



# The Seven Interpretation Principles of Daniel 11

## Study Guide

### 1. The Vagueness and Ambiguity of Daniel 11

Daniel 11 immerses us into the conflict that occurred between and within Persia, Greece, and Rome. It is the most detailed of all the prophecies as it goes into the story lines within these world empires. However, Daniel 11 can often seem vague in its presentation.

**Question:** Why is this chapter considered vague and ambiguous by many?

**Answer:** Daniel 11 is considered vague because it presents the conflict of kings and empires, but it never directly tells us who these kings are and what empires are being referenced. Because we aren't directly told who Daniel 11's focus is on, the chapter is considered one of the most mysterious chapters in all the Bible.

**Question:** Why didn't God name names in Daniel 11?

**Answer:** If God had listed the names of these kings and empires, then our world would be in a greater frenzy than it currently is today! Can you imagine if Alexander's generals knew he would die at the age of 33? Or if Julius Caesar would've known the Roman Senate was going to assassinate him? Although we can only imagine the mayhem that would ensue if the world's rulers knew the future, the Bible actually gives us a small taste of what would've happened if Bible prophecy was written plainly: Remember what happened after Herod was told that the Messiah had been born? For the sake of power, he killed all the Jewish young boys to protect what he felt was a threat to his power. This is why God, in His wisdom, detailed the events of the future in a vague manner.

The good news is that, if God made it vague, He can also make it plain for you and me!

**Study:** Can you find other places in the Bible where someone who knew prophecy attempted to change it?

**Discussion:** How might today's leaders react to knowing what would happen in the future?



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### 2. Repeat and Expand

Daniel 11 is unique in that it repeats the same prophecy again and again. Daniel 2,7,8, and 11 all refer to the same set of world empires that would rule the world. However, every time the prophecy repeats, it provides us with more information. Understanding Daniel’s symbols, helps us see this concept clearly:

	Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Daniel 11
<b>Babylon</b>				
<b>Medo-Persia</b>				
<b>Greece</b>				
<b>Rome</b>				

As we can see in the above chart of symbols from Daniel’s prophecies, each of these chapters repeats the same prophecy. However, every time the prophecy is repeated it expands in its information. Daniel 11 is the most detailed, in that, not only does it reiterate the conflicts between Persia Greece and Rome, it also provides us a closer look at the conflicts that occurred internally within each world empire. This is why Daniel 11 revealed the internal conflicts between the kings of the divided Greek Empire. This is also why we see the wars that occurred between Rome and one of the Barbarian tribes that invaded its southern territory.

Repeat and Expand is how we know Daniel 11 provides us the most detailed view of all these prophecies.



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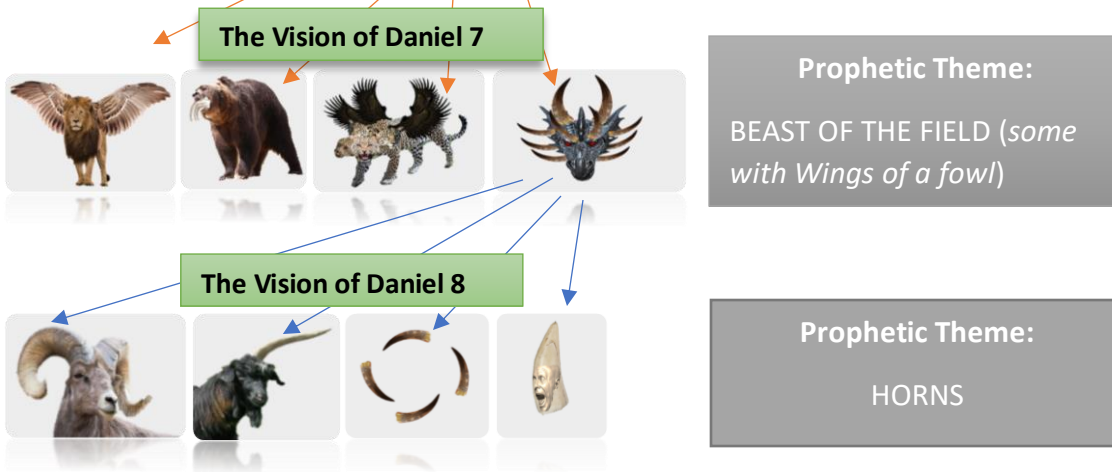
### 3. The Prophetic Theme

The Prophetic Theme is the predominant component of a prophetic vision.

- Daniel 2's theme is Metals.
- Daniel 7's theme is Beast of the Field
- Daniel 8's theme is Horns
- Daniel 11's theme is Kings and Empires

Looking closely at these prophecies, we can clearly see that each prophecy segues to the succeeding prophetic theme.

Notice, Daniel 2 segues to the prophetic theme of Daniel 7: *And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the **beasts of the field** and the **fowls of the heaven** hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all...Daniel 2:38*



Notice Daniel 8 segues to Daniel 11's prophetic theme by introducing each power with its compass direction that it arose from or conquered towards?

