

The last study concluded with a recap of the birth of the Roman Empire and the conquest of its former ally, the Jewish Nation, at the hands of Emperor Titus in A.D.70. The seven-year struggle that resulted in the leveling of the city, with casualties exceeding 1.5million people gave evidence to the utter rejection of God for the people once chosen to be His ambassadors to the world. Not a single Christian convert that heeded the counsel of Jesus Christ, given in the gospel of Matthew 24:15-20, was killed in the destruction of Jerusalem. This deliverance demonstrated the power of God's prophetic word and His ability to save the faithful.

As we continue the [detailed account of world history](#) foretold in the Bible, we begin at the point of inflection for the Roman Empire, the *King of the North*, with the fulfillment of the 360-year prophecy given in Daniel 11:24. The prophet Daniel predicted that from the Empire's inception in 31B.C, it would prosper and enjoy unprecedented growth for a prophetic "time", 360 literal years. The year A.D.330 marks the end of the prophetic period and the beginning of the decline of the Empire as prophesied in Daniel 11:29. In that year, Roman Emperor Constantine, without provocation, transferred the Empire's seat of power from Rome to Constantinople. The move created internal instabilities and essentially divided the empire in two, Eastern and Western branches. Factions seeking to remain close to the emperor relocated eastward to Constantinople, while business and commerce, though remaining fluent for a period in the former Roman seat, began to fall as the city lost prestige.

With the death of Constantine and the Empire divided among his three warring sons, further weaknesses resulted. The internal wrangling eventually left the empire prey to marauding forces from the north that by the year A.D.476 had divided the empire into 10 distinct kingdoms. The Bible chronicles the break-up of the Western Roman Empire by Barbarian tribes under the first four of *Seven Trumpet* blasts, mentioned in the Revelation chapter 8. The final three trumpets are associated with "woes", a term expressing anguish, caused by and denoting the world power symbolically given by *locusts* coming from the *Bottomless Pit*. The trumpets and woes detail the break-up of the Eastern Roman Empire in the Revelation chapters 9 and 11.

Daniel 11:30 however, begins the discussion of the collapse of Rome to Barbarian tribes, waging attacks from Chittim. The name *Chittim* was historically a general term associated with the islands and territories of the Mediterranean Sea. The prophet Isaiah spoke of the land of Chittim as the place where news of the destruction of the ancient city of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar was heard (Isaiah 23:1-6). The "isles" of Chittim in the Aegean and Ionian Seas were the places of refuge for those who fled from the Babylonian siege. History however, confirms that a notable city, situated on the Mediterranean, was the site from which significant naval attacks against the declining Western Roman Empire were staged, namely Carthage. The Germanic Arian **Vandals** under Genseric fulfilled this prophecy. Genseric, after conquering most of Northern Africa and routing the Roman

fleet based in Carthage, primarily waged naval warfare with Carthage as his base against the Roman territories forming modern Italy, France, Greece and Spain. Every spring, Genseric and his well-trained fleet successfully set sail, pillaging Roman cities along the Mediterranean. Despite being "*grieved and [seeking to] return [offensives]*" against Genseric, Roman emperors ceded their lands to the conquering Barbarian and settled for terms of peace. The shaky peace treaties fell short in A.D.455 when Genseric invaded and sacked Rome, despite the pleadings of Roman Bishop Leo I. The extensive damage inflicted upon the city gave rise to the term "*vandalism*".

The Vandals, Heruli, and Goths were believed to be Arians who denied the equality of Christ with His Father, and were considered a scourge by the Catholic faith. The threat of Aryanism flourishing in the Roman provinces was a primary pretext for Emperor Justinian of Italy banning the Bible from public use in A.D.538, causing "*indignation against the holy covenant*" (v30). He simultaneously pronounced the Bishop of Rome the sole interpreter of Scriptures. That which God ordained to be a blessing, and to reveal His character to men of all ranks was confiscated and deemed a book to be shunned. In the same year, the Bishop of Rome (he "*that forsakes the holy covenant*"), by "*intelligence*" with seven of ten kings of the divided Roman Empire, expelled the Arian Goths from Rome. Daniel 11:31 states, "*arms*" [military forces] of the seven kings who converted to Catholicism and pledged their allegiance to the Bishop of Rome (thus

committing the *transgression of desolation*), were granted to him to oppose those who practiced Aryanism and *the daily*, paganism. In so doing, the Empire and its once, capital city that housed the *Pantheon*, "*the [pagan] sanctuary of strength*", forsook its pagan traditions for a "universal" Catholic faith, "*the abomination that maketh desolate*".

