

**Pastor Paul Bawden**  
**Grace Evangelical Church**  
**Sunday, April 26, 2009**  
**"Lord Of The Nations"**  
**Daniel 11**

The nations of the world are really being challenged in this world-wide economic crisis. Whether or not there will be a turn around is yet to be seen. Then there are other volatile places in the world such as Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Regardless of what is taking place in our nation and the nations of the world, the biblical God has not left.

**The Psalmist declares:**

Say among the nations, 'The LORD reigns; indeed the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.'" (Psalm 96:10).

**Again the Psalmist declares:**

"Tell of His glory (the LORD's glory) among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." (Psalm 96:3).

Obviously God has a vital interest in the nations, for He started the human race creating Adam and Eve, and from them the nations have come and gone, and today there are still different nations that make up the world.

In fact, the history of the beginning of nations can be found in the book of Genesis. **For in chapter ten there is set forth those who came from the sons of Noah, after the flood, namely, Japheth, Ham, and Shem.**

**Then in chapter 11 of Genesis we have the account of the tower of Babel which was built in the land of Shinar, ancient Babylonia, or what we know today as Iraq.** It was built between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This particular tower was built as a rallying point and symbol of their fame. Although, this was not a ziggurat, per se, (Although some think that it was) used to worship dieties, it seemed to have some significance in reaching to heaven, to be wanting to worship a deity or dieties. It was an attempt by man to live without the true and living God.

**From Genesis 10:9-10,** Nimrod could have been the leader who led the charge to unite the people and to keep them from scattering abroad. Of course God intervened and brought His judgment on the tower and scattered the people, establishing parent languages from which languages and dialects have developed today. The word, Babel, means to "confuse" whereas the Babylonians like to call it the "gate of God."

**Through Shem came Abraham, the father of Israel.** The Bible then traces the development of the nation of Israel from Abraham, to Isaac to Jacob and his sons. Other nations are referred to in the Bible in the development of the nation of Israel.

**By the time of the book of Daniel, which we have been considering on Sunday mornings,** we have found that Daniel, along with others from Jerusalem, had been taken captive by Babylon (606 B.C.) and had been taken to Babylon to live. **Interesting that Daniel and others of the nation Israel were taken to Babylon, right back into the area where the tower of Babel was built.**

There young Daniel, gifted by God to interpret dreams and receive dreams, was used by God, as he was promoted to a place of leadership in the Babylonian and Persian empires, to foretell what would happen to the nations from his day onward down past our day to the time of Christ coming to set up His kingdom on earth.

**It's interesting that in chapter 2 of Daniel**, Daniel was used by God to know and interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, which was a statue representing Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome and the coming of Christ to be the final ruler on earth.

**A bit later Daniel was given a vision of the nations again, this time portrayed as different animals in chapter 7**, describing more their inner character and ability. Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the coming of the Ancient of days coming as Judge of the nations were displayed.

**Then in chapter 8 of Daniel**, he is given a vision in more detail of Persia and Greece, along with Antiochus Epiphanes, who would come and persecute the Jewish people., and who was a foreshadowing of the Antichrist yet to come.

**In chapter 9 of Daniel**, after he prayed to God about restoring the temple back in Jerusalem, Daniel is given the answer by Gabriel that the temple would be rebuilt, but more than that, Daniel was given the time of the Messiah's death, and what would eventually happen to Israel during the tribulation time.

After Daniel's prayer of concern for his people back in Jerusalem who returned in 536 B.C. under the decree of Cyrus, the angel (perhaps Gabriel) gives to Daniel the most complete description yet of the movement of the nations that have now already been fulfilled as we look back today.

**From Daniel's day, the events foretold would yet happen as the different nations came on the pages of history.**

**It's like God first gives to Daniel an overview of what will happen in human history in the nations and ending with the coming of Christ to establish His kingdom.**

**Then God adds through Daniel a little more information about those nations.**

**God continues to refine His words to Daniel to be more specific about Israel and the coming of the Messiah to provide forgiveness of sin for His people.**

God, of course, was seeking to encourage Daniel away from his homeland, Israel, and the temple, to take heart that God was truly the Lord of the nations. The Jewish people who were in captivity would also have been encouraged when they got the news about what Daniel had seen and heard. For us today, as we look back, these visions and words God gave Daniel should be an encouragement to us as well. God is Lord of the nations.

