

The Book of Daniel

The End of Time

Daniel Chapter 11

Introduction

The prophecy of Chapter 11 is the longest and most detailed in the Book of Daniel. Chapter 11 contains one of the most specifically fulfilled prophecies of the Bible. It accurately predicts history for the next 375 years and then to the end of time.

The chapter is so specific that critics who deny supernatural revelation have insisted that it is history, written after the fact, fraudulently claiming to be prophecy. Last week we examined the first 35 verses and the conflict between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic Empires.

The angel calls them the kings of the North and the kings of the South. In verse 36, the prophecy shifts from Antiochus IV to the Antichrist of the last days.

"Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done." ([Daniel 11:36 NKJV](#))

The angel explained to Daniel that this king would blaspheme God and exalt himself. The prophecy shifts from what *was* fulfilled by the Ptolemies and the Selucids to what *will* be fulfilled by the Antichrist, the final world dictator. Daniel was told this revelation pertained to *the latter days* (Daniel 10:14).

Verse 36 begins to reveal more about this final world dictator, who is sort of a "last days Antiochus Epiphanes." We know that not all of this prophecy was fulfilled during the career of Antiochus Epiphanes.

In Matthew 24, Jesus specifically said the *real* abomination of desolation was still in the future (Matthew 24:15). The Apostle Paul writes about the end times and paraphrases Daniel 11:36, "Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." ([2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NKJV](#))

Antiochus Epiphanes is important, but mainly as a historical preview of the Antichrist. It is why so much space is given to describing the career of one evil man - because he prefigures the ultimate evil ruler. Antiochus Epiphanes is a "preview" released well before the Antichrist, who is the "main feature." Antiochus Epiphanes put a statue of Zeus in the Temple, but the Antichrist will put a throne for himself in the Temple, declaring himself to be god.

Verse 37 says, "He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them* all. But in their place, he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, *and* advance *its* glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain." (Daniel 11:37-39 NKJV)

The Antichrist will take and hold power with military might and the shrewd use of great riches. Verse 40 describes the final conflict. "At the time of the end, the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm *them*, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians *shall follow* at his heels.

But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him." (Daniel 11:40-45 NKJV)

The angel describes to Daniel a confederation of kings coming against this great leader, with a battle in and near the Holy Land. The king of the South is Egypt and may even represent the whole Arab community. The king of the North is the Antichrist's kingdom (He is the "new Antiochus Epiphanes"). The end will be marked by great conflict, culminating in the world's armies gathering against Israel in a final battle.

In the end, there is no hope for the Antichrist or any of his followers.

I. Antichrist's Character and Career

Recently many Christians have been speculating on various end-time scenarios involving the person of the future Antichrist and the Tribulation period. Daniel wrote almost 2500 years ago. He was exiled in Babylon and Persia for almost all his life. However, God revealed to Daniel the future of his people Israel.

Daniel learned that because of Israel's sin, the Jews would live under Gentile domination for "seventy-sevens" of years. These Gentile nations were pictured as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. But at the time of the end, the Messiah will destroy these kingdoms and institute a righteous kingdom in Israel.

During the reign of King Cyrus of Persia (539 B.C.), Daniel received another revelation concerning Israel in the "latter days" (10:14). From Daniel's point of view of history in 536 B.C., the revelation of chapter 11 was completely prophetic.

But from our vantage point in 2023, the prophecy of Daniel 11:1-35 is a historical fact. That only leaves 11:36-45 yet to be fulfilled.

The main focus of Daniel 11 is the rivalry between the king of the South (the Ptolemies of Egypt) and the king of the North (the Seleucids of Syria), each ruling over the land of Israel (323-198 B.C.). As we learned last week, this all climaxed in the person of the Seleucid king, Antiochus IV, described in verse 21 as a "vile person."

Antiochus IV's goal was to Hellenize Judea by outlawing the practice of Judaism and erecting a statue of the Greek god Zeus in the Temple. Then he demanded that all the Jews worship the image of Zeus in the Temple. This is "the abomination that makes desolate," Daniel refers to in verse 31.

The Jews resisted this Hellenization and refused to worship in the Temple. It resulted in the Maccabean revolt that reclaimed and rededicated the Temple three years later. The Jews celebrate this event as the Feast of the Dedication, commonly known as Hanukkah.

Antiochus IV is considered a picture or type of the end-time Antichrist. Verses 36-39 give us a clue as to the Character of the Antichrist (Daniel 11:36-39).

First, He Will Arrogant and Blaspheme (v. 36). The figure of the "little horn" was introduced in Chapter 7 and pictures the final leader of man's rebellion against God, making the "little horn" none other than Antichrist himself. The Antichrist will exalt himself above God and blaspheme His name. But he won't stop there. He will exalt himself above all other gods and all other religions.

