



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Spiritual Forces in the Rise & Fall of Nations (Daniel 11)

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*It is important to ask for clarification when given important instructions or life impacting information. God empowered Daniel to share principles that were verified in history, proven reliable in practice, and trustworthy for tomorrow. Daniel prayed, asking for more understanding (Daniel 8:13; 9:1; 10:12). The messenger angel Gabriel, (Daniel 8:16; 10:10; Luke 1:26), was sent to answer Daniel's questions. **Has God answered a question of yours?***

INTRODUCTION

Babylon conquered Judah in 605 B.C. Many of the Jewish people were resettled in Babylon, including a young man named Daniel. He was trained in administration and assigned as an aid to King Nebuchadnezzar. God gave the king a dream which highlighted the succession of kingdoms over the next 600 years. This dream included a glimpse of the transitions to the end of time. Daniel was empowered to interpret that dream and continue to advise the kings of the next three world powers. **How many leadership teams have you been empowered to serve on?**

THE ANGEL GABRIEL BRINGS ANSWERS

Daniel 10:20-21 "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so, I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael, your prince." (NASB)

The angel Gabriel brings Scripture and God's assurance to encourage Daniel. He refers to spiritual forces, evil angels wreaking havoc on nations and the people. The chief angel Michael is introduced as one assigned to watch over Daniel. **Do you feel that an angel is assigned to protect you?**

GABRIEL – YEARS OF CONFLICT AHEAD

Daniel 11:1 "In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him. And now I will tell you the truth. Three more kings will arise in Persia. Then a fourth..."

The angel reveals his care for Darius and the nation, likely as a result of King Darius' proclamation of trust in God and his kindness to the Jewish people (Daniel 6:25-27). Alexander The Great brought Greece to the top by conquering Persia in 331 B.C.

KINGS OF THE NORTH VS KINGS OF THE SOUTH

Alexander died at the age of 33. His four generals divided the empire. Ptolemy was called King of the South. He consolidated the countries of Egypt, Phoenicia, Arabia, Libya, and Ethiopia. He invaded Judea and, by stealth, took control of Jerusalem on a sabbath. There was no peace in the land.

Nicanor, another of Alexander's generals, was called King of the North. He made Syria a powerful force. Nicanor troubled Judea. His posterity suffered loss.

The references to north and south used by the angel Gabriel in this text were in reference to Israel, which was in the middle of the fighting. The two Kingdoms were at war with one another for over 200 years. **Are leaders' victims of fortune or tools of Providence?**

THE PREDECESSOR OF THE FINAL ANTICHRIST

Antiochus won the kingship of the north by deceit and trickery. He waged war on many fronts. Antiochus ravaged Jerusalem and his soldiers desecrated Israel's temple in 167 B.C. (Daniel 11:36). God drove him into derision in the same manner as the Antichrist will fall in the end times (Revelation 9:16; 16:12) **Do you think God will endure nations acts of terror?**

THE VISION OF KINGDOMS REVEALED TO DANIEL

Daniel 2:31-35

Head of Gold: Babylon 605 B.C.–

Chest of Silver: Medo Persia 5:39 B.C.

Breast & Thighs of Bronze- Greece 3:23 B.C.

Legs of Iron: Rome – 146 B.C.

Feet of Partly Iron & Partly Clay – Future

Revived Roman Empire (Daniel 8:23-26).

Stone that crushes and disperses all – Christ.

Revelation 18:21-22

A prayer

Almighty God, please help me to focus on the assignment given me at present. Let me trust You in the affairs of the world. Give us Your peace. I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen!