***Daniel 11:11-19 “And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy. 12 When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail. 13 For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment. 14 “Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall. 15 So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist. 16 But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power. 17 “He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him. 18 After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. 19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.***

We’re back with Daniel tonight. Gabriel is still with us and he is explaining the Scripture of Truth. Remember that God dispatched Gabriel, that Daniel was heard from the first word of his humble prayers. In our lives, when we humble ourselves and seek with an urgency, our God, God hears believers and answers in accordance with His will.

Verse 11 *And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy. The King of the south* is no longer Ptolemy III, Berenice’s brother, but is not Ptolemy IV Philopater. He is the 2nd child, but eldest son. He assumed the throne in Egypt after Ptolemy III died. He was about 20 years old. *Moved with choler* – which is to say that he’s moved with anger, as Antiochus Magnus is gaining back the conquered territory. *go out and fight with him, with the king of the North* – The battle of Raphia took place between Ptolemy IV and Antiochus. *who shall muster a great multitude* – Historical sources say Antiochus brought 62,000 soldiers, 6000 horses, and 102 elephants. Ptolemy IV came with a smaller force, and only 73 elephants by the way, and defeated Antiochus *But the multitude shall be given into the hand* – Antiochus lost 10,000 soldiers and 3000 horses, while Ptolemy IV lost only 1400 soldiers and 700 horses. It was considered a great defeat for Antiochus Magnus and a great victory for Ptolemy IV.

Verse 12 *When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail. When he has taken away the multitude* – The victory caused Ptolemy’s heart to be *lifted up* – Pride. *He shall cast down many tens of thousands* – The battle of Raphia had taken place near Gaza. Ptolemy IV stopped at Jerusalem to sacrifice to the God of Israel. While there, in a state of pride and lifted heart, he decided to enter the Temple. What the recordings of Hebrew historians tell us is that he was struck with terror and confusion and had to be carried away. This caused him to hate the nation of Israel, as he was humiliated by this event. He continually sought revenge on the nation slaying 40,000 Jews at Alexandria. *But he will not prevail* – though he slew many Jews at Alexandria, this caused an unexpected consequence. The people of his own nation saw this as unfair and cruel, a petulant leader acting in a petulant and spoiled manner and historians tell us that it alienated his own people and caused them to question his ability to lead.

Verses 13-15 *For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment. 14 “Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall. 15 So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist.* ***For*** *the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former -* Antiochus Magnus is back with an even larger army, a great multitude. *And shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment.* By this time, Ptolemy IV has died leaving his son Ptolemy Epiphanes, as king at the age of 4 or 5 – a very young child, really only a toddler, only a little older than Kegan or Hayes. Antiochus Magnus seizes upon this opportunity! He seizes eastern Iran and parts of India. *Many shall rise up against the king of the South* – Many of the provinces and subject nations rise up against Ptolemy and Egypt. Agathocles, the prime minister of Egypt, was standing in place of the young king. His pride was going to his head and many provinces of Egypt were rising up against the king of the south.

*Violent men of your people* – Gabriel changes gears here. He uses the Hebrew word meaning destroyers. Gabriel is describing a revolt by some evil and power hungry Jews against Egypt and Ptolemy. *Shall exalt themselves* – Agathocles hired a mercenary general named Scopas to lead the Egyptian army against the King of the North targeting in particular Palestine and the area of Judea. But Scopas exalted himself and planned to seize power for himself. He was discovered. At this time, Rome entered the picture as an ally of Ptolemy V- Epiphanes. *In fulfillment of the vision* – This confirms earlier visions in Daniel 8 and Daniel 2. Rome was unknown in Daniel’s time, but is destined in God’s time and vision to rise to great a world power. *But they shall fall.* The destroyers of the people failed in the revolt against Ptolemy V. *So the king of the North shall come* - Scopas seizes much territory from Antiochus. Antiochus Magnus comes against Scopas and the Egyptian army! Antiochus seizes the lands that Scopas had taken, especially the walled and fortified cities, cities in Palestine. *And the forces of the South shall not withstand him.*Scopas and the Egyptian army could not withstand Antiochus. *Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist. For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former Neither his chosen people* - Scopas flees from the army of Antiochus near the Jordan River. Famine, lack of food in the land, causes Scopas to be defeated and in 198 BC, Scopas surrenders at Sidon. Scopas surrenders, leaving with only the life of his men, they are stripped and made to walk away naked and disarmed. After this, no one could stand against Antiochus Magnus. Scopas is later executed for planning to seize the throne of Egypt.

Verse 16 *But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.**But he* – Antiochus Magnus *come against him* – No one will rise to resist him until the Romans. Josephus records that Antiochus was well received by the Jews. He did *According to his own will* and *no one shall stand against him* – This describes the fact that there was no power left in the area to stand against him. *He shall stand in the glorious land* – Antiochus takes Palestine and occupies it. *Destruction in his power* – another translation is consumption in his power. It is well recorded that Antiochus used the land of Israel to enrich himself and to support his standing army, consuming the goodness of the land for his own purposes. But during this time the land was at peace.

Verse 17 *“He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him. He* - Antiochus. S*hall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom* – sets his whole kingdom with the thought to conquer Egypt. But he never actually invades Egypt because there is a threat becoming more and more clear in Rome *Upright ones with him* – Enter a women named Cleopatra. We know her. Ptolemy Epiphanes married Cleopatra and became joint rulers of Egypt. History record that at this time a war broke out between Egypt, Syria, and Rome. Antiochus sought peace with Egypt because of the Roman threat. *The daughter of women, corrupting her* – Cleopatra was given to Ptolemy as a wife in 194 BC and was daughter of Antiochus. This was viewed by Egyptians as corrupting the royal bloodline and allowing Antiochus a foothold in Egyptian affairs. *Not stand on his side, neither be for him* – The plan was for Cleopatra to be the source of an alliance between Syria and Egypt. Instead, Cleopatra did not support Syria, but stood instead with Ptolemy in alliance with Rome.

Verse 18 *After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. After this he shall turn his face unto the coastlands* – Antiochus initiated aggression toward Roman territories, including some of the old Greek empire, mainly attacking coastlands with a large fleet of ships. He took many of the coastal cities. Rome defeated Antiochus at the battle of Thermopylae in 191 BC. *But a ruler* Antiochus became a reproach and the Roman Lucius Scipio defeated him, forcing him to stop all aggression against Rome and seek terms of peace. *Bring the reproach against them to an end* – Eventually, Lucius Scipio and Rome brought Antiochus the Great to conquest and forced them to pay tribute. *Without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him* – The shame that Antiochus intended to bring upon Rome instead fell upon Antiochus. The conqueror had been conquered.

Verse 19 *Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found. He shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land* – Antiochus turns back to his own land and the fortified cities there. To pay the tribute imposed by the Romans, he tried to rob the temple of Jupiter. *but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.* The people fell upon his small group of soldiers and killed Antiochus. Syria would not rise to that level of greatness again.

Once again, we see the unbelievable accuracy of the vision that Gabriel explains. Greece was not yet a country. Rome was not yet a Republic. Daniel is hearing this hundreds of years before it happens. Can there be any doubt that Our God who does not change, communicating with such accuracy, has communicated accurately what will come in end times through His Revelation? We can depend on God. Daniel remains fearless, focused, and faithful in the face of what will come upon his people. May we remain the same as history unfolds to us in our own day.