

**Why does the Lord permit his church to suffer?  
A “great conflict” (10:1)... to refine and to judge God’s people**

**11:2-4 = Kings of Persia... then Greece... and a “divided” kingdom**

**Who?**

Cyrus... then Cambyses, Gaumata, Darius... then Xerxes  
Alexander the Great... then 4 generals

**\*\* The kingdoms of the world are always fragile**

**11:5-20 = Rival Greek kings bring their war to the “glorious land”**

**Who?**

Kings of the South = Ptolemies of Egypt (323-145 BC)  
Kings of the North = Seleucids of Syria (312-280 BC)

**\*\* History unfolds exactly as the Lord planned (e.g. 11:6-9)**

**11:21-35 = A vile king... who desolates and seduces**

**Who? What?**

Antiochus IV Epiphanes... the “abomination of desolation” (171-164BC)  
Repeated in Jesus’ generation (Matthew 24:15, 34)

**\*\* “stand firm and take action” (11:32)**