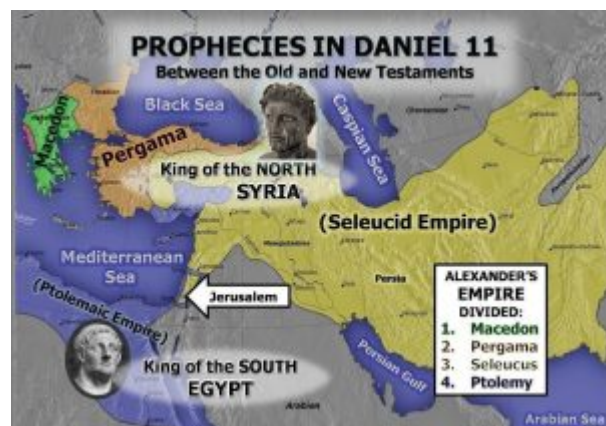


# Daniel 11 Explained in the Light of History



Daniel 11 is all about prophecy of future events – future to the time of the prophet Daniel, not us – and one of the hardest passages in the Bible to understand *unless* you know the history behind it! It's not about the rise of the Antichrist in an as-yet-unknown time in the future as many people think. Why do they think that? Because that's what they were taught. And who taught them? People under the teaching of John Nelson Darby's and C.I. Scofield's dispensationalism! I was one of them. Most evangelicals today are.

When my pastor told me that Daniel 11:31 is a prophecy of the Endtime Antichrist setting up his image in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, I didn't question him. Why should I? I was young then, 23 years old, and still ignorant of Bible prophecy. My pastor was much older and more knowledgeable than I was. At the time I had no reason to question him. I didn't even know there are alternative interpretations in the light of history that much more sense. I did not know about the Counter-Reformation and the Jesuits' corruption of Bible interpretation through infiltration into Protestant churches and seminaries. How could I know that then? At the time I was living in Japan with no access to English libraries. And even if there was a library, would the books I needed to read even be available? It wasn't until the advent of the Internet that I had access to information on what the Bible prophecy teachers of the 18th century and earlier used to teach before Jesuit doctrines seeped into the churches.

The most amazing thing about the prophecies of Daniel 11 is that they are very specific. The prophecies were all fulfilled in specific people and not just generally as the prophecy of empires in Daniel chapters 2, 7 and 8. It's as if God already planned for all this to happen and He chose the people through which the events happened!

The commentary is based on Adam Clarke's research. Adam Clarke (1762 – 26 August 1832) was a British Methodist theologian.

Verse

Commentary

Daniel 11:1 ¶Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

Daniel 11:2 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: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

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

The angel from chapter 10 is talking to Daniel. He reveals that heads of state are under the influence of the spirit world, in this case for good. Darius the first Median king of Babylon was favored by God and was a friend of Daniel.

Gabriel had already spoken of Cyrus, who was now reigning; and after him three others should arise. These were,

1. Cambyses, the son of Cyrus.
2. Smerdis, the Magian, who was an impostor, who pretended to be another son of Cyrus. And,
3. Darius, the son of Hystaspes, who married Mandane, the daughter of Cyrus.

Cambyses reigned seven years and five months; Smerdis reigned only seven months; and Darius Hystaspes reigned thirty-six years.

**The fourth shall be far richer than they all** – This was Xerxes, the son of Darius, of whom Justin says. “He had so great an abundance of riches in his kingdom, that although rivers were dried up by his numerous armies, yet his wealth remained unexhausted.”

**He shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia** – His military strength was such, that Herodotus, who lived in that time, informs us that his army amounted to five millions, two hundred and eighty-three thousand, two hundred and twenty men. Besides these, the Carthaginians furnished him with an army of three hundred thousand men, and a fleet of two hundred ships. He led an army against the Greeks of eight hundred thousand men, and twelve hundred and seven ships, with three banks of rowers each. As he marched along, he obliged all the people of the countries through which he passed to join him.

This was Alexander the great.

**Alexander's kingdom shall be broken** – Shall, after his death, be divided among his four chief generals.

**And not to his posterity** – The family of Alexander had a most tragical end:

1. His wife Statira was murdered soon after his death by his other wife Roxana.

2. His brother Aridaeus who succeeded him, was killed, together with his wife Euridice, by command of Olympias, Alexander's mother, after he had been king about six years and some months.

3. Olympias herself was killed by the soldiers in revenge.

4. Alexander Aegus, his son, together with his mother Roxana, was slain by order of Cassander.

5. Two years after, his other son Hercules, with his mother Barsine, was privately murdered by Polysperchon; so that in fifteen years after his death not one of his family or posterity remained alive!

"Blood calls for blood." He (Alexander) was the great butcher of men. He was either poisoned, or killed himself by immoderate drinking, when he was only thirty-two years and eight months old: and a retributive Providence destroyed all his posterity, so that neither root nor branch of them was left on the face of the earth. Thus ended Alexander, the great butcher; and thus ended his family and posterity.

Daniel 11:4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Daniel 11:5 ¶And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.

This was Ptolemy Lagus, one of his generals, who had the government of Egypt, Libya, etc., which are on the south of Judea. He was strong, for he had added Cyprus, Phoenicia, Caria, etc., to his kingdom of Egypt.

**And one of his princes – shall be strong above him –**

This was Seleucus Nicator, who possessed Syria, Babylon, Media, and the neighboring countries. This was the king of the north, for his dominions lay north of Judea.

Several historical circumstances are here passed by.

Daniel 11:6 And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.

Daniel 11:7 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:

Daniel 11:8 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.

Daniel 11:9 So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

**The king's daughter of the south** – Berenice, daughter of Ptolemy Philadelphus, king of Egypt, was married to Antiochus Theos, king of Syria. These two sovereigns had a bloody war for some years; and they agreed to terminate it by the above marriage, on condition that Antiochus would put away his wife Laodice and her children, which he did; and Berenice having brought an immense fortune to her husband, all things appeared to go on well for a time.

**But she shall not retain the power of the arm** – זרעו, her posterity, shall not reign in that kingdom.

**But she shall be given up** – Antiochus recalled his former wife Laodice and her children, and she, fearing that he might recall Berenice, caused him to be poisoned and her to be murdered, and set her son Callinicus upon the throne.

**And they that brought her** – Her Egyptian women, striving to defend their mistress, were many of them killed.

**And he that begat her** – Or, as the margin, "he whom she brought forth;" the son being murdered, as well as the mother, by order of Laodice.

**And he that strengthened her** – Probably her father Ptolemy, who was excessively fond of her, and who had died a few years before.

**But out of a branch of her roots** – A branch from the same root from which she sprang. This was Ptolemy Euergetes, her brother, who, to avenge his sister's death, marched with a great army against Seleucus Callinicus, took some of his best places, indeed all Asia, from Mount Taurus to India, and returned to Egypt with an immense booty, forty thousand talents of silver, precious vessels, and images of their gods two thousand five hundred, without Callinicus daring to offer him battle. I can but touch on these historic facts, for fear of extending these notes to an immoderate length.

**He shall continue more years** – Seleucus Callinicus died (an exile) by a fall from his horse; and Ptolemy Euergetes survived him four or five years.

**So the king of the south** – Ptolemy Euergetes: – Shall come into his kingdom – That of Seleucus Callinicus. And shall return – Having heard that a sedition had taken place in Egypt, Ptolemy Euergetes was obliged to return speedily in order to repress it; else he had wholly destroyed the kingdom of Callinicus.

