

**ISIS prophecy explained in the Bible****Daniel 11:24**

**When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot, and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time.**

**Introduction**

After much prayer and consideration, I'm now convinced that this verse describes ISIS and their invasion of Iraq, in June 2014. Previously, I thought the pronoun 'he' had to be talking about the Shiites because Iran fulfilled [Daniel 11:21-23](#), which was the beginning of the final empire in Daniel 11. However, after learning what the next couple verses mean, I've come to realize that 'he' is a vague term that can refer to various groups, as long as their actions fit the description and time-frame of the verse, and their impact makes a significant difference in the course of the Middle East, which ISIS certainly did.

**"When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them"**

ISIS had been a group for many years, before most people had ever heard of them, but they [made a name for themselves when they invaded Mosul](#), on June 10, 2014. ISIS began as part of Al-Qaeda, more than a decade before, when their original leader, Zarqawi, pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden and started Al-Qaeda in Iraq. After the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, which was the [first part of Daniel 11:22](#), Zarqawi recruited members of Saddam's former army and fought against the West from 2003 until his death in 2006.

Iraq must have felt "secure" because they forced the Americans to abide by an earlier agreement, to withdraw all troops by December 2011, which is also [part of Daniel 11:22](#). At that time, ISIS was confined mainly to Syria, fighting the Assad regime as part of Jabhat al-Nusra, an off-shoot of Al-Qaeda. However, under their new leader, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the group became so ruthless that even Al-Qaeda disowned them and they split from Jabhat al-Nusra, becoming ISIS or ISIL. Apparently, al-Baghdadi saw a golden opportunity, during the Iraqi election of 2014, because many Sunni were unhappy with the Shiite government in Baghdad. As ISIS approached Mosul, the Sunni troops who were protecting the second largest city in Iraq chose not to fight. Instead, they left their equipment and abandoned their posts, which the Baghdad government certainly didn't expect.

**"distribute plunder, loot, and wealth among his followers"**

Not only did they acquire an abundance of American-made weapons and machinery, they looted banks in Mosul for an estimated \$425 million. For a period of time, they were declared the richest terrorist group in the world, [richer than many small countries](#), because they also had a lucrative oil business, selling at a discount rate through Turkey. ISIS used their new-found wealth to recruit soldiers from around the world (via internet), promising all sorts of good times, and from local areas because they paid better than the other terrorist armies.

**"achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did"**

After invading Mosul, al-Baghdadi declared a 'caliphate', which was something that "neither his fathers nor forefathers had done." A caliphate is the same as an Islamic empire or dynasty, which had not existed since the Ottoman Empire was defeated during WWI. Of course, the Ottomans were Turkish so they weren't his forefathers anyway. To find the last Arab dynasty to possess the caliphate, you would have to go back to the Abbasids, who were defeated by the Mongols in 1258. Whether the caliphate was legitimate or not, the fact that al-Baghdadi declared one at all was a [significant achievement](#), especially since he was Arab.

**"He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time."**

Al-Baghdadi's intentions were well known because he wanted to grow the caliphate to include the whole Middle East and surrounding areas, such as the old Islamic empire. However, his aspirations only lasted for a time (so to speak) because ISIS started losing ground, after the Iraqi government and Shia militias [took back Tikrit](#) in March 2015. It has been a slow process but I don't think ISIS has the same grand vision that they once had.

**Conclusion**

I believe that ISIS fulfilled Daniel 11:24 because they certainly had an impact on the Middle East and continue to wreck havoc on the world (or try to) through isolated terrorist's attacks. They had an enormous impact on the final empire in Daniel 11 because they gave Iran a legitimate excuse to militarily enter the Middle East, which they may have not gotten otherwise. Iran now plays a prominent role in Iraq's army, through Shia militias and advisers, plus Syria's army, with up to 100,000 ground troops, and control much of Hezbollah in Lebanon. Therefore, ISIS fulfilled Daniel 11:24 but it actually helped Iran enter the Middle East (or Mesopotamia), which has been a requirement for the 'king of the North', throughout the [history of Daniel 11](#).

