

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

Middle East Conflict From 539 B.C. to the End of Time An Interpretation of Daniel 11:1 Through Daniel 12:1

1. **Also I (Gabriel) in the first year (539/538 B.C.) of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him (Darius the Mede).**
2. **And now will I (Gabriel) show thee the truth (a term Gabriel uses when he is going to speak in plain language). Behold (after Cyrus), there shall stand up yet (or reign) three kings in Persia (Cambyses, son of Cyrus 530-522; Smerdis, 522; and Darius Hystaspes, 522-486); and the fourth (Xerxes—the Ahasuerus of Esther, 486-465) shall be far richer than they all: and by his (Xerxes) strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia (480 B.C.).**
3. **And a mighty king (Alexander the Great, 336-323) shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do (with the Persian kings) according to his will.**
4. **And when he (Alexander) shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken (Alexander died in 323 B.C.), and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his (Alexander's) posterity, nor according to his (Alexander's) dominion which he (Alexander) ruled: for his (Alexander's) kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others besides those. (By 301 B.C., Alexander's kingdom was divided into four parts by his generals, who eventually killed Philip, his half-brother, and his posthumous son, Aegus. Cassander ruled Macedonia; Lysimachus ruled Thrace and Asia Minor; Seleucus ruled from Syria to the river Indus; and Ptolemy ruled Egypt and Palestine.)**
5. **And the king of the south (Ptolemy I Soter, 323-282, of Egypt) shall be strong, and one of his (Ptolemy I Soter's) princes (Seleucus I Nicator, who became the Syrian king of the north); and he (Seleucus I) shall be strong above him (Ptolemy I), and have dominion; his (Seleucus I's) dominion shall be a great dominion (Seleucus ruled a Greek Empire that stretched from Syria to India).**

- 6. And in the end of years** (thirty-five years after the death of Seleucus I in 281, which brings us to 246 B.C.) **they** (Seleucus of Syria and Ptolemy of Egypt) **shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south** (Bernice, daughter of Ptolemy II Philadelphus) **shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement** (Bernice married Antiochus II Theos, who divorced Laodice to do so): **but she** (Bernice) **shall not retain the power of the arm** (Antiochus reconciled with Laodice after Bernice had a son); **neither shall he** (Antiochus II) **stand** (Laodice poisoned Antiochus II), **nor his** (Antiochus II's) **arm** (Antiochus' son by Bernice was killed): **but she** (Bernice) **shall be given up, and they** (Bernice's maids) **that brought her** (Bernice and her maids of honor were all killed by Laodice), **and he** (Ptolemy II) **that begat her** (Ptolemy II died; some texts read "begotten of her"; if so, it refers to her son, who was killed by Laodice), **and he** (Antiochus II) **that strengthened her** (Bernice) **in these times** (another reference to Antiochus II, who was killed by Laodice).
- 7. But out of a branch** (sibling) **of her** (Bernice's) **roots shall one** (Ptolemy III Euergetes, brother of Bernice) **stand up in his** (Ptolemy II's) **estate** (Egypt), **which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress** (Syria) **of the king of the north** (Seleucus II of Syria), **and shall deal against them** (the Syrians), **and shall prevail** (in 246 B.C., Ptolemy II successfully invaded Syria to take revenge on the death of his sister):
- 8. And shall also carry captives into Egypt their** (Egypt's) **gods** (Ptolemy retrieved images of their gods that Cambyses of Persia had taken away), **with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he** (Ptolemy III) **shall continue more years than the king of the north** (Ptolemy III outlived Seleucus II by four years).
- 9. So the king of the south** (Ptolemy Euergetes) **shall come into his kingdom** (Seleucus II Callinicus), **and shall return into his** (Ptolemy Euergetes) **own land** (if Ptolemy had not been recalled into Egypt by a domestic sedition, he would have possessed the whole kingdom of Seleucus).