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.

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.

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.

Daniel 11:13 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.

**But his sons shall be stirred up** – That is, the sons of Callinicus, who were Seleucus Ceraunus and Antiochus, afterwards called the Great.

**Shall assemble a multitude** – Seleucus Ceraunus did assemble a multitude of forces in order to recover his father's dominions; but, not having money to pay them, they became mutinous, and he was poisoned by two of his own generals. His brother Antiochus was then proclaimed king; so that one only of the sons did certainly come, and overflow, and pass through; he retook Seleucia, and regained Syria. He then returned, and overcame Nicolaus the Egyptian general; and seemed disposed to invade Egypt, as he came even to his fortress, to the frontiers of Egypt.

The king of the south – Ptolemy Philopater, who succeeded his father Euergetes.

**Shall come forth and fight with him** – He did come forth to Raphia, where he was met by Antiochus, when a terrible battle was fought between these two kings.

**And he (Antiochus, the king of the north) shall set forth a great multitude** – Amounting to sixty-two thousand foot, six thousand horse, and one hundred and two elephants; but yet the multitude was given into his hand, the hand of the king of the south; for Ptolemy gained a complete victory. Raphia, and other neighbouring towns, declared for the victor; and Antiochus was obliged to retreat with his scattered army to Antioch, from which he sent to solicit a peace. See 3 Maccabees 1:1-6, and Polybius, lib. v.

**His heart shall be lifted up** – Had Ptolemy improved his victory, he might have dispossessed Antiochus of his whole empire; but giving way to pride, and a criminally sensual life, he made peace on dishonorable terms; and though he had gained a great victory, yet his kingdom was not strengthened by it, for his subjects were displeased, and rebelled against him, or at least became considerably disaffected.

**The king of the north shall return** – after certain years – In about fourteen years Antiochus did return, Philopater being dead, and his son Ptolemy Epiphanes being then a minor. He brought a much larger army and more riches; these he had collected in a late eastern expedition.

**Many stand up against the king of the south** – Antiochus, and Philip king of Macedon, united together to overrun Egypt.

**Also the robbers of thy people** – The Jews, who revolted from their religion, and joined Ptolemy, under Scopas, - **Shall exalt themselves to establish the vision** – That is, to build a temple like that of Jerusalem, in Egypt, hoping thereby to fulfil a prediction of Isaiah, Isaiah 30:18-25, which seemed to intimate that the Jews and the Egyptians should be one people. They now revolted from Ptolemy, and joined Antiochus; and this was the means of contributing greatly to the accomplishment of prophecies that foretold the calamities that should fall upon the Jews.

**But they shall fall.** – For Scopas came with a great army from Ptolemy; and, while Antiochus was engaged in other parts, reduced Coelesyria and Palestine, subdued the Jews, placed guards on the coasts of Jerusalem, and returned with great spoils to Egypt.

**So the king of the north** – Antiochus came to recover Judea. Scopas was sent by Ptolemy to oppose him; but he was defeated near the fountains of Jordan, and was obliged to take refuge in Sidon with ten thousand men. Antiochus pursued and besieged him; and he was obliged by famine to surrender at discretion, and their lives only were spared. Antiochus afterwards besieged several of the fenced cities, and took them; in short, carried all before him; so that the king of the south, Ptolemy, and his chosen people, his ablest generals, were not able to oppose him.

**He shall stand in the glorious land** – Judea. For he reduced Palestine; and the Jews supplied him with provisions, and assisted him to reduce the garrison that Scopas had left in the citadel of Jerusalem.

**Which by his hand shall be consumed** – Or, which shall be perfected in his hand. For Antiochus showed the Jews great favour: he brought back those that were dispersed, and re-established them in the land; freed the priests and Levites from all tribute, &c.

**He shall also set his face to enter** – Antiochus purposed to have marched his army into Egypt; but he thought it best to proceed by fraudulence, and therefore proposed a treaty of marriage between him and his daughter Cleopatra, called here the daughter of women, because of her great beauty and accomplishments. And this he appeared to do, having “upright ones with him.” Or, as the Septuagint have it καὶ εὐθεια πάντα μετ’ αὐτοῦ ποιήσει, “and he will make all things straight with him;” that is, he acted as if he were influenced by nothing but the most upright views. But he intended his daughter to be a snare to Ptolemy, and therefore purposed to corrupt her that she might betray her husband.

**But she shall not stand on his side** – On the contrary, her husband’s interests became more dear to her than her father’s; and by her means Ptolemy was put upon his guard against the intentions of Antiochus.

Daniel 11:14 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.

Daniel 11:15 So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand.

**Daniel 11:16** 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 11:17 He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.

Daniel 11:18 After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him.

Daniel 11:19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

Daniel 11:20 Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

**Shall he turn his face unto the isles** – Antiochus had fitted out a great fleet of one hundred large ships and two hundred smaller, and with this fleet subdued most of the maritime places on the coast of the Mediterranean, and took many of the isles, Rhodes, Samos, Euboea, Colophon, and others.

**But a prince for his own behalf** – Or, a captain. The consul Acilius Glabrio caused the reproach to cease; beat and routed his army at the straits of Thermopylae, and expelled him from Greece. So he obliged him to pay the tribute which he hoped to impose on others; for he would grant him peace only on condition of paying the expense of the war, fifteen thousand talents; five hundred on the spot, – two thousand five hundred when the peace should be ratified by the senate, – and the remaining twelve thousand in twelve years, each year one thousand. See Polybius in his Legations, and Appian in the Wars of Syria. And thus, –

**Without his own reproach** – Without losing a battle, or taking a false step, Acilius caused the reproach which he was bringing upon the Romans to turn upon himself.

**He shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land** – After this shameful defeat, Antiochus fled to Sardis, thence to Apamea, and the next day got into Syria, and to Antioch, his own fort, whence he sent ambassadors to treat for peace; and was obliged to engage to pay the immense sum of money mentioned above.

**But he shall stumble and fall** – Being under the greatest difficulties how to raise the stipulated sums, he marched into his eastern provinces to exact the arrears of taxes; and, attempting to plunder the temple of Jupiter Belus at Elymais, he was opposed by the populace, and he and his attendants slain. This is the account that Diodorus Sicules, Strabo, and Justin give of his death. But it is variously related by others; some saying that he was assassinated by some of his own people whom he had punished for being drunk at a feast. – So Aurelius Victor. St. Jerome says he lost his life in a battle against the inhabitants of Elymais. In short, the manner of his death is uncertain; and perhaps even this circumstance is referred to by the prophet, when he says, “He shall stumble and fall, and NOT BE FOUND.”

**Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes** – Seleucus Philopater succeeded his father Antiochus. He sent his treasurer Heliodorus to seize the money deposited in the temple of Jerusalem, which is here called the glory of the kingdom, see 2Macc 9:23. He was so cramped to pay the annual tax to the Romans, that he was obliged to burden his subjects with continual taxes. He shall be destroyed, neither in anger – fighting against an enemy, nor in battle – at the head of his troops; but basely and treacherously, by the hand of Heliodorus his treasurer, who hoped to reign in his stead.

