

Daniel 11:11-28

He already knows

10-20-24

Have you ever seen the movie ground hog day? He just keeps waking up and redoing the same day over, and over, and over. The Jews are going through the same thing, they wake up one day and the king of the South was waging a war against the king of the North. Then the next day the king of the North is going up against the king of the South. Do you have struggles that you feel like you face every day or every so often? Are there things that seem like they just keep happening? I don't mean you hate going to work and every day that keeps recurring, we all struggle with that.

So last week I talked about this prophecy, what is a prophecy, it is history that is prewritten. This is the most accurate prophecy in the bible. So accurate that some bible critics say is too accurate to be a prophecy, it must have been written after the fact. Because if it is in fact a prophecy from God to Daniel then this is undeniable facts that God truly knows from the beginning to the end. They cannot have such strong proof without trying their best to debunk it.

God already knows the things that we face, the things that we struggle with, not because He is watching us go through it right now but because He knows the plans He has for us. Let's see what the section of this prophecy holds for the future of Daniels people.

Daniel 11:11-28

Verses 11-12: Foretells an important new development in the struggle between the two great powers, with the arrival of Antiochus III and his conquering of the Holy Land. ... he next launched a battle against Phoenicia and Palestine that ended in a serious setback at the Battle of Raphia. Antiochus was easily overtaken by the less experienced army of Ptolemy IV. For the first time in over 100 years Ptolemy had enlisted the help of local Egyptians for his army. It is said that the king of the South showed up with an infantry of 20,000 which where his newly trained Egyptian locals, 5000 cavalry and 73 African elephants.

Antiochus army was not only larger but also more experienced. His army consisted of 10,000 elite soldiers called the Silver Sheild, these were like the Army Rangers or Navy Seals, they were highly trained for what they do. He had 6,000 cavalry and 102 elephants.

Even though the king of the North seemed to be better prepared, he loses this battle and forfeits the Holy Land back to Egyptian control. If Ptolemy would not have been so prideful he may have taken this time to improve his military abilities. Instead, he looked at his previous win as if he was untouchable, he had won with less, so he was not worried about the king of the North showing up again.

Do you think God uses those who are prideful, boastful and self-indulgent? No, God had a plan for Ptolemy IV to lead over His chosen people for this time. He knows who to put in power, when to put them there and for how long He wants them in charge. Do you think He still operates this way today? Of course He does, how else would Biden have gotten in office?

Ptolemy IV had instead of uniting his kingdom as one, he actually ends up turning both sides against himself. Ptolemy is in trouble as the past 130 years continues to repeat itself the Syrians from the North are looking to strike back, while the king of the South is looking down the barrel of a civil war.

Verse 13: The angel told Daniel that the Northern kingdom would rise up again. Over 12-14 years after losing at Raphia Antiochus took his loss and learned from it. He gained control over other areas, helping him to rebuild a large army with more resources. He planned out a strategy to regain control over all he had lost. Had Ptolemy ruled his kingdom instead of being so wrapped up in self-indulgence he could have been in a much better place to defend his land.

But finally in 203, Antiochus saw his opportunity to strike at Egypt again, since Ptolemy IV had just died and had been succeeded by Ptolemy V, who was an only a toddler a boy of four years old. That seems a little young to lead a kingdom, but I guess they had to start them young sense they would end up dying pretty soon anyway. Whether it was from war, a drunken party or being murdered from within their own kingdom. It is said that Antiochus gained the throne after his brother Seleucus was killed...by him.

Verse 14: Jews living in the Holy Land have had enough, they are overwhelmed by the constant battling between these two rival kings. They decided it was time to pick a side, because they resented the rule of the Egyptian Ptolemies due to the weakness of their kingdom the Jews took sides with Antiochus. At first everything looked like it would be good for them to join forces with the king of the North, they thought if they joined with him, they could break free from their Egyptian bondage. Praying for independence to be a free nation once again.

Antiochus was happy to take the Jews on as benefactors to his cause, but it did not change his plans for their nation. He was not planning on giving them the freedom they so desperately hoped for. Those who sided with him were rewarded for their loyalty but as for those who chose to ride it out with Egypt did not fare so well being killed for their allegiance to the enemy.

Verse 15: Already on the run, the army from the South had no choice but to retreat. They found favor in the fortified city of Sidon. The Egyptians stopped here to wait for backup to arrive, hoping they would arrive before their enemies did.

Antiochus took full advantage of this situation and continued to keep the pressure on the army from the South. Cutting them off from their supply lines made it difficult for the Egyptians to survive, eventually surrendering due to a lack of necessities, mainly food.

