

“Appointed Times”

Introduction

1. Prophecies Concerning _____ (11:2)

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
2	Now then, I will reveal the truth to you. Three more Persian kings will reign,	Next three Persian kings after Cyrus (550-530) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cambyses (530–522), “Ahasuerus” of Ezra 4:6 - Pseudo-Smerdis (522-521), “Artaxerxes” of Ezra 4:7-23 - Darius I Hystaspes (521-486) (Ezra 4:24; 5,6)
	to be succeeded by a fourth, far richer than the others. He will use his wealth to stir up everyone to fight against the kingdom of Greece.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xerxes I (485-464), possibly “Ahasuerus” of Esther <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Very wealthy o Led the great expedition against Greece <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Army of a million men, 200+ war ships ▪ Italy, Sicily, & Carthage ▪ Defeated by the underdog Greeks in 480 b.c. o Greeks never forgot. Retaliated 150 years later

2. Prophecies Concerning _____ (11:3-4)

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
3	Then a mighty king will rise to power who will rule with great authority and accomplish everything he sets out to do.	Alexander the Great (335 B.C.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was bent on punishing the Persians - In 12 years conquered Asia Minor, India and parts of Africa and Europe
4	But at the height of his power, his kingdom will be broken apart and divided into four parts. It will not be ruled by the king’s descendants, nor will the kingdom hold the authority it once had. For his empire will be uprooted and given to others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Died in 323 B.C. his early 30s, depressed and an alcoholic - Massive kingdom parceled to his generals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Macedonia-Greece to Antipater and his son Cassander o Thrace-Asia Minor to Lysimachus o Rest of Asia except lower Syria to Seleucus Nicator o Egypt and Palestine to Ptolemy - All potential family successors were murdered within 15 years - The four split kingdoms did not have same power or authority

3. Prophecies Concerning _____ & _____ (11:5-20)

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
5	The king of the south will increase in power, but one of his own officials will become more powerful than he and will rule his kingdom with great strength.	King of the south (Egypt & Palestine) = Ptolemy Soter (323-285) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - His official (Seleucus Nicator, 312-280) helped him to defeat Antigonous - Seleucus then ruled Babylonia, Syria & Media - Seleucid kingdom was larger than the other three put together - Palestine was in the middle of those two kingdoms - The two kingdoms quickly became rivals

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
6	Some years later an alliance will be formed between the king of the north and the king of the south. The daughter of the king of the south will be given in marriage to the king of the north to secure the alliance, but she will lose her influence over him, and so will her father. She will be abandoned along with her supporters.	<p>Antiochus II Theos (261-246) (king of the North) Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246) (king of the South)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Berenice, given in marriage to Antiochus (252) (Daughter of Ptolemy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Antiochus was forced to divorce his wife Laodice - Ptolemy died within a few years of the marriage - Antiochus was poisoned to death (247), probably by Laodice - Berenice and her son were assassinated at the hands of Laodice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Her attendants were slain trying to protect her. - Laodice was succeeded by her son, Seleucus II Callinicus (246-226)
7	But when one of her relatives becomes king of the south, he will raise an army and enter the fortress of the king of the north and defeat him.	<p>Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221) (Berenice's brother)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marched north to get revenge for his sister's murder (executes Laodice) - Captures most of the Syrian empire to the boundaries of India - War lasted from 246-241 B.C.
8	When he returns to Egypt, he will carry back their idols with him, along with priceless articles of gold and silver. For some years afterward he will leave the king of the north alone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brought back 4,000 talents of gold, 40,000 talents of silver, 2,500 molten idols, and sacred vessels stolen by Persian king Cambyses in 522 B.C. - Name of Euergetes ("Benefactor") was given to him for bringing back these prize possessions to Egypt - Ptolemy made a peace treaty with Seleucus in 240 B.C. to pursue other areas of conquest
9	Later the king of the north will invade the realm of the king of the south but will soon return to his own land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seleucus attempted an attack to regain territory from Ptolemy, but was routed and was driven back to Syria in humiliating defeat.
10	However, the sons of the king of the north will assemble a mighty army that will advance like a flood and carry the battle as far as the enemy's fortress.	<p>Seleucus Callinicus was succeeded by his sons...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seleucus Caranus, was murdered by his own troops - Antiochus III Magnus (the Great) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Collected a great army (75,000) to attack Ptolemy Philopator (221-203) o Advanced through Palestine to the fortress at Gaza
11	Then, in a rage, the king of the south will rally against the vast forces assembled by the king of the north and will defeat them.	<p>Ptolemy Philopator met Antiochus in battle, defeating him (217)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 132,000 infantries, 11,000 in cavalry and 175 elephants in battle
12	After the enemy army is swept away, the king of the south will be filled with pride and will execute many thousands of his enemies. But his success will be short lived.	<p>Ptolemy was prideful in victory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slaughtered many thousands of Syrians in battle (10,000) - Profaned the temple in Jerusalem - Massacred 40,000 Jews in Egypt for refusing to embrace his religion - He and his queen died mysteriously in 203 B.C. succeeded by his infant son Ptolemy V Epiphanes (203-181)
13	A few years later the king of the north will return with a fully equipped army far greater than before.	<p>13 years later, Antiochus had reorganized and re-established much of his empire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Became very wealthy and raised a very large army, ready to turn attention back to Egypt.
14	At that time there will be a general uprising against the king of the south. Violent men among your own people will join them in fulfillment of this vision, but they will not succeed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With Ptolemy Epiphanes so young, Egypt became weak with factions - Apostate (or violent) Jews sided with Antiochus, adopted Hellenism, hoping for independence. But they gained no advantage and many died in the war.
15	Then the king of the north will come and lay siege to a fortified city and capture it. The best troops of the south will not be able to stand in the face of the onslaught.	<p>Antiochus moved south and east to capture the fortified city of Sidon (199)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three famous generals and Egypt's best troops could not save Sidon