## Saudi War with Yemen explained in the Bible

### Daniel 11:25

**With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him.**

#### Who is the king of the South?

Simply put, the 'king of the South' is Saudi Arabia and their allies, mainly the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council), consisting of Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman. It became fairly obvious when the GCC met on December 9, 2014, in Doha, Qatar, to discuss the situation with ISIS, Iran, Egypt, and the Muslim Brotherhood. One of the main outcomes of the summit was to establish an 'Arab NATO', which included an army, based in Saudi Arabia, a navy, based in Bahrain, and a 'GCC-POL' intelligence service, based in UAE. Other than that, they didn't reveal many objectives, from the summit, except to "stave off outside interference in Arab affairs", which was aimed primarily at Iran and their involvement in Iraq.

Later, it was revealed that Saudi Arabia had been building an elaborate wall, on the border of Iraq, since Sept. 2014, further defining North & South. The wall was planned with a ditch and triple-layered steel fencing, with 40 watchtowers. There was supposed to be 38 separate communication towers and 32 military response stations, with 240 armed rapid response vehicles to patrol the wall. (Newsweek - Jan. 25, 2015 - [Telegraph \[UK\] has photos](#))

For background, the GCC was created in 1981 by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, to counter the Islamic Revolution in Iran, and protect against the spread of Shia Islam in the Gulf States. Of course, the Awawites, a branch of Shia Islam, had already been in control of Syria, since 1970, but Iran added to that problem in 1979. Therefore, Saudi Arabia created the GCC for the sole purpose of opposing the Shiites of the North.

#### The Houthis take control of Yemen

##### "stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South"

On Jan. 20, 2015, the Houthis, who are part of a branch of Shiites called Zaidis (or fivers) stormed the presidential palace in Sanaa, Yemen, and effectively completed a coup. The Sunni president, Mansur Hadi, fled to Saudi Arabia, which was an ally. For background, President Hadi came to power during Arab Spring protests, so he wasn't elected. The Houthis' dispute with the government was said to be political, not religious. Nevertheless, it was seen as a severe threat because it effectively put Shia governments on three sides of the Saudi kingdom.

#### A Shiite prophecy fulfilled

On Jan. 23, 2015, just three days after the coup in Yemen, King Abdullah died, which fulfilled a Shiite hadith saying that, 'after the death of a king named Abdullah, in the Hijaz (Saudi Arabia), no successor to the throne would be accepted and disagreements would escalate and persist until the rise of Imam Mahdi'. Of course, they are referring to the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam, who died in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, whom they think will return before Jesus, 'to fight the evil forces that oppose them and establish peace and justice in the world', which is how the 'twelvers' get their name.

Of course, I don't believe in the Islamic prophecies but the fact that they believe in them is a powerful motivation to oppose the evil forces until the Mahdi has a chance to establish himself. Well, Saudi Arabia and their jihadist religion of Wahhabism is about as evil as it gets because it effectively created terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra, ISIS, Al-Shabob, and the Taliban. Those groups try to kill anyone who is not like them. Of course, some are worse than others but they all come from Wahhabism, which is the militant religion spread by Saudi Arabia.

#### "the king of the South will wage war"

On March 26, 2015, without U.N. approval, Saudi Arabia began bombing the Houthis in Yemen. Of course, their justification was that the Houthis were being supported by Iran, which was never actually proven but it relates things to the North and South in Daniel 11. Saudi clerics even called the air-strikes in Yemen a religious fatwa against the "enemies of Islam", which they called "Safawis". Of course, that is a direct reference to the Safavid Empire of the 16th century (vs.14), which originally made Shia Islam (twelvers) the official religion of Persia, around 1501. In other words, they were talking directly about Iran because Iran identifies with the Safavid Empire as their ancestors, since they celebrated their 500th anniversary, around 2001.

#### "not be able to stand"

Even though Saudi Arabia has a "large and very powerful army", supplied by the United States, and continues to get US intelligence, they "have not been able to stand" and oust the Houthis, in almost 1.5 years of fighting.

It's impossible for me to know what "plots have been devised against them" but the war in Yemen has turned into a humanitarian disaster. From the very beginning, Iran worked with Oman, who didn't agree with the bombing, to propose a 7-point peace plan, which made concessions on both sides. However, it required that the Houthis be made a legitimate political party, Yemen be allowed to enter the GCC, and new elections to be held. That plan didn't go far because Saudi Arabia doesn't like elections, and Yemen would become the poorest country in the GCC.

#### Conclusion

All along, the UN has constantly asked Saudi Arabia to negotiate a peace settlement but they refuse because they insist on re-instating their ally as president, without elections. Eventually, Saudi Arabia may succeed because there's a "different outcome" in Daniel 11:29. Yet, I'm not sure if this verse is what that verse is talking about. I guess we'll see soon enough.