- 10. But his** (Seleucus II's) **sons** (Seleucus III Ceraunus Soter, 225-223, and Antiochus III, called "The Great," 223-187) **shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces:** (Seleucus III raised a great army to invade Egypt, but was assassinated before he could carry out the project) **and one** (Antiochus III) **shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through** (in 219 B.C., Antiochus III invaded Palestine/Egypt): **then shall he** (Antiochus III) **return, and be stirred up, even to his** (Antiochus III's) **fortress** (Antiochus III was able to retake Antioch, a capital city in Syria).
- 11. And the king of the south** (Ptolemy IV Epiphanes) **shall be moved with choler** (anger), **and shall come forth and fight with him** (Antiochus III), **even with the king of the north: and he** (Antiochus III) **shall set forth a great multitude** (Antiochus III invaded Egypt with 70,000 foot soldiers, 6,000 cavalry, and 102 elephants in 217 B.C.); **but the multitude shall be given into his** (Ptolemy IV's) **hand** (Antiochus III was defeated at the battle of Raphia).
- 12. And when he** (Ptolemy IV) **hath taken away the multitude, his** (Ptolemy IV's) **heart shall be lifted up** (Ptolemy tried to offer sacrifices in the Jewish temple precincts, and when he insisted on entering the Holy of Holies, he fell speechless and was dragged out half-dead; he returned to Egypt in a rage): **and he** (Ptolemy IV) **shall cast down many ten thousands** (disgraced and furious, Ptolemy IV took revenge on the Jews living in Alexandria, Egypt, killing over forty thousand): **but he** (Ptolemy IV) **shall not be strengthened by it.**
- 13. For the king of the north** (Antiochus III) **shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years** (Antiochus III returned sixteen years later, in 201 B.C., and invaded Egypt) **with a great army and with much riches.**
- 14. And in those times there shall many** (Antiochus III of Syria, Philip of Macedonia, and Hannibal of Carthage) **stand up against the king of the south** (the boy-king, Ptolemy V, who was now under the guardianship of the Roman Senate): **also the**

robbers (the Romans) **of thy people** (the Jews) **shall exalt themselves** (the Romans) **to establish the vision** (see Daniel 9:24: The Jews could have sealed up the vision concerning the history of pagan Rome after the first advent and the history of papal Rome, by accepting Christ as their Messiah); **but they shall fall** (the prophecy looks far into the future when Rome was eventually divided up by the barbarian invasions of the fifth century).

15. So the king of the north (Antiochus III) **shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities** (the Roman general Scopas was besieged in Sidon and forced to surrender; Antiochus then moved south and took the stronghold of Gaza); **and the arms of the south** (Egypt) **shall not withstand, neither his** (Ptolemy IV's) **chosen people** (remember that Antiochus IV chose the Senate of Rome to be the guardians of the boy-king, Ptolemy V), **neither shall there be any strength to withstand** (the Romans, chosen by Ptolemy IV as guardians for the infant king Ptolemy V, were unable to protect Egypt from Antiochus III, who defeated the Roman general Scopas and his 6,000 Greek auxiliaries in 200/199 B.C. Egypt lost many provinces to Philip of Macedon and Antiochus of Syria).

16. But he (Rome) **that cometh against him** (Antiochus III specifically, and the Syrian kingdom of the north in general) **shall do according to his** (Rome's) **own will** (Rome defeated Antiochus III in 192 B.C. in Macedonia, and again in 190 B.C. in Asia Minor; in the peace treaty of 188 B.C., Antiochus was forced to give back all of the conquered territories to Egypt. In 168 B.C. Rome compelled Antiochus IV to turn back from invading Egypt. On his way to Syria, Antiochus IV pillaged Jerusalem and the temple, persecuting the Jews and forcing them to stop worshiping God. The Jews revolted in 165 B.C. and by 164 B.C. had defeated all of the Syrian troops sent against them. In 164 B.C., Antiochus IV died when traveling from the east to Jerusalem to exterminate the Jews. In 63 B.C., Rome conquered the Syrian kingdom of the north), **and none shall stand against him** (Rome. Earlier, in 197 B.C., Rome defeated Philip of Macedon and forced him to return all of the conquered territories to Egypt. In 168 B.C., Rome conquered Macedonia and became master of the Greco-Roman world. Rome also tracked down the last member, Hannibal, of the triple alliance against Egypt, forcing

Hannibal to take poison to avoid falling into their hands): **and he** (Rome) **shall stand in the glorious land** (Jerusalem. Rome in the person of Pompey the Great conquered Palestine in 63 B.C., making Judea a province of Rome), **which by his** (Rome's) **hand shall be consumed** (looking ahead, Gabriel mentions that Rome would in the future destroy the city and temple of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and, in A.D. 135, demolish Jerusalem for a second time and scatter the Jews throughout the world).

