

A Prophetic Guide To The Rise Of Antiochus IV, The Great Persecutor Of Judaism

EXCERPTS FROM DANIEL CHAPTER 11 (KJV)

Seen & Written Down By The Prophet In 535 BC

With **{Parenthetical Notes In Bold}** Inserted By Thomas J. Short

**Chapter 11** <sup>1</sup> Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede **{538 BC}**, *even* I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him. <sup>2</sup> And now will I shew thee the truth.

Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia **{Cyrus the Great (537-530 BC), Cambyses (529-522 BC) and Darius (521-486 BC)}**; and the fourth **{Xerxes (485-465 BC)}** shall be far richer than *they* all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia **{Xerxes' costly 479/478 BC invasion of the Greek homelands roused a lot of lasting Greek animosity toward the Persian Empire}**.

<sup>3</sup> And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will **{This is Alexander the Great, who took over the Persian Empire during 334-323 BC}**.

<sup>4</sup> And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven **{As also prophetically illustrated by the use of the number "four" in Daniel Chapters 7 & 8}**; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those **{After Alexander died without an adult heir, his generals fought among themselves for supremacy of his empire. When the dust settled around 305 BC, there were four clear winners, governing over four regions of Alexander's former domain. Only the two which bracketed Judea on the south & north are of interest to us prophetically.}**.

<sup>5</sup> And the king of the south **{This becomes the term for a series of kings in Ptolemaic Egypt, named after its first ruler, Ptolemy I (305-282 BC)}** shall be strong, and *one* of his princes **{Ptolemy provided decisive support for Seleukas - who had been ousted from his post as Satrap of Babylon in 315 BC - helping him to regain it in 312 BC, from which year his empire is eventually backdated.}**; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion *shall be* a great dominion **{Seleukas I (306-281 BC), who after declaring himself king, ended up with control of much more land in his empire than Ptolemy had in his. He & his successors are the "king of the north" in this prophecy.}**.

<sup>6</sup> And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south **{Bernice, daughter of Ptolemy II (285-246 BC)}** shall come to the king of the north **{Seleucus II (246-226 BC)}** to make an agreement **{Make an alliance via marriage}**: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in *these* times. **{Laodice, the woman whom Antiochus II had divorced in favor of Bernice, conspired to have both Bernice and Antiochus II killed.}**

<sup>7</sup> But out of a branch of her **{Bernice's}** roots **{Family}** shall *one* stand up in his estate **{Bernice's brother, Ptolemy III (246-222 BC)}**, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north **{Seleucus II (246-225 BC)}**, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail **{Ptolemy III got rid of Laodice}**: <sup>8</sup> And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, *and* with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue *more* years than the king of the north **{Ptolemy III lasted a few years longer than Seleucus II}**. <sup>9</sup> So the king of the south **{Still about Ptolemy III's invasion of Syria}** shall come into *his* kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

<sup>10</sup> But his **{Meaning Seleucus II's}** sons **{First, Seleucus III (225-223 BC), and then, Antiochus III (223-187 BC)}** shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and *one* shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, *even* to his fortress.

<sup>11</sup> And the king of the south **{Ptolemy IV (221-204 BC)}** shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, *even* with the king of the north **{Meaning Antiochus III}**: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.

<sup>12</sup> *And* when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down *many* ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened *by it*. <sup>13</sup> For the king of the north **{Still meaning Antiochus III}** shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.

<sup>14</sup> And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south **{Ptolemy V (204-180 BC)}**: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall **{A Jewish rebellion was crushed by Ptolemy V in 200 BC}**.

<sup>15</sup> So the king of the north **{Still Antiochus III, a.k.a., Antiochus “The Great”}** shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither *shall there be any* strength to withstand. <sup>16</sup> But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land **{Judea}**, which by his hand shall be consumed **{Antiochus III gained control of the “land bridge” region which included Judea by 197 BC}**.

<sup>17</sup> He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women **{Antiochus III married his daughter, Cleopatra I, to Ptolemy V in 194 BC}**, corrupting her: but she shall not stand *on his side*, neither be for him.

