

September 16 Answers

- 1) While the exiles were working to rebuild the temple, Daniel remained in the now Persian empire, and once again, he was fasting and praying. Daniel's prayer was heard the moment he first spoke to God, but it took **21** days for the answer to reach him. The angel God sent was resisted by "the prince of the kingdom of Persia," a **demon** who exercised some measure of control over the empire of Medo-Persia. This teaches us to **persevere** in prayer and wait **patiently** for God's answer, for there are great forces at work that we know little about. Daniel 11 is the most **detailed** prophecy in all Scripture. The vision begins with an overview of the remaining kings of **Persia**, continues with a brief summary of the empire of **Alexander** the Great, and then focuses on the struggle between **Egypt** and **Syria** for dominance in the Middle East. The Ptolemies ("king of the **south**") and the Seleucids ("king of the **north**") vied with each other for political and military superiority, and Israel, which lay between the two great powers, was continually embroiled in that conflict. Various kings came and went until **Antiochus** IV Epiphanes rose to power in Syria. He was the worst of the Syrian rulers, and he defiled the temple by setting up an idol inside the sanctuary: the "**abomination** of desolation" (Dan 11:31). In this way, Antiochus was a type of the **antichrist** who is to come (Dan 11:36). This vision teaches us that the forces of evil will meet a final and inevitable defeat, and the kingdom of Jesus Christ will one day reign supreme.