As the Bible described the progressive collapse of the Pagan Roman Empire [the *King of the North*] after ruling from the seven-hilled city of Rome for 360-years, it also identified the [Empire's successor, Papal Rome](#). The application of the term King of the North to the Bishop of Rome is most natural, given he for all purposes was, and remains, the temporal king of that nation state. He was also the succeeding monarch over the territories controlled by the prior King of the North. However, the Bible in Daniel 11:31, in describing the morphing of the Pagan Roman Empire into the Papal See, gives added reason the prophetic moniker, "King of the North" aptly belongs to the papacy.

**Q:** *Whom does the Bible identify as the true King of the North? Read Psalm 48:1, 2*

**A:** *Jesus Christ is the True and Great King of the North, whose city, Mt. Zion, is situated on the "sides of the north".*

**Q:** *How does the Bible describe the aspirations of the once Covering Angel, Lucifer, turned Satan and the devil? Read Isaiah 14:12-14; Psalm 94:20; Daniel 7:25*

**A:** *Lucifer desired to unseat God and place his throne, the "throne of iniquity", on the "sides of the north". He "thinks" to do so, by establishing by law, his memorial, Sunday worship.*

# Biblical Annals II

## Daniel 11 – Part 2 [Based on Daniel 11:29-35]



Lesson 47

God despite the flood of falsehoods and iniquity introduced by melding Christianity with pagan traditions. The Waldenses, the followers of Peter Waldo, were scattered throughout France, Switzerland, and Northern Italy and were a people who from the start of the papal apostasy, remained “*strong*” for God, doing great “*exploits*” to promote His Kingdom amid Roman persecution. Daniel 11:33 describes the courageous works of these and other people to uphold truth amidst the *arms* [military/police] empowered papacy, and the fate they would meet, namely, “*the sword, the flames, captivity, and to be despoiled for many days*”. The Waldenses were ordered to be exterminated by Pope Alexander III; the Albigenses, followers of Wycliffe, were the victims of the papal “Holy Wars”, and countless other reform minded Christians met a cruel and premature death at the hands of the papacy. The Bible predicted the persecution of God’s people for “*many days*”, literally 1,260-years (A.D.538-1798), until the papacy itself would receive a *deadly wound* (Daniel 7:25; Rev. 13:3, 5). The Lord raised-up mighty men of valor, even from within the papal ranks, such as Martin Luther, who championed movements to bring reform and to protest the corrupt church’s doctrines and practices.

The **Protestant Reformation** shined a light on many long-forsaken Bible truths, and heresies from the Church of Rome. It exposed the Biblical doctrine of *salvation by grace through faith* alone; it highlighted the mass corruptions of the church to control and enslave the people; and it helped to promote the value of all men, leading to advancements in

education, the sciences, culture, industry, and technology. The *Protestant Reformation* that took hold in Germany, primarily through the works of Martin Luther, was significantly empowered by fair-minded, wealthy princes of the German states. These men advanced the movement by funding the publication of the Bible and other tracts on the newly developed *printing press*. Germany provided sanctuary for many Protestant movements initially. However, as movements flourished in the land, many embraced them with “*flatteries*”, or with unworthy motives. This reference in Daniel 11:34 may allude to the despicable **Jesuit Order** of the Church of Rome, raised-up during the *Council of Trent* (A.D.1545-1563) to promote the Catholic faith worldwide and to clandestinely destroy Protestantism.

Daniel 11:35 references persecutions that would continue in the former Roman states under the military empowered papacy until “*a time appointed*”, namely A.D.1798, the commencement of the *Time of the End*. England is one nation that vacillated with papal and Protestant loyalties, depending on the monarch in power. “*Bloody*” *Queen Mary I* was a mortal enemy of the Protestants and sought every opportunity to slaughter them. With the fall of each martyr for Christ, their records of faithfulness were recorded in the books of heaven; their names accounted among the saints, while others, impressed by their faith, joined the Christian ranks. These will have their records purged of sin and will receive Christ’s crown of eternal life at His Second Coming.

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In Satan’s desire to supplant God and His authority, he deceptively parroted Christ, establishing an earthly power that assumed the title, *King of the North*, to reign over men. It is here in the historical account that the natural application of the Kings of the North and South are followed by symbolic, spiritual applications of the terms. Demonstrating the principle of the **Natural followed by the Spiritual**, the subsequent verses of the chapter provide in most cases, terms to be first understood in their natural context, but also reckoned through spiritual lenses.

Daniel 11:32 further develops the crafty *intelligence* the King of the North had with the kings and merchants of the earth through “*flatteries*”, mutual works of gratification. This power further corrupted itself and became the hold of *every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird*. Paul, describing the prideful spirit of rebellion in those who commit willful sin, characteristic of this kingdom, wrote, “*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind... Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit... Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them*” Romans 1:28-32.

In contrast, Daniel 11:32 introduces the people who, “*do know their God [and] shall be strong, and do [exploits].*” God here described the works of a **remnant**, the **Church in the Wilderness**, that remained faithful to the Bible and their