**But God isn't through giving information about the nations that will take place beyond Daniel's day. In his early or late 80's, God has more He wants to give to Daniel about the future of the nations from His day onward.**

**That is what our text is all about in Daniel 11. It is one of the most specific prophecies given in the Bible if not the most specific prophecy given in the Bible.**

**Actually it is the answer that was stated would come in Daniel 10:1. The angel, as mentioned, perhaps Gabriel, gives Daniel the prophecy from God.**

**It can be divided this way.**

**I. Events preceding Christ's first advent (11:2-35).****II. Events preceding Christ's second advent (11:36-12:1).**

**Let's look at Daniel 11 and then make some applications to our lives today.**

**I. Events preceding Christ's first advent (11:2-35).**

Note that the revelation here begins at the same place as the vision of the ram and goat in chapter 8. It begins with the second kingdom of Daniel 2 and with the second beast of Daniel 7. Which is the PERSIAN empire.

**1. Prophecies about the four Persian kings (Daniel 11:2).**

- (1) Cambyses (529-522 B.C.) – son of and successor of Cyrus the Great.
- (2) Pseudo-Smerdis (522-521 B.C.).
- (3) Darius I Hystapes (521-486 B.C.).
- (4) Xerxes (496-465 B.C.). – The most wealthiest. He ruled an empire that reached from Ethiopia to India, and had a great passion to conquer Greece. In trying to invade Greece, he was defeated in 480 B.C. This occurred between Esther 1 & 2. He came home a bitter and angry man and sought to find relief from his wounded pride by enjoying his harem. It was at this time that Esther came on the scene. He was assassinated in August 465.

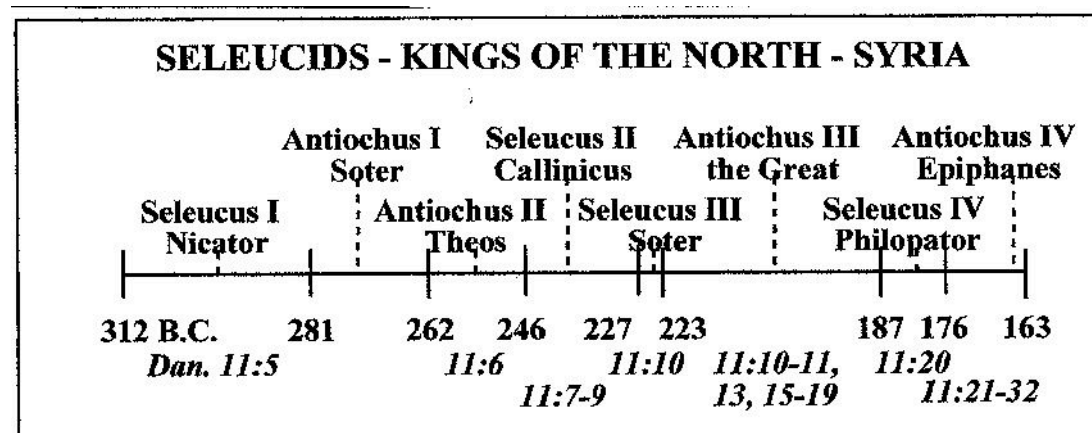
**2. Prophecies about Greece (Daniel 11:3-4).**

