

Kings of the North and South

Late in his Career, the Elder Statesman Daniel was given another Vision, which we read of in Daniel Chapter 11. In this, we're given Insightful Information on the Actions of the Final Beast Power portrayed in his Most Extraordinary Vision!

© Rich Traver 81520-1411 4-2-18 [270] www.goldensheaves.org

In other prophecies we've discussed, we're given information that is useful in identifying the entity called "King of the North". The first thing we need to settle in our minds is the question, IS the King of the North one-and-the-same as the end-time Beast Power. What evidence do we have to make such a connection, if there is one?

In Daniel chapter 11 there is a running account of back-and-forth political intrigues and military engagements between two rival powers in the greater Middle East. The early verses of this chapter, particularly verse 2, makes us aware that this chapter is referring to the rise of Alexander the Great and the actions of his generals who inherited his empire after his untimely death in 323 BC. Verse 4 explains, and history has demonstrated, that his empire would become divided among his four generals, two of whom are the major players in this historical narrative.

Syria versus Egypt the First Time

The two powers were the Seleucids in the north (the Syrian / Mesopotamian regions) and the Ptolemy's in the south (Egypt). The historical records of these interactions are so accurate that historians and scholars have taken the position that the accounts had to have been written after the fact, rather than in advance.

With so much detailed and verifiable history associated with this prophecy, a case was made that it was all fulfilled by the mid-second century BC. Why then would there be reason to deduce it to have an end-time application. Granted, in verse 40 there is the phrase: "**at the time of the end**" but that phrase could also be regarded as referring to the end of the reign of this wicked individual or the end of these rival empires as they were over-shadowed by the rising Roman

Empire. However, what we need to notice is that Rome didn't conquer this region. It's control passed to a rival nation: Parthia.

The NEW Kings of the North / South

It's mentioned in another chapter also that the direct successors of the Seleucid Kingdom were this Parthian nation. This too is a significant consideration when considering who the latter-day 'King of the North' will be. The Parthians were largely descendants of the House of Israel who were exiled to the region by Assyria some 460 years earlier.

Endorsed in Christ's Olivet Prophecy

It is in large part the words of Christ Himself in His Olivet Prophecy that provides a basis for us to look again at a part of this passage as having a specific application to the end of THIS age. If it were true that this prophecy was all fulfilled, why wouldn't Christ have known that? Why would He instruct His followers specifically to watch for the long-passed 'abomination of desolation' as a future event?

When YOU See...!

These words recorded in Matthew 24:15 give serious pause to Christians of the modern era. A prophetic narrative assumed to have been 'all fulfilled' more than two centuries before these words were spoken is brought forward and is shown to have a representative portion that is directly and emphatically applicable to the latter days! The challenge for us is to identify exactly where the portion of this narrative (applicable to the latter time) begins and to whom it applies. Syria and Egypt are not the major world powers today that they were in the centuries BC. Nor were they in the first century!

A Specific Time IS Appointed

Both verses 27 and 29 use the phrase: “at the time appointed”. It is logical that the latter-day section begins with verse 29, with the words: *at the time appointed*, alluding to the starting point of a ‘pre-determined repetition’.

According to the prophecy, the time is appointed when ‘he’ (the King of the North) shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. What this is telling us is that as this prophecy is to enter its second fulfilment phase, the players and the regions involved are not the same as they were under the first fulfilment. We should not expect them to be.

Daniel 11:29 *“At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.* This introduces us to the fact that the repeat situation will not involve former players and not in the same regions. Such a thing would not be stated if the accounts related were already fulfilled! This provides additional proof that the prophecy has a dual and latter-day fulfillment.

As the specifics of each verse of this narrative are addressed in Chapter 6, this chapter will present only some basic considerations.

Is This “the Beast”?

The first thing asked was if the King of the North is the same as the prophesied End-Time Beast power? That correlation is particularly insightful, because if they are the same, then we already know a great deal about the identity of this world power and the figures that will comprise it.

What details do we find within the latter half of Daniel that would indicate that the prophecy has a repeat fulfillment?

Verse 31 shows that he’ll put an end to sacrificing by the Jewish religion that hasn’t been performed for centuries. That is a ceremonial worship system that has to be a restored activity for him to put an end to it. In addition to that, he will place **the abomination of desolation** in the Holy Place,

which is something else that has to be restored in the near future. He acts against the True God. ¹

In verse 32 we are shown a contrast between wicked individuals and those who know and love God. *“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”* Under Roman rule, particularly during the first two centuries after Christ, little could be done openly that would qualify as ‘exploits’. A day is coming in which the Saints will be imitating the ‘two witnesses’ spoken of in Revelation 11, but doing so at great peril.

Verse 40 explains that this powerful person (might we say ‘the antichrist’) will perform these actions “in the time of the end.”

Verse 43 shows that this power will have tight economic control in the world. The destruction of the city referred to as “Babylon” in Revelation 18 reveals more about this.

But perhaps its verses 44 & 45 that are most revealing of the fact that, despite a previous fulfilment, this is an ‘end-time prophecy. This ‘King of the North’ is finally forced to take-up a defensive position there in the Middle East, due to the events happening to his north. This is when and where he comes to his end. *“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”* When we realize what the disturbing news is (the prelude to the Battle of Armageddon) there is little doubt that this is just before the Second Coming! *“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”* 

¹ Daniel 11:36. *“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.”* Also Revelation 13:5-6.