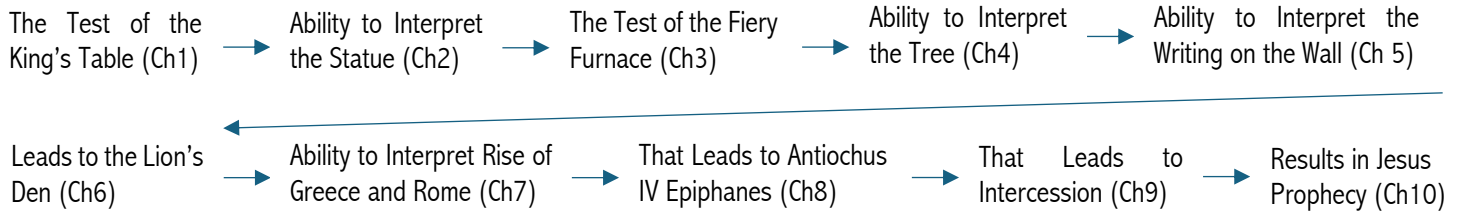


Daniel 5: The Conclusion

The Best Way to Make Sense of the Contents of Daniel We Have Learned Thus Far



The Best Way to Make Sense of the Contents of Daniel We Look at Tonight

Just Add Two More Lines: The Final Great Battle of Armageddon (Ch11) → The Victory of Our King and His Kingdom (Ch12)

Two Important Points to Review and One to Preview

1. Knowing what has taken place in the past is one of the most important aspects of understanding what is to come.
2. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was an Anti-Christ Figure in the past who marched against Jerusalem, persecuted the people of God, and set up an abomination that causes desolation in the temple. He was defeated. Similar things will happen, with similar results.
3. The final battle described in chapter 11 should be read in light of the previous point. The battle described in ch11 was prophesied and came to fruition as described. It's a precursor to what the final battle of Armageddon (to borrow from Revelation, not Daniel) will look like in its essence, just on a greater scale.

How The Battle Unfolded in the Past in a Nutshell (Daniel 11)

1. Two dynasties of the Greek empire were hostile towards each other, and Israel was caught in the middle. Those were the Ptolemaic Dynasty (Egypt) and the Seleucids (Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, etc). Daniel 11:2-23 deal mainly with this issue in great detail. But the important thing to glean here is that their hostility to each other led to battles on that main thoroughfare between those two dynasties that were in the Valley/Plain of Megiddo. Think of two armies marching towards each other and both ending up at that place.

⁹ Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country. ¹⁰ His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress. ¹¹ "Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. ¹² When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant. ¹³ For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped. (11:9-13)

2. Israel was no longer caught in the middle when Antiochus IV Epiphanes seized the Seleucid throne. Antiochus marched against Egypt (Ptolemy) and was defeated. After he was, while marching back in the Seleucid region (Iran, Iraq, etc), that's when he did his damage in Israel, Jerusalem in particular.

- a. Antiochus seized the throne illegitimately when the Greeks felt secure

"He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue. Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed. After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power. When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time." (11:21-24)

- b. After He Did, All Hell Broke Loose in the Valley of Megiddo and in Jerusalem Between Antiochus and the other Greek Empires (i.e., World Empires at that Time) as well as the Jews

“At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission. But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. (11:40-45)

3. And According to Daniel, All of the Aforementioned Happened Because Antiochus Exalted Himself As God.

“The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.” (11:36)

4. But the People of God Fought Back and Eventually Won the Battle. This, as we have seen, was known as the Maccabean Revolt. What's important to note – and a lot of Christians forget – is that Daniel predicts this revolt. Daniel, in fact, was used as a basis for the revolt (the battle belongs to the Lord).

“Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.” (11:45)

What We Can Glean from Daniel 11 About the Future

1. There is a future battle coming to that plot of land in Israel in the Valley of Megiddo. John tells us as much. Like the first battle, it will be a clash of the world on that parcel of land. And Israel will be caught in the middle.
2. The battle will be orchestrated by the rise of a future Antiochus figure who will: (a) seize the throne illegitimately; (b) gain power through intrigue and deception; (c) and show a special disdain for “The Land Called Beautiful).
3. Then Israel will no longer be caught in the middle. They will be directly involved.
4. But unlike the first battle, this battle will require extra-supernatural help in order to win. In this sense, the figure coming in the future wields more power and influence over the world than Antiochus. That's a scary thought. And that is the basis for the contents of the last chapter of the Book of Daniel.

The Victory of God – Daniel 12

1. Comes via the help of Michael.

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. (12:1)

2. There will be a resurrection and a judgment.

²Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise^[a] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. (12:2-3)

3. #2 will take place after 7 years of Tribulation.

“How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” “It will be for a time, times and half a time.^[b] When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.” (12:5, 7)

4. And there will be an inheritance that can never spoil, nor fade.

¹¹“From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹²Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. ¹³“As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.” (12:11-13)