Daniel 11:21 ¶And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Daniel 11:22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

Daniel 11:23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

**In his estate shall stand up a vile person** – This was Antiochus, surnamed Epiphanes – the Illustrious. They did not give him the honour of the kingdom: he was at Athens, on his way from Rome, when his father died; and Heliodorus had declared himself king, as had several others. But Antiochus came in peaceably, for he obtained the kingdom by flatteries. He flattered Eumenes, king of Pergamus, and Attalus his brother, and got their assistance. He flattered the Romans, and sent ambassadors to court their favour, and pay them the arrears of the tribute. He flattered the Syrians, and gained their concurrence; and as he flattered the Syrians, so they flattered him, giving him the epithet of Epiphanes – the Illustrious. But that he was what the prophet here calls him, a vile person, is fully evident from what Polybius says of him, from Athenaeus, lib. v.: “He was every man’s companion: he resorted to the common shops, and prattled with the workmen: he frequented the common taverns, and ate and drank with the meanest fellows, singing debauched songs,” &c., &c. On this account a contemporary writer, and others after him, instead of Epiphanes, called him *Epimanes* – the Madman.

**And with the arms of a flood** – The arms which were overflown before him were his competitors for the crown. They were vanquished by the forces of Eumenes and Attalus; and were dissipated by the arrival of Antiochus from Athens, whose presence disconcerted all their measures.

**The prince of the covenant** – This was Onias, the high priest, whom he removed, and put Jason in his place, who had given him a great sum of money; and then put wicked Menelaus in his room, who had offered him a larger sum. Thus he acted deceitfully in the league made with Jason.

**He shall come up** – From Rome, where he had been a hostage for the payment of the tax laid on his father.

**Shall become strong with a small people.** – At first he had but few to espouse his cause when he arrived at Antioch, the people having been greatly divided by the many claimants of the crown; but being supported by Eumenes and Attalus, his few people increased, and he became strong.



Daniel 11:24 He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

Daniel 11:25 And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him.

Daniel 11:26 Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.

**He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places** – The very richest provinces – Coelesyria and Palestine. **He shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers** – He became profuse in his liberalities, and scattered among them the prey of his enemies, the spoil of temples, and the riches of his friends, as well as his own revenues. He spent much in public shows, and bestowed largesses among the people. We are told in 1Macc 3:30, that “in the liberal giving of gifts he abounded above all the kings that went before him.” These are nearly the words of the prophet; and perhaps without any design to copy them on the part of the apocryphal writer. He would sometimes go into the streets, and throw about a handful of money, crying out, “Let him take it, to whom Fortune sends it.”

**He shall forecast his devices** – As Eulaeus and Lenaeus, who were the guardians of the young Egyptian king Ptolemy Philometer, demanded from Antiochus the restitution of Coelesyria and Palestine, which he refused, he foresaw that he might have a war with that kingdom; and therefore he forecast devices – fixed a variety of plans to prevent this; visited the strong holds and frontier places to see that they were in a state of defense. And this he did for a time – he employed some years in hostile preparations against Egypt.

He shall stir up his power – Antiochus marched against Ptolemy, the king of the south, (Egypt,) with a great army; and the Egyptian generals had raised a mighty force.

Stirred up to battle – The two armies met between Pelusium and Mount Casius; but he (the king of the south) could not stand-the Egyptian army was defeated. The next campaign he had greater success; he routed the Egyptian army, took Memphis, and made himself master of all Egypt, except Alexandria, see 1Macc 1:16-19. And all these advantages he gained by forecasting devices; probably by corrupting his ministers and captains. Ptolemy Macron gave up Cyprus to Antiochus; and the Alexandrians were led to renounce their allegiance to Ptolemy Philometer, and took Euergetes, or Physcon his younger brother, and made him king in his stead. All this was doubtless by the corruptions of Antiochus.

**Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat** – This is the proof of what has been last noted, that the intrigues of Antiochus, corrupting the ministers and officers of Ptolemy, were the cause of all the disasters that fell on the Egyptian king. They that fed of the portion of his meat – who were in his confidence and pay, and possessed the secrets of the state, betrayed him; and these were the means of destroying him and his army, so that he was defeated, as was before observed.

Daniel 11:27 And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.

Daniel 11:28 Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.

Daniel 11:29 At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief – That is, Antiochus, and Ptolemy Philometer, who was nephew to the former, and whose interest he now pretended to have much at heart, since the Alexandrians had renounced their allegiance to him, and set his younger brother Euergetes upon the throne. When Antiochus came to Memphis, he and Philometer had frequent conferences at the same table; and at these times they spoke lies to each other, Antiochus professing great friendship to his nephew and concern for his interests, yet in his heart designing to ruin the kingdom by fomenting the discords which already subsisted between the two brothers. On the other hand, Philometer professed much gratitude to his uncle for the interest he took in his affairs, and laid the blame of the war upon his minister Eulaeus; while at the same time he spoke lies, determining as soon as possible to accommodate matters with his brother, and join all their strength against their deceitful uncle.

**But it shall not prosper** – Neither succeeded in his object; for the end of the appointed time was not yet come.

**Then shall he return onto his land with great riches** – Antiochus did return, laden with riches, from the spoils that he took in Egypt; see 1Macc 1:19, 20. And hearing that there had been a report of his death, at which the citizens of Jerusalem had made great rejoicings, -

**His heart shall be against the holy covenant** – He was determined to take a severe revenge, and he had an ostensible pretext for it, for Jason, who had been deprived of the high priesthood, hearing the report of the death of Antiochus, raised forces, marched against Jerusalem, took it, and obliged Menelaus, the high priest, to shut himself up in the castle. Antiochus brought a great army against Jerusalem; took it by storm; slew forty thousand of the inhabitants; sold as many more for slaves; boiled swine's flesh, and sprinkled the temple and the altar with the broth; broke into the holy of holies; took away the golden vessels and other sacred treasures, to the value of one thousand eight hundred talents; restored Menelaus to his office; and made one Philip, a Phrygian, governor of Judea. 1Macc 1:24; 2Macc 5:21. Prideaux and Newton. These are what we term exploits; which having finished, he returned to his own land.

**At the time appointed he shall return** – Finding that his treachery was detected, and that the two brothers had united their counsel and strength for their mutual support, he threw off the mask; and having collected a great army early in the spring, he passed through Coelesyria; entered Egypt; and the inhabitants of Memphis having submitted to him, he came by easy marches to Alexandria. But, says the prophet, "it shall not be as the former or as the latter:" he had not the same success as the former, when he overthrew the Egyptian army at Pelusium; nor as the latter, when he took Memphis, and subdued all Egypt, except Alexandria.

**For the ships of Chittim shall come against him –**

Chittim is well known to mean the Roman empire. Antiochus, being now in full march to besiege Alexandria, and within seven miles of that city, heard that ships were arrived there from Rome, with legates from the senate. He went to salute them. They delivered to him the letters of the senate, in which he was commanded, on pain of the displeasure of the Roman people, to put an end to the war against his nephews. Antiochus said he would go and consult his friends; on which Popilius, one of the legates, took his staff, and instantly drew a circle round Antiochus on the sand where he stood, and commanded him not to pass that circle till he had given a definitive answer. Antiochus, intimidated, said, he would do whatever the senate enjoined; and in a few days after began his march, and returned to Syria. This is confirmed by Polybius, Livy, Velleius, Paterculus, Valerius Maximus, and Justin. **Therefore he shall be grieved** – “Grieving and groaning,” says Polybius; both mortified, humbled, and disappointed.

