

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

TEACHING SERIES ON THE PROPHET DANIEL

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PART 11A: THE FINAL VISION

THE FINAL VISION

The angel tells Daniel that during the power struggle for the throne of Persia, when Darius, a Mede, was fighting to become king, this angel confirmed that Darius had been selected to become the king by God and executed by the office of the Holy Watchers. **Daniel 4:17, 11:1**

VERSE 2

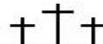
- This is a very interesting verse. The angel tells Daniel that he is going to know the truth. This indicates that there must have been other sources of knowledge in Babylon, which claimed to foretell the future.
- Truth is important to God, and Jesus emphasized this. **John 8:32**
- The Apostle John informed us that God is light. **1 John 1:5-7**
- Jesus tells us in the Book of Revelation that no liars will make it into heaven. **Revelation 21:8, 22:15**

THE FOUR KINGS

This information has been used by people to attack the credibility of the Book of Daniel, stating that there were more than four kings after Darius I. According to secular history and confirmed by historical records, the kings of Persia after Darius are these:

- Xerxes (486-465 B.C.), the son of Darius I, ruled for 21 years. This was the king that married Esther.
- Artaxerxes I Longimanus (465-423 B.C.), ruled for 42 years. Nehemiah was his cup bearer.
- Darius II (423-404 B.C.), ruled for 19 years.
- Artaxerxes II Mnemon (404-359 B.C.), ruled for 45 years.
- Artaxerxes III Ochus (359-338 B.C.), ruled for 21 years.
- Arses (338-335 B.C.), ruled for 3 years.
- Darius III (335-331 B.C.), ruled for 4 years.

In 331 B.C., the Persian kingdom was taken by Alexander the Great. After King Darius I, the Persian kingdom lasted 155 years, a total of seven kings ruled Persia after Darius I.



The angel did not say there would be a total of four kings but that there would be three kings and the fourth would be richer than the others.

In reading the history of Persia, it is revealed that a number of kings were murdered by relatives or people working in government circles, constant wars, and uprisings. It must have been hard for the general population to live and work while they were heavily taxed to pay for the constant wars and for young men to be drafted and sacrificed on battlefronts in Egypt, Greece and Anatolia (Turkey).

VERSES 3-4

This is a prophecy concerning Alexander the Great of Greece. Here is the excerpt from history as it happened: It was in 331 B.C. that Alexander the Great crushed the Persian/Median kingdom. He had imposed his will on Greece as a dictator, and he continued to do the same over each nation his army conquered. His aim was to unite all nations in the world into one. In 323 B.C., he proclaimed Babylon to be his capitol and himself to be absolute sovereign, both king and god. He was the new Dionysus, brother of Apollo and son of Zeus. Everyone was to worship him as god and king. It was only a few weeks later that he died on June 13, 323 B.C. He died when he stood up and declared himself god after having spent days in a drinking binge. He was only 33 years old when he died from heavy alcohol abuse. His queen, Roxana, gave birth to their son three months after his death, but both the queen and the baby were murdered. So instead of a lasting kingdom, it was divided up into four parts.

VERSE 5

It was one of Alexander's General's, Ptolemy, that was given the southern portion of the Greek kingdom, and he immediately set out to build a strong kingdom. Egypt became the center, and he held territory up through southern Syria. His rival and enemy was a fellow General, Seleucus I, who became the leader of the Northeastern part of the Greek kingdom.

VERSE 6

The first Syrian war between the South (Egypt) and the North (Syria) took place from 274 to 271 B.C. Ptolemy II Philadelphus became king of Egypt as a result. But it was after the second Syrian war (260-253 B.C.), that the north and the south tried to reconcile. Bernice, the daughter of Ptolemy II, was given in marriage to the Syrian king Antiochus II, who had divorced his wife, Laodice, to make this second marriage possible. Upon the death of Antiochus II (246 B.C.), a political struggle followed and the result was that Bernice was killed. Thus the word of God again was fulfilled.

