to gain independence from both Egypt and Syria by joining the conflict, **but** their hopes were not realized.

***-The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

**15 So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist.**

**16 But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.**

Antiochus III, also known as Antiochus the Great, defeated the Egyptian army. They could not withstand him, even the very strongest and best troops of Egypt.

This is saying that Antiochus was completely successful in his campaigns against Ptolemy the V in Egypt.

Furthermore, Antiochus III was able to make the land of Israel a possession of the northern Seleucid kingdom. Only Israel in the Bible is known as "**the Glorious Land**". Antiochus made Israel a key military base from which he could attack Egypt! Because his troops had to live off the land they plundered the land of Israel mercilessly.

Indeed, destruction was in his power. His rule was very destructive to Israel.

And then he forcefully negotiated what he hoped would be a long-term peace agreement with the king of the south (Ptolemy the V).

**17 “He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him.**

He came with the strength to force an agreement. As part of the deal, he agreed to give his daughter (named Cleopatra – not the infamous queen in Egypt from 51-30 BC) to Ptolemy V as a wife with the goal that she would be faithful to her father and seek to undermine the king from within.

What intrigue, and that with little or no real concern for the well-being of his daughter. He was thinking only of himself and the furtherance of his own power.

You know what they say: “***All is fair in love and war.***” Antiochus definitely did not play fair!

But alas, it did not work. Cleopatra fell in love with her Egyptian husband and was loyal to him instead of to her father’s schemes.

**18 After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him.**

Antiochus III then turned his attention to Greece and was successful in taking a number of islands. However, Rome, now a rising power put an end to his expansionist efforts and defeating him forced him to pay tribute (c. 190 BC). At this point, Syria was forced to become a Roman Province. Syria was still allowed to have her own kings, but they would now be a vassal of Rome.

**19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.**

Antiochus the Great returned home and died shortly thereafter because of a domestic insurrection.

In 187 BC he was killed while trying to rob a temple in Elam in order to replenish his exhausted treasury. – ***Renald Showers***

Thus, Antiochus the Great died an ignoble death!

**20 “There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.**

Antiochus III was succeeded by Seleucus IV (187-175 BC). Seleucus was a real politician (tongue in cheek) in that his whole thing was taxes and more taxes. He imposed a heavy tax burden on the Jews in Israel.

After a few years Seleucus mysteriously died. Many think he was poisoned by one of his close associates, namely the key person in charge of collecting taxes.

Truly, he was not killed in anger or in battle, but quietly taken out behind the scenes.

There are many other details filled in by history, but the Bible here gives us an inspired prophetic outline of what would happen, and it was fulfilled to the letter.

All the way through we see an ongoing struggle between the Ptolemy dynasty and the Seleucus dynasty – and in the MIDDLE was Israel being trampled down in the ongoing conflict as they were caught right in the middle.

All of this gives background and builds to a most prominent person in history, namely Antiochus Epiphanes, who is a type of Antichrist to whom the climax of the unfolding story builds.

From Daniel 11:2-20, we are taken from Persia in the time of Daniel to Antiochus Epiphanes, involving a period of about 350 years, including the ongoing 150-year battle between the Ptolemy and Seleucus Dynasties. And that brings us to Antiochus Epiphanes who came out of the Seleucus dynasty (Northern) – that is out of Syria.

He is the most infamous type of Antichrist found in the Bible. In him we see what the coming Antichrist will look like.

### **Slide # 13**

#### **Daniel 10:21 (LSB)**

**21 “However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. ...**



As noted, the angel declared that God has prewritten the course of world history! While it is true that no human being has the ability to forecast the future (certainly not with specific detail), God is shown to be able to do so, showing that He is sovereign over history.

History truly is HIS STORY!

Only God can prophesy. This chapter must have comforted that believing remnant among God's remnant who lived in those dark days between the Testaments. They could put their fingers on verse after verse and say, "**Here's where we are.**" For four hundred years, God remained silent, and not until John the Baptist raised his voice was the silence broken. Yet, those silent centuries were not without echoes, and those echoes sound loudly in this chapter.

– **John Phillips**

We see here in our study today is that God...

- **Is Omniscient** - (being able to predict exactly what is going to happen in history).
- **Is Omnipotent** - (being able to bring to pass exactly what He has predicted).
- **Has a Plan** - (the whole of history is moving to a God-ordained consummation related to His plan for His people).
- **Has a special calling for Israel** - Israel is the centerpiece of God's prophetic plan for the world (Gen. 15:14; Gal. 4:4).

People often say, "**The devil is in the details,**" and in a sense that is true, but our text today shows that ultimately, "**God is in the details.**"

History truly is HIS STORY, and we know this because He has told us the story in outline form before it happens, and then He brings it to pass! Only God can do this! This is God's glory alone (Isa. 42:8-9).

Indeed, these things are the fulfillment of "**the Scripture of Truth**" as the interpreting angel said in 10:21.

Do you know this God of truth – the God of the Bible, the God of the Jews, the God who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and is sovereign over the course of history?

Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**" (Jn. 14:6). Do you know Him? Come to Him and by faith receive Him as Lord and Savior and be saved! NOW is your time in history to be saved for time and eternity! Come!