

Daniel – Chapter 11

- ***Wars - past and future***

This chapter gives history in advance from Daniel's time and much of it is history from our point in time. However some of it is yet future to us as well.

- ***First verse part of chapter 10***

The chapter and verse divisions are not part of the original manuscripts, but were added later, often breaking up the continuity of thought.

Daniel 11:1 And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.)

- ***Accurate description of history in advance***

The details given to Daniel are so uncannily precise that unbelieving liberal scholars try desperately to find later dates and other authors for these writings of the prophet Daniel. The problem with this intellectual unbelief is that all of what Daniel wrote was translated from Hebrew into Greek and much of the prophecy became history after this translation was done. This translation was done in Egypt and is called the Septuagint. All old testament scripture quoted in the new testament is from this translation.

The part now history

- ***Three kings and then a fourth***

There were three successive kings named Cyrus, (559-530) Cambyses (529-522BC), and Darius Hystapes (521-486) and the fourth was Xerxes. The latter ruled from 486-465BC.

Daniel 11:2 " Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.

- ***The fourth king the most powerful***

He is called Ahasureus in Ezra 4:6, and Esther 1:1-12 He instituted tax reforms, became very powerful, trained over 2 million warriors for 4 years, built special barges, and attacked Greece in 480 B.C. He

crossed the Hellespont (A strait connecting the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara, today known as the Dardanelles) in 7 days. He once threw a party that lasted 180 days.

Esther 1:4 For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty.

This terrible attack on Greece was not forgotten and a young man named Alexander later took revenge.

- ***Alexander comes and goes***

Alexander the Great comes on the scene the details of which we looked at in our study of chapter 8. About 22 years after his death the Grecian empire is broken up into four pieces. Alexander had two sons, but they were both murdered.

Daniel 11:3 Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.

Daniel 11:4 After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

- ***Incessant warfare***

For about the next 150 years the Ptolemy and Seleucid (south and north) empires are in furious battles and the land of Israel situated on the land bridge between them gets trampled by one or the other. The details of this warfare is chronicled in history and here given to Daniel over two centuries before all this took place.

- ***Septuagint translation done***

Ptolemy Soter I Soter (323-285 B.C.) was one of Alexander's wisest and most capable generals and grew very powerful, but now Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-245 B.C.) grew even more powerful. It was under Ptolemy II's rule that the great library was established at Alexandria and the translation of the Old Testament into Greek (the "Septuagint" translation) was commissioned. The

famed mathematician Euclid taught geometry in Ptolemy's court.

Daniel 11:5 " The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power.

- **Ladies also get in on the action**

After a lapse of several years a political marriage was arranged between Antiochus II Theos (262-246 B.C.) and Ptolemy II Philadelphus's daughter, Bernice. Antiochus was required to divorce his own wife, Laodiceia, to facilitate this arrangement. Bernice was unable to prevail against her rival Laodiceia who poisoned Antiochus, murdered Bernice, and set her elder son, Seleucus II Callinicus, on the throne (246 - 226 B.C.). All this occurs after the Septuagint translation of the OT (285-270 B.C.), which included the book of Daniel. So much for late dating Daniel!

Daniel 11:6 After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be handed over, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her.

- **North on defensive**

Ptolemy III Euergetes (245-221 B.C.), the brother of murdered Bernice, invaded Syria, seized the port of Antioch, and overran Seleucus' empire as far as Babylon.

Daniel 11:7 One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious.

- **To the victor the spoils**

His spoils for Egypt included 4000 talents of gold, 40,000 talents of silver, and 2500 idols. A talent is about 100 pounds. (in gold about 72 billion today) These included some carried from Egypt by Cambyses 280 years earlier.

Daniel 11:8 He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of

silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone.

- **North tries again unsuccessfully**

After 2 years Seleucus reorganized and marched south against Egypt, got wiped, and returned in humiliation to Antioch with only a small remnant of his army.

Daniel 11:9 Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country.

