

The Book of Daniel

Week 11

The third year of the reign of Cyrus the great marks the end of the 70 year Babylonian captivity as predicted by Jeremiah. King Cyrus entered the city of Babylon in 539 BC and establish Persian control of the former Babylonian Empire. He issued an edict that allowed the people groups, that were captive in Babylon, to go back to their homelands. This is still a hopeless time with the people of Israel feel much despair and are still a captive people.

1. Daniel's Vision
 - a. Daniel fervent in prayer and removes all luxuries in order to focus on prayer.
 - b. Malik Yahweh- One like a Son of Man, Angel of the Lord, 2nd person of Trinity.
 - c. God's hears the prayer of those who are righteousness and seek Him with all their heart. Daniel is loved and God heard his prayer.
 - d. Strength vanished, only Daniel saw the vision, those with him fled.
 - e. Ephesians 6:12—Battle not against flesh and blood.

2. 4 Persian Kings to follow Cyrus the Great
 - a. Cambyses (530-522)
 - b. Smerdis (522)
 - c. Darius I Hystapes (522-486)
 - d. Xerxes (486-465)

Alexander the great came to power in 336 BC and embarked on an unprecedented military campaign to the east. Within a decade he controlled the largest empire ever seen. In 323 BC he suddenly died and the kingdom was given to 4 generals of his army who set up for mini empires.

3. Kingdom of North & South
 - a. Kingdom of the South →Ptolemies in Egypt
 - b. Kingdom of the North →Seleucids Syria
 - c. Two most powerful kingdoms to emerge from Alexander the Great and they would wage war with one another for control of the land bridge connecting Africa and Asia for economic and military advantage. This had a direct impact to the Jews living in Palastine.

4. Unsuccessful Marriage Alliance
 - a. Bernice (Ptolemy's Daughter) & Antiochus (Grandson of Seleucus)
 - b. After Ptolemy's death Antiochus divorced Bernice and remarried former wife Laodice.
 - c. Laodice murders Antiochus, Bernice, & infant son so her son would have the throne.
 - d. Bernice's father died that same year and thus fulfills the prophecy/vision/revelation that was given to Daniel.
 - e. Power struggle between nations continues

5. Rise & Fall of one Antiochus leads to another
 - a. Antiochus successful siege of Sidon and gains control of Palestine.
 - b. Unsuccessful treaty with Rome and eventual killed by Roman General.