***Daniel 11:20-32 20“There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle. 21And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. 22With theforce of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. 23And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. 24He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time. 25“He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him. 26Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall [***[***l***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=daniel+11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-22063l)***]be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. 27Both these kings’ hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. 28While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land. 29“At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. 30For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. “So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. 31And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. 32Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.***

We are back in Daniel 11, continuing our look at this prophecy in the view of history. Gabriel is still revealing to Daniel the Scripture of Truth that he promised. God is in control. We need never doubt His Might and His Mastery.

Verse 20 *“There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.* Seleucus Philopater, the son of Antiochus, oppressed the people with very high taxes in order to raise the one thousand talent annual tribute that he owes to the Romans, after the defeat. The historian Jerome records that he was a very ineffective king, doing nothing glorious like his father. He was known for his weakness. It’s recorded that he sent Heliodorus to seize the money from the temple at Jerusalem, represented by the term glorious kingdom in this verse. *But within a few days,* remember that days are equivalent to years in this prophecy, *he shall be destroyed –* His kingdom was a short kingdom, lasting only 12 years (his father reigned 37). *But not in anger or battle* – Seleucus was killed by Heliodorus, the same treasurer that robbed the temple. Heliodorus hoped to seize the throne, but was instead killed.

Verse 21 *And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. And in his place shall arise a vile person –* Antiochus Epiphanes now comes into view. He is known as the great persecutor of the Jewish people. He was known for foolish and extravagant living. When Heliodorus killed Seleucus, Demitrius, his son, that was being held as hostage in Rome, should have ascended the throne. Instead, Demetrius’ uncle, Antiochus assumed power. He flattered surrounding kingdoms with promises of help against Rome. He flattered the people of Syria with leniency on political prisoners. Meanwhile, he was also courting the Romans, paying back tribute, sending gifts. *But he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue –* The Syrians made him king, overthrowing Heliodorus, and gave him the title Epiphanes.

Verses 22-24 - *With theforce of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.  23And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. 24He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time. With theforce of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken –* The force of a great army, a flood. The kings of Pergamus, Attalus and Eumenes, brought a great army and helped overthrow Heliodorus and his supporters. A*nd also the prince of the covenant. –* Antiochus despised Onias, the high priest of the Jews. As soon as he assumed the throne, Antiochus removed Onias and installed Jason, Onias’ brother. Jason had offered to give great sums of money to Antiochus in return for this office. Onias was later executed by Antiochus’ deputy. *And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully,* Antiochus installed Jason, but was not faithful to Jason and acted deceitfully. Menelaus was given the high priest position after he offered more money that Jason had. *For he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people.* Antiochus had once been a hostage at Rome. When he was first made king, he had a very small number of people, entourage, surrounding him. *He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province –* By the friendship and support of Eumenes and Attalus, he took the kingdom peaceably, starting in upper Syria and Palestine. *And he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers -*  Antiochus lived very liberally and very generously with the people he thought could help him. He was a flatterer. *He shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.* He scatters the plunder, spoil, and riches in showy ways that benefit his friends and supporters. Historians record that he was known for giving to people he’d just met or standing in the street and giving money to the people. As Palestine and upper Syria were claimed as provinces of Egypt by Ptolemy Philometor. Antiochus came to Joppa and made preparations for war to wrest these areas for Syria alone.

Verses 25-26 *He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him. 26Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army –* The king of the South is Ptolemy Philometor. He demanded an unconditional surrender of the provinces in dispute. He considered these the property of Egypt based on the marriage between Ptolemy Epiphanes and Cleopatra. Instead, Antiochus invaded Egypt by water and by land with a great army. *And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army*. The great army of Egypt rose to resist. Antiochus engaged the Egyptians at Pelusium and routed them. He declared himself master of all Egypt. Only Alexandria remained and they soon revolted and declared Euergetes, Ptolemy’s younger brother king. Thus, Ptolemy Philometor, who was known for his weak and very effeminate mannerisms, was rejected by his own people and had many provinces revolting and aiding Antiochus, who was a flatterer and well received by the people.

Verse 27 *Both these kings’ hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time.* One of the odd things recorded is that Antiochus and Ptolemy Philometor often met at the city of Memphis and dined together, pretending to be friends and supporters of one another. But both were bent on evil. Neither gained what they really wanted. Antiochus was never really king over the whole kingdom of Egypt. Ptolemy never regained his power and never gained the provinces he considered the property of Egypt. Neither prospered. Both failed. The end of these kingdoms would still come at God’s appointed time, Gabriel is saying.

Verse 28 *While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.* Antiochus was rumored to be killed in Egypt. Hearing this, Jason marched on Jerusalem and drive Menelaus out of the Temple. He did this to regain the high priest position. He was very cruel to the people. Antiochus, still very much alive in Egypt, thought the nation was in revolt. He was told that the people were revolting and celebrating his death. He plotted revenge and, with a great army, he besieged the city and took it. He slew 40000 Jews and sold many into slavery. He burned a pig upon the altar in the temple, broke into the holy of holies, profaning it, and stole the golden vessels of the temple. Menelaus was restored to high priest. Then, Antiochus returned to his own land.

Verse 29 – 30 *29“At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. 30For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. “So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south –* At the time appointed by God, Antiochus will march again on Egypt. Philometor and Euergetes have mended their brotherly rift. Antiochus marched easily all the way to Alexandria. y marches down to Alexandria. *But it shall not be like the former or the latter.* That is where his success is halted.  *For ships from Cyprus shall come against him* – Rome now enters the picture. Fresh off conquering the kingdom of Macedonia, the Roman ambassador Popilius Laenas, arrived in ships. He forced the Ptolemies and Antiochus to make peace. *Therefore he shall be grieved, and return –* It was a great indignation for Antiochus to be humbled in this way. He returned to Syria. *In rage against the holy covenant, and do damage –* Antiochusblamed the Jews and vented his fury on them. He sent an army which slew many, set fire to the city, plundered it, and built a high place overlooking the Temple so those that came to worship could be killed. Services and rituals stopped. . *So he shall return and show regard –* Antiochus then declared the Greek religion and consecrated the Temple to Jupiter. *Show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant,* Menelaus and other apostate Jews helped in this desecration of the Temple.

Verse 31 *And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. And forces shall be mustered by him* – Antiochus succeeds in stopping the daily sacrifices. *And they shall defile the sanctuary fortress –* This is another name for the Temple. Josephus records that the soldiers plundered the Temple and forbade sacrifices on pain of death. *And place there the abomination of desolation* – Antiochus placed idols on the altar, thus the abomination of desolation. Idols to Jupiter and Greek gods were placed in the Temple, and worship of God forbidden – thus the desolation.

Verse 32 *Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploit. Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery –* Many will desert God and fall into idol worship. Antiochus, Jason, and Menelaus led many astray. *But the people who know their God –* Those that know God are not led astray. They adhere to worship only Him.  *shall be strong, and carry out great exploit.* True believers will stand their ground even unto death.

Likewise today, those who know God, are true believers in Jesus Christ, stand firm in this wicked and idolatrous time. Isaiah 5:20 says - *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!* Many are calling evil good these days. We must remain steadfast like Daniel – Fearless, Focused, and Faithful. Gabriel is giving this Truth and it all came to be. Likewise, God will bring to an end this world, just as Revelation tells us. It is in our hands to spread the Gospel, bringing as many to know Christ as will receive Him and repent.