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
16	The king of the north will march onward unopposed; none will be able to stop him. He will pause in the glorious land of Israel, intent on destroying it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gained complete control over Phoenicia and Palestine (i.e. the Beautiful Land) - Wanted to punish the pro-Egyptian Jews, plundering them unmercifully - In 198 entered Jerusalem and received a welcome as the “deliverer” -
17	He will make plans to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will form an alliance with the king of the south. He will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom from within, but his plan will fail.	<p>Antiochus planned on invading Egypt until threat of Roman interference caused him to back off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instead he made an alliance (193 B.C.) with Egypt by giving his child daughter, Cleopatra, to the child Ptolemy as his bride, hoping she would help him overthrow Ptolemy - This plan failed as Cleopatra continually sided with her husband - Her son became Egypt’s royal heir, Ptolemy VI
18	After this, he will turn his attention to the coastland and conquer many cities. But a commander from another land will put an end to his insolence and cause him to retreat in shame.	<p>Antiochus started attacking the coastlands of Asia Minor and Greece.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roman ambassadors came to tell Antiochus to retreat - When he refused they soundly defeated his army of 80,000 (189 B.C.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o His younger son, Antiochus, was carried off to Rome o He was fined 2,550 talents and forced to pay taxes of 1,000 talents every year to Rome
19	He will take refuge in his own fortresses but will stumble and fall and be seen no more.	<p>Antiochus retreated, but was forced to raise taxes each year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While attempting to raise taxes in the East, he was killed trying to plunder the temple of Bel.
20	His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. But after a very brief reign, he will die, though not from anger or in battle.	<p>Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175) succeeded his father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He sent his Prime Minister, Heliodorus to plunder the temple in Jerusalem to obtain the tax money for Rome. - Died from poisoning, probably by Heliodorus who wanted the throne.

4. Prophecies Concerning _____ (11:21-35)

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
21	The next to come to power will be a despicable man who is not in line for royal succession. He will slip in when least expected and take over the kingdom by flattery and intrigue.	<p>Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164) was the son who was being held hostage in Rome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seleucus sent his own son, Demetrius to Rome in exchange for his brother (Antiochus “Epiphanes” a title of “Glory” he gave himself) - Seleucus was poisoned while Antiochus was on his way back - There were multiple claims to the throne the rightful one being Demetrius - Historians all agree that Antiochus was “vile” and “contemptible” and “unscrupulous” and “cruel”. “Little horn” of Daniel 8:9-14, 23-25). - He hated the people of God. - He made influential friends who put up money for troops that allowed him to seize the throne of Syria. - Used flattery to win over the Syrians, promising rewards if they supported him
22	Before him great armies will be swept away, including a covenant prince.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ptolemy Philometor (181-146) tried and failed to win back territory and his army was swept away at Pelusium; became a prisoner of Ant. - Onias III, the Jewish High Priest, (de facto the head of the theocracy at that time) was deposed by Antiochus, for being anti-Syrian and pro-Egypt, and had him murdered. - Opinions are divided as to whether Philometor or Onias was the “prince of the covenant” who was swept away