17. **He** (Rome generally, and Julius Caesar specifically, who followed Pompey the Great as the ruler of Rome) **shall also set his** (Julius Caesar's) **face to enter with the strength of his** (Julius Caesar's) **whole kingdom, and upright ones** (Jews who helped Julius Caesar conquer Egypt) **with him** (Julius Caesar); **thus shall he** (Julius Caesar) **do: and he** (Julius Caesar) **shall give him** (Julius Caesar) **the daughter of women** (Cleopatra. Julius Caesar took 18-year-old Cleopatra, princess of Egypt, as his concubine), **corrupting her** (Cleopatra): **but she** (Cleopatra) **shall not stand on his** (Rome's generally, and Julius Caesar's specifically) **side, neither be for him** (Rome generally, and specifically Julius Caesar; Cleopatra flirted with Julius Caesar and then with Mark Anthony in order to retain the independence of Egypt and did not act in the interest of Rome).

18. **After this shall he** (Julius Caesar) **turn his** (Julius Caesar's) **face unto the isles, and shall take many** (Caesar conquered the Mediterranean Islands and Africa after Egypt): **but a prince** (Roman Senator Brutus, who was brought up by Caesar) **for his** (Brutus') **own behalf shall cause the reproach** (Caesar desired to make himself king in fact, if not in name) **offered by him** (Julius Caesar) **to cease; without his** (Julius Caesar's) **own reproach he** (Brutus) **shall cause it to turn upon him** (Julius Caesar. Brutus plotted with sixty senators to assassinate Caesar).

19. **Then he** (Julius Caesar) **shall turn his** (Julius Caesar's) **face toward the fort** (Rome) **of his** (Julius Caesar's) **own land: but he** (Julius Caesar) **shall stumble and fall, and not be found** (Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C. in the Forum).

20. Then shall stand up in his (Julius Caesar's) **estate a raiser of taxes** (Octavius Caesar Augustus, Julius Caesar's nephew, issued the decree in 4 B.C. to tax the world, and this brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem—Luke 2:1) **in the glory of the kingdom** (The Pax Romana, beginning with Octavius, lasted a hundred years): **but within few days he** (Octavius Caesar Augustus) **shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle** (his wife, Livia, had him suffocated after he revived on his deathbed; she did this in order to proclaim Tiberius, whom Octavius despised, the next emperor).

21. And in his (Octavius') **estate shall stand up a vile person** (Tiberius, A.D. 14. When Livia asked Octavius to make Tiberius his heir, Octavius said, "Your son is too *vile* to wear the purple of Rome," using the very words of Gabriel to describe the next emperor), **to whom they** (Octavius and the Senate) **shall not give the honor of the kingdom: but he** (Tiberius) **shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.** (Tiberius was a skilled commander of the armies but had a vicious temper and immoral propensities. He was only feared, not liked. He flattered the senators and made promises in order to ascend the throne, but once in power, became a butcher and vile dictator, killing alike those who fawned over him or rejected his vile sexual approaches, often to get hold of their vast estates.)

22. And with the arms of a flood (by severe military means, Tiberius put down rebellions against his rule and executed those who plotted to overthrow him) **shall they** (the political enemies of Tiberius) **be overthrown from before him** (Tiberius, who overthrew those that plotted against him), **and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant** (Jesus Christ, the Prince of the covenant, was crucified in A.D. 31 while Tiberius was still emperor. It was no coincidence that the injustice of Pontius Pilate reflected the injustices perpetrated in the reign of Tiberius).

23. And after the league (in 161 B.C., Rome and the Jewish Maccabean leaders made a league of assistance, permitting Rome to protect them against the Syrian kings and to guarantee their independence) **made with him** (Rome) **he** (Rome) **shall work deceitfully** (in 63 B.C., Pompey disregarded the terms of the league, conquered Judea, and reduced it to a Roman province): **for he** (Rome) **shall come up, and shall become**

strong with a small people (incredibly, the small city of Rome ruled the world for over 500 years).

24. He (Rome) shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province (Rome gained many of its provinces through legacies or treaties); **and he (Rome) shall do that which his (Rome's) fathers have not done, nor his (Rome's) father's fathers; he (Rome) shall scatter among them (Rome's allies and soldiers) the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he (Rome) shall forecast his (Rome's) devices against the strong holds** (the forts and capitals of other nations), **even for a time** (this is prophetic time; the city of Rome would dominate the world for 360 years. This time period would begin at the overthrow of Egypt in 31 B.C., at the battle of Actium, and end in A.D. 330).

25. And he (Octavian) shall stir up his (Octavian's) power and his (Octavian's) courage against the king of the south (Mark Antony. Julius Caesar, in 48 B.C., subdued Egypt but did not reduce it to a provincial status. Verses 25-28 now discuss the war between Octavian and Mark Anthony, which resulted in the conquest of Egypt) **with a great army; and the king of the south (Mark Antony) shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he (Mark Antony) shall not stand: for they** (the enemies of Mark Anthony) **shall forecast devices against him** (Mark Anthony).