- **The sons partially successful**

The sons of Seleucus II were Seleucus III Ceraunus (226-223 B.C.), who was murdered during a campaign in Asia Minor, and Antiochus III ("The Great") (223-187 B.C.) who re-conquered the fortress of Seleucia, the province of Coele-Syria, Tyre, and then resumed the war with Egypt.

Daniel 11:10 His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress.

- **The Egyptians get mad**

A large Egyptian army, led by Ptolemy IV Philopator (221- 203 B.C.), marched through Judea until it was met in Lebanon by Antiochus who routed it and captured many Judean cities both west and east of the Jordan.

Daniel 11:11 " Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated.

- **Egypt wins a hollow victory**

Initially, the army of Ptolemy IV was larger than that of Antiochus III. In the spring of 219 B.C., at the battle at Raphia (20 miles south of Gaza), Antiochus commanded 60,000 men and Ptolemy, 70,000. Antiochus was defeated with a loss of 10,000 infantry and 300 cavalry. Ptolemy, indolent and dissolute, signed a peace treaty with Antiochus III.

- **Defilement of Holy of Holies prevented**

Ptolemy IV celebrated his victory by a tour of the eastern Mediterranean provinces including Jerusalem. He was prevented from entering the Holy of Holies by paralysis. Returning to Egypt, he took out his chagrin and humiliation by persecuting the Egyptian Jews.

Daniel 11:12 When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant.

- **The persistent north tries again**

After the death of Ptolemy IV, his son, four years old, succeeded him as Ptolemy V Epiphanes (203-181 B.C.). Twelve years after the Battle of Raphia, Antiochus III set out with a greater army than before for the conquest of Egyptian territory.

Daniel 11:13 For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped.

- **Others join the fray**

The many that stood up against the King of the South included Antiochus and his ally, Philip of Macedon, as well as risings among the vassals of Egypt.

Daniel 11:14 " In those times many will rise against the king of the South. The violent men among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success.

- **The north finally wins, but not for long**

In 200 B.C., an Egyptian mercenary named Scopas attempted to wrest Judea from Antiochus. After a temporary success, he was defeated by 100,000 troops at Sidon in 198 B.C. None were able to stand against Antiochus III ("The Great").

Daniel 11:15 Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand.

- **Geography is against Israel**

The strategic location of the land God promised to Abraham has always and still causes great stress on that nation. God calls this Land beautiful but makes clear that they must trust Him in order to keep it.

Jeremiah 3:19 " I myself said, " 'How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.' I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me.

Daniel 11:16 The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it.

- **Political marriage of Cleopatra**

Antiochus' daughter, Cleopatra, was given in a political marriage to Ptolemy (arranged in 197, consummated in 193 B.C., the groom being 10 years old) along with Coele-Syria, Phoenicia, and Judea as dowry, and in the hopes that he could eventually annex Egypt. He was disappointed, however, as she became a devoted wife instead and sided with Egypt (and her new ally, Rome).

Daniel 11:17 He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him.

- **Defeat by and heavy tribute to the Romans**

In 196 B.C., Antiochus had turned toward the west in Greece, Asia Minor, and crossed the Hellespont to seize part of Thrace. Hannibal, the Carthaginian general, who encouraged Antiochus III to fight with the Romans. In 191 B.C., Antiochus was defeated by the Romans at Thermopylae. In 190 B.C. his army of 80,000 suffered an ignominious defeat in a decisive battle near Smyrna where the Roman commander, Lucius Scipio, forced him to renounce all claims in Europe and Asia Minor. He had to surrender all territory west of the Taurus Mountains and pay a heavy tribute of 15,000 talents (over 270 million dollars @ present gold price). He was

effectively put out of business by the rising power of Rome

Daniel 11:18 Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him.

He hi-tailed it toward the northeastern part of his kingdom, plundering the temples in his realm to unsuccessfully try to raise money for another army.

Daniel 11:19 After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.

- **Intrigue and murders**

Seleucus IV Philopater (187-175 B.C.) succeeded Antiochus III, giving his son Demetrius as a hostage in the place of his brother Antiochus, and to meet heavy Roman tribute, oppressed Israel through taxation. After 12 years of rule, he is murdered by his treasurer, Heliodorus, who hoped to take over but is outmaneuvered by Antiochus IV (“Epiphanes”) 175-164 B.C. The latter of course was the dominant figure we studied in chapter eight. He desecrated the temple which caused the successful Maccabean revolt.

