**Surviving in Dangerous Times – Lesson 11 – Daniel 11**

I. Review

II. Overview

 A. Four sections – selective, not exhaustive account of all the kings in period of vision

 1. Persia and Greece – v2-4

 2. Kings of North and South – v5-20

 3. Antiochus IV Epiphanes – v21-35

 4. A king that is even worse – v36-45

 B. Context of the vision – people back in Israel, but discouraged – just surviving

 C. Angel who delivered this vision had been an encouragement and protection for Darius, the Mede in 1st year of governance

III. Persia and Greece (v2-4)

 A. Truth about future of Persia – 2nd kingdom in Dan 2,7,8,9

 1. Three kings will arise – Cambyses, Smerdis, Darius the Great

 2. A fourth king will come – Xerxes (Ahasuerus of Esther) – will arouse empire against Greece – invaded but defeated at Salamis, 480 BC

 B. Coming of Greece – 3rd kingdom in Dan 2,7,8,9

 1. A mighty king to arise – Alexander, the Great

 2. Shortly after, his kingdom will be broken into four pieces

IV. Conflict between Kings of the South and Kings of the North (v5-20)

 A. Some orientation

 1. Based on direction from Jerusalem

 2. Overall perspective is endless sequence of conflict, wars, politics between two superpowers – neither able to come out on top for long

 3. Futility of schemes and conspiracies

 4. Israel caught in middle – road system puts Judah in the crosshairs of the two kings

 B. King of South (Ptolemy I) grows strong with great dominion – v5

 1. Replaced by his son (Ptolemy II) who attempts to form alliance with King of North (Antiochus II) – v6

 a. Done through marital arrangement of his daughter (Berenice) with Antiochus II

 b. Antiochus II already married to Laodice – divorced her

 b. Laodice murdered Berenice and her baby son

 2. Antiochus II takes Laodice back, but does not remain in power – poisoned by Laodice

 3. One of Berenice’s brothers (Ptolemy III) comes against army of the King of the North (Seleucus II) and kills Laodice – v7-8

 C. The situation for the Jews during this time – God’s people unable to just watch – caught up in conflict with trail of destruction

 1. Some violent Jews rise against Ptolemy V, but will fall down (v14)

 2. Antiochus III will stay in Israel for a while with destruction as part of his reign (v16)

 3. Seleucus IV sends an oppressor through Israel (v20)

V. Antiochus IV Epiphanes – despicable person (brother of Seleucus IV) arises in his place (v21-35)

 A. Kingship not given to him – takes it himself via flattery and intrigue

 B. Came in time of tranquility and subdued forces against him – two primary objects of his hostility: Egypt and God’s people (prince of covenant = the high priest – Onias III) – v22

 C. Alliance made with him but will practice deception – v23

 D. Will gain power with a small force and will be successful using lavish rewards for his allies, but only for a time – v24

 E. Mobilizes against King of South (Ptolemy VI) – v25-26

 1. Ptolemy VI will not stand because of schemes against him

 2. Both kings intent on evil – v27

 3. Antiochus IV returns to own land, but is set against God and His people – v28

 F. Antiochus IV attacks the South again at an appointed time – v29

 1. Will not be successful as he was before

 2. Naval force from Kittim (Rome) comes against him – v30

 3. Forces from him arise – God’s people pay big price – some caved under pressure, some resisted at great cost – v31

 a. Will desecrate the sanctuary fortress and do away with regular sacrifice

 b. Will set up abomination of desolation

 c. By flattery will seduce those who violate the covenant – v32

 4. People who know God shall stand firm and act for God

 a. Those with insight will teach many – v33

 b. Some will fall by violence against them

 c. Will receive help from some – v34

 d. Many will join with them in hypocrisy

 e. Some of the wise will fall in order to refine a remnant until an appointed future time – v35

 G. Throughout, Antiochus is limited by God – should be encouraging to God’s faithful – v24,27,29,35

VI. Another king who is worse – suffering and distress will be more than has ever occurred to that time – end of 4th kingdom (v36-45)

 A. Monstrous king arises in the North (Antiochus IV merely a model) – v36

 1. Will do as he pleases and exalt himself above all gods – self-deification (II Thes 2:4)

 2. Will speak extraordinary things against God

 3. Will prosper until the indignation is finished as determined by God

 4. Will show no regard for gods of his fathers or desire of women – magnifies self above all – v37

 5. Will honor god of fortresses with riches of this world – war is his god – v38

 6. Will take action against strongest opposition with help of a foreign god – v39

 B. At the time of the end King of South comes against monstrous King of the North – v40

 1. King of North comes with many forces through other nations

 a. Will enter Israel – v41

 b. Many countries will fall, but some will be rescued (Edom, Moab, Ammon)

 2. Will come against other nations including Egypt – v42

 3. Rumors come from East and North – v44

 a. Disturb King of North

 b. Will go forth with great wrath to destroy many

 c. Will settle in Israel between the seas and Zion – v45

 d. Will come to an end with no one to help him

VI. Lessons for today

 A. Kings are rich and amass power – try to gain more by attacking others – motivation is always more, more

 B. Kings temporary – strong for a time, but God is still in control

 C. Things seem to be getting worse as time goes on.

 D. Things to do in the meantime

 1. Believe – those who know God will be strong (v32)

 2. Resist – those who know God will take action

 3. Teach – those with insight will give understanding (v33)

 4. Pray – as Daniel had been doing