

Life in the Lion's Den

"The Last Vision"

(Daniel Chapters 10-12)

Lesson #13

Scripture: *Psalms 27:14 "Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD."*

Introduction:

God has removed the kingship removed.

Jeremiah 22:30

*30 "Thus says the LORD,
'Write this man down childless,
A man who will not prosper in his days;
For no man of his descendants will prosper
Sitting on the throne of David
Or ruling again in Judah.'"*

But there is a new king coming who will sit eternally on throne of David...Christ

-His kingdom will not be subject to boundary disputes, from war plague or pestilent... but will be eternal !

-God's precious eternal kingdom is seen by the rule and dominion of a sovereign Lord, and the depth of precious love he has for his bride the church.

In Chapter 10 the man in linen with a gold belt declared a time of war!.....And pointed to the need for courage.

-This man in linen said he must return to the fight in Persia and then on to Greece, which gives us some scope for the following discussion..... Persia / Greece

Transitional Statement:

In Daniel so far we have had the vision of the statue representing four kingdoms until Christ. We have seen the vision of the four beasts, lion, bear, leopard and the terrifying beast which represented the same period of time. Then with the goat and the ram we understood that Alexander the Great would rise to power, but his kingdom would be divided upon his death.

During the vision of the lion, bear, leopard and the terrifying beast? Daniel asked for details about the last terrifying beast which was Rome, but now bear and leopard will be explained in great detail because God's people will have to endure a time of great warfare.

I. The Medo-Persian Empire

Daniel 11:1

1 *"In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him.*
2 *"And now I will tell you the truth..."*

- A. Remember that Darius was appointed by King Cyrus of Persia to rule Babylon after its fall.
- B. This heavenly man in linen with a golden belt, had as part of his mission to encourage and protect Darius.
 - 1. Why? Darius was now over God's people and God used him according to His end.
 - a. Darius was kind to Daniel and God's people
 - 1) Probably instrumental in Cyrus' decision to let them return to Jerusalem. Ezra 1:1-4
 - b. Darius eventually even commanded the whole world to honor God. Daniel 6:25-27
 - 2. It's amazing to think about what things God might do to plow a path for His people, more specifically what He has done to guide my path.

Daniel 11:2

2 *"...And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.*

- C. Here we have the prediction of four more kings after Cyrus
 - 1. Cambyses (Also called Artaxerxes) , Cyrus' son, succeeded him. 530-522 BC
 - a. Conquered Egypt in 525 BC
 - b. He called a halt to the work on the temple in Jerusalem. Ezra 4:6ff
 - 2. Gaumata (Pretender)
 - a. Professing to be the brother that Cambyses had slain, rises and takes the throne.
 - b. Cambyses commits suicide
 - 3. Darius I (Persian) 521 – 485 BC
 - a. Darius Hystaspis defeats Gaumata the pretender and gains the throne.
 - b. This Darius gives the Jews approval to continue rebuilding the temple

4. Then the fourth, Xerxes 486-465 BC
 - a. He was the husband of Esther Ezra 4:6; Esther 1-2
 1. Under which his prime minister, Haman, tried to exterminate the Jews. Esther 3-9
 - b. Very wealthy
 - c. Asia-Minor revolted against these Persian overlords and the Greeks jumped in and helped them, thoroughly ticking Xerxes off at the Greeks.
 1. So he went to war with Greece 480 BC

II. The rise and division of the Grecian empire

Daniel 11:3-4

3 "And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. 4 "But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides them.

- A. This mighty king was Alexander the Great (332-323 BC) who rose up and squashed the Persians.
 1. Alexander the Great died at age 33, his four generals killed his son to keep him from inheriting the throne and these four generals took control of the Grecian empire, just like the shaggy goat put forth in Daniel 8:21-22.
- B. The division of the Grecian empire.
 1. Ptolemy.....Egypt
 2. Seleucus.....Syria / Babylon
 3. Lysimachus.....Asia Minor
 4. Cassander.....Macedonia

III. The conflict between the King of the North and the King of the South

Daniel 11:5-20

5 "Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed.

- A. The king of the south is the king of Egypt...as seen in verse 8
 1. History shows that Ptolemy I, the former general of Alexander, became King of Egypt at Alexander's death in 323 BC & reigned for 41 years...
323 – 282 BC
 2. And Ptolemy I grew quite strong, even conquering the King of the North (Antigonus, King of Syria) and carried back his spoils to Egypt...Verse 8

B. As for “his prince” who will become stronger than him.

1. Ptolemy replaced King Antigonus of Syria with his general who conquered him (Seleucus I), who became the King of the North.
 - a. Seleucus I expands his borders to include Babylon and his kingdom is called the Seleucid Empire.
 - b. And eventually becomes much stronger than Ptolemy I (King of South)

6 "After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in those times.

A. Both kingdoms have now changed hands.

1. Ptolemy I of Egypt is succeeded by his son Ptolemy II
 - a. Ptolemy II is the one who commissioned 70 Jewish scholars to translate the Hebrew scriptures into Greek(Septuagint) and have them stored in the Library of Alexandria ... (Josephus, Antiquities, XII.2.2-15)
2. Seleucus I of the North is succeeded by his son Antiochus I
 - a. These two end up warring against each other.
 - 1) During this time Antiochus I is succeeded by his son Antiochus II, and the war continues.