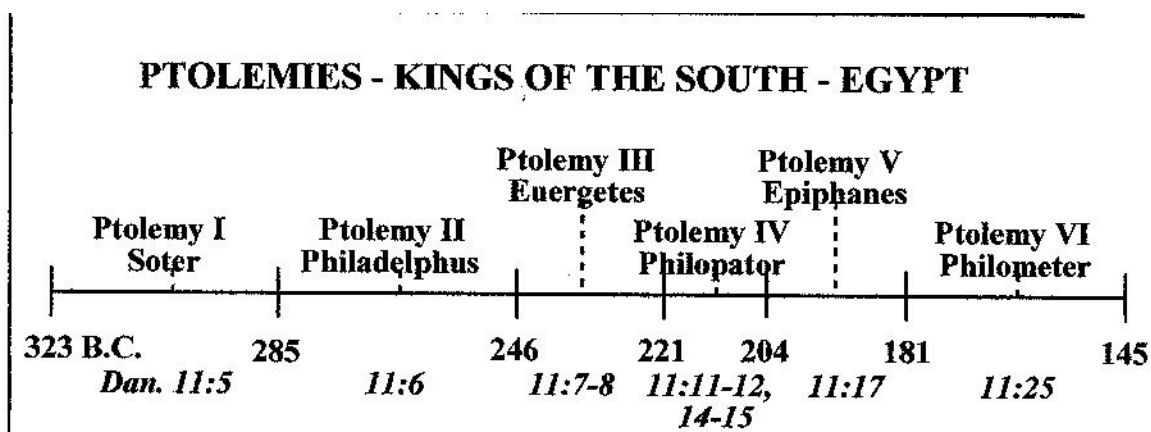
- (1) The mighty king of 11:3 is none other than Alexander the Great. In 332 B.C. Alexander defeated the Persians and in 323 died and his kingdom was divided among four of his generals. His spread of the Greek language and the Greek culture was used by the Lord to spread the gospel and the Greek New Testament. He wanted a "united empire." His empire became a melting pot.
- (2) The generals who led the divided kingdom of Alexander were: Cassander who took Macedonia; Thrace and most of Asia Minor went to Lysimachus; Seleucus took Syria, and Ptolemy claimed Egypt.

**3. The kings of the north (Syria) and the kings of the south (Egypt) (Daniel 11:5-20).**

The nations here, Egypt (south), and Syria (north) changed rulers regularly, and the little nation Israel was caught in the middle. Let me read the text.

Even though these nations seem insignificant to us, the prophecies here are right in line with history, telling us that God's Word is true and totally trustworthy. This causes those who deny the authority and accuracy of the word of God to try to somehow deny the validity of the history. Here is a brief diagram of these verses (From Dr. Tom Constable's Notes On Daniel).





As you can see, without going into detail about the different kings of the north and south, the information that Daniel was given by the angel, was very accurate information even though names were not given.

#### 4. Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 11:21-35). – 175- 163 B.C.

Antiochus Epiphanes was talked about before in Daniel 8::8-14; 23-25. Notice how he is referred to in this text as even more information is given about Antiochus Epiphanes.

- ∞ **Daniel is given by the angel that he is a king who will arise insolent and skilled in intrigue (11:21-23). He will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform his will. He will destroy mighty men and holy people. With his shrewdness he will deceive and magnify his heart. He will be against the prince of the covenant (referring to Israel's God).**
- ∞ **Antiochus comes out of the kingdom of Greece actually from one of the four kingdoms, where the Greeks were in power, the kingdom that was part of Syria.**
- ∞ **He would invade Egypt several times (11:24-27), [Being threatened by an envoy from Rome that wanted to take over Egypt](#), Antiochus suddenly withdrew from Egypt and left Ptolemy, his regent, to deal with Rome (11:29-30) (ships of Kittim are ships of Roman Empire that came by Kittim, Cyprus, to defeat Antiochus.**
- ∞ **Up to this time the Jews had enjoyed the support of the rulers. But frustrated, Antiochus went north into Palestine to vent his spite on the Jewish people (11:28, 31-33). He was an ardent Greek having been educated in the Graeco-Roman culture in both Rome and Athens. He was determined to have the Jews adopt the Greek culture. Of course, to the Jews this was odious, since it involved the worship of foreign gods and partaking of food which they considered unclean. Some of the younger and more sophisticated priests indulged.**
- ∞ **Withdrawing from Egypt, Antiochus seized Jerusalem without fighting, plundering as much of the wealth as he could and returned to Antioch. Two years later he returned and invaded Judea a second time, stripped the temple of its furnishings and confiscated its**

treasures. He massacred many of the inhabitants and carried away a large group of captives estimated by Josephus to be about 10,000. He demolished the walls of the city of Jerusalem so it was defenseless and worst of all he sacrificed a pig on the altar in the temple in 168 B.C. (11:31), plus erecting a statue to Zeus.

- ∞ He compelled the Jews to erect shrines to the Greek dieties in their villages and sacrifice swine on their altars. He had his officers seize and burn copies of the books of the law and executed their possessors. He forbade circumcision and the children who had been circumcised he had their mothers strangled along with their children.

