



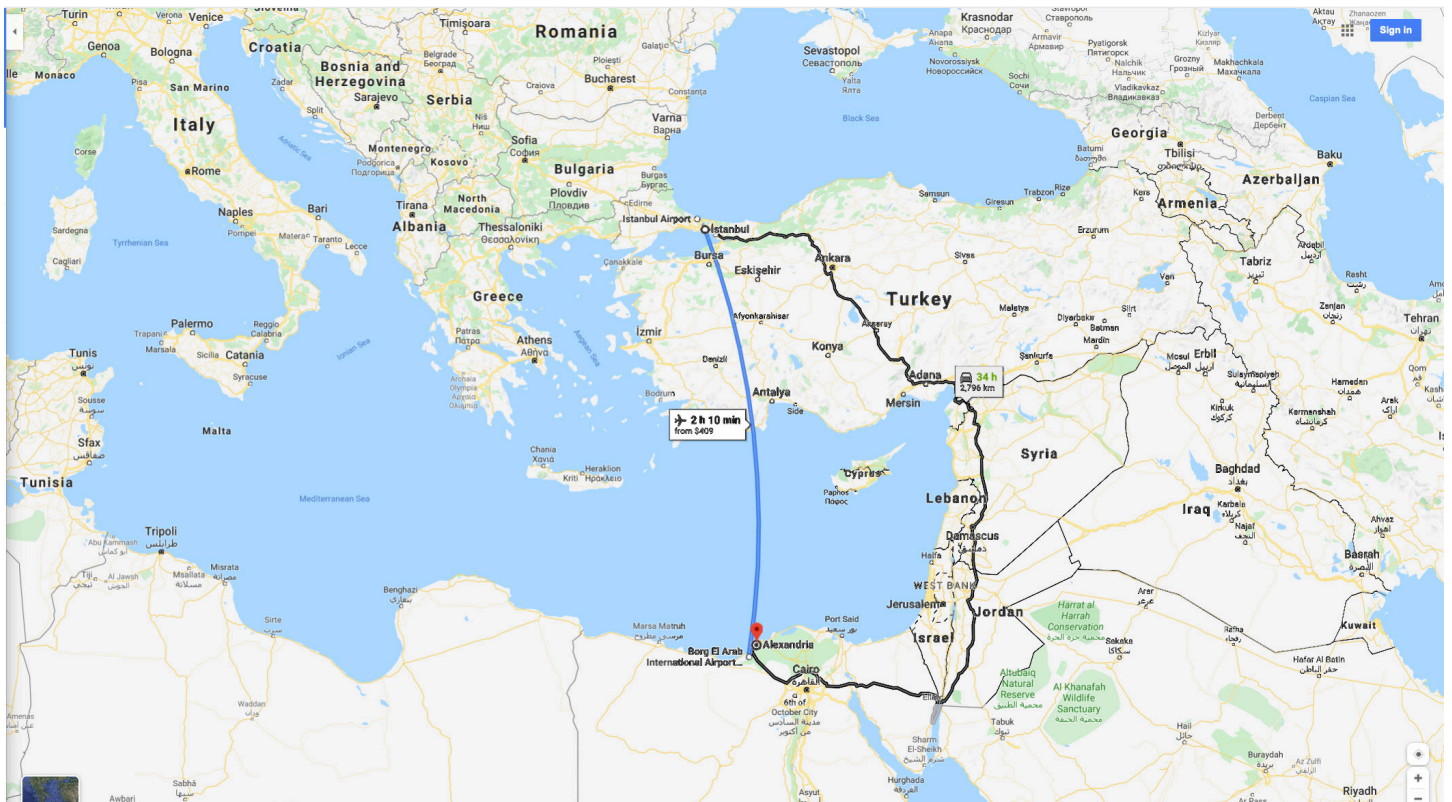
## Lesson 7 - The Kings of the North & South

Daniel Chapter 11 - Verses 1 - 24

### Lesson 7

How do the current events factor in with Daniel? In Chapters 11 and 12 the shining man is introducing us to the Kings of the North and South. The problem is that it is hard to know for sure because there are so many pronouns and it is hard to tell who they are pointing to sometimes. In this chapter in the NIV translation there were 69 occurrences of he, his and him combined. During the past week we saw the Turkish army begin attacking Syria and then Israel jumped in and said they would help out the Kurds if needed.

