

## **The Great Historical Foreview in Chapter 11**

In contrast to the first nine chapters of the book of Daniel, each of which is clearly a separate unit, chapters 10-12 form one continuous passage. If one forgets that these chapter divisions were not put in until the 13th century A.D., it is easy to be misled by the unjustified chapter divisions that break it up.

Daniel 10:1-11:1 forms a long introduction to the divine message that begins at 11:2. This revelation was given in the third year of Cyrus. Like the message in chapter 9, it came after the second of the four empires described in chapters 2 and 7 had already become dominant.

Most of chapter 10 describes the coming of an angelic messenger sent to give Daniel this revelation. The revelation itself begins at 11:2. The mistaken insertion of a chapter division before 11:1 may have been caused by the fact that the verse mentions a specific time, and seems, at a superficial glance, to be similar to the first verse of chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Yet this verse is so tightly connected with what precedes that the New International Version puts a space between 11:1 and 11:2, and thus unites 11:1 with the last verse of chapter 10.

The chapter division between chapters 11 and 12 is also quite out of place. Since chapter 11 already had 45 verses it is easy to see why the archbishop might wish to make a division, but it would be more reasonable to make it four verses later, since 12:1, which begins with the words "at that time," connects the events described in 12:1-3 very closely