

DAY 9 - JANUARY 16, 2026

The Kings of the North and South (Daniel 10:1-11:35)

Chapter 10 describes Daniel's experience of receiving the vision - and some hints about spiritual warfare in the heavenly places - while chapter 11 is a prophecy detailing wars and kings that span hundreds of years, finally focusing on the cruel reign of Antiochus Epiphanes. Daniel 11 may seem tedious, yet you will find a fascinating correlation in detail after detail of prophecy with history as it played out hundreds of years after Daniel's time. The date of the vision (vs. 1) is the third year of Cyrus II ("the Great," 559-530 BC) probably, the third year after his conquering of Babylon, about 536 BC.

Q1. (Daniel 10: 3, 7-11, 15-17) Daniel is old, but why does the vision affect him so greatly? What is the physical effect on him? What is the mental and spiritual effect on him? Why is spiritual "work" so taxing on us? Spiritual warfare (10:12-13). See Ephesians 6:11-12; 2:2). Michael the archangel fights against the princes of Persia and Greece (10:21a; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7). For more on this see C. Peter Wagner, *Wrestling with Dark Angels* (edited 1990), *Warfare Prayer* (1992), *Confronting the Powers* (1996), and others.

Q2. (Daniel 10:12-13) Why wasn't the angel messenger able to bring his message in a timely manner? Who resisted him? Who helped him? What does this teach us about prayer? About spiritual warfare?

Chap. 11	Fall of Persian Empire to Alexander the Great	
2	Persian Kings: Cyrus II the Great (576-530 BC), reigns when Daniel had this vision. The next three kings are Cambyses (530-522 BC), Smerdis (pseudo-Smerdis or Gaumata; 522 BC), and Darius I Hystaspes (522-486 BC). Xerxes I (486-464 BC) is probably the fourth king mentioned in the vision	
3-4	Mighty king: Alexander the Great. Kingdom goes to his leading generals: (1) Ptolemy I Soter, (2) Seleucus I Nicator, (3) Lysimachus, and (4) Antigonus I Monophthalmus (the "One-Eyed"). Of these, Seleucus (Syria, "king of the north") and Ptolemy (Egypt, "king of the south") and became dominant.	
Verses	Kings of the South (Egypt)	Kings of North (Syria)
5	Ptolemy I Soter (323-285 BC) the ruler of Egypt.	Seleucus I Nicator (312/311-280 BC).
6	Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246 BC)	Antiochus II Theos (261-246 BC). Daughter (Berenice) of Ptolemy II is murdered by Laodice, former wife of Antiochus II.
7-9	Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 BC). Third Syrian War.	Seleucus II (246-225 BC)
10-12a	Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203 BC); Fourth Syrian War (219-217 BC)	Seleucus III Ceraunus (226-223 BC); Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC)
12b-17	Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204-181 BC). Fifth Syrian War (202-195 BC); Battle of Panium (199 BC)	Antiochus III. Daughter Cleopatra I marries Ptolemy V (193 BC).
18-19		Antiochus III attacks Greece (192-188 BC). Defeated by Rome, Treaty of Apamea (188 BC)
20		Seleucus IV Philopater (187-175 BC) sends prime minister Heliodorus to plunder Jerusalem temple (2 Macc 3:7-40) to pay tribute to Rome. Heliodorus murders Seleucus IV.
21		Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC) usurps throne from Seleucus IV's son.
22-27	Ptolemy VI Philometor (181-146 BC). Sixth Syrian War (170-168 BC). Egypt attacks Syria and is repulsed.	Antiochus Epiphanes invades Egypt. In treaty insincere promises are made.

28		Antiochus Epiphanes puts down rebellion in Jerusalem, massacres 80,000, and loots the temple (2 Macc 5:12-21).
29-30a	Ptolemy VI Philometor (181-146 BC, Memphis) allies with brother Ptolemy VII Euergetes and asks help from Rome.	Antiochus Epiphanes invades Egypt again, but in Alexandria is threatened by Roman ships. Antiochus retreats.
30b-32		Antiochus Epiphanes invades Jerusalem, kills and enslaves Jews, sacks city, desecrates temple with sacrifices of pigs to statue of Zeus, "the abomination that causes desolation."
33-35		A resistance movement led by Judas Maccabees retakes Jerusalem, defeats Syrian armies, and wins independence for parts of Judea (166-164 BC). Temple is rededicated Dec 14, 164 BC, celebrated by Hanukkah (1 Macc 1-5).

Q3. (Daniel 11) What is your general impression of Daniel's vision after reading the prophetic words matched by their historical fulfillment? What other Biblical prophecies can you think of that have been fulfilled so precisely? What does this teach you about God?

Q4. (Daniel 11) What does this rehearsal of prophecy and history teach you about the world rulers and geopolitics of our own time? How does the "big picture" inform us about the events of our day? Do you believe that God knows and cares about the details of your country's struggles and future? Are you praying for your country's leaders?

Lessons for Disciples:

1. The high cost of spiritual work (10:2-3, 8, 15-17; Ephesians 6:10).
2. Spiritual warfare (10:13, 20; 11:1; Psalm 90:12)
3. God can see the future far ahead. (1 Peter 5:7)
4. Refining power of persecution (11:35).