Verse 16: Having gained control over many other surrounding areas and now the nation of Israel, Antiochus had the authority to do as he pleased with anyone under his domain. As mentioned earlier he did so favor to the select group who had backed him when it meant something to him, but it was made clear that anyone who turned against him as king would not live to see another day. With this power he could destroy the Holy Land whenever he wanted to.

Verse 17: More like Alexander the Great, Antiochus had his focus on world domination. He saw firsthand what happened when a self-indulgent king loses sight of remaining on top. He had a taste of overtaking other nations, and he had to have more.

Rome was making a move to become the world supper power, the king of the North knew he would need a much larger and stronger armed forces to take on Rome. Instead of invading Egypt and forcefully taking control he thought he would try to gain access to their army another way. He sends his daughter Cleopatra to marry Ptolemy V, with the intent of entering into a truce with the king of the South. At this time the king was a teenager probably around 13. Antiochus knew that with his

daughter marrying into the kingdom he would gain powerful alliances. This would give him access to their military, and joining these two armies would set him up to rival Rome.

Unfortunately, that is not how this all turned out. This Cleopatra is not the famous one you most likely have heard of, although they are distant relatives, the famous Egyptian Cleopatra comes along some 100 years later. Antiochus daughter instead of remaining loyal to her father falls deeply for her new hunk of teenager husband and gains her father no military advancement.

Verse 18: The king of the North decided with or without the Egyptians to go up against the Romans. In a 3-year battle Antiochus did make some small advancements but ended up succumbing to the Romans. The commander who was said to put Antiochus in his place was Lucius Cornelius Scipio.

After his defeat, he had to surrender his entire elephant brigade, all his navy, and twenty selected hostages. Finally, he was obliged to pay an indemnity of fifteen thousand talents right now or twenty thousand talents over a period of several years. Even back then they had buy now, pay later option. Antiochus's second son, who was named after him, was among the twenty hostages taken to Rome, where he spent the formative years of his life.

Verse 19: With nothing left Antiochus either lost his drive to devour other nations or his army did not have faith in his leadership abilities. Because after this instance he did not attempt to overtake another nation. Being unable to make his indemnity payments, Antiochus turns to life of crime and gets caught looting a temple in Elam. When a great military leader dies, we would assume it would be in battle where he is killed by the onslaught of much stronger army. Not Antiochus, he and his guards were slain by angry locals who took up arms and attacked the Syrian army.

Verse 20: After Antiochus's inglorious death he would be replaced by Seleucus Philopator who only ruled for a short time 12 years compared to Antiochus's 37 years. His first order of business after gaining the throne was to raise the taxes of the people, in an effort to repay the war payments imposed by Rome. Everyone would pay the price for the loss that Antiochus had taken. Seleucus Philopator was the rightful heir to the throne but was only in office for 12 years. There has been no talk of war during his reign, so how did he die? He did not die in battle but was murdered by his minister who poisoned him.

Verse 21 Remember back a few verses when Antiochus lost to the Romans, and they took 20 captives back to Rome with them? That wasn't just for fun, it was so the war payments would be paid. Having the king's son would make for a great reason to keep making the payments even with the nation under great financial stress. The king's son Antiochus IV was a young man about 25 years old when he taken and would remain a Roman hostage for 14 years.

Through this he had a lot of time to think about what has happened, hearing about his father's death and his brother stepping up to the throne. Things were changing and he was being held against his will in a distant land. It is no secret that his brother Seleucus Philopator, the one who raised taxes to pay his father's debt, was not loved by the people. He had to come up with a plan to regain trust and power in the kingdom, he decides to come up with a prisoner exchange. His own son for his younger brother. His thoughts were with his brother he could overcome the uneasy Syrian people, unfortunately during the exchange before Antiochus IV could get home, Seleucus Philopator was poisoned.

Set on taking the throne back, Antiochus IV knew he couldn't show up and just ask for it back. He gains the trust of another king by using flattery. He talks them into helping him with an army to rival Heliodorus, the minister who stole the throne from his family. And the funds to repay Rome for taxes Syria still owed. Now that he was square with Rome, he could set his sights on executing Heliodorus. Antiochus IV took the throne even though he no more right to it than the man he had killed.

How many of you have or have had a nick name? Isn't it better to have a nickname given to you than to make one up for yourself. If you made up your nick name, I'm sure it's cool. Antiochus IV gave himself a nick name, Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Remember names meant something back then, Epiphanes meant "manifest" indicating that he was a manifestation of the deity. He even commanded the people to worship him as Zeus. Its great to see a leader who is so humble.