26. Yea, they (Cleopatra and Mark Anthony's intimate friends) **that feed of the portion of his (Mark Anthony's) meat shall destroy him** (Mark Anthony committed suicide after Cleopatra and his friends deserted him), **and his (Octavius') army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain** (Octavius defeated Mark Anthony at the great sea and land battle at Actium, 31 B.C.).

27. And both these kings' hearts (Octavius' and Mark Anthony's) **shall be to do mischief, and they** (Octavius and Mark Anthony) **shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the appointed time** (the appointed time is the end of the 360-year reign of the city of Rome: from 31 B.C. to A.D. 330. Constantine abandoned the city of Rome in A.D. 330 and moved the capital of the empire to Constantinople).

28. Then shall he (Octavius) **return into his** (Octavius') **land** (Rome, Italy) **with great riches** (from Egypt); **and his** (Rome's) **heart shall be against the holy covenant** (the gospel and God's people. Under Rome, Christ was crucified; Rome also destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in A.D. 70 and persecuted the Christians until A.D. 313); **and he** (the emperors of Rome) **shall do exploits** (in the hundred years following the reign of Octavius, the Roman Empire reached its farthest expansion and strength), **and return to his** (Roman emperor's) **own land.**

29. At the time appointed (A.D. 330) **he** (Rome) **shall return, and come toward the south** (Egypt and Palestine. Between 284 and 303, Diocletian fought a series of wars to regain and retain Egypt as a Roman province); **but it shall not be as the former** (B.C. 31), **or as the latter** (the time of the end, 1798; see verses 40 to 45).

30. For the ships of Chittim (Germanic barbarian invaders of the fourth century) **shall come against him** (Valens, AD 378): **therefore he** (Theodosius A.D. 379 and later Clovis A.D. 508; "It was the Franks alone of all the German tribes who became a wide power in the general history of the middle ages. It is to them that the political inheritance of the Roman Empire passed, to them came the honor of taking up and carrying on, roughly, to be sure, and far less extensively and effectively, but nevertheless of actually carrying on the political work which Rome had been doing." George Burton Adams, *Civilization During the Middle Ages*, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900), p. 137.) **shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he** (Rome) **do; he** (Rome generally; specifically Constantine) **shall return, and have intelligence with them** (the bishops) **that forsake the holy covenant.**

31. And arms (military support) **shall stand on his** (Clovis') **part** (against the Arian Visigoths, A.D. 507–508), **and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], and shall place the abomination that makes desolate** (in A.D. 508 Clovis united the state with the church, called here an "abomination" and it would prove to be "desolating" to God's true church for the next

1,290 years; from A.D. 508 until 1798 at which time France separated the church from the state).

- 32. And such** (the pontiffs) **as do wickedly against the covenant shall he** (Pepin, Charlemagne, and their successors) **corrupt by flatteries: but the people** (faithful Christians) **that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits** (the courageous stand of the saints for the truth, despite intense persecution, as well as their incisive preaching against the rising tide of evil in the church).
- 33. And they** (faithful Christians through the ages) **that understand among the people** (the Christians of Europe) **shall instruct many: yet they** (faithful Christians) **shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days** (the bishops of Rome persecuted the faithful Christians for 1,260 years, the same period of time as the little horn of Daniel 7:25).
- 34. Now when they** (faithful Christians) **shall fall, they** (faithful Christians) **shall be holpen with a little help** (the Alpine wilderness, the Great Reformation, and the New World of America provided a refuge for the saints): **but many** (the scholars of the Renaissance and fickle Christians) **shall cleave to them** (faithful Christians) **with flatteries** (prominent Christians, like Erasmus, were offered emoluments to defect from the truth).
- 35. And some of them of understanding** (the reformers and faithful Christians) **shall fall, to try them** (faithful Christians), **and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end** (1798): **because it is yet for a time appointed** (the length of papal reign was predetermined to be a “time, times and half of a time” or 1,260 years, after which it would be punished; see Daniel 7:25).
- 36. And the king** (Louis XIV) **shall do according to his will** (“Louis had never been taught gratitude to man or God. Born king, he was taught his importance to the welfare of the State. When Mazarine was dead he felt himself delivered from all obstructions to his will; and, declaring he would govern according to his own wishes, he took the position which he maintained through life—‘I am the State.’ ” William

Henry Foote, D.D., *The Huguenots; or, Reformed French Church Harrisonburg, VA: Sprinkle Publications, 2002, pp. 337, 338.*); **and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper until the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done** (the eradication of Protestantism from France under Louis XIV resulted in the conditions that bred the Reign of Terror).

