

## Daniel Chapter 11 — Bible Study (CSB)

### Title / Passage

**Book:** Daniel

**Chapter:** 11

**Theme:** God's Sovereignty over World History — From Persia to Greece to End-Time World Powers

**Context:** This chapter continues the revelation to Daniel that began in **Daniel 10** — a prophetic timeline of empires and kings that unfolds God's sovereign rule over nations and culminates in events of the last days.

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### 1) Introduction

#### Overview:

Daniel 11 is one of Scripture's most detailed prophecies of earthly empires and their interactions, especially focusing on the successors of Persia and the conflicts between the kings of the **South** (Egypt) and **North** (Syria/Seleucid Empire). It moves from historical fulfillment to *eschatological prophecy* concerning a final blasphemous ruler (often identified as the Antichrist).

#### Why Questions:

- Why does God reveal this much detail about future kings and nations?
- Why is Israel repeatedly affected by these conflicts?

#### How Questions:

- How does knowing God controls the rise and fall of kingdoms shape our trust in Him?
  - How should this chapter affect our understanding of current global power struggles?
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### 2) Verse-by-Verse Exegesis

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#### Daniel 11:1 — God Strengthened Darius

##### Scripture (CSB):

**1** “In the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to strengthen and protect him.”

##### Explanation:

This refers back to the angelic activity described in **Daniel 10**, where God was actively working even in earthly politics to confirm rulers according to His plan.

##### Cross Reference (CSB):

- **Daniel 10:1:** “In the third year of King Cyrus of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel...” (establishes context).

#### Why Questions:

- Why does God’s protective action over a foreign king matter in Daniel’s vision?
- Why does Scripture emphasize this detail at the beginning?

#### How Questions:

- How does this reassure us that God governs human history beyond Israel alone?
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### Daniel 11:2 — Four Kings of Persia

#### Scripture (CSB):

**2** “Now I will tell you the truth. Three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth will be far richer than the others. By the power he gains through his riches, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.”

#### Historical Insight:

This describes Persian rulers following Cyrus, with the fourth king (identified historically as **Xerxes/Isthar?**) wealthy and motivating conflict with Greece — setting the stage for the fall of Persia and rise of Greece.

#### Why Questions:

- Why does God trace specific Persian rulers before mentioning Greece?
- Why does wealth lead to stirring up opposition against Greece?

#### How Questions:

- How can we see God’s sovereignty even in the rise and fall of empires?
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### Daniel 11:3-4 — A Mighty King and the Division of His Kingdom

#### Scripture (CSB):

**3** “Then a warrior king will arise; he will rule a vast realm and do whatever he wants.

**4** But as soon as he is established, his kingdom will be broken up and divided to the four winds of heaven, but not to his descendants; it will not be the same kingdom that he ruled, because his kingdom will be uprooted and will go to others besides them.”

#### Historical Background:

This clearly predicts **Alexander the Great**, whose empire was vast and whose death led to division among his generals rather than his sons.

### Why Questions:

- Why does God include the detail that the kingdom would *not* go to his descendants?
- Why would historical kingdoms be significant in God’s prophetic plan?

### How Questions:

- How does this historical fulfillment strengthen our confidence in future prophecy?
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## Daniel 11:5-20 — Wars of the Kings of the South and North

### Scripture Summary (CSB):

Verses 5–20 contain a long sequence of geopolitical conflict between the **king of the South** (Egypt/Ptolemies) and the **king of the North** (Seleucids). These verses describe alliances, battles, territorial shifts, and strategic marriages, affecting Israel as the land between these powers.

### Historical/Cultural Background:

- The Ptolemies and Seleucids were successor dynasties after Alexander’s empire, often at war over influence in the Levant (including Judea).

### Theological Insight:

These verses show **God’s sovereignty over secular history**, even when empires rise and fall through intrigue and war.

### Why Questions:

- Why does God include so much detail about battles and kings?
- Why is the “Glorious Land” repeatedly caught in the middle?

### How Questions:

- How should believers respond to geopolitical conflict in light of God’s sovereignty?

