HISTORY IN ADVANCE

Prophecies in Daniel

Daniel 10-12

* God hears Daniel’s prayers 10:1-19
  + Immediate answer 10:12-14
  + An angel gave the answer 10:5
  + Had a part in the fulfillment 10:20
* From Persian to Greek 10:20-21
* From Greek to Roman 11:1-45
* The End 12:1-13

Daniel 11:2-4 Greek – Persian Conflict

v.2 Cyrus the Great was king until 529 B.C. prophecy in 10:1 made in 548 B.C.

1. Cambyses 530-522 B.C.
2. Smerdis 522 B.C.
3. Darius I (Darius the Great) 521-486 B.C.
4. Xerxes I (Ahasuerus) Esther 1:1-3 fought Greece

v.3 Alexander the Great who conquered Persia in 333 B.C. Battle of Issus

v.4 After Alexander’s untimely death, the Greek kingdom was divided between four generals:

* Cassander (Macedonia)
* Lysimachus (Thrace)
* Ptolmey (Egypt)
* Seleucus (Mesopotamia)

See Daniel 8:21-22

Alexander had two sons:

1. Hercules
2. Alexander IV

They were killed by Cassander so they could not rule Macedonia

Daniel 11:5-19 The Ptolemaic (Egypt) – Seleucid (Syria) Conflict

v.5 Ptolemy I ruled Egypt 306-284 B.C. Seleucus I ruled over Syria 312-280 B.C. After Ptolemy died, a rivalry developed between North and South (Syria and Egypt). Palestine was caught in the middle of this constant tug-of-war.

v.6 In 248 B.C., Berenice, daughter of Ptolemy II, was given to the heir of the Syrian throne, Antiochus II in order to make peace between Egypt and Syria. Ptolemy II died in 246 B.C., so Antiochus II divorced Berenice and restored first wife Laodice. Laodice killed Berenice and her son. Laodice killed Antiochus II and made her son Seleucus II king.

v.7 Bernice's brother, Ptolemy III, attacked Syria to avenge her death, about 246-245 B.C. when Seleucus II Callinicus replaced Antiochus II.

v.8 Ptolemy III took their gods, princes, and precious articles to Egypt and ruled 20 years.

v. 9 Seleucid II Callinicus attacked Egypt, failed, and returned to Syria. Egypt controlled Syria for 20 years.

v.10 Both sons of Seleucid II Callinicus: Seleucid III Ceraunus then Antiochus III (Antiochus the Great) ruled. Antiochus retook control of Syria from Egypt.

v.11 Ptolemy IV gathered a great army and defeated Antiochus the Great at Raphia in 217 B.C.

v.12 Ptolemy IV was victorious at Raphia, but the empire began to decline because of his extreme hedonism. The native Egyptians revolted against his rule and kept a separate kingdom from 205-186 B.C.

v.13 After Ptolemy IV died in 204 B.C., Antiochus the Great saw an opportunity to strike Egypt. Antiochus the Great formed an alliance with Philip V of Macedonia to attack Egypt.

v.14 The alliance included native Egyptians and Jews. The Jews helped to fulfill prophecy but failed to make Judea independent.

v.15 Antiochus leads Syria over Egypt’s army (without Ptolemy V) at Panium. Sidon is the walled city that was besieged when Egyptian general Scopas retreated. Egypt’s best army could not rescue him.

v.16 Antiochus prevailed. Ptolemaic Empire never again had control over Judea. Antiochus will occupy the land of Palestine. He will have power to destroy the land.

v.17 After defeating Ptolemy V, Antiochus gave his daughter Cleopatra to marry him. The motive was restoring the original Seleucid Empire at its zenith. This involved defending against the Romans. The Jews supported Antiochus the Great. He sought to completely control Egypt through his daughter, but his plan backfired; she sided with her husband instead of her father. Palestine was the dowry for Cleopatra.

v.18 No longer worried about Egypt, he sought to conquer Greece after the Romans had defeated his ally Philip V in 197 B.C. He took many Greek islands and brought reproach on Rome. He was defeated in 191 and 190 B.C. Roman General Lucius Scipio (Asiaticus) defeated Antiochus at Thermopylae 191 B.C. and Magnesia in 190 B.C. He gained honor he sought and brought reproach on Antiochus the (not so) Great.

v.19 Antiochus had to give up all European gains and pay tribute. He returned to Syria to fortify defenses against Rome. He was killed trying to rob his own temple of Jupiter 187 B.C. (He needed the money).

Daniel 11:20-35 The Maccabean Conflict

v.20 After Antiochus the Great died, his son Seleucus IV Philopater became king 187 B.C. He imposed heavy taxes on Palestine to pay the Roman tribute. He was assassinated by his prime minister Heliodorus in 175 B.C.

v.21 “Vile” is a perfect word to describe Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Seleucus IV had sent his son Demetrius to Rome. He was the true heir. Antiochus made alliances that gave him control of the kingdom.

v.22 Antiochus IV invaded Egypt in violation of the treaty made by Antiochus the Great through the marriage of his daughter to the king of Egypt. He also takes back Palestine which had been given to Egypt in the treaty.

v.23 Antiochus IV, was brother of the poisoned king, promised the king of Pergamos riches and honor if he would help oust Heliodorus. People assumed he was doing it for Demetrius, but it was for himself.

v.24 Antiochus IV was notorious for making promises and bribing influential people in order to solidify his power. He tried this in Egypt as well as Judea.

v.25 Under the pretense of ousting Ptolemy Euergetes II, a usurper of his brother, Ptolemy Philometor, he was taking control for himself. Ptolemy Euergetes then tried to strike back but failed 170 B.C.

