

Da 11:2-35

The years after a ruler refer to his rule. Dates are BC (and may vary with different sources). Some of the historical “facts” are uncertain. At the time of the vision, Cyrus was king (see Da 10:1), and the year was about 536 BC.

2) Four Persian kings: Cambyses (530-522) (who captured Egypt in 525), Pseudo-Smerdis (522), Darius I Hystaspes (521-486) (the Darius in Ezra 5-6), Xerxes I (486-465) (the Ahasuerus in Esther). Xerxes assembled a large army from all over the empire and invaded Greece. He was defeated in 480 at Salamis.

3-4) Alexander the Great (336-323) rapidly captured large areas. But he soon became sick and died at the age of 32. An attempt was made to make his infant son ruler, but that failed and Alexander’s generals ruled. Eventually, the kingdom splintered into four kingdoms: Macedonia, Pergamum, Syria, and Egypt. These kingdoms helped to spread Greek culture and language. **Ptolemy I** Soter (323-285) ruled **Egypt** (south of Israel) and *Seleucus I* Nicator (311-280) ruled *Syria* (north of Israel).

5) Initially, Seleucus I was under Ptolemy I. But Seleucus I eventually ruled the largest of the four kingdoms (his kingdom included much of the Persian Empire).

6) **Ptolemy II** Philadelphus (285-246) had a daughter Bernice who married *Antiochus II* Theos (261-246) (a grandson of Seleucus). Later, Ptolemy II died and Antiochus II divorced Bernice and remarried his former wife, Laodice. But Laodice poisoned Antiochus II and had Bernice murdered. *Seleucus II* (246-226), a son of Laodice, became king of Syria.

7-8) A brother of Bernice, **Ptolemy III** (246-221), invaded Syria to avenge her death. He slew Laodice and returned with 2400 images, including Egyptian gods which the Persians had captured in 525.

“He shall continue more years than the king of the north” may be translated “For some years he will leave the king of the North alone” (NIV).

9) Or: “Then the latter [the king of the North] will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land” (NASB).

In 240, Seleucus II unsuccessfully attempted to attack Ptolemy III.

10) The sons of Seleucus II were *Seleucus III* (226-223) and *Antiochus III* the Great (223-187). Antiochus III fought against **Ptolemy IV** Philopator (221-203) all the way to Ptolemy’s fortress at Raphia.

11-12) Ptolemy IV then fought against Antiochus III who supposedly had 70,000 infantry and 5000 cavalry. Ptolemy IV reportedly killed 10,000 and made 4000 captive when he defeated Antiochus at Raphia in 217.

13) For a while, Antiochus III fought against Persia and India. But he returned against Egypt with a much larger force in 203.

14) In Egypt, there was internal strife against **Ptolemy V** (203-181) (who was a young child). Also, some Jews rebelled by helping Antiochus III. But the Egyptian general Scopas defeated the Jews in 200.

15-16) Antiochus III defeated the Egyptian general Scopas, who had fled to Sidon. Antiochus III controlled Israel by 197.

17) In 194, Antiochus III had his daughter Cleopatra I marry Ptolemy V, possibly in hope of controlling Egypt so Antiochus III could fight against Rome. But Cleopatra I did not side with her father.

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18-19) Antiochus III helped Hannibal fight against Rome. Antiochus III captured parts of Asia Minor. But then the Romans defeated him in Magnesia in 190. Antiochus III had to relinquish control of much of his land, surrender his war elephants, pay tribute, and hand over 20 hostages. His son, Antiochus IV, was one of the hostages. When Antiochus III attempted to plunder a temple of Jupiter in Elymais in 187, the inhabitants of the area killed him.

20) The son of Antiochus III, *Seleucus IV* (187-175) sent Heliodorus to get money from the temple treasury in Jerusalem. But Heliodorus was unable to get the money. Later, Heliodorus poisoned Seleucus IV.

21-24) *Antiochus IV* Epiphanes (175-164), a brother of Seleucus IV, became king instead of the son of Seleucus IV, Demetrius, who was young. Antiochus IV had spent time in Rome as a hostage. Some way, Demetrius was sent to Rome as a hostage in exchange for Antiochus IV. The eccentric actions of Antiochus IV (e.g., tossing money to crowds, dancing) caused some to view him as a madman. His coins call him Antiochus Theos Epiphanes (God Made Manifest) (cf. Da 8:11). The prince of the covenant may refer to Onias III, the High Priest in Jerusalem. Onias III had traveled to Antioch, and was there about the time that Seleucus IV was poisoned. Some Jews in Jerusalem who opposed Onias III apparently had the new king replace Onias III with his brother Jason, who was more open to accepting Greek culture. Onias III was later killed.

25-28) Antiochus IV fought against **Ptolemy VI** (181-146) and captured him. Ptolemy VI was a young king and a nephew of Antiochus IV. Ptolemy VI was a son of Ptolemy V and Cleopatra I.

Details possibly related to 28 or 30:

Antiochus IV replaced Jason with Menelaus, who was even more open to accepting Greek culture. But some time later, Jason rebelled against Menelaus, and many Jews joined Jason. When coming back from Egypt, the army of Antiochus IV entered Jerusalem on the Sabbath, since the Jews wouldn't fight that day. The army killed many, and stole funds and precious vessels from the temple, and helped Menelaus.

29-30) Antiochus IV invaded Egypt again, but the Romans came in ships to help Ptolemy – led by Popilius Laenas. The Romans demanded that Antiochus IV withdraw. Antiochus IV retreated. Then Antiochus IV ordered Jews to quit their religious practices and to follow Greek practices.