I saw the ram pushing **westward**, and **northward**, and **southward**... Daniel 8:4

And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the **west**... Daniel 8:5

...the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the **four winds of heaven**... Daniel 8:8

...a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the **south**, and toward the **east**... Daniel 8:9

**From the above verses, can you tell what Daniel 11's prophetic theme is?**



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### 4. Daniel 11 Parallels Revelation 13

One of the biggest reasons for many of the misinterpretations on Daniel 11 is due to the idea that Daniel 11 mimics Revelation 13.

Many Christians who understand that the Mark of the Beast will be set up prior to the Second Coming, read Daniel 11 and see Michael standing up in Daniel 12:1. Therefore, they assume that Daniel 11 must be coded with the events of Revelation 13. However, what we must understand is that Daniel 11 is revealing what will happen politically at the end of the world.

We also must understand that there is a gap between Daniel 11 and Daniel 12, and the events of Revelation 13 occur within that gap. There is no need to reverse engineer an interpretation of Daniel 11 or eisegesis (read into the text what one believes it's conveying) the last few verses of this chapter. The Mark of the Beast happens as a result of the political wars that occur at the end of Daniel 11.

**Study:** Daniel 11:40-45, Matthew 24, and Revelation 13.

**Discussion:** Notice that war is at the top of the list of last day events. Understanding this fact, can you determine how the events of Daniel 11:40-45, Matthew 24, and Revelation 13 all harmonize together and make up our last day events?



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### 5. Daniel 11's Natural Transitions

Many students of Bible prophecy struggle with Daniel 11, because the chapter doesn't spell out when it transitions from Persia to Greece, then from Greece to Rome.

However, God in His wisdom did not leave us without indicators. Daniel 11 has Natural Transitions that reveal when the chapter transitions from one empire to the next.

To put it as simple as possible, Daniel 11's Natural Transitions have one simple rule: The same way a kingdom rises (or is introduced) is the same way a kingdom falls.

Here are Daniel 11's Natural Transitions:

**Persia is introduced:**

"And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall **stand up** yet three kings in Persia..." **Daniel 11:2**

**Persia ends, and Greece begins:**

"And a mighty king shall **stand up**, that shall rule with great dominion, and **do according to his will**." **Daniel 11:3**

**Greece ends, and Rome begins:**

"But he that cometh against him **shall do according to his own will**, and none shall stand before him: and **he shall stand in the glorious land**, which by his hand shall be consumed." **Daniel 11:16**

**Rome ends:**

"**And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain**; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." **Daniel 11:45**

These Natural Transitions reveal that:

- Persia begins in verse 1 and ends in verse 2.
- Greece begins in verse 3 and ends in verse 16a.
- Rome begins in verse 16b and ends in verse 45.

**Discussion:** What events do you believe are occurring during each of the above transitions?



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### 6. Daniel is a Progression

Daniel 11 is a succession of events. Notice the language of this prophecy:

*And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all... Daniel 11:2*

Notice, the angel talks about three kings and then a fourth king. While it may seem minor, we can clearly see the angels is giving Daniel a succession of events.

Notice the angel continues with this succession in the following verse:

*And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. Daniel 11:3*

The angel transitions from Persia to Greece without delay.

Notice another indicator of Daniel 11's timeline format:

*And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him... Daniel 11:40*

We must recognize that towards the end of this chapter it transitions to the "time of the end." This tells us that Daniel 11 is a timeline, not an oscillator that moves back and forth through time.

Daniel 11's forward progression is one of our best indicators to determine what the prophecy is detailing. For example, knowing that verse 3 occurs historically after verse 2, prevents us from interpreting the mighty king who stood up as a king who ruled prior to the four Persian kings. Knowing that verse 3 occurs after Persia, helps us better pinpoint that this mighty king ruled *after* Persia had fallen. Thus, we can see that our focus should be on a Greek king, not a Persian king. If we make Daniel 11 fluid with its timeline, it becomes virtually impossible to determine a historical reference point to base our interpretation from. This is why it's important to interpret Daniel 11 as a progressive timeline of events.

*Occasionally, Daniel 11 may present events in reverse order (i.e., verse 22 lists the destruction of Jerusalem before the crucifixion. When this occurs, it's typically done in this manner because the angel is presenting the effect (destruction of Jerusalem) before the cause (rejection of Christ).*

**Discussion:** Can you find other indicators in Daniel 11 that reveal its timeline nature?



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### 7. **The Literalness of Daniel 11**

Daniel 11 should always be interpreted as a literal prophecy.

By interpreting Daniel 11 symbolically, it opens us up to eisegesis and thus we end up placing our own ideas into Daniel 11.

#### **Prophetic Interpretation rule**

One of the most basic interpretation rules is that we always take a literal approach to prophecy, unless the prophetic description deems that it must be symbolic.

For example: **Revelation 12:1** says, *“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.”*

It is humanly impossible for anyone to clothe themselves with the sun; thus we understand that this woman must be symbolic.

This rule is one of the most basic rules of Bible interpretation. It prevents us from making literal components symbolic, and symbolic components literal.

**Question:** What are the three main views of Bible interpretation? How do these views likely play into the reason for many to symbolize the end of Daniel 11?

**Question:** Is it possible that we should interpret events literally before the crucifixion and symbolically after the crucifixion?

**Study and Discussion:** Read Matthew 24 and decide if this chapter is a literal prophecy or a symbolic prophecy. Also discuss what dangers are presented by making a literal prophecy symbolic.