v.26 Even those of his own family and advisors turned against Ptolemy Euergetes II. Though he had a great army, many died in defeat and retreat.

v.27 Antiochus had complete control of the rightful king of Egypt, Ptolemy Philometor. They conspired together against Ptolemy Euergetes II. Afterward, Ptolemy realized that Antiochus was using him for his own purposes. They tried to double-cross each other while pretending to be allies. Neither succeeded because of God’s plan. Antiochus left Egypt not having taken it completely. Ptolemy was left with Antiochus’ army still in Alexandria.

v.28 Antiochus heard a rumor that the Jews heard a rumor that he died in Egypt and rejoiced about it. He left Egypt to deal with the Jews. He tried to outlaw their religion and Hellenize the people.

v.29 The Ptolemy brothers joined together to drive out Antiochus’ influence. Antiochus sent his army to invade Egypt 167 B.C. He would not succeed this time.

v.30 The Ptolemys enlisted the help of the Romans, who controlled the Mediterranean, to move against Antiochus; and this led to their success. Antiochus’ rage was then vented against the faithful Jews. The Hellenized Jews were rewarded for their compliance.

v.31 Antiochus used his army to force the Jews to stop their religion. He had a pig sacrificed in the temple. He had his soldiers commit fornication in the temple. He put an altar of Jupiter in the temple.

V.32 Antiochus removed the true high priest in 171 B.C. He made Menelaus the new high priest. Menelaus encouraged Antiochus’ evil. The faithful Jews would revolt led by Mattathias.

v.33 Mattathias was a priest who refused to sacrifice to the idol. He killed the Jew who offered to do so. He attacked the official who gave the order and fled to the wilderness. The faithful priests told the people to serve the true God. They were found and overcome because they refused to fight on the Sabbath. Many were killed by burning or sword. Women and children were made captives.

v.34 Mattathias’ son Judas Maccabeus became the leader of the revolt. They grew little by little. Many eventually joined the revolt but not for spiritual reasons.

v.35 Some faithful died for the cause but not in vain. They kept faith, integrity, and honor. They achieved independence in 165 B.C. and purified the temple. The “time of the end” and “appointed time” signals a shift in verse 36.

v.36 Sounds like Antiochus, but verse points to the end of God’s plan. Rome conquered Syria and became king of the North. Better explained by fulfillment in Rome. Rome is the 4th world kingdom in Dan. 2, the 4th beast in Daniel 7; the arrogant horn of the 4th beast is a Roman Caesar. It is also the same end in Dan.9:24-27.

v.37 This does not describe Antiochus who imposed idol worship of Greek gods. Beginning with the first Caesar, the emperors of Rome began to be worshipped as gods. Domitian went as far as to require it of all people.

v.38 Romans began to be focused on war, conquest and expansion. The glory was to go to Rome itself instead of any traditional Roman or Greek god. The Romans also adopted the pantheon of lands they conquered.

v.39 Romans began to be focused on war, conquest and expansion. The glory was to go to Rome itself instead of any traditional Roman or Greek god. This was all for gain for Rome.

v.40 This is the Battle of Actium (September 2, 31 B.C.) between Marc Antony and Octavian (Augustus Caesar). It was one of the most important naval battles in history. The King of the North ends the kingdom of the king of the South (Egypt).

v.41 On this campaign, much of northern Africa was taken. Palestine became a province of Rome. Rome attacked Edom, Moab, and Ammon. Rome did not bring them into submission.

v.42 In contrast with Moab, Ammon, and Edom, the land of Egypt was conquered completely

v.43 When Rome conquered upper Egypt, the wealth of Egypt became the wealth of Rome. Rome also conquered Egypt’s allies Libya to the west and lower Egypt to the south (“Cushites”).

v.44 Octavian withdrew from his attack upon Moab, Ammon, and Edom because he heard of the Parthian (revived Persian) threat. So he sent his armies to block the eastern border of the empire.

v.45 Octavian passed through Palestine on his way from Egypt to the East. The last part of the verse does not refer to Octavian Augustus specifically but to the eventual end of the Roman empire itself.

Daniel 12:1 The destruction of Jerusalem. Countdown in 9:24-27 is for this event. Much angelic activity in the First Century. Roman Empire is 4th world kingdom (2:44, 7:1-28). Salvation is provided (Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:17-21). Prophecy has three key parts:

1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
2. Destruction of Jerusalem
3. Salvation offered to all

Daniel 12:2 May appear to be bodily resurrection and final judgment. It is a metaphor for spiritual awakening through Christ the light of the world. Gospel light awakens believers to life. Gospel light exposes sin.

Daniel 12:3 We will also be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16). We are also to teach others (Matt. 28:18-20, James 5:19-20, Romans 1:15-16).

Daniel 12:4 The end was still some time (400-500 years) away, so he was told to seal up the book. By contrast, Revelation was soon to be fulfilled, so it was not to be sealed up (Revelation 22:10, 1:3). This means that Revelation had to be fulfilled less than 400 years from its writing. The 4th kingdom (Roman Empire) made transportation and communication easy. Once again, the application is actually spiritual (Isaiah 2:2-3; 11:9-10 Romans 15:12).

Daniel 12:4-13

“How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” v*.*6

3.5 years in verse 7 are symbolic (till Jews have no power) repeated in v.11 with an extra month added for good measure

490 years in 9:24-27 symbolic (till temple and Jerusalem are destroyed)

Endure till the end v.12

You will receive your inheritance after death