

Sermon Series: Daniel: Christ Among the Exiles

Sermon Text: Daniel 11:1-45 Hope for Troubled Times

As the Author of history God in Christ is the hope of His people through troubled times.

1) God warns of troubled times during the period of return from exile.

- a) Troubled Times under Persia (11:1-2)
 - i) Darius the Mede (v. 1)
 - ii) Three Kings in Persia (v. 2a): Cambyses (530-522 BC); Smerdis Magus (522 BC); Darius of Persia (521-486 BC)
 - iii) Fourth, Richer in Persia (v. 2b): Xerxes (486-465)
- b) Troubled Times under Greece (11:3)
 - i) A Mighty King (v. 3): Philip II/Alexander the Great
 - ii) Four Divisions of Greek Empire (v. 4): Antigonus, Cassander, Ptolemy, and Seleucus
- c) Troubled Times under the Seleucids (North) and the Ptolemies (South) (11:5-35)
 - i) King of South/Egypt (v. 5; Ptolemy I Soter; Ptolemy II succeeded)
 - ii) King of North/Syria (Seleucus I Nicator; Antiochus II succeeded)
 - iii) A Failed Alliance (v. 6; Berenice to marry Antiochus II, but murdered by Laodice, his first wife)
 - iv) A Branch from Her Roots (v. 7a; Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III, succeeded Ptolemy II);
 - v) Ptolemy III Conquered Seleucus II Callinicus, successor of Antiochus II (v. 7b)
 - vi) Ptolemy III Refrains from War with Syria Due to Rebellion in Egypt (v. 8a)
 - vii) Seleucus II Callinicus Failed War against Ptolemy III in Egypt (v. 8b)
 - viii) Seleucus III Soter and Antiochus III the Great, Sons of Seleucus II Callinicus, Amassed Great Army to Invade Ptolemy IV in Egypt (vv. 9-10)
 - ix) God Gives the Massive Syrian Army into Ptolemy IV's Hands (v. 11)
 - x) Ptolemy IV in Pride Uses Excessive Force to Quell a Rebellion in Egypt (v. 12)
 - xi) Ptolemy IV Died Under Mysterious Circumstances at Age 35 (v. 12b)
 - xii) Antiochus III the Great again Amassed Great Army to Invade Ptolemy V, Seizing Control of Palestine (v. 13)
 - xiii) Jews Joined in Rebellion in Egypt against the Ptolemaic Dynasty (v. 14)
 - xiv) Antiochus III the Great Besieges and Conquers Sidon (v. 15)
 - xv) Antiochus III the Great Strengthens Dominion over Palestine (v. 16)
 - xvi) Antiochus III the Great Compels Ptolemaic Egypt into Marriage Alliance Giving Cleopatra in Marriage to Ptolemy V (v. 17)
 - xvii) Antiochus III the Great's Plan Backfired because Cleopatra Loyal to Husband Ptolemy V (v. 17b)
 - xviii) Antiochus III the Great Tried to Enlarge Power by Conquering Thrace, Raising Ire of Rome (v. 18)
 - xix) Antiochus III the Great Defeated by Roman Commander Lucius Cornelius Scipio after Ignoring Rome's Warnings (v. 18)