The Apostle John describes something similar in Revelation 17. He aligns the Antichrist with the Beast that turns on the harlot (representing pagan religion), destroys her, and sets himself up as God. The Antichrist will renounce all religions and proclaim a new religion with himself at the head.

Secondly, the Antichrist Will Exalt Himself as God (v. 37). He will disregard the "gods of his fathers," turn against all traditional worship, and initiate an entirely new religion. He will also disregard the "desire of women." Some interpret this to mean that the Antichrist will be homosexual. But others interpret this to mean "the desire of women" is childbirth, particularly the birth of Christ. It suggests that the Antichrist will hate all those who long for the coming Messiah. The angel also says the Antichrist will worship military power (vv. 38-39), which he calls "the god of fortresses." The Antichrist will be an arrogant dictator who trusts only in his military might and is committed to military conquest.

In Daniel Chapter 7, the Antichrist is the "little horn" that will uproot three horns of the ten-horned kingdom, representing the final world empire. Obviously, the ten-kingdom final World Empire will already be in place when the Antichrist appears and begins to dominate.

Revelation Chapter 6 says that a world war will erupt, producing the effects pictured by the four horsemen of the Apocalypse (Rev. 6:1-8). That will create the perfect scene for the Antichrist to emerge and establish himself as a supreme ruler. Once established, the Antichrist will seek to rule the world strictly for his own glory.

He will deride all known religions and proclaim a new world order, with himself as its head. He will crush all who do not submit, and he will receive power from Satan, who will seek to rule the world through him much as God the Father rules the world through his Son, Jesus Christ.

II. Antichrist's Invasion of the Middle East

Verse 40 places these events "at the time of the end" and specifically describes the last half of the seven-year Tribulation period. The Antichrist will invade the Middle East and conquer Israel, breaking his seven-year covenant with them (Dan. 9:27). He will capture half the city of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:2), including the Temple (Rev. 11:1-2), and try to exterminate the rest of the people of Israel. But God will protect them (Rev. 12:6, 13, 16).

In reaction to this invasion, Egypt and North Africa will counterattack but will fall before him, and he will occupy much of the Middle East.

III. The End of the Antichrist (vv. 44-45)

Not only will Antichrist's invasion of Israel spark resistance from the Middle Eastern nations, but other nations to the north and east apparently will come to attack him. But through demonic influence, they will unite instead to fight against God.

The Antichrist will make the "holy mountain," the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, his capital. There he will come to his end. The Lord Jesus Himself will descend, destroy the armies at Armageddon, and stand on the Mount of Olives to rescue those in Israel who have recognized Him as the Messiah (Zech. 12:1-14; 14:1-5; Rev. 19:11-21).

The stone made "without hands," of Daniel 2:44-45, will destroy this Gentile rule over Israel and crush this Satanic rebellion against God. Then God will set up His Kingdom of righteousness on earth that will endure for 1000 years (Rev. 20).

Conclusion

Ever since Adam fell and gave man's God-given authority to rule the world to Satan, he has led the nations in opposition to the work of the Lord. Psalm 2 says the nations rage against the rule of the Lord's Son, the Messiah. Christ will come and establish His righteous rule by force, and during the next thousand years, He will rule the earth with a "rod of iron."

When the Antichrist appears, a selfish, sinful world will readily accept him in a final attempt to break free from the rule of the true God. However, the Bible is clear

that these nations will not succeed. Christ will end their rebellion and rule from Mount Zion as King of kings.

The Antichrist is a formidable figure in Scripture, and his reign of terror will generate tremendous fear. But the scriptures remind us that God is sovereign. Even though Satan, the Antichrist, and the whole world will shake their fists at Him, Psalm 2 says, "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision." ([Psalms 2:4 NKJV](#))

God says their fury is irrelevant, and their rebellion is futile. According to Daniel, the Antichrist will only prosper until the indignation is accomplished; for that which is determined shall be done" (11:36). For all the claims and conquests of the Antichrist, he will still be permanently defeated and eternally confined to the "Lake of Fire."

Chapter 11 gives us a glimpse of how heavenly battles precede earthly ones. That is why we need to persevere in prayer and not give up just because we don't immediately see the answer to our prayer.

We also learn that it is God who decides how long a leader will remain in power. Praying to God about leaders is just as important as voting for them.

Also, putting your personal preferences and goals above principles and character will always result in disaster. And beware of those who use flattery and smooth promises to gain your trust. Don't trust sound bites and hashtags without investigating the whole truth.

And finally, Nations who persecute Israel will be judged by God. God controls time. He is the beginning and the end! He is longsuffering but when His cup is full, judgement will follow. Put your life and future in God's hands, and you won't be disappointed.