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HOW TO LIVE IN TIMES OF NATIONAL DISASTER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL
NUMBER 31
DANIEL 11:7-17

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We are here in a part of the Bible which is seldom preached or studied. Many people like prophecy and that's all they like. This part of the Bible is history, but remember it is a part of the Bible and we need to study it. This is a part of the word of God and we should give diligence to it. A preacher ought not to be a mouse and try to please people. The Bible says that all Scripture is profitable. People can go to churches where they preach brotherhood, or liberalism, of sweetness and light, or legalism. People can even go to churches where they have sermonettes. But this history is very important, so let's turn to it and see what it says.

Six Points On "HISTORICAL PASSAGES AND THEIR SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE"

1. This passage here in Daniel 11 tells the history of Persia, and the Graeco-Macedonian Empire and the Hellenistic nations that came after Alexander the Great down to the rise of the Roman Empire. Daniel wrote this in 534 B.C. and it was not fulfilled until 250 to 165 B.C. The things he had to say here were for future generations, to strengthen them in times of stress. This is the reason it is recorded here. God here reminded his people that though they lived in a disaster period that he was greater than any disaster.

In this struggle that is going on here between the Ptolemies and Seleucids, there is never any catastrophe that is too big for God. (Right at this time in world history many nations are trying to decide what they will do about Rhodesia and South Africa. They don't have socialism and they just happen to be two of the best places one can live in the whole world right now. But world pressure is on them to make them conform to the patterns of all other nations.)

So these nations were facing great pressures but remember GOD IS EQUAL TO ALL PRESSURES THAT CAN EVER COME TO YOU.

2. Think of the transitory nature of worldly power and human greatness. Permanence does not come from human greatness or human ability.
3. Politics is filled with intrigue, ambition, jealousy, treachery, and violence. It has been the same since tribal existence. Political and social power is transitory. Not politics, but the Kingdom of God must be first for Christians.
4. As far as man is concerned the note is helplessness and hopelessness. This is what time does to man, and right at this point, God takes over. God provides for the hopeless and the helpless. When Alexander the Great adopted the policy of world brotherhood, he didn't last long and God moved in and removed him. Today our whole field of liberal arts is saturated with hellenistic culture and all of this is Satanic in its opposition to Biblical principles.

5. Keep in mind the dual fulfillment of prophecy. The near fulfillment and the far fulfillment. Written in 534 B.C. and Antiochus Epiphenes fulfilled them the first time, but they also have reference to the final dictator of the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation. Antiochus put his statue in the Holy Temple and the final dictator is going to do the same.
6. An unstable world has no lasting happiness. Power, success, fame bring little happiness. Success, pleasure, personal victories do not sustain anyone in times of stress.

"But pleasures are like poppies spread. You sieze the flower, the bloom is shed; or like the snowfall on the river, a moment white then gone forever, or like the Borealis race that flit ere you can point their place, or like rainbows lovely form evanishing amid the storm."

DANIEL 11:7-8 "But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north." These verses refer to the domination of the Ptolemies of Egypt. "Her" refers to "Bernice" the daughter of Ptolemy the 1st. She married Antiochus the 2nd. He divorced Laodicea and married her, then later divorced Bernice and took Laodicea back. Ptolemy the 2nd, brother of Bernice, rose to power to get vengeance. Then Ptolemy the 3rd became ruler of Egypt and he invaded Syria to the north. He sent fleets into the Mediterranean and Agean seas, and conquered the empires as far as Babylon. He conquered all the Seleucid kingdoms. He took 2,400 images of their gods back to Egypt. You see, this tells you much about the religious life of Syria. They had become depraved and worshipped all kinds of idols. He took 40,000 talents of silver and 4,000 talents of gold. During his lifetime, he completely prevailed over the Seleucid kingdoms.

DANIEL 11:9 "So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land." Ptolemy the 3rd conquered and returned to his own land. This gave the Seleucid leaders time to think. Their gods all gone, and they were gods that did not help them in times of need. (Japan experienced this during the Second World War.)

DANIEL 11:10 "But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress." But the sons of the Seleucids are going to be stirred up. These sons are Antiochus the 3rd and Antiochus the Great. They were able to recover much that was lost. No nation can maintain its status without a strong military force. So Antiochus gathered a great army and got cavalry together and in 219 B.C. he took back a large part of the kingdom he had lost to the Ptolemies. Little Palestine was caught in between. As he passed through Palestine he treated the Jews shamefully. So he had the Egyptians on one side of him and the Romans on the other. He came close to defeating both the Egyptians and the Romans, but not quite. He taxed the Jews heavily. The thing that finally destroyed Antiochus was his treatment of the Jews.

(Remember that in the Abrahamic Covenant there is a phrase which says, "Those that curse the Jews I will curse." God doesn't need your help or mine in disciplining the Jews. Anti-Semitism is of the Devil and the one who takes part in fighting the Jews is fighting against God. Our responsibility to the Jew is to witness to him about Christ. Anti-Semitism can help destroy any nation that adopts a program of hatred toward the Jew.)

DANIEL 11:11 "And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand." This king of the south will be moved with anger and ambition. Ptolemy IV is this king. He was interested in only two things--wine and women. He began his rule by murdering his mother. He was determined to teach the people how to worship the god of wine. Someone sobered him up and told him that the Seleucids were coming from the north. Antiochus began to move in on him from the north. They hired some Greek soldiers and formed an army and got Ptolemy sobered up and out with his army where he should have been all along. The battle in history is known as the battle of Raphia. Ptolemy got with it and led his army right through the army of the Seleucids and won a great victory. After his victory they took him on a tour of Palestine and toasted him as a great victorious hero. (But remember, you can't run a government on drunken people who are always clicking glasses.)

DANIEL 11:12 "And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it." His heart was lifted up with pride and drink and he went down. Now look what this chapter of history is saying to us. Those who think it is smart and real class and real sophisticated to drink, ought to read pages of history and see how many nations have been destroyed by drink.

- a. Think of the tragedy of drinking men making decisions for the nation while under the influence of drink. Ptolemy IV would have been a fantastic king had it not been for drink. It is true in every war that many men are killed because of drunken leadership.
- b. The number one problem of mankind today is liquor. On a recent trip through Africa I travelled the road from Lusaka to Dar es Salaam and it is called "Hell's Alley" and is unsafe because of liquor. It may be the most dangerous road in the world. I saw the drunks who were drunk on "palm wine" all along that road. Tens of thousands died just because Ptolemy IV kept on drinking throughout his rule.

DANIEL 11:13-14 "For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches. And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall." Antiochus the Great returned with even a greater army. He came down to meet the weak Egyptians. Antiochus the Great came through Palestine and the "robbers of the people," which is a name for the Jewish leaders, joined forces with him.

5. Keep in mind the dual fulfillment of prophecy. The near fulfillment and the far fulfillment. Written in 534 B.C. and Antiochus Epiphenes fulfilled them the first time, but they also have reference to the final dictator of the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation. Antiochus put his statue in the Holy Temple and the final dictator is going to do the same.
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