- xx) Antiochus III the Great Raided Own Land to Pay Tribute to Rome and Assassinated when Tried to Plunder Temple of Zeus at Elymais (v. 19)
- xxi) Antiochus IV, son of Antiochus III, Imprisoned by Rome; Seleucus IV, son of Antiochus III, Installed by Rome as King to Exact Tribute Owed by His Father; Unsuccessfully Tried to Plunder Temple in Jerusalem; Poisoned by His Finance Minister (v. 20)
- xxii) Antiochus IV, the Contemptible Person, Installed by Rome as King of Seleucid Syria-Palestine (v. 21)
- xxiii) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Spread Dominion by Military Power (v. 22)
- xxiv) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Deposed High Priest Onias III and Replaced with Onias' brother Jason who Bribe Antiochus IV (v. 22)
- xxv) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Broke Faith with Jason for a Higher Price from Menelaus and Found Support from Apostate Jews (v. 23)
- xxvi) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Excessively Plundered Judea Scheming to Invade Egypt (v. 24)
- xxvii) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Defeated Cleopatra's Son Ptolemy VI because His Plans Were Leaked and His Counselors Advised Him to Reclaim Palestine which Exhausted His Forces (vv. 25-26)
- xxviii) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Controlled Most of Egypt but Ptolemy VII (Other Son of Cleopatra) Declared King in Alexandria; Antiochus IV and Ptolemy VI Ally against Ptolemy VII; Ptolemy VI Betrayed Antiochus IV and Reconciled with Ptolemy VII to Become Co-regent of Egypt (v. 27)
- xxix) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Plundered Egypt and Began Return to Syria; Jason Had Led a Rebellion in Judea, Thinking Antiochus IV Died in Battle; Antiochus IV Punished Judea, Killing 80,000 People (v. 28)
- xxx) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Attacked Egypt Again, Being Repelled by Ptolemy VI and VII and the Roman Fleet Under Proconsul Gaius Popillius Laenas (vv. 29-30a)
- xxxi) Humiliated by His Defeat Antiochus IV Epiphanes Was Enraged against Judea, Allying with Apostate Jews against the Jews Who Resisted Hellenization (v. 30b)
- xxxii) Antiochus IV Epiphanes Profaned Temple in Jerusalem with Idol of Zeus Trying to Force Hellenization of Jews (v. 31)
- xxxiii) Jewish Apostates Sided with Antiochus IV Epiphanes (v. 32a)
- xxxiv) Many Martyred for the Faith; Priest Mattathias and Sons John, Simon, and Judas (Maccabeus "the hammer") Led Resistance against Antiochus IV (v. 32b)
- xxxv) Temple Restored/Cleansed (v. 33)
- xxxvi) The New Hasmonean Dynasty in Judea Mixed with Faithful Jews and Hypocritical Jews Greedy for Wealth and International Political Power (vv. 34)
- xxxvii) Persecutions of Antiochus IV Epiphanes Used by God to Sift and Purify His People (v. 35)
- d) Troubled Times under the Romans (11:36-45)
 - i) Julius Caesar Deified (v. 36)—his adopted son Octavius was called "son of god" and "savior of the world"
 - ii) PAX ROMANA by Military Might (vv. 37-38)

- iii) Time of the End (vv. 39-40) Refers to End of 490 Years (Chap. 9); Legs of Iron and Feet of Iron/Clay (Chap. 2); Fourth Beast (Chap. 7); The Coming of the Kingdom of God and the Son of Man (Chap. 7)
- iv) Julius Caesar Extended Roman Dominion to Arabia (v. 41)
- v) Caesar Defeated Ptolemy XIII of Egypt (vv. 42-43)
- vi) Caesar Extended Roman Dominion over North Africa (v. 43)
- vii) Caesar Encamps in Judea and Syria and Allies with John Hyrcanus II (High Priest) and Antipater I (Founder of Herodian Dynasty) against Pharnaces of Phrygia (v. 44-45)
- viii) Caesar Assassinated by Senate (v. 45)
- e) **Application:** Bewildered? Good. Overwhelmed? You're meant to be. Puzzled? Dismayed? Looking for an exit? So was Daniel (chap. 10).

2) God is our hope as the Author of history.

- a) This is a mere sketch of major events from Daniel's time to the coming of Christ. This doesn't even get into the weeds of daily life. Yet God has every detail of your life laid out in His plan. God's sovereignty over creation is a meticulous providence.
- b) Sovereign over health (chap. 1).
- c) Sovereign over kingdoms (chap. 2).
- d) Sovereign over fire (chap. 3).
- e) Sovereign over kings (chaps. 4-5).
- f) Sovereign over lions (chap. 6).
- g) **Application:** You were not created to bear the weight of life. You were created to glorify the greatness and goodness of God who bears you along through all of life.

3) God is our hope as the Savior of His people.

- a) Out of This Turmoil Arises Salvation for God's People (12:1)
- b) Kingdom of the Son of Man and the Saints (chap. 7)
- c) Our redemption drew near in the coming of Christ (Luke 21:10-28)
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Justification through faith in Christ.
 - ii) Sanctification through faith in Christ.
 - iii) Perseverance through faith in Christ.

Doxology: Even so! Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)