**Have indignation against the holy covenant** – For he vented his rage against the Jews; and he sent his general, Apollonius, with twenty-two thousand men against Jerusalem, plundered and set fire to the city, pulled down the houses round about it, slew much of the people, and built a castle on an eminence that commanded the temple, and slew multitudes of the poor people who had come up to worship, polluted every place, so that the temple service was totally abandoned, and all the people fled from the city. And when he returned to Antioch he published a decree that all should conform to the Grecian worship; and the Jewish worship was totally abrogated, and the temple itself consecrated to Jupiter Olympius. How great must the wickedness of the people have been when God could tolerate this!

In the transacting of these matters he had intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant; with wicked Menelaus the high priest; and the apostate Jews united with him, who gave from time to time such information to Antiochus as excited him against Jerusalem the temple, and the people. See 1Macc 1:41, 62; 2Macc 6:1-9; confirmed by Josephus, War, book i. chap. 1, s. 1. The concluding reflection of Bp. Newton here is excellent:- “It may be proper to stand a little here, and reflect how particular and circumstantial this prophecy is, concerning Egypt and Syria, from the death of Alexander to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. There is not so concise, comprehensive, and regular an account of their kings and affairs to be found in any authors of those times. The prophecy is really more perfect than any history, and is so wonderfully exact, not only to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, but likewise equally so beyond that time, that we may conclude in the words of the inspired writer, ‘No one could thus declare the times and seasons, but he who hath them in his own power.’”

Daniel 11:30 For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.

Daniel 11:31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Daniel 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

**And arms shall stand on his part** – After Antiochus, arms, that is, the Romans, shall stand up: for arms in this prophecy every where denote military power; and standing up, the power in activity and conquering. Both Sir Isaac Newton and Bp. Newton agree, that what follows is spoken of the Romans. Hitherto Daniel has described the actions of the kings of the north and of the south, that of the kings of Syria and Egypt; but, upon the conquest of Macedon by the Romans, he has left off describing the actions of the Greeks, and begun to describe those of the Romans in Greece, who conquered Macedon, Illyricum, and Epirus, in the year of the era of Nabonassar, 580. Thirty-five years after, by the will of Attalus, they inherited all Asia westward of Mount Taurus; sixty-five years after they conquered the kingdom of Syria, and reduced it into a province; and thirty-four years after they did the same to Egypt. By all these steps the Roman arms stood up over the Greeks; and after ninety-five years more, by making war upon the Jews, they polluted the sanctuary of strength, - the temple, (so called by reason of its fortifications,) and took away the daily sacrifice and placed the abomination that maketh desolate, or of the desolator; for that this abomination was thus placed after the time of Christ, appears from Matthew 24:15.

In the sixteenth year of the Emperor Adrian, A.D. 132, they placed this abomination by building a temple to Jupiter Capitolinus, where the temple of God in Jerusalem stood; upon which the Jews, under Barchocab, rose up against the Romans. But in this war they had fifty cities demolished, nine hundred and fifty of their best towns destroyed, and eighty thousand men were slain by the sword; and in the end of the war, A.D. 136, were banished Judea on pain of death; and thenceforth the land became desolate.

**Such as do wickedly against the covenant** – This is understood of the *Christian Jews*; for the NEW had now succeeded to the OLD, the whole of the Jewish ritual having been abolished, and Jerusalem filled with heathen temples. And he - the Roman power, did all he could by flatteries, as well as threats, to corrupt the Christians, and cause them to sacrifice to the statues of the emperors.

**But the people that do know their God** – The genuine Christians.

**Shall be strong** – Shall be strengthened by his grace and Spirit.

**And do exploits** – Continue steadfast in all temptations, hold fast their faith, and enjoy a good conscience.

Daniel 11:33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.

Daniel 11:34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.

Daniel 11:35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.

Daniel 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

**And they that understand** – The apostles and primitive Christians in general, who understood from the prophets, and his own actions, that JESUS was the true MESSIAH.

**Instruct many** – Preach the Gospel every where, and convert multitudes to the faith.

**Yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.** – They were exposed to the malice and fury of their enemies, during TEN STATE PERSECUTIONS, and suffered all kinds of tortures, with but little intermission, for three hundred years.- Newton.

**Now when they shall fall** – When the storm of the tenth persecution under Diocletian, which lasted ten years, fell upon them, they were sorely oppressed.

**They shall be holpen with a little help** – By Constantine; who, while he removed all persecution, and promoted the temporal prosperity of the Christian Church, yet added little to its spiritual perfection and strength. For many, now seeing the Christians in prosperity,-

**Cleave to them with flatteries.** – Became Christians BECAUSE the EMPEROR was such.

**And some of them of understanding** – Disputes on certain points of religion soon agitated the Christian Church; and now, having no outward persecution, they began to persecute each other. And many excellent men, men of understanding, fell victims because they would not embrace erroneous doctrines, when professed by the state. But this was permitted,-

**To try them, and to purge, and to make them white** – To bring all to the pure profession, possession, and practice of Christianity.

**To the time of the end** – My own comment: Till Jesus returns!

**And the king shall do according to his will** – This may apply to Antiochus, who exalted himself above every god, called himself a god, sported with all religion, profaned the temple, c., c. But others think an antichristian power in the Church is intended for in the language of this prophecy king is taken for power, a kingdom, c. That such a power did spring up in the Church that acted in an arbitrary manner against all laws, human and Divine, is well known. This power showed itself in the Greek emperors in the east, and in the bishops of Rome in the west. And this is to continue. **Till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.** – This is the same as what was called in Daniel 8:19, the last end of the indignation and Daniel 9:27, the consummation and means the end or consummation of God's indignation against the Jews.

Daniel 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Daniel 11:38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

Daniel 11:39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

**Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers** – That God who sent the evangelists and apostles to preach the pure doctrine. These true fathers of the Christian Church, and their God, the Church of Rome has not regarded, but put councils, and traditions, and apocryphal writings in their place.

**Nor the desire of women** – Both the Greek and Latin Church, in their antichristian enactments, have discouraged, and in several cases proscribed, marriage, under the pretense of greater chastity, to the discredit of God's ordinance, and Christianity itself.

**Nor regard any god** – For the mandates and decrees of that Church have been often in defiance of God and his word, for it has magnified itself above all power and authority in heaven and on earth. It professes to hold the keys, and to open and shut heaven at pleasure, both to states and individuals.

**Shall he honour the god of forces** – מַאֲזִיִּם mauzzim, or gods protectors, as in the margin; worshipping saints and angels as guardians, and protectors, and mediators; leaving out, in general, the true God, and the only Mediator, JESUS CHRIST.

**And a god whom his fathers knew not** – For these gods guardians, the Virgin Mary, saints, and angels, were utterly unknown as mediators and invocable guardians in the primitive apostolic Church.

**Shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones** – How literally does this apply to the Church of Rome! See the house of our lady at Loretto; the shrines of saints; the decorated images, costly apparel, gold, jewels, c., profusely used about images of saints, angels, and the blessed virgin, in different popish churches. This superstition began to prevail in the fourth century, and was established in 787, by the seventh general council for in that the worship of images was enacted.

**In the most strong holds with a strange god** – Bishop Newton proposed the following translation, after justly finding fault with our common Version: "Thus shall he do to the defenders of Mauzzim, together with the strange god whom he shall acknowledge: he shall multiply honour, and he shall cause him to rule over many; and the earth he shall divide for a reward." The defenders of Mauzzim, these saint and angel gods protectors, were the monks, priests, and bishops; of whom it may be truly said, "They were increased with honour, ruled over many, and divided the land for gain." They have been honoured and revered almost to adoration; their jurisdiction was extended over the purses and consciences of men; they have been enriched with the noblest buildings and largest endowments, and the choicest lands have been appropriated for Church lands. These are points of such public notoriety, that they require no proof. – Newton.