Daniel 11:20 " His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

- **Antiochus Epiphanes -- one of the worst dictators ever**

Legitimate candidates might have included Demetrius, the son of the Seleucus IV, held as a hostage in Rome, or the younger son, also named Antiochus, who was still a baby in Syria. Antiochus Epiphanes IV was the brother of Seleucus IV, who had also been a hostage for his father in Rome for 14 years. Just prior to the murder of his brother by Heliodorus, he had been recalled to Antioch. His brother died before he reached the capital, and with the help of the king of Pergamum, and posing as the guardian of young Antiochus who was in Syria, Antiochus Epiphanes IV, with numerous intrigues, gained the throne.

Daniel 11:21 " He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty.

He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue.

- **High priest murdered**

“Prince of the covenant” refers to the murder of Onias III, the High Priest in 171 B.C. engineered by Antiochus Epiphanes.

Daniel 11:22 Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed.

- **Negotiation and deceit rather than might**

Unlike his fathers, Antiochus Epiphanes IV robbed the richest places of the country under his control. He attacked his enemies when they least expected it. There was a power contest between Antiochus’ two nephews, Ptolemy VI Philometer (181-145 B.C.) and Ptolemy VII Euergetes (Physicon) for control of Egypt.

Daniel 11:23 After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.

Daniel 11:24 When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses--but only for a time.

- **Force and cunning conquer**

After the death of his mother, Cleopatra, Ptolemy IV Philometer received bad advice regarding Antiochus IV who swept over his army. When Antiochus conquered Ptolemy Philopater, the Alexandrians brought his brother Ptolemy Physcon to the Egyptian throne.

Daniel 11:25 " With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him.

Daniel 11:26 Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.

- ***Uncle and nephew***

Antiochus took Philometer under his protection. As uncle and nephew, they eat together at one table and, with lies, discussed policy with one another. However they cannot avert the inevitable end.

Daniel 11:27 The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time.

- ***On his way home***

Antiochus returned from his first Egyptian campaign with great riches and on his way home despoiled the Temple in Jerusalem. Again Jerusalem and the Land being on the path from Egypt to Syria was victimized by its strategic location.

Daniel 11:28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country.

- ***Looking for more loot***

Egypt of old was a rich land. Antiochus was like any politician was looking for money to fund his desires. In his second campaign against Egypt, Antiochus was less successful and failed to take Alexandria. Furthermore, he encountered the Roman navy.

Daniel 11:29 " At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before.

- ***Scared by the Romans***

The Roman fleet under the command of Caius Popilius Laenas sailed from Cyprus to Egypt after a stunning Roman victory over Perseus of Macedon near Pydna, south of Thessalonica. The intimidation of the Romans caused Antiochus to return in humiliation to Syria and, as he and the remains of his army traveled home, was looking for someone to take it out on. As before, he did this by oppressing the Jews.

Daniel 11:30 Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.

- ***Abomination of desolation***

The “abomination of desolation” as we studied in chapter 8 now takes place. The sacrificing of a pig was among the deeds perpetrated at that time. (about two centuries later Jesus predicted this would occur again in the future.)

Daniel 11:31 " His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

- ***Faithful Jews revolt***

The faithful Jews finally overcome those among them who benefited from some of the evil of Antiochus and joined the successful Maccabean revolt, which ultimately led to the re-dedication of the Temple. This event is celebrated to this day at Hanukkah and begins the period of the Hasmoneans.

Daniel 11:32 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

Some history -- some future

- ***Time before Messiah came and when He comes again***

After a the revolt and re-dedication of the temple there was a brief period where Israel was not oppressed by a foreign power, yet that too was a time of turmoil. The Romans installed puppet kings and governors. Messiah came and Rome destroyed the temple and scattered the nation and the Jews have been subject to persecution and plunder since then. Many of them have become completely unbelieving in the God of their fathers, but increasingly today, more and more Jews are coming to believe that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah.

