

Kings, Queens, and Treachery

In this session we are going to take up Daniel 11. I will tell you four things up front.

First, there is no way that we can do real justice to Daniel 11 in one setting. Because of that, I am going to give you a lot of study material to take home.

Second, even using the historical method of prophetic interpretation, there can be legitimate differences of opinion over who some of the characters mentioned are historically. But faithfulness to the historical method, and a belief that Daniel was really written when it says it was, will help to eliminate some of the interpretation issues that we come across.

Third, there is a point where Daniel 11 becomes unfulfilled prophecy. So we can expect that as we look at it.

Fourth, there is some of Daniel 11 that becomes a lot clearer when we combine it with passages from Revelation. As a matter of fact, we can say that about much of Daniel.

Having said that, let's take off!!

Daniel 11 is a literal explanation of prophecy by the angel that was interacting with Daniel in chapter 10. In fact, Daniel 10 runs seamlessly into Daniel 11, and Daniel 11 into Daniel 12. They are part of the same narrative.

So Daniel 11 is being told to Daniel by the great Angel.

Daniel 10:1 (KJV)

¹ In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing *was* true, but the time appointed *was* long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

The vision was long. Once again it extended to the coming of Jesus Christ. And we can date the time of these 3 chapters to the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, which is in the spring of 536 B.C.

There are some clues as to the particular day that this appearance of God came to Daniel. Daniel records that he had been mourning and fasting for three full weeks, and then God appeared to him on the 24th day of the first month. (10:4). The implication is that the 24th day of the first month took place immediately at the end of the 3 weeks of fasting. The original language indicates that the weeks were "full."

Since this vision appeared to Daniel at the end of 3 "full" weeks, it must have come to him on a Sabbath day.

It is interesting that we have a rather direct parallel with Revelation where John receives his vision on the "Lord's day".

You will probably remember that Jesus said that he was Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28 cf. Isaiah 58:13). Daniel and John, both elderly and in exile, both given apocalyptic prophecy, both given a vision of God, were given these blessings on a Sabbath day.

This prophecy begins in the 3rd year of Cyrus. The kingdom of Babylon is gone. Persia is ruling now.

Daniel 11:2-4 (KJV)

² And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than *they* all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

³ And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

⁴ And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Now from what we have studied so far, what do we have here? We have Persian kings, a mighty king, and then a dividing of the empire into 4 pieces.

Who can we identify here? Alexander the Great. So we have one waymark. Four horns, four heads.....

Now is a good time to interject this. We read of the king of the south and the king of the north in this chapter, and other places in the Bible.

The king of the south and the king of the north were identified based on where Israel was. The king of the south was always Egypt, because it was south of Israel. The king of the north was whatever power that ruled north of Israel. So the king of the north changes as kingdoms rose and fell.

This is literal in the first part of this chapter, but as we move towards the end, the players are noted less for their location, and more for their relationship spiritually to God's true Israel. Which is not always the land of Israel.

So eventually the king of the north is that power which opposes God's people.

At the time Daniel was written, the king of the north was Babylon, then Persia. It was Babylon that had conquered Israel, and they came from the north to do that.

The kings of the north and south reappear when we get down to verse 40.

We will look at some more characters that are easy to identify.

Daniel 11:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes *in* the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

This speaks of Augustus Caesar, who was the first Roman Emperor. He was the one who ordered the census when Jesus was born. The census was for the purpose of assessing taxes.

Daniel 11:21-22 (KJV)

²¹ And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

²² And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

Through divorce, remarriage, and killings, Tiberius became the next Caesar. It was during his rule that Jesus was crucified. The Roman rule continued to persecute Jews and Christians. The change from pagan Rome to Papal Rome did not change that situation. Some variant of that will continue until Jesus returns.

Now you can look at the charts that I am giving you tonight and get a good look at the players in Daniel 11.

I want to move on to "VERSE 32. 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."

"Those that forsake the covenant, the Holy Scriptures, and think more of the decrees of popes and the decisions of councils than they do of the word of God, - these shall he, the pope, corrupt by flatteries; that is, lead them on in their partisan zeal for himself by the bestowment of wealth, position, and honors."

Religious positions were bought and sold by unsanctified men. Rulers were exalted or deposed depending upon their relationship to the power of Rome.