**At the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him** – These kings are to be understood in reference to the times of which the prophet speaks. While the kingdoms of Egypt and Syria were subsisting, the king of the south and the north applied to them exclusively: but they did not exist at the time of which the prophet speaks; therefore other southern and northern powers must be sought. These we may find in the Saracens, who were of the Arabians, who came from the south, headed by the false prophet Mohammed, who pushed at him-made war on the Greek emperor Heraclius, and with amazing rapidity deprived him of Egypt, Syria, and many of his finest provinces.

Daniel 11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

**And the king of the north** – The Turks, who were originally Scythians, seized on the remains of the Greek empire; and in process of time rendered themselves masters of the whole. They are represented as coming like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen; their armies being chiefly composed of cavalry.

**And with many ships** – With these they got possession of many islands and maritime countries; and were so powerful in their fleets, that they entirely defeated the Venetians; and at last their fleets became of the utmost consequence to them in besieging, and afterwards taking, Constantinople, A.D. 1453, which they hold to the present day. So they entered into the countries, and overflowed, rendering themselves masters of all Asia Minor and Greece.

**He shall enter also into the glorious land** – Entirely subdue Judea.

Daniel 11:41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

**And many countries shall be overthrown** – Aleppo, Damascus, Gaza, and many other cities were forced to submit to them; and they hold them still.

**But these shalt escape – Edom and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.** – These and other Arabians they have never been able to subdue. They still occupy the deserts; and receive a yearly pension of forty thousand crowns of gold from the Ottoman emperors, to permit the caravans, with the pilgrims for Mecca, to have a free passage.

Daniel 11:42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

**He shall stretch forth his hand** – He – the Ottoman emperors, have stretched forth the hand, not only on European, but also upon Asiatic and African countries. Egypt – has not escaped; it is a province of the Turkish government, as are also Fez, Morocco, Algiers, and many other African countries. And as the prophecy says they “got power over the silver and gold, and the precious things of Egypt,” so it was; for when Selim conquered Egypt, A.D. 1517, he took all its spoils; and the immense sums drawn from it to the present day, and the wretchedness of the land in consequence, are almost incredible.

Daniel 11:43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

The prophecy refers specifically to the vast treasures of Egypt. Therefore, its fulfillment must be looked for in the days of Egypt's power and wealth. It cannot have been fulfilled in the debased and poverty-stricken Egypt of later centuries. In the days of Antony and Cleopatra the treasures of Egypt were of immense value, having been accumulated over the years of the Ptolemaic rule. Octavius captured the accumulated riches of Egypt with his victory over Antony and Cleopatra, and celebrated his triumph in Rome in 29 BCE. He became the first Roman emperor, entitled "Caesar Augustus." Interest rates in the Roman empire fell greatly due to the influx of plunder from Egypt. Octavius returned in victory to Rome. Octavius' general, Cornelius Balbus, later took Libya and Ethiopia for Rome.

Daniel 11:44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

**But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him** – This part of the prophecy is allowed to be yet unfulfilled; and what is portended, the course of prophetic events will show. Were we to understand it as applying to Antiochus, then the news might be of the preparations which he heard, that the provinces of the east, and Artaxerxes, king of Armenia, on the north were intending to rise up against him. But if the Turkish power be understood, as in the preceding verses, it may mean that the Persians on the east, and the Russians on the north, will at some time greatly embarrass the Ottoman government. And how completely has this been fulfilled; first, by the total destruction of the Egyptian fleet, by the combined fleets of England, France, and Russia, in the Bay of Navarino; and, secondly, by the total overthrow of the Turkish army by the Russians, in the years 1828 and 1829, when the sultan was obliged to accept any conditions that the emperor of Russia was pleased to give!

Daniel 11:45 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.

**He shalt plant the tabernacles** – He shall make a last stand in Judea, and there shall his power be smitten. He shall come to his end, and none shall help him – All his confederate and tributary kingdoms, states, and provinces shall desert him, and leave that government to come to a shameful end.

There are two other articles on Daniel 11 on this website:

[All Prophecies of Daniel 11 Fulfilled!](#) by Bryan T. Huie and  
[Daniel 11:21-45 Explained in the Light of History](#) by Philip Mauro

They probably differ somewhat. I hope to compare them a verse at a time and may update this article later with more or different information.

When I was yet a babe in Christ and Bible knowledge, I was told God gave us prophecy to know the future. I don't believe anymore that we can know specific events before they happen. Did any prophet of God prophesy of a fake pandemic that would bring tyranny to democratic nations and trample on the civil rights of the public? No! Does the Bible predict an atomic war that will destroy the earth? What value is it for us to even speculate about such things? The only thing we can know for sure is Jesus is coming and will get



rid of the evildoers and bring an end to the madness on earth. When? When the Father says so!

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## Is the Rapture a Rescue from Persecution? The History Behind the Rapture Doctrine



It seems to me the first thing that pops up into a Christian's mind today when he or she hears the word "rapture," is a rescue from persecution and tribulation from the Antichrist. I see no such promise in the entire Bible. The scriptures tell me otherwise.

*2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall **suffer persecution.***

*Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made **war with the saints,** and prevailed against them;*

*Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make **war with the saints,** and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

I don't know any evangelical today who calls himself a futurist who would disagree that Daniel 7:21 and Revelation 13:7 are talking about the Antichrist. This baffles me because nearly all futurists claim the saints will be taken to Heaven just *before* the rise of the Antichrist!

A view that is very widespread in the church today holds that Jesus will come back to rapture the church out of the world, after which the great tribulation will then occur, and after that, Jesus will return again. There is no scripture in the Bible that says that. An honest Bible student who holds such a view must admit it is something they heard as a little child in Sunday school, and not from the Bible.

Not only that, but many have the mistaken belief it will be a *secret* rapture!

"There are many Christians who believe that the second coming of Jesus Christ will be in two phases. First, He will come for believers, both living and dead, in the "rapture" (read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). In this view, the rapture—which is the transformation and catching up of all Christians, dead or alive, to meet Christ in the air—**will be secret, for it will be unknown to the world of unbelievers** at the time of its happening."

The above quote is from <https://billygraham.org/answer/what-is-the-rapture/>. It's no surprise Billy Graham and his associates would teach that. He got it from the Scofield reference Bible and Scofield got it from John Nelson Darby's false doctrines known as Dispensationalism. Notice there are no Scriptures given to back up the idea that the rapture will be in secret and unknown to the world of unbelievers.

## **The history behind the current popular but false Rapture doctrine**

The following are quotes from <https://www.demonbuster.com/rapture.html>.

Three Jesuit Priests reinterpreted Daniel's 70 weeks of prophecy; the Book of Revelation; and Ezekiel for the purpose of taking the heat of the Protestant Reformation away from the papacy. At the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, all the reformers looked at the Pope as the Antichrist prophesied in the Bible! The three Jesuits were:

1. Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) of Salamanca – futurism/rapturists
2. Luis de Alcazar (1554-1621) of Seville – praeterism
3. Cardinal Roberto Bellarmine (1542-1621) – followed Ribera's school of thought.