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
23	With deceitful promises, he will make various alliances. He will become strong despite having only a handful of followers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When Egypt made Philometor's brother Ptolemy Euergetes king, Ant. made an alliance with his prisoner, Philometer, to help him regain his throne in Egypt, hoping to use him to deceitfully make Egypt part of his kingdom. - Philometor and Euergetes were nephews of Ant.
24	Without warning he will enter the richest areas of the land. Then he will distribute among his followers the plunder and wealth of the rich—something his predecessors had never done. He will plot the overthrow of strongholds, but this will last for only a short while.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ant. attacked the richest lands (Egypt, Judea) when they were not suspecting and used the plunder to secure support from others - While claiming alliance he made his way up the Nile to Memphis with a small army – almost mastering Egypt (something his predecessors had done) - His plans would only succeed until the appointed time
25	Then he will stir up his courage and raise a great army against the king of the south. The king of the south will go to battle with a mighty army, but to no avail, for there will be plots against him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These numerous invasions (169 B.C.) of Ant. into Egypt gave him some success over Ptolemy Euergetes because of internal subversions that Ant. had orchestrated in his favor
26	His own household will cause his downfall. His army will be swept away, and many will be killed.	
27	Seeking nothing but each other's harm, these kings will plot against each other at the conference table, attempting to deceive each other. But it will make no difference, for the end will come at the appointed time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After capturing Philometer, Ant. and he conspired together against Euergetes. Making promises to each other that neither planned on keeping. Ant. planned on setting him on the throne, only to depose him, once Euergetes was defeated. But it all came to nothing. - They were unsuccessful at controlling all of Egypt
28	The king of the north will then return home with great riches. On the way he will set himself against the people of the holy covenant, doing much damage before continuing his journey.	<p>Ant. returned home by way of Palestine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rumors of his death spread through Palestine. Jews were rejoicing. - Menelaus, High Priest of Ant., was locked up by Jason's forces in Jerusalem - The rebellion was thwarted as Ant. killed 80,000 men, women and children. He also looted the temple with the help of Menelaus. (1 Macc 1:16–28; 2 Macc 5:1–14; 2 Macc 5:15–21) - Sacrificed a pig on the brazen altar in the temple court, sprinkling its blood all over the temple.
29	Then at the appointed time he will once again invade the south, but this time the result will be different.	<p>Ant. invaded Egypt again in 168 B.C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met at Alexandria by Roman consul Popillius Laenas, who had come at the request of the Ptolemies.
30	For warships from western coastlands will scare him off, and he will withdraw and return home. But he will vent his anger against the people of the holy covenant and reward those who forsake the covenant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many Roman warships intimidated Ant. - Popillius drew a circle around Ant. forcing him to make a decision before exiting the circle, or face war with Rome. - Ant. left Egypt to the Romans, in humiliation. <p>Ant. went back through Palestine venting against the Jews (1-2 Macc)</p>
31	His army will take over the Temple fortress, pollute the sanctuary, put a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attacked Jerusalem on the sabbath, massacring many, plundering the city - Offered another pig on the altar, demanding that he be worshiped - All Jewish religious practices such as circumcision, possessing the Scriptures, sacrifices, and feast days were forbidden on penalty of death - May have erected a statue of Zeus in the temple, renaming it the Temple of Zeus Olympias