During this time lovers of the Word of God were hunted down like game, and many were slaughtered or imprisoned. Estimates of those who lost their lives for their faith during the dark ages run into the millions of people.

At the same time this verse describes a people who know their God; and these shall be strong, and do exploits. These were those who kept pure religion alive in the earth during the dark ages. This is a description of the Protestant Reformation.

Verse 36 begins a description of the French revolution.

Daniel 11:36 (KJV)

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.

The French revolution was essentially an extreme reaction to a church that had become extremely un-church like. The church and the state had become so intertwined as to be one for all purposes. And it was corrupt. It was greedy. It was self-serving. It had killed, persecuted and banished from France the citizens with the most education and faith. The so-called royalty of the nation were partied, entertained, and frequently coerced to give total loyalty to the king who in turn demanded total loyalty to the church. The common man was taxed and overworked to the point of breaking to support the excesses.

In reaction to this apostasy, the only way to change anything was to change everything. Every heresy has within itself its own downfall. Because of the incestuous relationship between the church and the state, a change in the monarchy required that the church be

changed. Since the church had basically done away with Protestantism in France, there was not that option to turn to. The other option was establishing the worship of no religion, in other words, man worshiping himself.

This was all a result of the influence of a supposedly ex-Jesuit named Adam Weishaupt. A year after he formed the Illuminati, John Robertson wrote a book about Weishaupt entitled "Proofs of a Conspiracy Against the Religions and Governments of Europe." The title says it all.

The aims of the illuminati were, and still are:

Abolition of all ordered government

Abolition of all monarchy

Abolition of all private property and inheritance

Abolition of all patriotism

Abolition of the family with children as wards of the state

Abolition of all religion

In 1798, following these principles, without the restraint of religion, France literally went mad. The slaughter was horrible. It was so bad that one of the revolutionaries, a Dr. Guillotine, developed what he hoped would be a kinder gentler way of killing: the guillotine. Blood continued to flow.

Churches were desecrated and shut down. Reason was elevated above faith. Marriage was degraded to a temporary contract. Most priests abandoned their faith. A 10-day week was instituted to erase all memory of the Bible from people's minds. By the way, the metric system came out of the French Revolution. Bibles were burned and desecrated. It was declared that religion was dead.

As Napoleon became stronger he recognized that the nation was going to self-destruct without any moral limits. At his instruction, the worst excesses of the revolution were set aside, religion was re-established, and things improved in society. However, this was not an establishment of religion as theologically correct. It was a religion that just brought enough structure to society to hold it together. Then Napoleon has his general give the pope a little visit and ask him to stay in France for a while. The pope was brought to Avignon, in France, and the papacy was controlled by the French government for a time.

Yet the revolution was not really dead. I mentioned before that out of the revolution came the metric system. New ideas of financial structure for nations came to be. Out of the turmoil came what was to become known as Marxism or communism, which is nothing but an atheistic faith. From the ideas of the struggle of the masses, came a new expression of communism. The theory of the survival of the fittest blossomed. This was put to practical application to the biological world by Charles Darwin. Darwinism was the perfect biological explanation of the parallel Marxist theory on how man would make himself better and better by his own efforts until social utopia could be reached.

If you think that Illumism has passed, just look at the speed with which it's principles are being enacted by our government right now.

Now we now past the 1260 year prophecy of Revelation and are approaching the end of the 2300 day prophecy.

While Christ was adding to his ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, the events on earth were moving along. While not obvious to most while they were taking place, looking back we can see a pattern emerging. The intensity of spiritual warfare is increasing, and the stage is being set for Satan to take over the world by any means possible. At the same time, God's work is intensifying.

Let's take a look at the events within 50 years of the French revolution.

1. Of course, the revolution and the excesses described before.
2. Roots of Marxism/communism
3. Militant atheism increases
4. The development of non-sustainable financial theories to run (ruin) nations
5. The voyage of the Beagle, and the work of Charles Darwin. His book was published in 1844.
6. The denigration of marriage as a result of the French revolution.
7. Spiritualism rears it's head in America.
8. The papacy taken captive for a time, and is in submission to the Emperor.
9. The establishment of the United States.
10. Bible societies being formed
11. Missionaries sent out (Livingstone, Carey, Moravians, others)
12. Mary Baker Eddy
13. Mormons
14. Millerite movement and Seventh-day Adventists
15. Opening of China and Japan to the west.

