

## Daniel 11-12

Today brings us to the end of the Book of Daniel with chapter 12

11 Visions of the end times

12 what will happen

13 Susanna and the elders

14 Bel and the Dragon

These last two, though doubtless gripping little short stories Susannah and Bel and the Dragon - but these were added at a much later day and are not properly part of Daniel as a whole. These are written in Greek and they contain a pun in Greek (the "mastic tree" Gk schinon" or split, like the witnesses. While the RC Church regards these books as Scripture, the Protestant world considers them apocryphal and therefore not part of the Bible.

\*these do show the popularity of the hero Daniel and his great wisdom, and explain his popularity in folklore.

Several things to note about 11

This is the most detailed "prophecy" in the OT

19<sup>th</sup> century debate on authorship

Background: Philip, Olympia Alexander and Aristotle

On one level this appears to be just kingdoms squabbling, but it represents the birth of a new age which will change Judaism and then Christianity. The fusion of Greek and Jewish culture has very long last effects. "Every man has two homes: Athens and Jerusalem"

From the Jewish world the rest of the world gains several things

\*Monotheism; the Greeks had been wrestling with this for some time, but here is a clearer answer: One God

\*The idea of a universal; moral code (note Nuremburg)

\*the idea of a history, a lineal progression from creation to apocalypse

As opposed to "dream time or before the Trojan War"

\*the idea of an canon of Scripture

\*the idea of a universal law and civilization, not many tiny states each with their own god

From the Greek world we gain

\*medicine: illnesses have causes and cures not clean vs unclean

\*the aits: can statues be used in religious rites?

\*drama: acting out a story in public and the willing suspension of unbelief: we see this every day but it is new here

\*a new way of reading Scripture: allegory and symbolish not simple facts

\*the rise of the Schola and scholarship as opposed to study of Torah  
Chapter 11

v. 1: sets this in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC

2 Three kings of Persia. These are not identifiable, but local nobles were often members of the royal family of Persia

v. 3 This is Alexander the Great, who defeated the Persian Empire at Issus in 333 BC.

v. 4 Divided: Selucids (North) Macedonian (far north) and Ptolemaic (Egypt)

v. 6 this is Bernice, the daughter of the Antiochid king, whose husband was murdered but whose son would later come to power.

Vv 12-14 War between Syria and Egypt

19 The Roman Scipio who intervened in the coastlands

11:21 The rise of Antiochus Epiphanes, the great persecutor of the Jews  
Period of the Maccabees and the famous revolt

30 Kittim - modern day Cyprus a significant naval power

32: the forcing of the Jews to sacrifice to pagan gods

41-42 continued war against Egypt

## Chapter 12

\*we see in ch 12 the refinement of apocalyptic

Examples, Mark 13, Revelation,

Ezekiel, Isaiah 40-55 and 56-66, Haggai 2, and Zechariah 1-8

After the closing of the canon there are many others

\*resurrection of the dead (v 1-3) note that it is for some but not all. ..yet

v. 4 The idea of a secret being kept until the right time

v 5 the use of supernatural creatures

v. 9 the idea of purification

v 11 mystical numbers of days as a symbolic way of speaking  
above all, the question of divine justice

a day when evil will be punished and good rewarded

history has a destination