The futurists rapture doctrine originated and was submitted by Francisco Ribera in 1585. His Apocalyptic Commentary was on the grand points of Babylon and Anti-Christ which we now call the futurists or rapture doctrine. Ribera's published work was called "In Sacram Beati Ionnis Apostoli " Evangelistate Apocoalypsin Commentari (Lugduni 1593). You can still find these writings in the Bodleian Library in Oxford England.

Ribera's futurist interpretation rocked not only the Protestant church but also the Catholic church, so the Pope ordered it buried in the archives out of sight. Unfortunately, over 200 years later a librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury by the name of S. R. Maitland (1792-1866) was appointed to be the Keeper of the Manuscripts at Lambeth Palace, in London, England. In his duties, Dr. Maitland came across Francisco Ribera's futurist/rapture teaching and he had it republished for the sake of interest in early 1826 with follow-ups in 1829 and 1830. This was spurred along with the Oxford Tracts that were published in 1833 to try and de-protestantize the Church of England.

John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) (A Leader of the Plymouth Brethren) became a follower of S.R. Maitland's prophetic endeavors and was persuaded. Darby's influence in the seminaries of Europe combined with 7 tours of the United States **changed the eschatological view of the ministers which had a trickle-**

**down effect into the churches.** Darby's/Ribera's teachings were embraced radically by **Cyrus Ingerson Scofield** (1843-1921). Scofield adopted Darby's/Ribera's school of prophetic thought into the Scofield Reference Bible of 1909 which was heralded as the "book of books".

Another contributor to the rapturist's chaotic prophetic line of thought came through Emmanuel Lacunza (1731-1801), a **Jesuit priest** from Chile. Lacunza wrote the "Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty" around 1791. It was later published in London in 1827. The book was attributed to a fictitious author named Rabbi Juan Josafat BenEzra. Reverend Edward Irving (1792-1834) contended that it was the work of a converted Jew and proved that even the Jewish scholars embraced a pre-tribulation rapture line of thought. It wasn't long until he had persuaded others to follow his line of thought which gave birth to the Irvingites (per your reference to Margaret McDonald).

In March 1830, in Port Glasgow, Scotland, 15-year-old Margaret McDonald made claim of her visions. Robert Norton published Margaret's visions and prophecies in a book entitled, "The Restoration of Apostles and Prophets in the Catholic Apostolic Church" (London, 1861). Although the modern-day view of every believer being taken away in a rapture is different from all of the thoughts that came before it, there is little doubt about its error.

Lacunza asserted that only those believers who partake of the sacrament of the Eucharist would be raptured; while Margaret McDonald said the rapture would only take those who were filled with the Holy Spirit; and Norton claimed that only those who had been sealed with the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands would be raptured. Definitely, confusion ensued. John Darby, an ordained deacon in the Church of England, was acquainted with Edward Irving and had visited Margaret McDonald during the time of her visions. Combined with the knowledge he had gained from S.R. Maitland/Ribera's teachings and the new push from Irving/McDonald/Lacunza's teachings, Darby used the rapture theory to bring a clean break from the lethargic Church of England.

Ribera and Lucunza's teachings find a meeting point in John Nelson Darby. The effects of this purported lie against the truth are **still dominant today in Christian churches worldwide** .

(End of quotes from <https://www.demonbuster.com/rapture.html>)

There were no chapter divisions in the original text of the Bible. The first Bible to have chapter divisions was the Wycliffe Bible.

The chapter divisions commonly used today were developed by Stephen Langton, an Archbishop of Canterbury. Langton put the modern chapter divisions into place around A.D. 1227. The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first Bible to use this chapter pattern. Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations have followed Langton's chapter divisions. (Ref: <https://www.gotquestions.org/divided-Bible-chapters-verses.html>)

With that in mind, let's ignore the chapter division of 1 Thessalonians

chapters 4 and 5 and read it through from 1 Thessalonians 4:14 to 5:3.

*For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

*Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

You see, if you read it through like this you can take it as events that *all happen on the same day!* Those who belong to Jesus Christ will be gathered to Him, and the wicked will be dealt with.

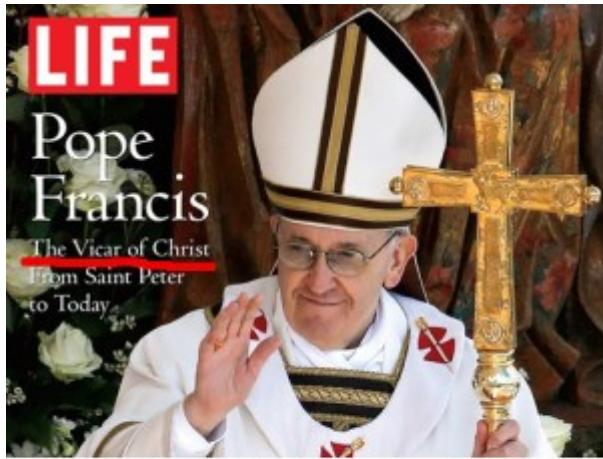
In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said the wicked will be gathered *before* the righteous!

*Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather ye together first the tares**, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

This sure indicates to me there is no significant gap of time between the gathering of the saints and the elimination of the wicked.

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## **666 – The Anti-Christ to Come?**



Vicar: (From Latin) vicarius, *a substitute*,  
 Anti: (From Greek) against, opposite, *instead of*,  
 Vicar of Christ = Anti Christ

In 1519 Martin Luther first called the Pope the Antichrist and later wrote to Pope Leo X and with boldness informed him that he, the Pope, was the Antichrist. The Historicist view was held by all the Protestant Reformers – that is, every major preacher of the gospel on the Protestant side of the Reformation. They all believed that the Papacy was the Antichrist.

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## [Have You Been Duped by Dispensationalism?](#)



You may not have heard of the theological term, “Dispensationalism,” or even if you have, you may not know how to define it. But even so, if you are a Bible believer and a follower of Jesus Christ, the chances are high that your views of the Endtime have been tainted by Dispensational doctrines.

### **What is Dispensationalism?**

Dispensationalism is a method of Bible interpretation that was devised by John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), and later formulated by Cyrus I. Scofield (1843-1921), and is also known as Pre-millennial Dispensationalism. Although Darby was not the first person to suggest such a theory, he was, however, the

first to develop it as a system of Bible interpretation and is, therefore, regarded as the Father of Dispensationalism.

Dispensationalism was promoted through the publication of the Scofield Reference Bible, which was published in 1909. Scofield's Bible contributed to the spread of Dispensationalism because it included study notes written from a distinctively dispensationalist perspective.

The founding of Dallas Theological Seminary in 1924 by Lewis Sperry Chafer provided an academic institution for the training of pastors and missionaries in the dispensationalist tradition. The influence of the prestigious Dallas Theological Seminary together with the Scofield Reference Bible is the reason why American evangelicals were corrupted with the false doctrines of Dispensationalism!

The origin of Dispensational theory can be traced to **three Jesuit priests**.

(1) Francisco **Ribera** (1537-1591). He's the guy that cooked up the doctrine of Futurism, namely that there is a gap of unknown time between the 69th and 70th Week of Daniel, and the 70th Week of Daniel is the final 7 years of the Endtime when the Antichrist makes a covenant or treaty with Israel, rebuilds their temple, breaks the covenant halfway into the 7 years, and persecutes everybody who doesn't obey and follow him.