B. But peace (alliance) is finally forged between the two powers.

1. As a seal of this peace Ptolemy II of Egypt gives his daughter (Bernice) to Antiochus II
 - a. Antiochus II accepts Bernice as his new wife and divorces his first wife (Laodice) who had born him two sons.
 - b. But when Ptolemy II dies, Antiochus II divorces Bernice and takes Laodice (1st wife) back.
 - 1) Laodice avenges herself by murdering Bernice, Antiochus II and their infant son, hence Bernice “*didn’t keep her position of power*”
 - c. Laodice crowned her son (Seleucus II) as king and so “*nor did he remain with his power*”
2. Thus peace between Egypt (King of the South) and Syria (King of the North) ended only to war once again.

7-8

7 "But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against their army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display great strength. 8 "Also their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from attacking the king of the North for some years.

- A. Bernice's brother (*a descendant of her line*) was Ptolemy III Eurgetes, who gains power in Egypt and avenges his sisters death by attacking the King of the North, Seleucus II, son of Laodice
 - 1. During this battle, Ptolemy III, seizes their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carries them off to Egypt.
- B. With the score settled, Ptolemy III returns to Egypt and stops pursuing the King of the North for some years.

9 "Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land.

- A. The King of the North, Seleucus II (*latter*) retaliates by going to Egypt to attack Ptolemy III, but he quickly fails and then returns home.
- B. Peace followed for 14 years ...(240 – 226 BC)

10 "His sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his very fortress.

- A. (*His sons*) is talking about Seleucus II sons, who are Seleucus III and his younger brother Antiochus III. They assembled a great army for war to the point that when they moved the idea of flood waters came to mind. They pressed this war against Ptolemy III of Egypt, even unto the very fortress of Ptolemy III in Raphia.
- B. During this period Ptolemy IV succeeds his father in Egypt as King of the South And Antiochus III succeeds Seleucus III in the North and takes his throne.

11-12

11 "The king of the South will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but that multitude will be given into the hand of the former.

12 "When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail.

- A. In 217 BC, Antiochus III raised a large army and fought Ptolemy IV in Egypt itself.
 - 1. Ptolemy IV defeated Antiochus III
 - a. Killing some 10,000 infantry, 300 Cavalry, 5 elephants and 4000 prisoners.
- B. But Ptolemy IV dies in 205 BC and his son Ptolemy V becomes King in his place. hence "he will not prevail"

13 "For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.

14 "Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down. 15 "Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege ramp and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand their ground, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand. 16 "But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand him; he will also stay for a time in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand.

- A. The King of the North (Antiochus III) raised a great army to fight the King of the South Ptolemy V of Egypt.
 - 1. Many warlike Jews allied themselves with Antiochus III, and thus help him to victory, but this was their own undoing since Palestine fell to the rule of the Seleucid Empire, which would bring great disaster for God's people in the very near future.
- B. Victory actually, came when Egyptian general Scopas surrendered to Antiochus III in his well fortified city of Sidon.
- C. With the defeat of Ptolemy V, Palestine came under control of Antiochus III.
 - 1. Thus the Beautiful Land came under the control of the Seleucid Empire.

17 "He will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand for him or be on his side.

- A. The "He" here is Antiochus III
 - 1. He plans to capture Egypt by using his daughter Cleopatra
- B. Antiochus III proposed peace to Ptolemy V and sealed the deal by giving his daughter Cleopatra in marriage to Ptolemy V in 198 BC.
- C. Antiochus's hope was for Cleopatra to influence the young king who was only 12 years old when they married, so that Antiochus could control Egypt.
 - 1. But Cleopatra consistently sided with her husband against Antiochus so his plan didn't work.

18 "Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn.

- A. Antiochus III, turning his attention to the coast of Asia Minor, attempts to conquer Greece
 - 1. But the Roman general Scipio defeated Antiochus in 190 BC and made him pay 15,000 talents of silver, his war elephants and his whole navy as payment for his defeat.

2. As a part of the penalty of loss his son Antiochus IV (Epiphanies) was taken as a hostage to Rome.

19 "So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more.

- A. Antiochus attempted to regain his loss by invading the Armenians in 187 BC, but was Defeated by the Elamites and died in disgrace

1. So *"He will stumble and fall and be found no more"*

20 "Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of his kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though not in anger nor in battle.

- A. Antiochus' successor is Seleucus IV
- B. So Seleucus IV came to power and sent Heliodorus his prime minister, throughout his kingdom to raise money through taxes. Soon after the money raising expedition Seleucus IV was slain by Heliodorus. ... II Mac 7
- C. The removal of Seleucus IV made room for one of the most despicable persecutors of God's people. Antiochus Epiphanes IV.

Conclusion:

God's people during these years find themselves caught right in the middle of much fighting. The truth is that many wrong choices has placed them there. Now they must deal with the consequence of sin.

But God has not left them or forsaken them, but He calls them to change with the coming of the Messiah. Are we open to change? Do we know that God is always there for us? Will we stay faithful even unto death?