

Daniel 11

Details in the distance



This is probably the hardest chapter of the book to read. It's long, and the amount of detail gets progressively harder to keep in your mind, the further you get through it. And some of it seems to be simply a re-hash – or further probing into – stuff that has already been covered in previous chapters.

Additionally, although the detail up to about v35 agrees well with other historical sources, the last section of this chapter cannot be tied down so well. So what is going on here?

➤ **v1:** probably the conclusion to the previous chapter

➤ **vv2-35**

Which bits of this are now fairly familiar, harking back to previous chapters?

What do you make of the details about “the king of the north” and “the king of the south” - probably two separate kingdoms with their successive rulers (2-20)? Any lessons to learn from this?

The “contemptible person” (21) is probably, once again, Antiochus Epiphanes, whose warlike exploits were curtailed by Rome (30), and who then took out his aggression on the vulnerable Jewish nation.

What do we learn from phrases like “at the time appointed” (29), “the time of the end”, “the appointed time” (35)? Despite all the earthly power described here, where does ultimate authority still lie? Don't we need bits in the Bible like this to give us *centuries*-wide perspective? – while we tend to think at most in terms of decades.

How will verses such as 32-33 provide help and encouragement to believers undergoing persecution?

➤ **vv36-45**

Commentators generally disagree if they try to pin down specifics in this section – which leads most other commentators to suggest that this was (and probably still *is*) prophecy unfulfilled before the coming of Christ. So ... is this “the antichrist”?

What do we know from the NT about this “antichrist”? Does it fit with what we see here? Check out, for example, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9, 1 John 2:18,22, 4:3, 2 John 7.

How does the very simple last sentence encourage you?