(2) Cardinal Robert **Bellarmino** (1542-1621) one of the best-known Jesuit apologists, who promoted similar theories to Ribera in his published work between 1581 and 1593 entitled *Polemic Lectures Concerning the Disputed Points of the Christian Belief Against the Heretics of This Time*. The "heretics" are Protestants, Baptists, and all Bible believers and followers of Jesus Christ who are not members of the Roman Catholic Church! Bellarmine was arguing against all basic Bible doctrines such as salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

(3) Manuel **Lacunza** (1731-1801). The writings of Ribera and Bellarmine, which contain the precedence upon which the theory of Dispensationalism is founded, were originally written to counteract the Protestant reformers' interpretation of the Book of the Revelation which, according to the reformers, **exposed the Pope as Antichrist and the Roman Catholic Church as the whore of Babylon**.

## **What are the doctrines of Dispensationalism?**

- A distinction between the Church and Israel.
- A distinction between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God.
- Support for the State of Israel.
- The world will be led by a one-world government and a one-world leader called "the Antichrist" who will promote a one-world religion.
- The Antichrist **will probably be a Jew**.
- The Antichrist makes a 7-year peace pact with the Jews which allows them to rebuild the Temple of Solomon.
- The Church will disappear in the "secret rapture" where all Christian believers vanish from the planet and that this rapture is "imminent."

- The Rapture is then followed by a 7-year period called the “Great Tribulation.” A variation of this is the Great Tribulation will begin in the middle of the 7-year period.

All so called “Christian-Zionists” are Dispensationalists. Famous Dispensationalists include Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, James Dobson, John Hagee, and Paula White. Just think what an influence these people have had on Christianity in America! Is it a good influence based on pure Bible doctrine? John Hagee tells us:

“As Christians, we are commanded by God to support Israel. We believe in the promise of Genesis 12:3 regarding the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. We believe Christians should bless and comfort Israel and the Jewish people. Believers have a Bible mandate to combat anti-Semitism and to speak out in defense of Israel and the chosen people.” – John Hagee

Hagee’s statement is based on Dispensationalism. The Bible tells me:

*2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and **abideth not in the doctrine of Christ**, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

*10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:*

*11 For **he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.***

The words, “God speed” in the King James Bible is a synonym for blessing someone. The Word of God tells us not to bless those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ. If we do, we are partakers of their evil deeds. Does the modern state of Israel abide in the doctrine of Christ? Absolutely not. And yet, John Hagee is telling us to bless the ones who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ. Not only do they not abide in the doctrine of Christ, they curse Jesus Christ and reject Him!

Ask yourself, is God blessing America today? The liberals, atheists, and leftists are blaming America’s extreme weather, the current heat wave, destruction of houses by tornados, fires, and floods on “Climate Change.” I believe it’s much more to do with God’s judgments on America for her sins. One of those sins is America’s support for Israel due to dispensational theology.

Dispensationalists accuse Christians who do not support the modern state of Israel of holding the doctrine of “Replacement Theology.” This is a misnomer. The Church has not replaced Israel, [the Church is the continuation of Israel!](#)

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# Is the 1948 Restoration of the State of Israel a Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy?

"And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea."  
Jesus in Mark 9:42



**Israeli soldier points his gun at a Palestinian child in Hebron City**

I often find inspiration for a new article or Bible study when I see someone post something on social media that I consider to be in error. We should be lovers of truth. When we see something not according to the Scriptures, we should want to correct in love those that are in error.

One of my friends wrote on Facebook:

On May 14, 1948 Israel was reborn as a nation after 2,000 years. No one can deny that this was truly a unique event in human history. Never have a people who lost their statehood later become a nation after such a long period of time! Furthermore, this was the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy!

I commented on that Facebook post, "Please give us the reference of that prophecy."

He gave me several scriptures, but the only ones that could possibly apply are,

*Zechariah 1:12 "Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?"*

*Ezekiel 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*

Zechariah 1:12 is clearly referring to the restoration of the Jews in the land of Israel a few years after the 70 years of captivity. Ezekiel was a contemporary of the prophet Daniel during their captivity in Babylon. Ezekiel 36:24 would clearly be referring to Israel's restoration decreed by King Cyrus. The decree of Cyrus that the Jews can go back to Judah and Jerusalem and rebuild the temple was given about 537 BC. Israel was fully restored by the time of Jesus Christ.



*Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the **house of Israel**.*

Why then would someone take prophecies that were fulfilled by the time of Christ and say they were fulfilled 2000 years after Christ? This is one of the doctrines of John Nelson Darby's dispensationalism! Dispensationalism makes a distinction between the Church and Israel. The Bible tells me the Church is a [continuation of true Israel](#), the people of God.

The article "[Was the Restoration of Israel in 1948 Prophetically Significant?](#)" brings out a good point:

"...the implication of positing 1948 as the fulfillment of Bible prophecy: It means that Israel remains God's covenant people. There is no way out of this. You cannot posit the events of 1948 as "prophetically significant" without thereby affirming that those events were in fulfillment of God's covenant promises to Israel. If God's covenant promises to Israel are / were being fulfilled, then, prima facie, Israel remains God's covenant people. So, if the restoration of Israel in 1948 was prophetically significant, there is no question that Israel remains God's covenant people today."

I believe the Bible makes it abundantly clear that God's covenant people today are *only* those who hold faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and their Lord Who died on the Roman cross for their sins to give them eternal life.

*John 1:12-13 But as many as received him (Jesus, the Word), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: {13} Which were born, **not of blood**, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

*Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

*Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

The Book of Hebrews makes it clear that those in Christ Jesus are under a new covenant:

*Hebrews 12:24 And to **Jesus the mediator of the new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

**Did God give the children of Israel the Land of Canaan unconditionally?**

NO! It was conditional on their obedience!

*Leviticus 18:26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you:*

*27 (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)*

*28 **That the land spue not you out also**, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you.*

*Leviticus 20:22 Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out.*

I searched on the Internet for a meme that said the 1948 restoration of the state of Israel is not a fulfillment of prophecy. I couldn't find any I liked as is, so I took one and modified it.

Did you know that the so-called Star of David is actually the symbol of the god Remphan?

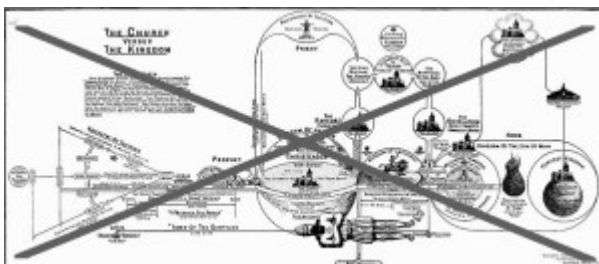
# The Star of Remphan



Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and **the star of your god Remphan**, figures which ye made to worship them: ... - Acts 7:43

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## The Greatest Heresy of the Endtime: Dispensationalism



Dispensationalism is the root of several false doctrines: Zionism, pre-tribulation rapture, a difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.

## The People Behind the Pretribulation Rapture Doctrine



The story of the development of pretribulationism is a tangled one. From its inception in the early 1800s, there has been a deliberate attempt to cover up its origins. And the cover up continues to this day.

# Is There A Doctrinal Difference Between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God?



The doctrine of a difference between the Kingdom Heaven and the Kingdom of God is connected to the doctrine of dispensationalism which John Nelson Darby taught and which was promoted by C. I. Scofield in the Scofield Reference Bible. That Bible has had a profound (and negative) influence on the thinking of millions of American Christians.