Vs.	Prophecy of Scripture (NLT)	Historical Fulfillment
32	He will flatter and win over those who have violated the covenant. But the people who know their God will be strong and will resist him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apostate Jews who were led by Menelaus attempted to get rid of Judaism and adopt Hellenism - Ant. won over many Jews with promises of rewards (1 Macc 1:11-15) - Heroic patriots who “knew” their God were stirred to action – Mattathias and his sons, Judas, Jonathan and Simon Maccabeus.
33	Wise leaders will give instruction to many, but these teachers will die by fire and sword, or they will be jailed and robbed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new class emerged among the downtrodden people, the Maschilim (“the wise”), men who knew the Word of God and who struggled to keep the true faith alive in the midst of persecution - the patriot leaders would preach to their fearful and intimidated countrymen a stirring message of repentance and wholehearted commitment to the holy standards of Moses’ law - idols with accompanying chapels were set up all over the land, and everyone was commanded to burn incense to the gods of Greece. To disobey, or to be caught with a copy of the Scriptures, was to be killed without mercy. Many chose to die, rather than be defiled. - Many of them perished by fire and sword. The Syrians took advantage of the Sabbath, a day when the Jews refused to fight, to fall on them. Some of them were roasted alive, others were crucified, still others were strangled, and some of them were sold into slavery. They were robbed and left destitute to wander in caves and on the mountains. The terrible persecutions listed in Hebrews 11:35–37 are clearly drawn from these days. On and on it went for three interminable years. Tens of thousands were slaughtered.
34	During these persecutions, little help will arrive, and many who join them will not be sincere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Maccabees led a revolt that gained victories against the Syrians as predicted in Zech 9:13-17, ending the reign of terror. (168-165) - Hasidim put to death the traitorous Jews. - Some traitorous Jews pretended to be part of the rebellion but instead were helping the Syrians for their own personal gain.
35	And some of the wise will fall victim to persecution. In this way, they will be refined and cleansed and made pure until the time of the end, for the appointed time is still to come.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was a time of purging and separation of the true from the false, of those who were courageous from those who were fainthearted. - Thus Antiochus attempts to annihilate the party among the Jews that is devoted to its God, but succeeds only in contributing to its purifying - The purpose of this fiery ordeal that fell upon Israel was to cleanse individuals and the nation as a whole of sinful practices and to strengthen their faith. It also separated the true believers from the unregenerate within the Jewish community - Even when the persecution was at its height, God was still on the throne, still sovereign over the nations. He had already set a time limit to it all. Not even Antiochus Epiphanes could go one step or one moment beyond the line that God had drawn

So What?

References used:

- The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Daniel & the Minor Prophets (Gaebelein)
- Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation (Walvoord)
- New American Commentary: Daniel (Miller)
- Exploring the Book of Daniel: An Expository Commentary (Phillips)
- Bible Knowledge Commentary (Walvoord)
- The Final Vision: Sermon, June 1991 (Dr. Paul Brown)

Fill-ins: 1) Persia; 2) Greece; 3) Egypt & Syria; 4) Antiochus Epiphanes

Discussion Questions

Confidence in the Bible as God's Inspired Words

1. How do the prophecies in Daniel 11, aligned side by side with the facts of history, prove that the Bible is truly God's Word? (read Isa 46:8-11)
2. Have you ever discussed fulfilled biblical prophecies in order to convince someone that the Bible must be God's inspired words of truth?
3. If history validates biblical prophecy, then how should we view the teaching of the Bible? (read Deut 18:9-22)
4. How should we respond to biblical prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled? Do you know which Bible prophecies have yet to be fulfilled?

Appointed times

5. In Daniel 11:27,29 & 35, the angel tells Daniel that these prophesied events will happen according to the "appointed time." How do these "appointed times" relate to God's sovereignty and His omniscience?
6. These "Big" events in Daniel 11 were appointed by God. What recent "Big" events can we assume are also appointed by God? List as many as you can think of. How should it affect us, knowing that these events are also "appointed" by God?
7. Do you think that God also has appointed "little" events or "personal" events in your life? Why or why not? If even the "little events" are "appointed" by God, how can believing that be helpful to you?

Refining/Purification

8. Daniel 11 tells of hundreds of years of prideful kings who believed and acted as if they were in control of their own empires. At best, they felt no need to honor the God of Israel. At worst, they defiled His holy sanctuary. Read Psalm 2. How is belief in the inspiration of Psalm 2 a comfort and help to the people of God living during difficult times?
9. In 11:35 Daniel is told that some of the wise will be persecuted, refined and purified. Does this seem unfair? How do the verses in Romans 8:28,31-39 inform how we view times of persecution or distress? How should this bring you hope?

Link to article about Voltaire's prediction: <https://bit.ly/3eLdnR9>