31) Antiochus converted the temple to the worship of Zeus. He placed an image of Zeus above the altar. He sacrificed swine in the temple in December, 168.

32-35) He required Jews to eat swine. Many Jews were killed when they refused to go along. Some fled to the desert and lived in caves. The Syrians fought against some of them on the Sabbath and burned them inside their caves. In one village, a Syrian officer asked Mattathias, an elderly Jewish priest, to be the first to sacrifice to Zeus. Mattathias refused. Another Jew stepped forward to sacrifice. Enraged, Mattathias killed the Jew and the Syrian officer. Mattathias and his five sons and others fled to the hills. When Mattathias died, his son Judas Maccabeus took charge. After initial victories, others joined the revolt. Judas Maccabeus fought against the Syrians and purified the temple in December, 165. Antiochus eventually became ill and died in 164 (cf. Da 8:25).

Evidence for Trustworthiness of God's Word

Many prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled. A careful study of these prophecies should encourage us to trust God. Daniel 11 prophecies about many events during the time between Malachi and Matthew. Important events occurred during this time to help prepare the world for the first coming of the Messiah. To answer the following questions, study any indicated verses along with the "Da 11:2-35" paper. That paper contains many details from historians. We know that the details from the Bible are true. We can be fairly certain of many of the details from historians. However, we should not have the same high level of confidence in the historians that we have in God! May this study encourage you to have complete confidence in God as you see how the Bible has been precisely fulfilled.

1. Who was king when Daniel had this vision? (Da 10:1)
2. What kingdom did he rule? (10:1)
3. Around what year did Daniel have this vision?
4. Where else does the Bible mention the 3rd king in Da 11:2?
5. Where else does the Bible mention the 4th king in Da 11:2?
6. According to Da 11:2, how would Xerxes I compare to the three kings who preceded him?
7. Against which realm would Xerxes I fight?
8. What mighty king from that realm is described in Da 11:3?
9. According to Da 11:4a, how would his kingdom be divided?
10. Name four kingdoms that resulted from his kingdom.
11. Which kingdom was south of Israel?
12. Who was the first ruler of that kingdom?
13. Which kingdom was north of Israel?
14. Who first ruled that kingdom?
15. On the "Da 11:2-35" paper, the years after a ruler refer to his rule. These years are BC. About how long was it from the time Daniel had this vision till the beginning of the rule of the mighty king prophesied in Da 11:3?
16. Who is the 1st strong person mentioned in Da 11:5?
17. What was the name of that king?
18. Name the woman described in Da 11:6.
19. According to Da 11:6, what would she not retain?
20. According to Da 11:6b, what would happen to her?
21. How does Da 11:7 (not the commentary) describe the relationship between Ptolemy III and her?
22. What did Da 11:7 prophesy that Ptolemy III would enter?
23. Da 11:8 prophesies that Ptolemy III would take a number of things captive to Egypt. What is the first thing mentioned?
24. About how long was it from the time Daniel had this vision till Ptolemy III began his rule?
25. Around when did the events of Da 11:9 occur?
26. What did Da 11:10 predict that the sons of Seleucus II would assemble?
27. According to Da 11:11, what would be the attitude of Ptolemy IV?
28. According to Da 11:12, what would be the attitude of Ptolemy IV?
29. How would the multitude (or army) prophesied in Da 11:13 compare with the great multitude (or army) prophesied in Da 11:11?
30. What two things does Da 11:14 prophesy that violent ones (robbers) of Daniel's people would do?
31. Who defeated these violent ones?
32. Name the northern king described in Da 11:15.
33. What does Da 11:16 call the land of Israel?
34. Name the daughter mentioned in Da 11:17.
35. Da 11:18 prophesies about military excursions in Asia Minor. Where in Asia Minor did the Romans defeat the king of Syria? When?
36. According to Da 11:19b, what would happen to the king of Syria?
37. What year was that prophecy fulfilled?
38. According to Da 11:20b, how would Seleucus IV not be destroyed?
39. How was Seleucus IV destroyed?
40. According to Da 11:21, what kind of person would Antiochus IV be?
41. According to the very end of Da 11:21, how would he obtain or seize the kingdom?
42. According to the prophecy in Da 11:23, how would Antiochus IV work or act?
43. What three things does Da 11:24 prophesy that Antiochus IV would distribute or scatter?
44. According to Da 11:25, what two things would Antiochus IV stir up against Ptolemy VI?
45. What would be the condition of the hearts of both kings? (11:27)
46. What would these kings speak? (11:27)
47. With what would Antiochus IV return? (11:28)
48. What did Da 11:28 prophesy would be the condition of the heart of Antiochus IV?
49. Toward where would Antiochus IV go? (11:29)
50. What did Da 11:30 prophesy would come against Antiochus IV this time?
51. What would Antiochus IV pollute or defile? (11:31)
52. What would he take away? (11:31)
53. What would he place? (11:31)
54. About how long was it from the time Daniel was given this vision till Antiochus IV sacrificed swine in the temple?
55. What kind of people would Antiochus IV corrupt? (11:32)
56. How would he corrupt them? (11:32)
57. Who would be strong? (11:32)
58. Da 11:33 prophesies four bad things that would happen to people. Write one way the prophecy of the second bad thing was fulfilled.
59. List three reasons some people would fall. (11:35)
60. Of what time does the middle of Da 11:35 speak?