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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Exiled Prophet, Part 13: Wars and Desolations (Daniel 11)

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching examines Daniel 11 as a detailed vision of historical events leading from Persia to Greece and ultimately to Antiochus Epiphanes. It begins by connecting the chapter with the angelic conflict described in Daniel 10. The historical events surrounding Antiochus provide a pattern with future significance. Yeshua also warned of a later abomination of desolation, so the historical fulfillment does not remove the need to remain watchful.

The vision identifies the wealthy Persian king who attacked Greece with Xerxes, and the mighty king whose kingdom was divided among four successors with Alexander the Great. The teaching then follows the Seleucid kingdom in the north and the Ptolemaic kingdom in the south.

The north and south repeatedly make alliances and wage war. The teaching compares the prophecy with historical accounts involving Ptolemy II, Antiochus II, Ptolemy III, Antiochus III, and the battles that brought the conflict into the land of Israel.

The focus eventually turns to Judea, where Antiochus III and Seleucus IV affect Jerusalem and the temple. Antiochus IV gains the throne through flatteries, seeks to Hellenize the kingdom, and attacks opponents who remain faithful to the covenant.

The chapter describes deceitful alliances, campaigns, wealth, and hostility toward the holy covenant. The teaching uses historical sources to show how the details correspond to Antiochus's actions and to the oppression of faithful Jews.

The overall message is that Daniel's vision reveals the consequences of imperial ambition, deception, and opposition to God's covenant. It also prepares for the account of the Maccabees and the deliverance discussed in Daniel 12.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Daniel 11 continues the vision from Daniel 10.

- Xerxes is identified with the wealthy Persian king.
- Alexander's kingdom was divided among four successors.
- The Seleucids are called the north.
- The Ptolemies are called the south.
- The north and south repeatedly fought and formed alliances.
- Antiochus III gained control of Judea.
- Seleucus IV sought resources from the Jerusalem temple.
- Antiochus IV pursued Hellenization.
- The vision describes hostility toward the holy covenant.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The Persian king who attacked Greece was _____.
2. The mighty Greek king identified in the vision was _____ the Great.
3. The Seleucid kingdom is called the _____.
4. The Ptolemaic kingdom is called the _____.
5. The Greek kingdom was divided among _____ successors.
6. Antiochus IV sought to _____ the kingdom.

Challenging

1. The angel who assists Michael in the vision is _____.
2. Alexander died in _____ B.C.
3. Antiochus III captured the well-fortified city of _____.
4. The high priest who opposed Hellenization was _____.
5. Antiochus IV took the title _____, meaning manifestation of God.
6. The vision says Antiochus's heart was set against the holy _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the teaching connect Daniel 11 with the angelic conflict in Daniel 10?
2. Why are the north and south identified according to their locations relative to Israel?

3. How does the history of Alexander's kingdom explain Daniel's description of its division?
4. What events brought the conflict between the north and south into the land of Israel?
5. How did Antiochus IV oppose the covenant and seek to Hellenize the kingdom?
6. What does the teaching show about the relationship between prophetic vision and historical records?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Xerxes
2. Alexander
3. north
4. south
5. four
6. Hellenize

Challenging

1. Gabriel
2. 323
3. Sidon
4. Onias
5. Epiphanes
6. covenant