

**DANIEL CHAPTER 11 (KJV)**  
**[Historical Notes By Thomas J. Short]**

“Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede [538 BC], even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him. And now will I shew thee the truth.

“Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia [**Cambyases, Pseudo-Smerdis & Darius**]; and the fourth [**Xerxes (485-465 BC)**] shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia [**In 478 BC Xerxes attempted a disastrous invasion of the Greek homelands**].

“And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will [**Alexander the Great (336-323 BC)**]. And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those [**Alexander’s kingdom was effectively divided between four of his generals – Cassander took Macedonia & its related territories, Lysimachus took Thrace & its related territories; Ptolemy took Egypt & its related territories and Seleucus took Syria & its related territories**].

“And the king of the south shall be strong [**Ptolemy I (323-285 BC) – hereafter in the text, “King of the South” refers to a Ptolemaic ruler in Greek-Egypt**], and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion [**Seleucus I (311-280 BC) – hereafter in the text, “King of the North” refers to a Seleucid ruler in Greek-Syria**].

“And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king’s daughter of the south [**Bernice, daughter of Ptolemy II (285-246 BC)**] shall come to the king of the north [**Antiochus II (261-246 BC)**] to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times [**Laodice, whom Antiochus II divorced in order to wed Bernice, conspired to have both of them killed**].

“But out of a branch of her roots [**Bernice’s brother, Ptolemy III (246-222 BC)**] shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north [**Seleucus II (246-226 BC)**], and shall deal against them, and shall prevail [**Seleucus II got rid of Laodice**]: And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.

“So the king of the south [**Ptolemy III**] shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

“But his [**Seleucus II**] sons [**Seleucus III (226-223 BC) & Antiochus III (223-187 BC)**] shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress.

“And the king of the south [**Ptolemy IV (221-203 BC)**] shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north [**Antiochus III**]: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand [**Ptolemy IV defeated Antiochus III in 217 BC**].

“And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it. For the king of the north [**Antiochus III**] shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.

“And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south [**Ptolemy V (203-181 BC)**]: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall [**A Jewish rebellion was crushed in 200 BC**].

“So the king of the north [**Antiochus III**] shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand. But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land [**Judea**], which by his hand shall be consumed [**Antiochus III gained control of the region which included Judea by 197 BC**].

“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 [**Antiochus III’s daughter, Cleopatra I, was married to Ptolemy V in 194 BC**], corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.

“After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him. Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found [**Antiochus III died in 187 BC while trying to plunder a pagan temple treasury**].

“Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle [**Seleucus IV (187-175 BC) died in a conspiracy carried out by his finance minister**].

“And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom [**Seleucus IV’s brother, Antiochus IV (175-163 BC) seized control of the throne because his nephew, Demetrius I, as too young to oppose him**]: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

“And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant [**Possibly a reference to how the Jewish High Priest Onias III was murdered in 170 BC**].

“And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers’ fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

“And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south [**Ptolemy VI (181-146 BC)**] with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him. Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain [**Antiochus IV invaded Egypt in 170 BC**].

“And both these kings’ hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed. Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land [**Antiochus IV withdrew from Egypt in 169 BC without taking Alexandria**].

“At the time appointed he shall return [**Antiochus IV decided to finish his invasion of Egypt in 168 BC**], and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. For the ships of Chittim shall come against him [**Roman naval forces were active in the eastern Mediterranean at this time**]: therefore he shall be grieved [**A Roman representative in Egypt gave Antiochus IV an ultimatum to withdraw or face war with the Roman Republic**], and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant [**Angered by the Roman intervention & hearing about a Jewish rebellion at Jerusalem, Antiochus IV plundered the Holy City on his return to Greek-Syria**]: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant [**Antiochus IV was supported by ethnic Jews who chose to abandon Judaism in favor of becoming more like the Greeks**].

“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice [**These sacrifices were first disrupted in early 167 BC & a few months later absolutely forbidden by law**], and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate [**The Greek-Syrians & their allies among the Greek-Jews dedicated the Temple at Jerusalem to the worship of Zeus built there a the Greek style altar that was dedicated with a Greek-style sacrifice on the Jewish date of 9\*25 (17 December 167 BC)**].

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries [**Referring to the attitude of Antiochus IV toward his Greek-Jews allies**]: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits [**Referring to the heroes among the Jews that remained faithful to God’s Word – commonly referred to as the “Maccabeans”**].

“And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed [**The Temple was recaptured, cleansed & rededicated by Judas Maccabee on the third anniversary of its desolation, on the Jewish date of 9\*25 (14 December 164 BC). An independent, Hasmonean Kingdom of the Jews developed over the next several decades, amidst much death & intrigue**].

[**Antiochus IV died in January of 163 BC, on his way to Jerusalem to annihilate all the religious Jews who had defied his efforts to turn them into Greeks. A civil war among the Greek-Syrians began shortly after his death. While many commentators teach that the following verses cannot be applied to historical events of this time, assigning them to a supposed future persecutor of Israel - “The Antichrist.” I disagree & hereafter provide my historical connections.**]

“And the king [**Demetrius I (162-150 BC), the young nephew whom Antiochus IV had usurped 13 years earlier, upon learning of his uncle’s death and the subsequent turmoil regarding succession, came to Greek-Syria from Rome in order to claim the throne for himself**] shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain [**Like his uncle before him, Demetrius I aggressively opposed religious Jews, making use of Greek-Jew allies**].

“And at the time of the end [**Probably referring to the coming end of anti-Judaism**] shall the king of the south [**Ptolemy VI**] push at him: and the king of the north [**Alexander (153-145 BC), the son of the late Antiochus IV & therefore Demetrius I’s cousin & competitor for the Greek-Syrian throne**] shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships [**Alexander defeated & killed Demetrius I in 150 BC**]; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

“He shall enter also into the glorious land [**King Alexander of Greek-Syria honored Jonathan as the Jewish High Priest & “First Friend” at the port city of Ptolemais in 150 BC**], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape [**Alexander married Cleopatra, daughter of Ptolemy VI, in 150 BC**]. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him [**In 145 BC, while Alexander was in Phoenicia, the son of his late cousin & now a new contender for the Greek-Syria throne, Demetrius II (145-138 BC), came from Crete (east) to Greek-Syria (north)**]: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him [**Ptolemy VI initially marched north out of Greek-Egypt to assist his son-in-law against the arrival of Demetrius II. But upon learning that Alexander had been planning his assassination, Ptolemy VI forcibly divorced his daughter from him & offered her hand to Demetrius in exchange for an alliance between the two Greek kingdoms. Seeing that all hope of retaining his throne was lost, Alexander fled to Arabia where he was assassinated & his head sent to Ptolemy VI as proof of death**].

[**Because the religious Jews & their High Priests Jonathan & Simon – both younger brothers of the late Judas Maccabee - supported Demetrius II’s right to the Greek-Syrian throne, he declared Judea an independent Jewish Kingdom in 141 BC.**]