

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 10:33 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Daniel 11:1-35

Daniel 11 is a continuation of the account from Daniel 10 (which we covered last week) which God sent to Daniel, through an angel--presumably Gabriel--in the third year of the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia. It was 536 BC, and Daniel was probably 84 or 85 years old, having served God faithfully through many years. Gabriel had come to give Daniel "an understanding of what would happen to his people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future!" (Daniel 10:14) According to Dr. David Jeremiah, this remarkable prophecy "reaches all the way from the heyday of the Persian Empire right down to the days of Antiochus Epiphanes and to the deployment of Roman armies on the stage of the world, in 165 BC. Then it takes a giant leap down the centuries to the end of time and gives us details about the coming of the Antichrist--and other things still to come, which we'll be considering in next week's lesson.

The first 35 verses of Daniel 11--which Wiersbe calls "part I of a remarkable prophecy"--contain details of prophecy that have already been fulfilled, and fulfilled so completely, and so literally, that skeptics of the Bible are convinced that the book of Daniel must have been written by someone other than Daniel sometime after all these things had come to pass! In maintaining this position they demonstrate their lack of belief in the God of the Bible and reject all evidence to the contrary! Interestingly, as Kirk noted last nite, the Dead Sea Scrolls, which allow a linguistic comparison of the Aramaic and Hebrew chapters of Daniel, clearly show that they date to the fifth or late sixth centuries BC, and "were composed in the Eastern sector of the Aramaic-speaking world." But the most authoritative endorsement of Daniel is that of Jesus Himself, where, in Matthew 24:14, He quotes "Daniel the prophet"--giving the book's veracity His stamp of approval!

Daniel 11 begins (in vs. 2) by prophesying how "three more kings are going to arise in Persia...then a fourth who will arouse the whole realm of Greece." History records the names and pursuits of these kings, including the fourth one who has a special connection with God's people. It concerns Xerxes, or Ahasuerus, as he is called in the book of Esther, who ruled in Persia during the period 486 to 465 BC--during the time of Esther and Mordecai, when Haman, the Agagite, a high official in Ahasuerus's administration, tried to conspire to have all Jews living as exiles in the Persian kingdom, whom he hated, slaughtered! And how, in the providence of God, Esther (Queen Esther!) attained royalty "for such a time as this" and was used by God to preserve His people! Another great story of the Bible, which can be tracked in world history as well!

In Daniel 11:3-4, Daniel writes that a mighty king would arise in Greece--clearly pointing to Alexander the Great! In 332 BC he defeated the Persians and ruled the kingdom of Greece, represented by the bronze part of the great colossus of Daniel 2, and the "great horn of the goat," in Daniel 8. He "will do as he pleases, but as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out... and not to any of his own descendants"! How sad! And how ironic! Only two verses devoted to him for all his exploits and all his world fame!

Then verses 5-20 describe the back and forth struggles and battles, and marriage alliances, and power plays--all of which you can read about in history books--between the so-called "kings of the south" (Egypt) and "kings of the north" (Syria), covering almost 200 years of conflict! And the only reason they're covered in Daniel, and are significant, is because they border on the nation of Israel and "positioned" themselves, for a time, in the "Beautiful Land" (Palestine), "with destruction in their hands"! (Dan. 11:16)

But then, as a successor of the Syrian rule, there would arise, "a despicable person"--one Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the "madman," who is also the "little horn" of Daniel 9, and considered one of the cruelest rulers of all time! He would "seize the kingdom by intrigue (v. 21) ...practice deception and devise schemes...have his heart set against the holy covenant" (v. 28), and use his forces to "desecrate the sanctuary fortress, do away with the regular sacrifice..." and commit what is known as the infamous "abomination of desolation"! (v. 28) And this is the great atrocity that both Daniel and Jesus said was only a preview--a "foreshadowing"--of the abomination that would happen at some future time, under the final Antichrist! But more on that next week!

There's also prophetic reference, in vs. 32-32, to how Jews loyal to God would lead a successful revolt against the actions of the madman--the so-called "Maccabean revolt," covered in the books of the Maccabees, and in other history accounts--but also how the temple would be restored and other things happen, all in preparation for the first coming of Christ!

And so, just a taste of the "remarkable prophecy" of Daniel 11--with more to come!

According to Wiersbe, those who believe in a great God have no problem accepting "the word of prophecy"!

II Timothy 3:16-17 proclaims that "all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every work!"

And, "so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts! But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation; for no prophecy was ever made an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God!" (II Peter 1:19-21)

We also see a great parallel between God's "special revelation" to both Daniel and the Apostle John, two of the most beloved servants of God! In Revelation 1:1-3, John writes: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that He saw! Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near!"

And so our lesson last nite serves to reinforce our faith in the Sovereign God of Daniel--and in His Word! And because of the prophecies that have been fulfilled, we have renewed confidence that those still out there will be fulfilled, and we can trust in His Word! And we want to be part of His plan for the ages!

Well, next week, we finish off the great book of Daniel! Can you believe it? Remarkable!

Have a great week, men!

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