<sup>18</sup> After this shall he turn his face unto the isles **{Or “extreme borders”}**, and shall take many **{Antiochus III expanded his influence westward into what is now Turkey & the Aegean Sea region}**: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause *it* to turn upon him **{Antiochus III came into direct conflict with the Roman Republic which was expanding its influence eastward, into the same territories}**. <sup>19</sup> Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found **{Antiochus III died in 187 BC while trying to plunder a pagan temple treasury. His kingdom was under extreme financial pressure due to the 188 BC Treaty of Apamea forced on him by the Roman Republic.}**

<sup>20</sup> Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes *in* the glory of the kingdom **{Seleukas IV (187-175 BC) was also desperate to raise the funds needed to meet the financial requirements of the Treaty of Apamea}**: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle **{Ironically, Seleucus IV died in a conspiracy carried out by his own finance minister}**.

<sup>21</sup> And in his estate shall stand up a vile person {**Seleucus IV's brother, Antiochus IV (175-164 BC)**}, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries {**Antiochus IV seized the throne because his nephew, Antiochus, was too young to oppose him**}. <sup>22</sup> And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant {**This is perhaps a reference to the Jewish High Priest Onias III, who was murdered in 170 BC**}.

<sup>23</sup> And after the league *made* with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. <sup>24</sup> He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do *that* which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: *yea*, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

<sup>25</sup> And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south {**Ptolemy VI (189-146 BC)**} with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: {**In 170 BC, Ptolemaic Egypt was being ruled by adult regents on behalf of three underage royal siblings, to whom Antiochus IV was a maternal uncle. It was preparing to invade Syria, probably because Antiochus IV's illicit rise to power five years earlier had now been followed by the mysterious death of the young man he had usurped. However, Antiochus IV struck first, invading Egypt.**} for they shall forecast devices against him. <sup>26</sup> Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.

<sup>27</sup> And both these kings' hearts *shall be* to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end *shall be* at the time appointed. {**While Antiochus IV was mostly successful in his Egyptian invasion, he could not take the city of Alexandria. So, he left one of his nephews, Ptolemy VI, in charge of Memphis as a rival to Ptolemy VIII (170-164 BC) & Cleopatra II (170-145 BC)**}

<sup>28</sup> Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart *shall be* against the holy covenant; and he shall do *exploits*, and return to his own land. {**Antiochus IV returned from Egypt to Syria in 169 BC, via Judea, probably taking note of the many anti-Hellenist Jews at Jerusalem.**}

<sup>29</sup> At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; **{Antiochus IV decided to come against Alexandria in 168 BC}** but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. <sup>30</sup> For the ships of Chittim **{A reference to the Roman naval presence in the eastern Mediterranean Sea}** shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, **{A Roman Senator met Antiochus IV outside Alexandria and literally “drew a line in the sand,” ordering him to withdraw or find himself at war with Rome. In anger, he withdrew.}** and have indignation against the holy covenant **{Because of a “riot” at Jerusalem, brought on by a rumor of the king’s death, Antiochus IV made it his priority to eradicate the Jewish faith, first by plundering the Temple on his way back to Syria}**: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant **{Antiochus IV collaborated with Hellenized Jews in his persecutions of religious Jews}**.

<sup>31</sup> And arms shall stand on his part **{Around Pentecost in 167 BC, an agent of Antiochus IV, massacred Jews at Jerusalem}**, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, **{By the Fall, Jewish sacrifices were ordered to cease}** and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate **{On the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> Jewish Month, an altar to Zeus built on top of the Jewish altar was dedicated for Hellenistic worship}** <sup>32</sup> And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **{Hellenized and/or secularized Jews supported all these actions}** but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*.

<sup>33</sup> And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, *many* days **{The Hasmonean heroes stood strong against the forced Hellenization}**. <sup>34</sup> Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. <sup>35</sup> And *some* of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make *them* white, *even* to the time of the end **{The “end” of the forced Hellenization persecution}**: because *it is* yet for a time appointed. **{Judas Maccabee rededicated the Jewish altar in December of 164 BC, three years after its desecration. His family eventually established a relatively independent Jewish kingdom that lasted until shortly before the time of Jesus. Antiochus IV died in the winter of 164/163 BC, only days after learning about Judas’ rededication of the Jewish altar & Temple.}**

**Year Beginning 1\*1 in 168 BC = 1289<sup>th</sup> Year of the Exodus/340<sup>th</sup> Year of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple/  
143<sup>rd</sup> Year of the Seleucid Era (Antioch reckoning)**

**Spring** – Antiochus IV invaded Egypt a second time but was turned back by the Romans; on his way back to Antioch he plundered the Jewish Temple (1 Maccabees 1:21-28; 2 Maccabees 5:1-23a).