## Turkish coup attempt explained in the Bible

### Daniel 11:26

**Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.**

#### Prophecy fulfilled

On **July 15, 2016**, there was an [attempted coup in Turkey](#) that fits this verse precisely. Unlike Yemen, the coup was executed by some from *within* the military so it was literally by "*those who eat from the king's provisions.*" Yet, the verse says "try" to destroy him so it implies that they don't succeed, which is exactly what happened in Turkey. The coup plotters were "*swept away*" (in a matter of hours) and "*many fell in battle*" (over 200 were killed). Without a doubt, the details of the attempted coup in Turkey matches the details of Daniel 11:26, exactly.

Of course, the 'king' in this verse would be Erdogan but notice that it doesn't exactly say 'king of the North'. Just the same, Turkey could be *part* of the North because they are in the [10-nation ECO](#) (Economic Cooperation Organization), with Iran, which *could* develop into the 10-horned beast, *after* the rapture, because the ending of Daniel 11 must contain the same 10-horned beast as found in Daniel 7:7 and Revelation 13, both *after* the rapture. (It's simple chronology because Christians are in heaven in Revelation 7, long before Rev. 13, and [Seals 1-5, in Rev. 6, are in the past](#), with Seal 6 matching the [rapture in Matthew 24:29](#).)

#### Impact on the North

Anyway, the North was helped by the attempted coup in Turkey because it strengthened Erdogan's relations with Iran and Russia, while dampening relations with the West and Saudi Arabia. In fact, there have been [accusations](#) from [multiple sources](#) that Saudi Arabia and UAE knew about the coup ahead of time. Plus, an intelligence firm in the United States, called [Stratfor](#), [tweeted the location of Erdogan](#), three times, while the coup was still in progress. At the same time, Arab media based in Dubai, UAE, [reported that the coup had been successful](#) and that Erdogan had fled the country. The next day, Stratfor tweeted derogatory information about Erdogan, to seemingly validate the coup, which they later deleted. These things don't go unnoticed so I imagine that Erdogan knows about the rumors. On the contrary, Russia was reported to have warned Erdogan, which allowed him to evade capture by just 44 minutes, and Iran was one of the first countries to [contact Erdogan to offer support](#). Erdogan was already patching relations with Russia and [softening his stance on Assad](#), in Syria, which could have led to the coup, but it backfired because Turkey is now even closer to the North.

Erdogan immediately blamed the coup on a "parallel state", within Turkey, called the [Gulen movement](#), which was started by [Fethullah Gulen](#), a self-exiled cleric living in the United States. Erdogan and Gulen used to be allies until they had their [first public dispute](#), in December 2013, when Turkey was allegedly trading gold for oil, with Iran, and thus sidestepping the Western banking sanctions. The Gulenists accused Erdogan of favoring Iran, which was supposed to be Turkey's enemy. Erdogan returned fire by accusing the Gulenists of being in bed with Israel. Therefore, regardless of whether the Gulenists are actually responsible, since Israel and Saudi Arabia are allies against Iran, the fact that Erdogan survived the coup bodes well for the North. Turkey is also trying to get the cleric extradited to face trial, but so far, the US has refused on grounds of lack of evidence, which is another factor that is irritating relations with the US, which is allies with Israel and Saudi Arabia. The coup has sped Erdogan's pivot to the North.

#### Aftermath of the coup

In the meantime, while waiting for the extradition, Erdogan has used the failed coup to strengthen his power, by purging the government of anyone linked to the Gulenists. Last I heard, he had removed about 2839 military troops, including about [one-third of his generals](#). He had also fired about [8000 police officers](#), 2745 judges, and [15,000 education staff](#), including 1500 university deans. The United States has expressed concern over Turkey becoming an authoritarian state but Erdogan is not accepting any advice from the US, at least [not until they extradite the accused cleric](#). Therefore, besides pivoting North, Erdogan has pivoted East.

#### Conclusion

The failed coup in Turkey was undoubtedly a significant event, especially since Turkey has the [2<sup>nd</sup> largest military in NATO](#). Over the decades, [Turkey has had several military coups](#), but none that has failed, so this is indeed a *unique* event. Given that it helped the North and matched the keywords exactly, there's no doubt in my mind that it fulfilled Daniel 11:26.