The contemptible ruler would be fulfilled through Antiochus III second son, with all his fathers' ambitions and drive he may have been a good king. But with all the years he spent in captivity and the loss of his father and brother he slowly lost his mind. He would be "given" a nick name later by the people. After ruling through some of the worst times the kingdom had ever seen they named him Antiochus Epimanes meaning "Antiochus the madman". I said it was better when your nickname is given to you, maybe it is just more honest.

Verse 22-23: Antiochus was crazy but he had a way with words, he had already greased the wheels with the king of Pergamum for access to his army and money to pay his debts to Rome, now he plans to enter into a peace treaty with his sister Cleopatra's son the young king of Egypt. There was a small but desirable piece of land between the kingdom of the North and the kingdom of the South that had exchanged hands several times. This area known as the Ceolo-Syria, was most likely wanted to help defend their inner borders.

Antiochus's plan was to entice the young inexperienced king with the feeling of a real relationship with his uncle. He promised to leave this valley alone but broke that promise almost immediately as he engages in a war that will yield more Egyptian land than any of the previous kings put together.

You know how they say keep your friends close and your enemies closer, I think this is where that started. It probably was keep your friends close and your family closer. With the illusion of peace, the Egyptian ruler was easily overtaken, and I'm sure surprised that his own family had taken advantage of him that way. This is why Antiochus was able to rise to power with only a few people.

Verse 24-25: The king of the North had made great advancements, thanks to being shifty. He was even able to convert some of Ptolemy's officials into conspiring against Egypt. He needed to continue breaking through the powerful areas to gain more military advantage. If he could hold on to Syria and gain enough of Egypt, he would have enough power to follow in the footsteps of his father and stand against Rome.

Without news channel 10 or Facebook Rome hears about Antiochus successes and knows they cannot let this continue. God had told Daniel about the rise of the Roman empire, and this was the beginning of it. With the help of the Romans the king of the South was able to defend themselves against Antiochus IV. In a famous battle, the Roman Navy defeated the navy of Antiochus Epiphanes. After the battle, a Roman general drew a circle around Antiochus in the dirt and demanded to know if he would surrender and pay tribute to Rome – and demanded to know before he stepped out of the

circle. Although Antiochus conquered further into Egypt than anyone before him, he would be stopped. His aspirations to become the next Alexander the great never came to fruition.

Rumors of Antiochus IV death had spread throughout the Jewish people, news of a huge party made its way back to the king and in furious tantrum he sets out for home to regroup and rebuild. He was looking for redemption for Egypt and vindication towards the Jews who were so quick to celebrate at the thought of his passing.

Verse 26: Having to get help from Rome to stop Antiochus IV from devouring all of Egypt, the people had lost confidence in the young king Ptolemy Philometer. His brother Ptolemy Physcon was in the middle of a rebellion against him. This was seen as a great opportunity for another strike against the king of the South. With Egypt on the brink of civil war it made it easy for Antiochus to invade by pretending to show allegiance to Philometer. Physcon's side was unable to stand against the king of the North allowing him to gain control of 2 large cities.

This scared Physcon's followers causing them to abandon him as a leader, leaving Ptolemy Philometer as the only ruler of Egypt again.

Verse 27: The king of the North and the king of the South meet up for dinner to talk things out. They both said things they never intended to stand behind. Antiochus told Philometer about his support by destroying his brother Physcon. And because of that Antiochus IV expected Philometer to oversee Egypt under Syrian rule. He was sure the naïve king would fall for it again like he did last time.

Ptolemy Philometer was born at night but not last night, he wasn't as wet behind the ears as he was before. With his own plan he led his uncle to believe that he would go along with this "great plan". In all reality he hoped his rebel brother would join him in arms against this madman.

Verse 28: Feeling good about the treaty that he thinks he coerced his nephew into Antiochus IV heads home. On his way he hears of an uprising in Jerusalem over the high priest position. He had removed the former high priest and put his guy Menelaus in there. It is said that Menelaus bribed Antiochus for the position. The previous priest, Jason was not going to take this laying down. He gathered a group of mercenaries with the plan of taking his job back by force.

What is worse than a man who is power hungry? A power-hungry man who has recently been shut down. Antiochus IV was still upset over the Jews parting because he "died", so this may as well have been a slap in the face for them to reject the man he put in place.

He attacked the city, killing forty thousand people and sold another forty thousand into slavery. He then looted the temple treasury. Jason fled for his life, and Menelaus was publicly declared high priest in Jerusalem. Menelaus was given strict orders that all Jews were to be Hellenized and submit to Greek customs and mythology. Antiochus would have his way, or many would suffer the consequences.

God knows, down to the detail the future not only for Daniels following generations but for you and me too. Trusting in Him and following Him will assure your future with Him.