Daniel 11:33 " Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.

Daniel 11:34 When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them.

Daniel 11:35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

- **Time is a mystery**

In these verses there is, from our perspective, some material that is past and some yet future, and scholars have differences about the time element. This is nothing unusual, for God tells us specifically that it is not for us to know the details of exactly what will happen when. It is likely that there are well over 2000 years between verses 35 and 36.

Acts 1:7 He said to them: " It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

All we can be sure of is that we'll know when it is about to happen and even more surely recognize when it has become history.

- **Two applications of one scripture**

There are dual references to a particular person or event. One example of this is in Isaiah 14:4-21. This prophecy is directly addressed to the King of Babylon, and was fulfilled when Babylon was conquered by the

Persians. However it also has application to what the Bible calls " Mystery Babylon" the wicked world system run by its ruler, the fallen prince of angels who was Lucifer, now called Satan, which means adversary. A parallel to this is found in Ezekiel 28:11-19 where there is again this two-fold application 1) to the king of Tyre and 2) to Lucifer become Satan.

- **Jesus gives us another example of this duality**

Jesus, the Son of the Father came and was rejected. Yet in the short term another, by the name Barabbas was chosen to live and Jesus was crucified.

John 5:43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.

Now the name Barabbas means son of the father, but Jesus tells us who the father of Barabbas is, as He tells those who chose him to live as they called for the death of the Lord.

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

In time yet distant a person we call the antichrist will come and be able to make a covenant with Israel.

End-time future

- **Dual far and near prophecy**

We met this " he" in chapter 8 in the historical person of Antiochus Epiphanes. Here as well as in this passage, such as especially in v35 we are given language that includes a time farther down the stream of time, near the end where the " he" will apply to another one, commonly called the anti-christ.

- **Time of wrath completed**

The reference to the time of wrath having to be completed also means that this time and person is yet to come.

Daniel 11:36 " The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

Daniel 11:37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

Daniel 11:37 (ESV) He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women.

He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.

Daniel 11:37 (KJV) Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women,

nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

- ***Wilful king declares himself as god***

This one called by Paul as the man of lawlessness will indeed come and Paul adds that this one doomed to destruction will be in the Temple and declare himself as god. Since there has not been a temple since 70AD and since Antiochus Epiphanes was already history at the time of Paul this can only refer to one similar to Antiochus, yet even worse. In order for this to happen, the temple must be rebuilt.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

- ***Desire or beloved of women***

The desire of women is regarded as a title of messianic expectation which goes all the way back to Genesis 3:15. It has ever been the desire of devout women of Israel to be the one chosen to bear that offspring and this leader will not show any regard for the Messiah, here called the desire of women.

Genesis 3:15 (NIV) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:15 (ESV) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- ***Disregards the God of his fathers***

The expression God of his fathers uses the Hebrew word *elohim* which is of course a plural form of God. The KJV translates this in the singular and capitalizes it. This is a distinctly Jewish expression, since the Gentiles have always had multiple gods and this phrase is found numerous times in the Old Testament.

- ***Will he be a Jew?***

This expression is one of a number of reasons to conclude that this leader may be a Jew, but then maybe not. Israel is now a secular nation, where the majority does not even believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Especially their unbelieving secular government may even accept the lie of the Islamic nations around them. Few, if any, of the treaties or agreements that the secular government of Israel has made, was of any long-term benefit to that nation. In the end, the covenant they will make sometime in the future with this coming world leader will be no different.

The scriptures are quite clear that the true Messiah must be of the lineage of David. Jesus says that they rejected Him who came in the Father's name as Messiah, but will receive another who comes in his own name. Will the secular Jewish leadership accept a Gentile as Messiah? They may.

- ***God of Fortresses***

The word translated god here is *eloahh*, a female goddess. Diana of Ephesus was depicted wearing a crown with an engraving of a fortress.

Daniel 11:38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.