We could go on. But from that list it should be obvious that events were accelerating. Events which were indicative of the struggle between the two opposing powers of the world that each opposed God.

Let me cite some more recent evidences of this struggle between the forces of apostasy and the powers of atheism.

The Viet Nam war. Essentially began as a struggle between Catholicism and Communism by the French. The French finally had to bail out, and the United States (United Nations??) was persuaded to pick up the pieces.

The fall of the Berlin wall. Again a struggle between atheism and apostate religion. The change of government in Poland. A struggle between atheism and Rome. The fall of Soviet communism was a result of the struggle between atheistic communism and Rome as much as it was the United States.

Each of these powers is determined to destroy the other. But they both have the same father.

We see it in our nation today. As you look back at the events in our nation, how many of the issues that we have faced are essentially a struggle between apostate faith and atheism? And at risk of offending someone, for some time now, each of the groups has had their battle cry. Nominal Christianity has taken the anti-abortion or "right to life" movement as it's rallying cry. Atheism counter with it's cry "freedom to choose," a concept from the French revolution.

Least you wonder, I am dead-set against abortion, but I cannot take the whole package that often comes with that stance.

Now, atheism has taken on a new cry. Save mother earth. Now I am for taking care of the planet. I believe that is our duty. But to do it as a worship to mother earth is the basest, most primeval type of paganism. And it is an interesting situation, that those who push for laws etc to save the planet are the most likely to be doing things that harm it.

The public is whipsawed back and forth with fine words, and clever lies. But it is still just the king of the North fighting the king of the South. And the plan is to bring anarchy.

On top of that is another factor. Some feel that it is a non-factor, but the parallels with what is happening now are enlightening. That is the reawakening of Islam as a world force. And I believe that the Bible refers to that also. And the two views are by no means incompatible. In fact, I believe that they are complimentary. In fact there is a prophecy in Revelation that refers to the 3 phases of Islamic power.

Revelation 9 presents a cryptic prophecy that many see as referring to Islam.

We don't have time for that tonight, but if you would like, we could do a double session on the 10th or continue another night to the 18th.

So, this is the condition of the world when we enter Daniel 12. At that time Michael shall stand up. It is strange that deliverance brings trouble. If we look at the tenor of the times, since the French revolution, we find a statement that pretty much sums up a condition that has been steadily growing since that time.

The following quote was written over 100 years ago: "Rebellion and apostasy are in the very air we breathe. We shall be affected by them unless we by faith hang our helpless souls upon Christ. If men are so easily misled now, how will they stand when Satan shall personate Christ, and work miracles? Who will be unmoved by his misrepresentations then--professing to be Christ when it is only Satan assuming the person of Christ, and apparently

working the works of Christ? What will hold God's people from giving their allegiance to false christs? "Go not after them" (Luke 17:23)"

Along with the infighting of these two evil powers, which proceed without their agendas being open, we have the open and violent struggle between Islam and apostate Christianity, which I believe is essentially the same battle. In all of this people more and more are deciding to do what they want regardless, without any clue of what is really happening.

But God's people will be faithful.

This is the condition of the world when we enter Daniel 12. At that time Michael shall stand up. While the 2 evil powers in the world are whipsawing the population of the planet, bringing disaster and destruction upon them, using them to accomplish their purposes, Michael will stand up. When you can't join with movements that seem good because they have an underlying agenda that is against God, Michael will stand up. When it seems like the whole world is falling apart, Michael will stand up. His people will carry such a strong message, such a powerful message that the forces of evil will for a time combine to do away with the "troublemakers."

But then comes deliverance. Those who are faithful, those who have their names on

God's records, will be delivered. Those who have rejected the king of the south and the king of the north will be delivered. Those who more than anything look forward to that great event, who have been faithful in their worship, who have stood through fiery trials, those who have been called from among the heathen, those who have given up their apostasy, those who by teaching and example have led others to salvation, they will all be delivered. They will be there in the kingdom made new along with Daniel the prophet. We read that the angel promised Daniel 12:13 But go thou thy way till the end *be*: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

We have a little way to go before that time, but not much. Events are moving more rapidly than they did at the beginning of the time of the end in 1844. The question that each of us needs to consider is this: Are we ready for Michael to stand up? Are our names in the Lamb's Book of Life. When He stands up, will we be standing with him, or against him?