

The NASB Text of Daniel 10-12
{With embedded notes by Thomas J. Short}

10:1 IN the third year {535 BC} of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and *one of* great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision.

10:2 In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 10:3 I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all, until the entire three weeks were completed.

10:4 And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month {Friday, 12 April 535 BC}, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 10:5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with *a belt of* pure gold of Uphaz. 10:6 His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.

10:7 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. 10:8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. 9 But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

10:10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 10:11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

10:12 Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia {*the fallen angel in control of the Persian region*} was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael {“*Who Is Like God?*”}, one of the chief princes {*the top leadership tier among God’s loyal angels*}, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

10:14 “Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet *future*.”

10:15 And when he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 10:16 And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, and said to him who was standing before me, “O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. 10:17 For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me.”

10:18 Then *this* one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. 10:19 And he said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!”

Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

10:20 Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia *{the fallen angel in control of Persia}*; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece *{the fallen angel in control of Greece}* is about to come. 10:21 “However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these *forces* except Michael your prince *{God’s loyal angel responsible for the righteous Jews}* .

11:1 “AND in the first year of Darius the Mede *{538 BC}*, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him.

11:2 “And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia *{Cambyses (529-530 BC); Pseudo-Smerdis (522 BC); and Darius (521-486 BC)}*. Then a fourth *{Xerxes (485-465 BC), who was married to Esther}* 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 *{Xerxes attempted a massive but miserable failure of an invasion into Greece in 479 BC}*.

11:3 “And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases *{Alexander the Great (336-323 BC)}*. 11:4 But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his *own* descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded; for his sovereignty will be uprooted and *given* to others besides them. *{After Alexander’s death, his empire was eventually divided into four Greek kingdoms, each ruled over by former leaders in his army. Two of them ended up bracketing Judea - Ptolemy in Egypt & Seleucus in Syria}*

11:5 “Then the king of the South *{Ptolemy I (323-285 BC) – hereafter in the text, “king of the south” always references a Ptolemaic ruler in Egypt}* will grow strong, along with *one* of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion *{Seleucus I (312-280 BC) started out as a subordinate of Ptolemy I, but his kingdom soon became much larger than that of Ptolemy – hereafter in the text, “king of the north” always references a Seleucid ruler in Syria}*; his domain will be a great dominion *indeed*.

11:6 “And after some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South {*Bernice, daughter of Ptolemy II (285-246 BC)*} will come to the king of the North {*Antiochus II (261-246 BC)*} 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. {*Laodice, whom Antiochus II had divorced in favor of Bernice, conspired to have both Bernice and Antiochus II killed.*}

11:7 “But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place {*Bernice’s brother, Ptolemy III (246-222 BC)*}, and he will come against *their* army and enter the fortress of the king of the North {*Seleucus II (246-226 BC)*}, and he will deal with them and display *great* strength {*Ptolemy III got rid of Laodice*}. 11:8 And also their gods with their metal images *and* their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from *attacking* the king of the North for *some* years. 11:9 Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South {*Ptolemy III*}, but will return to his *own* land.

11:10 “And his {*Meaning Seleucus II*} sons {*Seleucus III (226-223 BC) & Antiochus III (223-187 BC)*} will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his *very* fortress.

11:11 “And the king of the South {*Ptolemy IV (221-203 BC)*} will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North {*Antiochus III*}. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but *that* multitude will be given into the hand of the *former*. {*Ptolemy IV defeated Antiochus III in 217 BC*} 11:12 When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail. 11:13 For the king of the North {*Antiochus III*} will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.

11:14 “Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South {*Ptolemy V (203-181 BC)*}; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down. {*A Jewish rebellion was crushed in 200 BC*}

11:15 “Then the king of the North {*Antiochus III*} will come, cast up a siege mound, and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South {*Ptolemaic Egypt*} will not stand *their* ground, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand. 11:16 But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will *be able to* withstand him; he will also stay *for a time* in the Beautiful Land {*Judea*}, with destruction in his hand. {*Antiochus III gained control of the region which included Judea by 197 BC*}

11:17 “And he will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it {*Antiochus III’s daughter, Cleopatra I, was married to Ptolemy V in 194 BC*}. But she will not take a stand *for him* or be on his side.

11:18 “Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn. 11:19 So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more. {*Antiochus III died in 187 BC while trying to plunder a pagan temple treasury.*}

11:20 “Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of *his* kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though neither in anger nor in battle. {*Seleucus IV (187-175) died in a conspiracy carried out by his finance minister*}

11:21 “And in his place a despicable person will arise {*Seleucus IV’s brother, Antiochus IV*}, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue. {*Antiochus IV (175-164 BC) simply took control of the kingdom rather than permit his young nephew, Demetrius (10 yrs), to come to the throne.*}

11:22 “And the overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant {*Perhaps a reference to the High Priest Onias III, who was murdered in 170 BC*}.

11:23 “And after an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small *force of* people. 11:24 In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest *parts* of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty, and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but *only* for a time.

11:25 “And he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South {*Ptolemy VI (181-146 BC)*} with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him. 11:26 And those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain. {*Antiochus IV invaded & conquered Egypt in 170 BC*}

11:27 “As for both kings, their hearts will be *intent* on evil, and they will speak lies *to each other* at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still *to come* at the appointed time. 11:28 Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be *set* against the holy covenant {*In 170 BC, Antiochus IV plundered the Jewish Temple & killed many Jews as he was passing through Judea on his way back to Syria*}, and he will take action and *then* return to his *own* land.