A little background of the current people living in the area can certainly help us understand what the shining man is telling Daniel. The Kurds live mostly in northeastern



Syria and represent 7 - 15% of the total population in Syria. There are between 1.6 and 2.5 million Kurdish people in Syria, 14 - 16 million in Turkey, 8 million in Iran and over 5 million are in Iraq. The Kurds date back to the 11th century. The Kurds in Syria have been a problem since the 1960s when the Syrian government stripped many of them of their citizenship and said they crossed over from Turkey illegally. Approximately 500,000 of the Kurds in Syria are deemed illegal.

Why does this conflict matter? We do not know who the King of the North refers to exactly and Syria and Turkey are due north of Israel. Egypt is almost due South of Israel. So it is important if we are going to watch current affairs that we know who the players are. Why did the US step aside after working with the Kurdish fighters to help wipe out ISIS? The large block of Kurdish people in Turkey are a serious threat to Turkey and they have identified the Syrian Kurds as a terrorist group and through the last few decades tens of thousands of people have been killed in the conflict between the Kurds and Turks. Turkey is in serious economic trouble and partly because they have been hosting millions of refugees from Syria. The Turkish people are looking for a scapegoat and the Kurds have been tagged as their main problem. I am sure this does not cover it all but this summary was from the Washington Post.

## Daniel Chapter 11

Daniel 11:1 - *And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.*)

This seems to be out of place and many scholars think that earlier scribes must have seen the phrase “And in the first year of Darius the Mede” and assumed that like the many of Daniel’s writings that this was the introductory line of the next writing, but all of the reference seems to fit better with the end of Chapter 10 than the beginning of Chapter 11.

11:2 - *“Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.”*

Our challenge with Daniel is chronology or maybe that is what the angel means in Daniel 12 - *“the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end.”* Maybe we are not meant to be able to put it together just yet, but we will see what we can learn from the “Shining Man’s explanation. Three more kings will arise in Persia -

Cambyeses, two kings of the Achaemenid dynasty of Persia (c. 600–500 B.C.)

Cyrus the Great, king of Persia, founder of the greatness of the Achaemenids and of the Persian Empire (c. 559–529 B.C.)

***Darius I (Darius the Great), king of ancient Persia (521–486 B.C.)***

Xerxes I (Xerxes the Great), king of ancient Persia (486–465 B.C.)

Artaxerxes I, king of ancient Persia (464–425 B.C.), of the dynasty of the Achaemenis

Xerxes II, king of ancient Persia (424 B.C.)

Darius II, king of ancient Persia (423?–404 B.C.)

Tissaphernes, Persian satrap of coastal Asia Minor (c.413–395 B.C.)

Artaxerxes II, king of ancient Persia (404–358 B.C.)

Mausolus, Persian satrap, ruler over Caria (c.376–353 B.C.)

Artaxerxes III, king of ancient Persia (358–338 B.C.)

Darius III (Darius Codomannus), king of ancient Persia (336–330 B.C.)

Tiridates, king of Parthia (c.248–211 B.C.), second ruler of the Arsacid dynasty

Shapur I, king of Persia (241–72)

Shapur II, king of Persia (310–79), of the Sassanid, or Sassanian, dynasty

Ardashir II, king of Persia (379–83), of the Sassanid, or Sassanian, dynasty

Shapur III, king of Persia (383–88), of the Sassanid, or Sassanian, dynasty

Khosrow I (Khosrow Anüshirvan), king of Persia (531–79)

Khosrow II (Khosrow Parviz), king of Persia of the Sassanid, or Sassanian, dynasty (590–628)

As verse 1 says - it was in the first year of Darius the Mede - ***Darius I (Darius the Great), king of ancient Persia (521–486 B.C.)***, so as we can tell from the list there were many more kings in Persia than 3 and then the fourth. The Bible does have accounts of these kings:

Xerxes I (Xerxes the Great), Artaxerxes I, Xerxes II, and Darius II which were during the times of Ezra, Ester and Nehemiah. This could be the four that the Shining Man is referring to or maybe not.