It was no wonder that his enemies called Antiochus, Epimanes, meaning, "Madman."

- ∞ Under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus (Maccabee meaning hammer) rebelled against Antiochus (11:34-35). It was a tough fight for the small band of Jewish resistors, but they won and restored the temple on December 25, 165, a joyous celebration of sacrifices, singing, and feasting took place for 8 days. Why eight days? When Judas dedicated the Temple, only one vessel of sanctified oil was found—enough for one day. Miraculously, it burned for eight days. This is remembered by the kindling of lights for eight days. A special lamp, the menorah, is used. The celebration is called Hanukkah (meaning dedication), or the Festival of Lights. It is referred to in John 10:22-23. Of course Hanukkah is still celebrated today by the Jewish people.

This is an amazing section of Scripture in our text in Daniel 11:2-35.

I understand some 135 prophetic events are given in this passage of Scripture. And to think that Daniel was given this information in 536 B.C. and it has all come true as prophesied. How accurate and dependable is God's Word. It should give all of us renewed faith in the God's Word and being Lord of the Nations.

But the text goes on, for there is more to this incredible prophetic chapter.

We have looked at events preceding Christ's first advent (11:2-35).

Now we want to look at the rest of Daniel 11 which foretells. . . .

## II. Events preceding Christ's second advent (11:36-12:1).

These verses certainly refer to someone greater than Antiochus Ephiaphanes. The angel speaking to Daniel is referring to someone who will come on the world scene who has amazing power and dexterity – the Antichrist, the beast of Revelation 13. In fact the verses here have some similarity to Revelation 13.

In fact Daniel 11:35 reads, "until the end times; because it is still to come at the appointed time." "End Time" means events yet not fulfilled in prophecy, and "appointed time tell us that all the events are under the Lord's control for He is the Lord of the Nations.

So what time is being referred to in Daniel 11:35?

We need to read Daniel 12:1.

Now at that time . . . What Time? And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time. This would tie in with the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel 9.

This has to refer to the great tribulation yet to come on the earth referred to by Jesus in Matthew 24:21, and then in Revelation 6-19. What happens, then in Daniel 11:36-45 is referring to this time yet future in the tribulation period that will come on the earth when the Antichrist arises to establish his one world religion, one world economic system, and one world government.

Notice the text.

**1. The Antichrist has great power (11:36a).**

He will do as he pleases.

**2. The Antichrist will act as god (11:36b)**

**3. The Antichrist will be atheistic (11:37).**

He will have no regard for religion or religious heritages.

"Disregard the Gods of his fathers" does not mean that the antichrist will be Jewish. He will be unkind, and inhumane.

"No desire of women" That is the antichrist will be devoid of natural affection.

**4. The Antichrist will make his military power and activity his god (11:38-39).**

He will be a materialist from the core.

**5. The Kings of the South and North will attempt a move against the Antichrist (11:40-45).**

Not all nations will submit to the ruthless world-wide rule of the Antichrist. Some kings of the south, a southern confederacy headed by Egypt, and from the North, perhaps a confederacy headed by Russia will come against the antichrist. Perhaps Ezekiel 38 & 39 fit in here.

With the land of Israel his base (11:41) the Antichrist will defeat Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia.

**6. He will hear rumors from the East (cf. Revelation 16:12 – Armies of the Orient), and from the North, and will eventually return to Jerusalem, making his headquarters there (11:44-45a).**

It may be during this time, the middle of the tribulation period, the Antichrist will set himself up as god in the temple in Jerusalem to be worshipped. The ultimate abomination of desolation, that Christ talked about in Matthew 24.

**7. Eventually the Antichrist will be defeated (Daniel 11:45b).**

"Yet he will come to an end, and no one will help him."

This has to refer to when Jesus Christ comes at the end of the tribulation time (Zechariah 14; Matthew 24:29-31), but specifically in Daniel 19, where the Antichrist and his forces and all the other forces join to fight against the Lord Jesus Christ who comes with power to put down all rebellion against Him. This will be the great battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 19 reads, "And I saw the beast (the Antichrist) and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army."

Christ will win the battle and the Antichrist, his false prophet, and those who worshipped him will be thrown into the lake of fire.

