

We resume the study of the writings of the prophet Daniel by reviewing his final prophecy, spanning the last three chapters of the book of Daniel. Daniel understood the panoramic **chazown vision** by the conclusion of chapter 10. It chronicled world history from the Medo-Persian Empire down through the *Time of the End* with the cleansing of the sanctuary, the *Antitypical Day of Atonement* commencing on October 22, 1844. Daniel also experienced the **maréh vision** by beholding the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ, while his companions, who could not perceive Jesus, fled in utter fear. We understood that this encounter typified the contrasting experiences of the righteous and the wicked in the *Last Days* and at Christ's Second Coming. Chapter 10 concludes with Gabriel, the Covering Angel, persuading Cyrus II, King of Persia, to confirm the first of three decrees issued to rebuild and restore Jerusalem, while conveying this last prophecy to Daniel. It is during the reign of the Medo-Persian Empire that we begin Daniel Chapter 11. The chapter provides one of the most detailed records of historical events found in the Bible, culminating in the closing acts of world history. The intricacies of the chapter are such that we will summarize the details for brevity, but will highlight key points for understanding.

The chapter reveals prophecy and world histories, interpreted by the *Literary Tools and Principles* discussed in studies thus far. In particular, the principle of the **Natural followed by the Spiritual** is used to first identify literal figures, territories, and events of world history. Later, those

same figures, territories, and events are depicted symbolically with spiritual significance. It would be beneficial to review each of the [Literary Tools and Principles](#) before proceeding further with the study.

Repeating the chronology of world empires given in Daniel chapter 8, chapter 11 commences by identifying the rise of prominent kings under the Medo-Persian Empire that waged war against the Greeks. By verse four, the Greeks, under *Alexander the Great*, had subdued all Medo-Persian territories. Alexander himself, by 323B.C. had been "broken", having died, leaving his kingdom to be divided among four prominent generals "towards the four winds of heaven". This point in the chapter is of importance, as it introduces four geographic territories and directions, all relative to



Palestine (Israel), that are essential in understanding the rest of the narrative. Verse 5 notes that the Greek General *Ptolemy* to the south would gain additional territories for Egypt, including Cyprus, Phoenicia, Caria and Cyrene. However, another of Alexander's Generals, *Seleucus I Nicator*, would by 281B.C. at the Battle of Corupedium, annex the territories to the north and west, consolidating nearly ¾ of Alexander's original territories. This verse again

marks a critical point in defining figures and territories for the remainder of the chapter. Seleucus and the regions he assumed are denoted by the **King of the North**, versus the territories to the south (primarily Egypt and northern Africa) controlled by Ptolemy, the **King of the South**. Daniel at this point, chronicles the



tenuous treaties of men and attempts for peace followed by

war, between the successive Kings of the North and Kings of the South in the former territories of Alexander the Great, shown in the table below:

Dates	Conflict/Battle	King of the North	King of the South	verses
*Denotes the victor of the conflict				
253BC	Truce of Second Syrian War	Antiochus II Theos	Ptolemy Philadelphus	v6
246-241BC	Third Syrian War	Seleucus II Calinicus	*Ptolemy III Euergetes	v7-9
219-217BC	Battle of Raphia	Antiochus III Megas	*Ptolemy IV Philopater	v10-12
204-188BC	Roman-Syrian War	Antiochus III Megas / Philip of Macedon	*Ptolemy V with aid from Rome	v13-15

The last conflict of the table above is significant as it shows the rise of the fourth world kingdom in Bible chronologies, but third as noted in Daniel Chapters 8 and 11, *Pagan Rome*. After the death of Ptolemy IV Philopater, his son Ptolemy V assumed the throne at the age of five. Antiochus III Megas, sought to reclaim territories lost to the elder Ptolemy during the Battle of Raphia. Philip of Macedon, seeking opportunistically to join Antiochus in what he foresaw as a crushing campaign, determined which lands he would seize as joint conqueror of Egypt. However, Rome, identified as the "robbers of thy people" and interpreted "the sons of the breakers of thy people", seeking to protect its joint interests with its ally Egypt, rose up [*exalt themselves*] to the aid of the infant Ptolemy. Though Antiochus would gain possession of Judea in a battle against the Aetolian General Scopas (v15), ending Ptolemaic rule of the region, Rome would soon annex that territory, as well as Asia Minor from Antiochus. Rome is said to "establish the vision" in this instance, as well as the vision of Daniel 8:11 and 25, as the power that would "exalt themselves" against the *Prince of Princes*, Jesus Christ.

The succession of Ptolemaic wars is tabulated below until its final overthrow by Rome in 31B.C.