11:3 - 4 - *“Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. After he has arisen, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.”*

Most commentaries believe the first 35 verses of Chapter 11 are a match with ancient history to about 150 BC. In verse 2, Xerxes - the Persian King during Ezra and Ester's time period is the one who was far richer than all the others. The end of verse 2 pivots to Greece and Alexander the Great who arrives on the scene about 100 years later. Most of this description in 3 and 4 really match up with how Alexander's kingdom ended. The four lesser kingdoms were: Ptolemaic Egypt, Seleucid Mesopotamia and Central Asia, Attalid Anatolia, and Antigonid Macedon. As history records none of the kingdoms ever matched Alexander's empire.

11:5-6 - *“The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power. After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be betrayed, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her.”*

Ptolemy was the general who took over Egypt and the southern part of Alexander's empire. Ptolemy Soter (304-283 B.C.), a protégé of Alexander who took control of

Egypt. The man identified as one of his commanders was Seleucus Nicator (304-281 B.C.), a member of the quartet who ruled Syria and who very quickly becomes the king of the North. So, as you can see the Syria of today is the same area that is mentioned here. The daughter mentioned in the passage is believed to be Berenice, the granddaughter of Soter and daughter of Philadelphus of the Ptolemy regime. This created quite a soap opera of politics and power in that time.

11:7 - 8 - *“One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious. He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone.”*

As you can see the prophecy gets fuzzy here because we are not sure who “he” is referring to but historians think it refers to Berenice’s brother Ptolemy Euergetus (246-221 B.C.). Historical accounts indicate that he attacked Seleucus Callinicus and carried the loot back to Egypt.

11:9-10 - *“Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country. His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress.”*

At this point Daniel 11 points to several battles and conflicts between the king of the north and the king of the south. The sons of Seleucus Callinicus were Seleucus Ceraunus (227-223 B.C.) and Antiochus the Great (223-187 B.C.). They did put together a large army and attacked Egypt. Ceraunus was killed before the invasion and so Antiochus invaded Phoenicia and Palestine but was beaten badly by Ptolemy IV in about 218 BC.

11:11-12 - *“Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant.”*

After Ptolemy won over Antiochus and was known to have slaughtered most of the troops he captured. Ptolemy was quite proud of his victory but over the next few years Antiochus rebuilt and in the meantime Ptolemy and his queen both died and the new leader of Egypt - Ptolemy Epiphanes was only 4 years old and Antiochus decided to

attack again.

Daniel 11:13 - 14 - *“For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped. In those times many will rise against the king of the South. Those who are violent among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success.”*

In this part, interestingly, the shining man points out that some of the Jews will join in the attack. Historical accounts confirm this as Apostate Jews joined in the fighting. Also, most of this fighting did not occur in Egypt - it took place in Palestine.

11:15 - 16 - *“Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it.”*

11:17 - 18 - *“He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back on him.”*

Antiochus hoped that he might control Egypt politically without having to continue his march south so he made an alliance with the king of the South. He offered his daughter to ten-year-old Ptolemy V in hopes that she would control her husband and advance a pro-Syrian agenda in Egypt. The strategy actually backfired as his daughter actually sided with her husband's side and backed him.

11:19 - 20 - *“After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more. “His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.”*

History points out that Antiochus had accumulated a lot of debt in his endeavors and his son Seleucus Philopater (187-176 BC) succeeded him and sent a tax collector - Heliodorus to try and collect enough taxes to pay off the Romans and other creditors.

11:21 - 22 - *“He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue. Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed.”*

Historical events are getting harder to match up at this point. We are now 300 years after Daniel’s vision but the commentaries match up this event with Antiochus Epiphanes. The rightful heir to the throne of Seleucus IV was his young son Demetrius I. But he was still a hostage to Rome, so Uncle Antiochus took over and through political intrigue gained control as king of the north. The prince of the covenant is a Jewish high priest Onias III who was actually killed by one of his own priests (Menelaus).

11:23-24 - *“After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power. When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time.”*

The historians indicate that Antiochus sort of played the role of Robin Hood of his time by invading and looting rich provinces and then distributing the wealth to his poor subjects which solidified his relationship with his people.

During this part of Daniel 11 the commentaries are convinced that it matches up well with documented history. This is part of the reason that historians (not Biblical scholars) think that the Book of Daniel was written in the 150-200 BC time period and is merely history instead of prophecy. Since Jesus referred to it in Matthew we tend to think Jesus gave authenticity to Daniel.

***Lesson Goals - What did we learn?***