Scofield in the Scofield Reference Bible says:

*"The kingdom of God is to be distinguished from the kingdom of heaven."*

A website, [kjvbible.org](http://kjvbible.org) says:

*"Knowing the doctrinal difference between the terms "Kingdom of Heaven" and "Kingdom of God" is the key to understanding the complete timeline of Biblical history past, present, and future, the proper place of the Church and the prophetic future of Israel." – quoted from <https://www.kjvbible.org/thekingdoms.html>*

Is that really so? Pastor John MacArthur of "Grace to You" does not agree. He says,

*"There is no significant difference between "the kingdom of God" and the kingdom of heaven. The one phrase emphasizes the sovereign Ruler of the kingdom and the other emphasizes the kingdom itself, but they are the same kingdom. **Matthew 19:23–24 confirms the equality of the phrases by using them interchangeably.**"*

Matthew 19:23 ¶Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the **kingdom of God**.

Let's make a comparison of the Scriptures in the synoptic Gospels that contain the phrases Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven, the verses that are the parallel passages of the same discourse of Christ.

Matthew	Mark	Luke
Matthew 5:3 ¶Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the <b>kingdom of heaven</b> .		Luke 6:20 ¶And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the <b>kingdom of God</b> .

Luke 7:28

For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is **least in the kingdom of God** is greater than he.

Luke 13:28-29

There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the **kingdom of God**, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the **kingdom of God**.

Matthew 11:11

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is **least in the kingdom of heaven** is greater than he.

Matthew 8:11

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 13:11

He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given.

Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Mark 10:15

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the **kingdom of God** as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Matthew 18:3

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the **kingdom of heaven**.

Luke 18:17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the **kingdom of God** as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Matthew 19:14  
But Jesus said,  
Suffer little  
children, and  
forbid them not,  
to come unto me:  
for of such is  
the **kingdom of  
heaven**.

Luke 18:16 But  
Jesus called them  
unto him, and said,  
Suffer little  
children to come  
unto me, and forbid  
them not: for of  
such is the **kingdom  
of God**.

Matthew 19:23  
¶Then said  
Jesus unto his  
disciples,  
Verily I say  
unto you, That a  
rich man shall  
hardly enter  
into the **kingdom  
of heaven**.

Mark 10:25  
It is  
easier for  
a camel to  
go through  
the eye of  
a needle,  
than for a  
rich man to  
enter into  
the **kingdom  
of God**.

Luke 18:25 For it  
is easier for a  
camel to go through  
a needle's eye,  
than for a rich man  
to enter into the  
**kingdom of God**.

The Bible is its own best commentator and interpreter. All too often Bible teachers do not compare verses with other verses of the same subject. If they did, their pet doctrines such as the promotion of Zionism would fall flat.

The above comparison of the synoptic Gospels tells me the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are the **same thing**!

As you see in the list of verses below, the phrase "kingdom of Heaven" is only found in the Book of Matthew and not found at all in the other two synoptic Gospels of Mark and Luke. A probable explanation for this is Matthew wrote his Gospel message to the Jews. Mark wrote his Gospel to the Romans and Luke wrote his Gospel to the Greeks. The Jews out of respect didn't want to say the word meaning God, but Romans and Greeks used the word in their language meaning God.

What do you think? Doesn't it make sense why Matthew would say the kingdom of Heaven rather than the kingdom of God seeing who he wrote his Gospel for? Matthew also says the Kingdom of God, but only in five verses.

The explanation Christian Zionists use to make their claim of a difference between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God is long and complicated. Unscriptural doctrines are *always* based on long complicated reasoning and convoluted arguments. Just look at <https://www.kjvbible.org/thekingdoms.html> for an example of that. Is that the type of reasoning God's Word teaches? I find true biblical doctrines are simple and easy to understand. They don't need a lot of explanation to understand them.

Preachers with doctorates in theology *may* teach true things that shed more light on certain Scriptures due to their knowledge of Hebrew, Greek, and secular history, but beware when they preach major doctrines you have never read for yourself from the Bible!

Here's a meme that purports a difference between the Kingdom of Heaven and the body of Christ! It's also false.



## Scriptures with the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew says **kingdom of heaven** 32 times in 31 verses. *Only* the Gospel of Matthew has the phrase "kingdom of heaven".

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

Matthew 5:3 ¶Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the **kingdom of heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 7:21 ¶Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the **kingdom of heaven**; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

Matthew 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the **kingdom of heaven** is greater than he.

Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the **kingdom of heaven** suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the **kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given.

Matthew 13:24 ¶Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The **kingdom of heaven** is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Matthew 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The **kingdom of heaven** is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:



Matthew 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The **kingdom of heaven** is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Matthew 13:44 ¶Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Matthew 13:45 Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Matthew 13:47 Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Matthew 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the **kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 18:1 ¶At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the **kingdom of heaven**?

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the **kingdom of heaven** likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 19:23 ¶Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 20:1 ¶For the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

Matthew 22:2 The **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Matthew 23:13 ¶But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the **kingdom of heaven** against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Matthew 25:1 ¶Then shall the **kingdom of heaven** be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Matthew 25:14 ¶For the **kingdom of heaven** is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

## Scriptures with the Kingdom of God

The “kingdom of God” is found mainly in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Matthew uses the phrase only five times.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the **kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the **kingdom of God** is come unto you.

Matthew 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go

through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the **kingdom of God**.

Matthew 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the **kingdom of God** before you.

Matthew 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The **kingdom of God** shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Mark says **kingdom of God** in 15 verses:

Mark 10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the **kingdom of God** as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Mark 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the **kingdom of God**!

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the **kingdom of God**!

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the **kingdom of God**.

Mark 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the **kingdom of God**. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Mark 14:25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the **kingdom of God**.

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the **kingdom of God**, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

Luke says **kingdom of God** 32 times in 31 verses.

Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, I must preach the **kingdom of God** to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

Luke 6:20 ¶And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the **kingdom of God** is greater than he.

Luke 8:1 ¶And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the **kingdom of God**: and the twelve were with him,

Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the **kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Luke 9:2 And he sent them to preach the **kingdom of God**, and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the **kingdom of God**, and healed them that had need of healing.

Luke 9:27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The **kingdom of God** is come nigh unto you.

Luke 10:11 Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the **kingdom of God** is come nigh unto you.

Luke 11:20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the **kingdom of God** is come upon you.

Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the **kingdom of God**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 13:18 ¶Then said he, Unto what is the **kingdom of God** like? and whereunto shall I resemble it?

Luke 13:20 And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the **kingdom of God**?

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the **kingdom of God**, and you yourselves thrust out.

Luke 13:29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 14:15 ¶And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the **kingdom of God** is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Luke 17:20 ¶And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the **kingdom of God** should come, he answered them and said, The **kingdom of God** cometh not with observation:

Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the **kingdom of God** is within you.

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 18:17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the **kingdom of God** as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Luke 18:24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the **kingdom of God**!

Luke 18:25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 19:11 ¶And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the **kingdom of God** should immediately appear.

Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the **kingdom of God** is nigh at hand.

Luke 22:16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the **kingdom of God**.

Luke 22:18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the **kingdom of God** shall come.

Luke 23:51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the **kingdom of God**.

## **Conclusion**

There is absolutely no doctrinal difference between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God.

Further reading: [What's the Difference Between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God?](#)