The great tribulation time will be an awful time for the nation Israel as well as for the world.

**I believe those who know Jesus Christ as Savior today, will not be in this terrible period of judgment upon the earth. The church completely distinct from Israel will be snatched out of this world which could happen any time according to I Thessalonians 4.**

Then Antichrist comes offering peace to the world, signing a covenant of peace with Israel, making peace between Israel and the Arabs and the rest of the world. But by the middle of that 7 year tribulation period, the Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel and sets himself up as god in the temple. It looks like world peace had come but his government is challenged as Daniel 11 told us, and eventually his economic system collapses. As the Lord gets ready to return, the Antichrist, his forces, and the kings of the earth unite to fight Jesus Christ, but He defeats them handily.

**Christ is truly the Lord of the Nations.**

**III. Application of Daniel 11 to our lives today.**

**1. A look at the nations of the world.**

**(1) God the Creator.**

As the Creator of the human race, God is Creator of nations. As we have seen briefly, nations have come and gone. God used Daniel to record what some of those nations would be, and now have been fulfilled. Still there some events that Daniel prophesied which have not come to fulfillment yet.

**(2) After the flood man having one language united against God at the tower of Babel located in Babylon.**

God, as we saw in Genesis 11, brought judgment and scattered the peoples and caused different languages. Different nations were formed, and have come, and gone, and other nations are existing.

**(3) What will eventually happen with the nations now existing?**

The book of Revelation, during the time of the tribulation period yet to come on the earth, tells us about a religious Babylon, a commercial Babylon, and of course there is the political Babylon. Of course some feel that literal Babylon is referred to here. Others think it is only figurative.

Regardless, this is all put in place by the Antichrist, who does what? He comes to unite the world into one system of peace, for religion, economics, and government. In that process, he is totally against God. Which means, the Antichrist, under the direct influence of Satan will bring the nations under one roof, returning to BABEL. We must be one world. It's like we must all be alike. This is the thrust of the Antichrist theology.

It's like the nations are coming full circle, and will when the Antichrist comes offering his peace to the world.

**(4) God has this to say about the nations.**

**"And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation" (Acts 17:26).**

**God is for the nations. To have their own individuality and identity. Satan through the Antichrist wants to unite all nations under one government so he can control them and have them worship and serve him by taking the mark. Satan wants to show that he is god, and people will worship him. Satan wants another BABEL, and will get it at the right time.**

**2. God loves all the nations of the world – the biblical God is a global God.**

**(1) His Words.**

**\*\*God so loved the world (John 3:16).**

**\*\*In His Great Commission, Christ said to "make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19). Christ is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for those of the whole world (I John 2:2).**

**(2) His actions.**

**That's what the cross, burial, and bodily resurrection are all about. Jesus died to pay the penalty of sin, disobedience to the biblical God for every person, but also for every person who makes up the individual nations.**

**Paul on Mars Hill to the Greek Philosophers said,**

**"God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man who He has appointed having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:30b-31).**

**3. It's our choice to accept Christ as Savior, serve Him by being a disciple to the nations of Christ's love and grace.**

**I trust that you have asked Jesus Christ to be Your Savior, and you are excited about being His disciple.**

**What is a disciple? He is a learner of Jesus Christ and seeks to emulate Him, His master. That means we seek to let Christ live out of our lives in the power of the Spirit, while seeking to reach those who know not the Savior.**

**We must be a mission church in this area first, seeking to reach those around us with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Are we praying for those around us who need the Lord? Have we invited someone to our services or different activities?**

**Then through our missionary family, we are reaching the nations for Jesus Christ. Let's continue to pray for them.**

**We must also be praying for our nation (Remember National Day of Prayer, May 7) and its leaders to look to the Lord, while praying that God's gospel will reach into many hearts through His faithful servants.**

**There is no doubt as we look through history in the prophet Daniel, that God is the LORD of History. He continues to work out His plan as Satan seeks to work out his plan. Praise God that He will be the victor, the true LORD.**

**But may Christ also be the Lord of our lives, as we are His disciples this week for His glory.**

**For in God's time, some day soon, we will all gather around God's throne, from every nation, kindred, and tribe, and give God the glory and worship Him forever in His presence (Revelation 5).**

**Praise the LORD!!**