Dates	Conflict/Battle	King of the North	King of the South	verses
*Denotes the victor of the conflict				
95BC	End of Syrian rule of Asia Minor; Rome becomes	Antiochus XIII Asiaticus	*Pompey of Rome	v16

Biblical Annals I

Daniel 11 – Part 1 [Based on Daniel 11:1-28]



Lesson 46

to gain the support of the Romans to war against Egypt. Both sides marshaled massive armies and naval flotillas to rival all time. Octavius' army and navy were of chosen, proven men of war, whereas Antony enlisted artisans and men of all trades, unfamiliar with warfare. Rather than obeying the counsel of his generals, who advised a stronger military campaign by land than the questionable naval array, Antony heeded the voice of Cleopatra, who felt her navy was invincible. Cleopatra and Antony followed behind their navy in their galleys; however, with the din of battle, Cleopatra in fear retreated, drawing 60 other ships of war to follow. In frustration, Mark Antony also followed behind, forfeiting the war. Egyptian soldiers under Antony, feeling disgusted and betrayed by Antony's retreat and infatuation for Cleopatra, sided with the Romans. When Antony arrived in Libya, he found the garrisons he had placed for the frontier had sided with Octavius, and in Egypt, his troops had surrendered. Antony in rage and despair took his life (v26).

We end this study with verse 28, marking a key era of Pagan Roman history. The verse itself bears dual meaning in that it may first describe Octavius' victory over Mark Antony, where he returned to Rome with massive amounts of wealth, sacked from Egypt. Secondly, the verse also may give reference to the later destruction of Jerusalem in A.D.70, at the hands of the Roman General Titus. Though the destruction of Jerusalem was a result of the nation's rejection of Christ, Rome again fulfilled the prophecy.

For additional Bible studies or if you have questions, please write or contact: [Lifemore Abundant](mailto:LifemoreAbundant@lifemoreabundantpa.com)
PO Box 334 * Goshen, VA 24439 * www.lifemoreabundantpa.com * biblestudies@lifemoreabundantpa.com

a small, but growing power and the Jews entered an alliance with it for protection against the Syrians (March 1, 158B.C.). What was then a strategic, peaceable partnership among peers, the Romans, now the single dominant world power, exalted itself and became "*strong with a small people*".

The prophet Daniel in verse 24 describes an unprecedented method of conquering new fertile lands ("*fattest places of the province*") by the Romans. This practice would continue for a prophetic "*time*", or a literal 360 years from the Empire's establishment in 31B.C. Rome adopted the custom of acquiring, by "*inheritance*", large provinces, where kings would bequeath their kingdoms to the Romans by legacy; in exchange, the subjects became Roman citizens with full rights of freedom and benefits of protection from enemies.

Expounding upon Rome's conquest of the last remains of the Greek Empire, Daniel the prophet in verses 25-27 highlights details leading to the decisive **Battle of Actium**. Octavius and Mark Antony, then two parts of the triumvirate formed to avenge the death of Octavius' uncle, Julius Caser, were secretly rivals, seeking to outdo the other. Their camaraderie was a veneer ("*mischief and lies*" - v27) for the heated rivalry they felt. In hopes of quelling the rivalry, Octavia, sister of Octavius, married Mark Antony. While on a campaign for Rome in Egypt, Mark Antony became enraptured with Cleopatra, and there forsook his wife Octavia, espousing Cleopatra and the Egyptian interests. His military triumphs in Alexandria on behalf of Egypt instead of Rome affronted the Romans as treasonous, causing Octavius

Dates	Conflict/Battle	King of the North	King of the South	verses
	<i>King of the North</i>			
48BC	Battle of Pharsalus [Roman Civil War]	Pompey of Rome	Julius Caesar, *Ptolemy XII, & sister Cleopatra	v17
47-44BC	Battle of Cimmerian Bosphorus & Death of Julius Caesar	Julius Caesar		v18-19
31BC	Battle of Actium	*Octavius	Mark Antony & Cleopatra	v20

The final conflict in the table above shows the decisive fall of the remnants of the Greek Empire; Rome's assumption of territories once controlled by the Kings of the North and South; and the establishment of Rome as the *seat* of the new World Empire. The Bible dedicates several verses hence to describe the exploits of this significant Empire. Further, future references to the King of the North in the chapter pertain to either Pagan Rome or its successor.

Octavius, then honored with the epithet, Augustus Caesar, for his conquest of the former Greek Empire, reluctantly appointed his vile and deceitful stepson, Tiberius, to reign with him two years prior to his death in A.D.12 (v21). It is this Tiberius Caesar, under whom served Pilot and Herod the Tetrarch, which commissioned the death of Jesus Christ (John 19:1-19), the "*Prince of the Covenant*" (v22). The Bible in verse 23 gives reference to the time when Rome was