### Cross References (CSB):

- **Daniel 8:8:** “The horn that appeared when it grew strong... would be broken, and in its place four prominent horns would come up toward the four winds of heaven.” (Foreshadows the four divisions of Alexander’s empire.)
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## Daniel 11:21-35 — The “Vile Person” and Persecution

### Scripture Summary (CSB):

Verses 21–35 shift focus to a **vile person** who rises to power deceitfully and brings persecution, especially against God’s people — historically fulfilled in **Antiochus IV Epiphanes**, who desecrated the temple.

**Historical Insight:**

Antiochus IV's actions (e.g., the **abomination of desolation**) foreshadow the **future Antichrist** described in later prophecy.

**Theological Insight:**

God allows periods of intense persecution but assures His people that those “who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.”

**Why Questions:**

- Why does God describe a powerful persecutor in such detail?
- Why is the persecution of God's people highlighted?

**How Questions:**

- How can believers find strength and hope amidst trials?

**Cross References (CSB):**

- **Daniel 9:27:** “He will confirm a covenant for one week... and an abomination that causes desolation...” (Foreshadowing future tribulation.)
  - **Matthew 24:15:** “When you see the abomination of desolation...” (Jesus refers backward to Daniel's prophecy.)
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**Daniel 11:36-39 — The Blasphemous King (Antichrist)****Scripture (CSB Summary):**

Verses 36–39 describe a king who acts according to his own will, exalts himself above gods, and honors a foreign god of fortresses — often interpreted as the final **Antichrist** figure in end-time prophecy.

**Theological Insight:**

This section transitions from historical fulfillment to **eschatological prophecy** — a future ruler whose character is prideful and blasphemous, in opposition to the true God.

**Cross References (CSB):**

- **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4:** “Let no one deceive you... the man of lawlessness... exalts himself above every so-called god...” (Paul connects Daniel's imagery with end-time apostasy.)
- **Revelation 13:5-8:** (Description of another blasphemous ruler in eschatological prophecy.)

**Why Questions:**

- Why does God focus on the character of this future ruler?

- Why is blasphemy central to his rule?

#### How Questions:

- How can we guard against deception and spiritual pride in our own lives?
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### Daniel 11:40-45 — The Final Conflict and End

#### Scripture Summary (CSB):

The closing verses portray an eschatological conflict: the king of the North (Antichrist) engages in warfare with kings of the South and North, invades many lands including Egypt and Libya, and establishes his seat “between the seas and the beautiful holy mountain,” likely Jerusalem. His end comes with no one to help him.

#### Theological Insight:

Though powerful, this ruler’s end is predetermined — a reminder of God’s ultimate sovereignty and judgment over all human rulers.

#### Cross References (CSB):

- **Zechariah 14:2:** “I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem...” (Parallel imagery of future conflict.)
- **Revelation 16:16; 19:19-21:** (Armageddon and the end-time defeat of evil.)

#### Why Questions:

- Why does God depict this final ruler’s downfall with such clarity?
- Why include nations like Egypt and Libya in this imagery?

#### How Questions:

- How does this future certainty of judgment affect our view of moral and spiritual responsibility today?
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### 3) Imagery / Literary Features

- **“King of the North” / “King of the South”** — recurring motifs indicating powers often opposed but always under God’s sovereign rule.
- **Transition from Historical to Eschatological Prophecy** — Daniel 11 seamlessly bridges fulfilled history and future judgment.
- **Detailed Prophetic Precision** — this chapter’s specificity highlights God’s omniscience.

#### Why Questions:

- Why does God present such detailed historical prophecy?

- Why does the chapter shift from historical events to end-times figures?

#### How Questions:

- How does this precision affect your confidence in God's control of history?
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#### 4) Application / Modern-Day Lessons

##### Why Questions:

- Why should believers recognize God's sovereign authority in today's geopolitical upheavals?

##### How Questions:

- How can we maintain faithfulness when world powers seem chaotic and threatening?
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#### 5) Summary / Key Takeaways

1. **God Governs Human History:** Even the succession of Persian and Greek rulers unfolds under divine sovereignty.
  2. **Detailed Fulfillment Strengthens Faith:** The historical accuracy of this prophecy affirms God's omniscience.
  3. **Persecution and Faithfulness:** Even in trials under oppressive rulers, God's people are called to remain faithful.
  4. **Eschatological Certainty:** The ultimate end of the blasphemous ruler demonstrates God's unchanging judgment and justice.
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