VERSES 7-9

When Ptolemy II died, his son Ptolemy III became King of Egypt. He was also the brother of the murdered Bernice. Ptolemy III ruled Egypt from 246-221 B.C. The new king immediately attacked the Syrian king and was able to penetrate across the Euphrates River with his army. Seleucus II, who was the King of Syria from

246-225 B.C., could not fully resist the Egyptians, since he also had a civil war on his hands. Thus, the King of Egypt was able to bring captive soldiers and other people to Egypt, including their belongings.

The Syrian king, Antiochus III (223-187 B.C.), launched the fourth Syrian war against Ptolemy IV. It lasted from 219 to 216 B.C., but the Syrian king was soundly defeated at the battle of Raphia in 217 B.C. and had to later return to his own country.

VERSES 10-13

There were two sons in the kingdom of Syria. Seleucus III ruled from 225 to 223 B.C., when he was assassinated. It was his brother Antiochus III that managed to assemble a large army and attack Egypt. Following his defeat in 217 B.C., he went back home to raise a new army, and in 200 B.C. he forced the Egyptians to give up all of Palestine and he came all the way into Egypt's mainland.

VERSES 14-16

It is amazing how detailed God's prophecy is for this period. During the conquest for Coele Syria, which was the name at that time for the land of Palestine and southern Syria, including Phoenicia (Lebanon), the Jews split and some of them worked hard to undermine the Egyptian grip of Palestine and pave the way for a Syrian take over. At the same time, King Ptolemy IV of Egypt was fighting rebels in Upper Egypt for about 31 years. This rebellion broke out in 217 B.C. and was not suppressed until 186 B.C.

It was at the battle at Panium in 200 B.C. that Antiochus III routed the Egyptian army, and thus was able to do whatsoever he wanted, and the king of Egypt could do nothing. This was also the beginning of persecution of the Jews, and many were to be killed during the Syrian reign in Palestine.

VERSE 17

In 195 B.C., Antiochus III made peace, giving his daughter Cleopatra as a wife to the Egyptian king, Ptolemy V. As a dowry (marriage gift), Antiochus promised to give away a portion of Syria to Egypt. However, Antiochus III had instructed Cleopatra to murder Ptolemy V, but once she was in Egypt she turned against her own father. The peace between Syria and Egypt lasted for 25 years.

VERSES 18-19

In 192 B.C. Antiochus III attacked Rome by invading the islands of Greece. A year later, he was defeated and his army routed in the battle at Thermopylae. He then returned back to Asia. The Roman consul Lucius Scipio, crossed over into Asia in 190 B.C., and began driving out Antiochus III, who had to evacuate Thrace, and during the winter of 190-189 B.C., he was again badly beaten by the Romans. After his defeats by the Romans, Antiochus III turned toward the east, but in a battle in 187 B.C. he was killed.

VERSE 20

Seleucus IV, the son of Antiochus III became the new king over Syria. He became known for his desire to increase the people's taxes. During his short reign of 12 years, he sent his taxmaster Heliordorus, on a mission to Jerusalem to remove the wealth stored in the temple. Something happened to Heliordorus while he was inside the temple compound, and he barely escaped with his life. Upon returning to Syria, he murdered Seleucus IV in 175 B.C.

SUMMARY OF VERSES 1-20

1. Malachi was the last prophet to Israel, around 455 B.C. The people of Israel would have to live without a prophet for more than 400 years in a period filled with nothing but war and devastation. Armies would roll over back and forth over the land and there would be much suffering. But God used His prophet Daniel to write down the main events in advance, so that any child of Israel studying the Scriptures could know in advance what was going to happen, and when it happened, it would strengthen their faith. **Amos 3:7-8; Revelation 10:7**
2. As history is laid out before us, it shows the futility of man trying to gain power and fame for a short time, only to lose his life and move into eternity to be judged by God. These kings, princes and military commanders used and abused the young men in their kingdom, and ruined the life for families, who were struggling just to make ends meet. No wonder Jesus shocked the Jewish leadership when He declared that His kingdom was not of this world. **Luke 17:20-21; John 18:33-37**
3. After more than 6,000 years of wars, murders, political intrigues and greed for power, money and fame, believers in Christ would do well to listen to the words of Jesus. **Matthew 6:24-34**

Do you have an ear to hear with?

