

## **Daniel 11:15-31 – Judah: Captured for Compromising**

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: While the Jews were still in slavery God told them that they would go back to Judah and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. God told them that later they would be enslaved by another nation who would desecrate 褻瀆 and destroy the temple. God told them that they were not to lose hope when those things happened because Messiah was going to come and take over and rule the world. These 3 prophecies were 3 markers for the Jews so they would know for sure that God was ruling the world. God wanted to strengthen their faith so that they would not compromise with sin. Sadly, as you will see today, they ignored (forgot or did not teach) God's Words and so they compromised with the wicked.

Our headings are: **The People of the Glorious Land will be Captured**, and **The People of the Glorious Land will be treated with Contempt**.

Our goal are that you **will see how easy it is to become weak in faith and compromise with sin when you ignore God's Word, and that you will then learn to daily feed upon God's verifiable truths**.

### **The People of the Glorious Land will be Captured**

15 "So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound攻城土堆, and take a fortified city; and the **forces of the South shall not withstand**抵抗 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.

1. **Antiochus the Great** of Syria (North) made war against the king of South (Egypt) with whom the Jews were in league. The Jews often found themselves to be like grain between 2 giant millstones– the Syrians in the North and the Egyptians in the South. After Antiochus defeated Egypt the Jews ran into his arms. He eliminated the Jewish tax to him for 3 years and then reduced it by 1/3 in the 4<sup>th</sup> and following years. Sadly, the Jews looked to the South and then to the North for help, **but they did never looked up for help**. No wonder they were so afraid. They should have been singing: Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember God's name! But they had forgotten God's words.

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.

2. After invading Judah, where the "**upright ones**" lived, he then set his sights on the South - again. (Daniel uses "Upright ones" – the Jews- **sarcastically**.) **Antiochus the Great** then gave his daughter to the king of the South - Ptolemy Epiphanes – with the hopes that she would assist him and be snare to her Egyptian husband. (What a horrible father!) But she, Cleopatra, chose to side with her husband and protect him, rather than play a deceptive part that her father wanted. So Antiochus' plot fell apart. Imagine that: **God knows even the deceptive plans of the wicked man's heart hundreds of years before man thinks of those evil desires**.

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.

3. Antiochus then moved to the Mediterranean Sea area with a large army to look at Italy and Greece, including Rhodes, Samos, and other islands. Scipios, a Roman general was sent with an army against **Antiochus the Great**. Hannibal, whose name put fear into the hearts of the Romans, was then with Antiochus, and advised him to invade Italy and waste it as he had done; but he did not take his advice. Antiochus listened to bad advice instead. **Like many before and after, God thwarted the advice he received**. Antiochus suffered a humiliating defeat even though he had 70,000 men while the Rome had only 30,000." This shamed Antiochus greatly. It was a great reproach.

19 "Then he **shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land**; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

4. The Romans then took all Antiochus' Great's European lands and demanded tribute from him. So Antiochus the Great went home and tried to raise the money to pay tribute. He stole from Jupiter's Temple. His own servants in Persian lands became angry with him when he went to rob their temple and they killed him. **Antiochus the Great** became Antiochus the Penniless.

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**.

5. Antiochus the Great was replaced by his elder son, **Seleucus Philopater** (lover of his father). He severely oppressed his people and extorted much money from them. He was told he would lose his friends but argued that "money was his

closest friend.” He too tried to rob the temple in Jerusalem, the Glorious Land, and was ably assisted by a Benjamite named Simon, who told him of the stores of treasures in the temple. But **Seleucus Philopater** too was destroyed, not in battle as a great king, but was poisoned by one of his own servants.

6. What lessons can you learn? **God’s providence is wonderful woven – and it therefore strong - for God’s people.** Henry: “Some have called great men the foot-balls of fortune...but they are the **tools of Providence.**” Even the **minutest detail is controlled by God.** Furthermore, **no word of God ever fails...**or can fail.

### **The people of the Glorious land be treated with Contempt**

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** 诡计. 22 "With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the **prince of the covenant.**

1. Antiochus the Great was bad. His son, Seleucus Philopater, was worse. But then there was another Antiochus. **He named himself “Epiphanes” – the “Illustrious One.”** Antiochus Epiphanes made his predecessors look like saints. He was a vile 卑鄙 man – rude, boisterous 喧闹, base 贱, and sordid 污秽. He would disguise himself, go into the city at night, and indulge himself with the wickedest people. His people secretly mocked him and call him “Epimanes” or madman.