11:29 “At the appointed time he will return and come into the South {In 169 BC, Antiochus IV reinvaded Egypt}, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. 11:30 For ships of Kittim {Roman ships operating within the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea} will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened, and will return {Antiochus IV chose to withdraw after a Roman ultimatum that he do so} and become enraged at the holy covenant {Antiochus IV began his systematic elimination of Judaism in 167 BC} and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant {Secular Jews willingly assisted Antiochus IV in his anti-Judaism campaign}.

11:31 “And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice {The twice-daily sacrifice in the Jewish Temple was stopped early in 167 BC} And they will set up the abomination of desolation {An altar to Zeus was erected on the site of the Jewish altar in December of 167 BC}. 11:32 And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant {Describing Antiochus IV's relationship with the secular Jews}, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action {Describing the resistance movement led by religious Jews}.

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. 11:34 Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. 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. {The religious Jews captured & rededicated the Jewish Temple in December of 164 BC. Eventually, the leaders of that movement established an independent Jewish dynasty that combined the kingship & high priesthood.}

{Antiochus IV died in 164 BC, after naming his young son, Antiochus V (164-162 BC), as his successor, but leaving the actual administration of the kingdom to a trusted officer. Another officer attempted to seize control and a mini civil war broke out.}

{Many commentators teach that the following verses cannot be applied to past events, insisting they will be carried out by some future persecutor of Israel. I disagree.}

11:36 “Then the king will do as he pleases *{Demetrius I (162-150 BC), whom Antiochus IV had usurped 13 years earlier, upon learning of the death of his uncle and the subsequent turmoil regarding the matter of succession, came to Syria from Rome (where he had been sent as a hostage) in order to claim the throne for himself}*, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. 11:37 And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all. 11:38 But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor *him* with gold, silver, costly stones, and treasures. 11:39 And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with *the help of* a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him*, and he will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price. *{Demetrius I, like his uncle before him, aggressively opposed religious Judaism, making use of secular Jews.}*

11:40 “And at the end time *{The end of anti-Jewish persecution?}^1* the king of the South *{Ptolemy VI}* will collide with him *{Demetrius I}*, and the king of the North *{Alexander (153-145 BC), the son of Antiochus IV}* will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen, and with many ships *{Alexander defeated & killed Demetrius I in 150 BC}* and he will enter countries, overflow *them*, and pass through.

11:41 “He will also enter the Beautiful Land *{Alexander honored Jonathan the Jewish High Priest as “First Friend” at the port city of Ptolemais in 150 BC}*, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. 11:42 Then he will stretch out his hand against *other* countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. 11:43 But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians *will follow* at his heels.

¹ The official end of the Macedonian oppression of the Jews came in 142 BC, during the 3rd year of Demetrius II and the 1st year of the Simon Maccabaeus (142-135 BC), which marks the beginning of the independent Hasmonean Kingdom of Israel (142-37 BC).

11:44 “But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. 11:45 And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain {In 145 BC, while Alexander was in Phoenicia, Demetrius II (145-138 BC), the son of Demetrius I, came from Crete to Syria in order to take the throne for himself}; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him. {Ptolemy VI originally marched to Syria in order to assist his son-in-law Alexander; however, when he discovered a plot by Alexander to have him assassinated, he immediately divorced Cleopatra from him & offered her in marriage to Demetrius, promising a military alliance as well. Seeing that his kingdom was lost, Alexander fled to Jabataea, where he was killed and his head sent to Ptolemy VI.}

12:1 ”NOW at that time {During the post-Macedonian period} Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise {God’s loyal angel responsible for the righteous Jews}. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time {This is the passage quoted by Jesus in his “Olivet Discourse” in reference to the impending destruction of Jerusalem}; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. {The Atonement took place}

12:2 “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life {This verse jumps ahead to the “First Resurrection” of the righteous dead}, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt {Then it jumps ahead another thousand years to the “Second Resurrection” of the remaining dead}. 12:3 And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.²

12:4 “But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time {The time of the First Coming of Jesus}; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”

12:5 Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river, and the other on that bank of the river. 12:6 And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be until the end of these wonders?”

12:7 And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time {Hebrew idiom for 3 ½ years}; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

12:8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?”

² Probably alluded to in Matthew 13:43.

12:9 And he said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time {*Until the events actually transpire.*}. 12:10 Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand {*The righteous Jews would recognize what was happening as it unfolded. The books of the Maccabees indicated that these prophecies of Daniel were fulfilled during the time of the Macedonian persecution of righteous Jews.*}.
12:11 “And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days {*This is roughly equal to 3 ½ years.*}. 12:12 How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days! {*Perhaps this timing referenced the actual death-date of Antiochus IV*}. 12:13 But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* {*Be resurrected*} for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”

FINAL NOTE: Here is the prophetic “day count” which I see from this passage of Scripture, as it was fulfilled during the 2nd Century BC, according to the Jewish historical books of 1 & 2 Maccabees.

- **DAY 1 = Pentecost** (Sunday, 4 June of 167 BC), when Antiochus IV ordered sacrifices within the Jewish Temple stopped.
- **DAY 197 = 9*25** (Sunday, 17 December of 167 BC), when Antiochus IV’s “Abomination of Desolation” desecrated the Jewish Temple.
- **DAY 1,291 = 9*25** (Monday, 14 December of 164 BC), when the Jewish Temple was rededicated by Judas Maccabee after 1,290 days of desolation. This was the very first *Hanukkah*, or, as it was called in John 10:22, the Feast of Dedication.
- **DAY 1,335 = 11*10** (Wednesday, 27 January of 163 BC), occurred after even more Jewish victories under the leadership of Judas Maccabee. In my opinion it is very likely the date on which Antiochus IV died while he was on his way back to Jerusalem to oversee the final annihilation of Judaism.