**Year Beginning 7\*1 in 168 BC = 144<sup>th</sup> Year of the Seleucid Era (Babylonian/Jewish reckoning)**

**Year Beginning 1\*1 in 167 BC = 1290<sup>th</sup> Year of the Exodus/350<sup>th</sup> Year of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple/  
144<sup>th</sup> Year of the Seleucid Era (Antioch reckoning)**

**Pentecost<sup>1</sup>** – Apollonius massacred more Jews at Jerusalem (1 Mac 1:29-40; 2 Mac 5:23b-27)

**Year Beginning 7\*1 in 167 BC = 145<sup>th</sup> Year of the Seleucid Era (Babylonian/Jewish reckoning)**

**Early Fall?** - Antiochus IV decreed an end to the practice of Judaism (1 Mac 1:41-53)

**8\*1<sup>2</sup>** – Jewish sacrifices completely ceased in the Jewish Temple after this date, starting the 1,150 day count-down in Daniel 8:14.

**9\*15<sup>3</sup>** – A Greek altar of sacrifice was constructed in the Jewish Temple (1 Mac 1:54).

**9\*25<sup>4</sup>** – A Greek sacrifice was offered on the altar (1 Mac 1:59).

**Winter** – The priest Mattathias refused to allow Hellenization at Modein (1 Mac 2:1-28).

**Year Beginning 1\*1 in 166 BC = 1291<sup>st</sup> Year of the Exodus/351<sup>st</sup> Year of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple/  
145<sup>th</sup> Year of the Seleucid Era (Antioch reckoning)**

**Spring** – Mattathias began an active guerilla war against the Hellenization (1 Mac 2:29-48).

**?** - Prior to his death, Mattathias encouraged his sons to continue the war (1 Mac 2:49-70);

Judas “Maccabee” (“The Hammerer”) became the next leader of the war (1 Mac 3:1-9).

**166-164 BC** – Judas Maccabee carried on an exceptionally effective war (1 Mac 3:10-4:35).

**Year Beginning 1\*1 in 164 BC = 1293<sup>rd</sup> Year of the Exodus/353<sup>rd</sup> Year of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple/  
147<sup>th</sup> Year of the Seleucid Era (Antioch reckoning)**

**Year Beginning 7\*1 in 164 BC = 148<sup>th</sup> Year of the Seleucid Era (Babylonian/Jewish reckoning)/  
179<sup>th</sup> Sabbatical Year**

**9<sup>th</sup> Month** – Judas Maccabee seized control of the Temple, cleansing it (1 Mac 4:36-49).

**9\*25** – Judas Maccabee rededicated the Temple (1 Mac 4:50-58)<sup>5</sup>;

[The holiday of Hanukkah was officially established by Judas Maccabee (1 Mac 4:59)]

**Winter** – Judas Maccabee fortified the Temple mount (1 Mac 4:60-61); he also carried on successful military operations against his enemies (1 Mac 5:1-68).

**Winter** – Informed of the Jewish victory, Antiochus IV headed for Judea; he died on the way (1 Mac 6:1-16 & 2 Mac 9:4-12).

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<sup>1</sup> SAT/SUN 3/4 JUN 167 BC.

<sup>2</sup> SAT/ 21/22 OCT 167 BC.

<sup>3</sup> WED/THU 6/7 DEC 167 BC.

<sup>4</sup> SAT/SUN 16/17 DEC 167 BC.

<sup>5</sup> This is my understanding of the prophetic timing mentioned in Daniel 12:7-12:

**DAY 1 = Pentecost (4 June) of 167 BC**, when Antiochus IV stopped Temple sacrifices.

**DAY 197 = 9\*25 (17 December) of 167 BC**, when the Abomination of Desolation desecrated the Temple.

**DAY 1,291 = 9\*25 (14 December) of 164 BC**, when the Temple was rededicated after 1,290 days.

**DAY 1,335 = 11\*10 (27 January) of 163 BC**, probably represented the date of Antiochus IV’s death.