2. It is interesting how he became king. Antiochus was a hostage in Rome for about 12 years. Even his father did not pay his ransom. But Antiochus tricked the Romans to take **his brother’s son, “prince of the covenant” Demetrius, who should have been the next king,** as hostage in his place. And since his brother, the king was away, he pretended to be king and then fully took over the kingdom– **just as God said – seizing by intrigue.**

23 "And 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. 24 "He **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.**

3. Antiochus Epiphanes convinced his neighbors to support him. At the beginning he started to spread the spoils of war with **the citizens and soldiers so he would befriend them.** After they accepted him as king, Antiochus then stopped spreading the spoils of war. Then he came with force and murdered, enslaved, and sold the Jews, and their leaders. **He deceived the Jews by a trap, pretending to be friendly.** And he plundered the Jews...savagely 野蛮. He did the same to Egypt, pretending to be friend of their young king...he slowly started taking over Egyptian cities. God stopped him only when God was ready; **he could only do what he wanted for the time God permitted it.** **Antiochus was God’s whip on his erring – compromising people.** Look at what a lack of faith did!

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. 26 "Yes, **those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him**; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. 27 "Both these kings’ hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies **at the same table; but it shall not prosper** 繁荣, for the end will still be **at the appointed time.**

4. Antiochus Epiphanes then attempted to attack the South – Egypt – with a great army – where his nephew was king. The king of the South was not able to stand up to Antiochus even though he had a larger army. (But isn’t it interesting that the wicked are destroying each other?) Sadly, the greatest terrorism in the world is Muslims killing other Muslims. The Southern king’s own people undermined him. Yes, the Egyptian king was poisoned by those who were bribed by Antiochus Epiphanes. Before that, they made an agreement on terms of peace at the peace table, but that was a sham. Henry: “Peace was like a skinned over sore 疮(scab).” But **Antiochus’ end was determined by God.** God had marked him for destruction. Men may plot and plan, **but God controls heaven and earth.** What a reminder when the Jews faced their ordeal! They compromised and forgot God’s sovereignty. Look at God’s power over the nations! **Ezra 1:2** Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth **the LORD God of heaven has given me.** And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which *is* in Judah.

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.

5. As Antiochus Epiphanes moved back north, he passed near the Jews and his heart was moved against God’s people. (Notice how directions -north and south, or east and west–were given in relation to Jerusalem’s position.) Pure contempt! 鄙视  
29 "At the appointed time **he shall return and go toward the south**; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. 30 "**For 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.**

6. Two years later, Antiochus would head back south. But at that time Roman ships from Cyprus came up against him. Rome had entered into a league with the South (Egypt). Antiochus realized that he could not fight with both at the same time. He tried to be conniving, but one Roman official drew a circle with him in it and demanded that he answered if he would surrender before he came out of it. A weakened but enraged Antiochus returned home. Rome made him act like a dog with its tail between its legs. But on his way home from Egypt, he turned his anger on Jerusalem. He went after the Jews who had left the covenant of God. He hated the uniqueness of the Jewish beliefs. He hated their worship. He hated their God. And he got help to do his dastardly deeds from corrupted compromising Jews who wished favorable treatment from him. Contemtable Antiochus later killed them. He was King of Deceit.

Daniel 8:23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, **Who understands sinister 险恶 schemes.** Look at details from the Maccabees. *1Ma 1:11 In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go and make a covenant with the heathen that are round about us: for since we departed from them we have had much sorrow. 12 So this device pleased them well. 13 Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them license to do after the ordinances of the heathen: 14 Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem according to the customs of the heathen: 15 And made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.* Jason, the brother of Onias the high priest, by the appointment of Antiochus set up a school at Jerusalem, for the training up of youth in the fashions of the heathen; and (2Ma 4:9.) He killed 80,000, took 40,000 prisoners, and sold 40,000 as slaves. He sacrificed pigs on the altar, and sprinkled broth of the flesh through the temple (II Mac 5:15-21).

31 "And forces shall be mustered 召集 by him, and they shall defile 污蔑 the sanctuary fortress 要塞; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

7. He would then do the most distasteful thing in God's sight: He polluted the worship of God. He killed pigs in the temple and defiled the altar of God. *1Ma 1:21 And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof...1Ma 1:54...they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and built idol altars throughout the cities of Judah on every side...1Ma 1:59...they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God...2Ma 6:2 And to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the Defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place.*

## **Conclusion**

The Jews needed to be reminded of God's controlling hand during their dark days and God did so. Even the wicked nations, with all their fussing 瞎忙 and fighting, were under the powerful hand of God. But the Jews forgot God's words and their faith was weakened. Because of their weak faith they wanted to control and negotiate their own future and they compromised. One can imagine how God became angry at the weak faith of his people.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. As a child of God, know that no enemy formed against you can have ultimate victory over you. Rest in confidence at God's sovereignty. 2. But do not use God's love for you in Jesus Christ as an excuse to sin against him. Don't argue this way: I am saved, so I can live however I want. 3. Even though the wicked nations seemed to have won, and stopped the sacrifices in the temple, yet there was no way the wicked could stop the true sacrifice of God's Son on your behalf. In fact, the wicked themselves sacrificed Jesus for you. 4. Respond rightly: Rejoice. Worship the Lord. Sing his praises. Tell of his deeds.

Finally: If you are against God you are on the wrong side of history. You will be defeated and confined to hell for eternity. If you plead for God's forgiveness on account of Christ's death, however, all your sins will be forgiven and you will have peace with God.