37. Neither shall he (Revolutionary France) **regard the God of his fathers** (Revolutionary France turned away from European Christianity), **nor the desire of women** (easy divorce was introduced by France and the family was undermined), **nor regard any god: for he** (Revolutionary France) **shall magnify himself** (Revolutionary France) **above all** (the state is god in atheistic political theory).

38. But in his (Revolutionary France's) **estate** (realm) **shall he** (Revolutionary France) **honor the God of forces** (evolutionary atheism, the basis of the socialism and communism of today, was exalted into a state religion by Revolutionary France; men now worshiped the forces of nature and not the God of nature): **and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he** (Revolutionary France) **honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.**

39. Thus shall he (Revolutionary France) **do in the most strong holds with a strange god** (Revolutionary France exported its neopaganism to Europe by sword and influence), **whom he** (Revolutionary France) **shall acknowledge and increase with glory; and he** (Napoleon Bonaparte) **shall cause them to rule over many** (Napoleon began the conquest of nations in 1797), **and shall divide the land for gain** (before 1798, France confiscated large land holdings and sold them to raise money for the Revolution. Napoleon was at this time a military leader who would have helped empower the government to make this land grab. To quickly facilitate this dividing the land for gain, France issued Assignats).

40. And at the time of the end (1798. In Daniel 11:35 and 12:7-9, the phrase *the time of the end* is equated with the end of the "time, times, and half a time") **shall the king of**

the south (south still representing Egypt, as identified in Daniel 11:5-15. The leadership of Egypt was Ibrahim Bey and Murad Bey—Egyptian Mameluke rulers) **push at him** (Napoleon Bonaparte. Egypt pushed against the invasion of France in 1798.): **and the king of the north** (Caliph Selim III of Turkey, the territory of the king of the north; see Daniel 11:5-15) **shall come against him** (Napoleon Bonaparte. Turkey declared war on France in 1798) **like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships** (Lord Nelson's fleet of ships supported Turkey in its war with France); **and he** (king of the north—Caliph Selim III of Turkey) **shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over** (the phrase *overflow and pass over* tells us who prevailed in this battle just described. History records that the Turks prevailed; thus we can be certain that the identity of the pronoun *he* in this sentence is the king of the north. This lets us know that the remaining pronouns in this chapter all refer to the king of the north).

41. He (Caliph Selim III of Turkey) **shall enter also into the glorious land,** (Palestine) **and many countries** (*countries* is a supplied word and thus is not in the original) **shall be overthrown** (the Turks reclaimed the territory of Palestine, which Napoleon had just taken): **but these shall escape out of his** (Caliph Selim III of Turkey) **hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon** (Edom, Moab, and Ammon, the territory of Jordan, lying outside the limits of Palestine, south and east of the Dead Sea and the Jordan, were out of the line of march of the Turks from Syria to Egypt, so escaped the ravages of that campaign).

42. He (Caliph Selim III of Turkey) **shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape** (Egypt once more came under the control of the Turks).

43. But he (Caliph Selim III of Turkey) **shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt** (Egyptians paid annually to the Turkish government a certain amount of gold and silver, and 600,000 measures of corn and 400,000 of barley): **and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his**

steps (the unconquered Arabs, who sought the friendship of the Turks and were tributary to them at that time).

44. But tidings (intelligence reports) **out of the east** (Persia) **and out of the north** (Russia) **shall trouble him** (Caliph Abdülmecid I of Turkey): **therefore he** (Caliph Abdülmecid I of Turkey) **shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many** (fulfilled by the Crimean War of 1853-1856, in which Russia and Persia conspired together to destroy the Ottoman Empire but failed in their attempt).

45. And he (the king of the north—the leader of Turkey) **shall plant** (place or establish) **the tabernacles of his palace** (a religious/political entity—Islamic Caliphate) **between the seas** (Mediterranean and Dead Seas) **in the glorious holy mountain** (Jerusalem—Mount of Olives); **yet he** (the king of the north) **shall come to his end, and none shall help him** (something will happen that brings the rule of the king of the north to an end. Only verse 45 of this chapter has yet to be fulfilled).

Chapter 12:

1. And at that time (immediately following the fulfillment of verse 45) **shall Michael** (Christ) **stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people** (probation closes, Christ puts on His royal robes and reigns): **and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time** (see Revelation 16; Armageddon, the seven last plagues and the destruction of the world at the Second Coming): **and at that time thy people** (all of the saints, not just the Jews) **shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.**