

Statement No. 4
Contextual Identification for Kings of the North and South
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Statement: Is there a more biblically accurate way to identify the Kings of the North and South in Daniel 11 than by insisting that they must be restricted to the territories of the Seleucids and the Ptolemies? I believe the context of Daniel can give us a contextually based identification.

Jeremiah was a contemporary of Daniel. We know Jeremiah influenced Daniel because Daniel references Jeremiah by name in Daniel 9:1. Jeremiah gives a definition of king(dom) from the north in Jeremiah 1:13-15. Although Babylon is located to the east of Israel, Babylon is called a king(dom) of the north because it originally invades or occupies Israel/Jerusalem from the north. Then in Jeremiah 50:9 he calls the Medes and the Persians great nations from the north. They also occupy Israel/Jerusalem from the north. The powers of Daniel 2, 7, and 8, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome all originally invade/occupy Israel/Jerusalem from the north. This suggests that all these powers are the kings from the north. The title “King of the North” is only used in Daniel 11 while there is a King of the South, during the time of the divided Greek empire (Seleucid north and Ptolemy south) and divided Roman empire (Papal north and Islamic south). So, based on context, the title “King of the North” should be assumed for the pronouns “he” and “him” unless the context includes the King of the South or some other power as the antecedent.

This identification of the King of the North by direction of original invasion/occupation is strengthened by the primary context of Daniel 8-12.

1. Dan 8:4 says the Ram/Persia pushes westward, northward and **southward**. This southward movement makes it a king(dom) invading/occupying Israel/Jerusalem from the north. This is confirmed by history.
2. In Dan. 9:25 the issuing of the command to rebuild Jerusalem comes from Persia. This indicates Persia had power over Jerusalem and 8:4 indicates that the Persians came from the north. This matches Jeremiah 50:9 calling Persia a king(dom) from the north.
3. Dan. 8:5-8 indicates that Greece came from the west and became very great. Persia was great but Greece is very great because the Greeks took over the Persian realm plus other territories. Since they took over the Persian territories these include Israel/Jerusalem. History shows that Alexander does come into Israel/Jerusalem from the north.
4. Dan. 8:8 and 22 tell us of a 4 way division of the Greek empire toward the 4 winds of heaven, i.e., the four directions (cf Zech. 6:5-8). However, Daniel 11:4-19 gives much more information. Here we have a conflict between kings of the north and south with Jerusalem caught in the middle. This pattern will be repeated in the divided Roman empire.
5. Dan. 8:9 indicates that the little horn grows toward the **south**, east and toward the **Glorious Land**. Most historicists agree that the little horn represents pagan and papal Rome. Historically, both pagan and Papal Rome invaded/occupied the land of Israel from the north. In Daniel 11:29 the power mentioned goes toward the south. In Dan.11:41 the King of the North enters the Glorious Land. This equates the little horn with the King of the North.

6. In Dan. 8:23 the little horn is called a king. This means that the Pope is considered a king by Daniel and thus can be the King of the North in Daniel 11.

7. Dan. 8:25 describes the action of the little horn by saying that “he will rise against the Prince of princes.” This matches Dan.11:22 where the “Prince of the covenant is broken,” referring to the death of Christ. Dan. 8:25 also says, regarding the little horn power, “he will be broken without human means”. This matches Dan.11:45 where “he shall come to his end and no one will help him.” These are like book ends to Daniel 11:22-45. The entirety of these verses are about the time and power of the Little horn/king/King of the North that fights against God after the death of Christ. The only power that matches all of this is pagan/papal Rome and the history matches in sequence as written!

I find no textual evidence from the Pagan/Papal Roman period of Daniel 8, 9 and 11 that the King of the North is the area of Turkey, as has been assumed by rigidly restricting the designation “King of the North” to the earlier divided Greek empire. There is textual evidence that the King of the North invades/occupies Israel/Jerusalem from the North and this evidence matches with the description of the Roman little horn.