Daniel 11:39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

- ***At the time of the end***

Here the time in which all this will take place is clear -- at the time of the **end**. All throughout this chapter the battles see-sawed between the south and the north. Now the king of the north has been historically part of the seleucid empire and the south as Egypt the ptolomeic empire.

- ***A war before this time of the end***

Some scholars link these verses to Ezekiel 38 and the invasion from the north. However, Egypt is not mentioned at all in the Ezekiel passage. It appears

therefore that the war that Ezekiel predicts is a separate event from what Daniel tells of here. Ezekiel also fails to mention a single powerful ruler or commander.

Daniel 11:40 " At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the

North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

- ***Not everyone will be conquered by the anti-christ***

Edom, Moab and Ammon constitute the territory of today's country of Jordan. When Jesus warns His followers of that day to flee Jerusalem he tells them specifically to flee to the mountains. There are no mountains to the west of Jerusalem, but there are indeed some rugged ones to the east in today's Jordan.

Daniel 11:41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.

Today the King of Jordan is Abdullah II bin al-Hussein who ascended the throne on 7FEB1999. He is acknowledged to be a living descendent of the 43rd generation of the prophet Mohammed. If the antichrist and/or his power base is Islamic, it stands to reason that this would be why this piece of real estate is exempt from the global rule of the antichrist.

- ***Egypt will not escape***

North of Israel there are today three countries that are adamant foes, Syria, Iraq and Iran, all Islamic countries. They are not happy that Israel has made peace with Egypt. The government of Turkey is also increasingly becoming anti-Israel.

Daniel 11:42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape.

Daniel 11:43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission.

In our time, the Nubians former real estate is now called Sudan. Most of them are also Islamic.

- ***A threat from the east***

The Euphrates river roughly bisects Iraq and all of Iran and further parts of Asia lie to the east.

Daniel 11:44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.

- ***The kings of the east***

This river is mentioned in connection with the kings of the east.

Revelation 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

- ***A huge army comes and makes war***

A huge army of 200 million comes from the east, across the Euphrates, apparently to participate in a war that will exterminate one third of humanity. Although there are some Muslims in China, the majority of them is neither Islamic nor Christian. This is also true to a lesser degree of India. These powers could certainly oppose a global Muslim takeover.

Revelation 9:14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, " Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Revelation 9:15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

Revelation 9:16 The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.

- ***Valley of Megiddo***

The valley of Megiddo is about 40 miles north of Jerusalem with easy access to the Mediterranean and a possible amphibious landing and advance toward Jerusalem. It is a large flat valley, perfect as a staging area for an assault on the holy city.

Daniel 11:45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will cometo his end, and no one will help him.

- **Huge multitude gathered for the final war**

Daniel tells us that this leader, the antichrist will set up his headquarters between the seas near Jerusalem. The Megiddo valley is between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea and so is Jerusalem.

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Revelation 16:16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

- **Jesus will destroy the anti-christ**

Upon His return Jesus will destroy this evil world ruler.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

- **But Jesus must be asked to return**

A remnant of Israel will finally acknowledge their guilt (singular) of having rejected Him and in their travail earnestly repent and Jesus will come and deliver that believing remnant of the Jews.

Hosea 5:15 Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me."

Hosea 6:1 " Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.

Hosea 6:2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

Hosea 6:3 Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."

If we apply God's timescale to Hosea 6:2,

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, let not this one thing be hidden from you, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

then our time of about 2000 years since the scattering of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem certainly fits the timeframe for the return of Jesus to Israel.

- **A Jew who believes in Jesus is a persona non grata**

Today, as an Israeli Jew you can be an atheist, new age, Muslim, or any other religion and you'll not have much of a problem. However, if you confess to Jesus Christ as your Messiah, all hell breaks loose and you will be persecuted. A young Jewish man I knew became a Christian and because of that was declared dead by his family and they held a funeral for him.

- **What about the Church**

The church is termed by Paul a mystery and is not mentioned in Daniel because he was specifically told that these prophecies are concerning " your people" . There are many scriptures that indicate that the church will not be involved in any way in the events and troubles occurring during the time of the anti-Christ who appears in the 70th week of Daniel.