

I. Daniel's Final Vision – Part 2 (Daniel 11:1-45)

A. Introduction

- Daniel's final vision takes up the last three chapters.
- Chapter 10 introduces the vision.
- Chapter 11 contains the prophecy and is comprised of two sections: 1) 11:2-35 deals with the immediate future for Daniel, from Darius to Antiochus; 2) 11:36-12:4 deals with the far future, the end times just before the 2nd coming of Christ.
- Chapter 12 adds a final message and revelation.

- The final vision is about a great conflict that God's people, Israel, would endure, starting in Daniel's day and culminating in "the latter days" (Dan 10:14).
- It is a vision about a coming war (Dan 10:1) between Israel and her neighbors until Israel is given peace by the coming Prince of peace.

- Daniel 11 contains the most detailed prophetic revelation in the Book of Daniel, describing events that would take place hundreds and thousands of years in the future.
- So accurate are these prophecies that some scholars believe Daniel was written after the events actually took place.
- This prophecy is evidence of the complete omniscience of God and it shows that He truly has ordained all that comes to pass.

- Daniel 11:1-35 predicts events in political history from Daniel's time (536 BC) until the Maccabean period (164 BC).
- Daniel 11:36-12:3 contains end time predictions of the Antichrist, the Tribulation, and the resurrection of humanity.
- Chapter 11 thus contains a sweep of history from the time of Daniel to the Second Coming of Christ, a time period that has already spanned over 2500 years.

B. Expository Notes

1. The Dominion of Persia (vs. 1-2)

Daniel 11:1 ~ In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him.

- The angel had been speaking with Daniel says that he "arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him."
- The "him" likely refers to Michael the archangel (see Dan 10:21).
- While Michael came to assist this angel in his conflict with the prince of Persia (Dan 10:13, 21), this angel assisted Michael by encouraging and protecting him.

- This took place “in the first year of Darius the Mede,” the year the decree was issued by Cyrus for the Israelites to return to the land (Ezra 1:1).

Daniel 11:2 ~ And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.

- “The historical material in 11:2-20...is in reality an introduction to the exceptionally wicked persecutor of the Jews, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (vv. 21-35)...The historical details set forth in this prophecy are astounding.”²¹¹
- The angel predicted that, after Cyrus died in 529 BC, there would be a succession of four kings in a row.
- Persian history confirms what is prophesied here:
 - First, Cambyses (530-522 BC) – son of Cyrus
 - Second, Pseudo-Smerdis (522 BC) – usurped the throne and reigned a short time
 - Third, Darius I Hystaspes (522-486 BC) – also known as Darius the Great
- The fourth king after Cyrus would be rich and would “arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.”
- He would do something that would attack Greece in such a way so as to invite a counterattack.
- This king is Xerxes (486-465 BC), also known as Ahasuerus, the son of the previous king Darius Hystaspes.
- He was the king mentioned in the book of Esther who had amassed a great amount of wealth inherited from previous kings.
- He gathered together the largest army in the ancient world with hundreds of thousands of soldiers and a navy with hundreds of ships.
- In 480 BC, he attacked Greece like his father did 10 years previously at the Battle of Marathon (490 BC) and was humiliated in his defeat.
- Xerxes spent four years preparing for his attack and but was soundly defeated like his father (479 BC).
- Even though Greece was not the primary world power, they did not forget what Xerxes did in invading them.
- It would take 150 years but eventually Greece would retaliate with the might and vengeance of Alexander the Great.

2. The Dominion of Alexander the Great (vs. 3)

Daniel 11:3 ~ And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.

- Alexander the Great (334-323 BC) was the first king of Greece, having received the power and authority to rule Greece from his father Philip of Macedon.

²¹¹ Miller 1994: 290.

- He was an incredible military commander, educated by his father in the art of war.
- He received a classical education from famed philosopher Aristotle.
- Between 334 BC and 330 BC, he conquered Medo-Persia, Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, and even as far as India.
- He was undefeated in battle and is still considered one of history's most successful military commanders.
- He was chosen as commander of the Greek forces at age 21 and, by the time he died 12 years later, he had conquered the whole world.

3. The Dominion of Those Who Follow Alexander (vs. 4-20)

Daniel 11:4 ~ But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides them.

- This is exactly what happened: Alexander died and his kingdom was “broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass.”
- It took 20 years of fighting and a power struggle but eventually four generals divided up his empire.
- Four generals became kings over four sectors of the Grecian empire (see Dan 7:6; 8:8):
 - Ptolemy – ruled over Egypt, Palestine, Arabia
 - Seleucus – ruled over Syria, Babylonia/Mesopotamia
 - Cassander – ruled over Macedonia and Greece
 - Lysimachus – ruled over Thrace and Asia Minor
- Two of those generals are referred to later in this chapter:
 - Ptolemy – referred to in the rest of the chapter as the “king of the South”
 - Seleucus – referred to in the rest of the chapter as the “king of the North”
- It was prophesied that none of his descendants would succeed him on the throne (“not to his own descendants”).
- His half-brother (Philip Arrhidaeus) was mentally deficient and was murdered in 317 BC.
- His son Alexander, who was born to him after he died, was murdered in 310 BC.
- His illegitimate son Hercules was murdered in 309 BC.
- His former kingdom would not have the same authority he had (“nor according to his authority which he wielded”).
- The Grecian empire never regained the strength it possessed under his leadership.

Daniel 11:5 ~ Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed.

- A remarkably detailed prophecy characterizes verses 5-20.

- “Old Testament predictive prophecy does not indulge in irrelevant minutiae but rather in persons and events that are significant in the outworking of God’s purpose for the world through His people Israel.”²¹²
- Starting with this verse, Daniel received predictions about two of the four divisions of Alexander’s kingdom, namely the Ptolemies and Seleucids.
- Since Ptolemy ruled over Egypt which was south of Israel, he and his dynasty were referred to as “the king of the South.”
- And since Seleucid ruler over Syria which was to the north of Israel, he and his dynasty were referred to as “the king of the North.”
- The direction of these two regions was given relative to their location of Israel.
- Thus, this vision deals with the two portions of the Greek empire which border on Israel.
- The reason for this is that Israel lay exactly between the Ptolemies to the south and the Seleucids to the north and any conflict between them would necessarily involve Israel.
- These two sectors become prominent in this vision because numerous battles were fought between these two Greek kingdoms, battles which ultimately affected Israel.
- Daniel is told about the continuous conflict between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids, during which the land of Israel was invaded first by one power and then by the other.
- Daniel is told that “king of the South would grow strong,” a reference to Ptolemy I Soter (323-285 BC), from whom the Ptolemies got their name.
- He was given authority over Egypt in 323 BC and proclaimed king of Egypt in 304 BC.
- But “one of his princes would gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion,” a reference to Seleucus I Nicator (312-281 BC) of Syria, from whom the Seleucids got their name.
- He was also a general under Alexander who was given authority to rule over Babylon in 321 BC.
- He was for a time connected with Ptolemy I Soter in that he was subject to Ptolemy who controlled the largest of Alexander’s empire.
- In 316 BC, Seleucus came under attack by another general (Antigonus) and he sought help from Ptolemy in Egypt.
- Together they defeated Antigonus in 312 BC and Seleucus ruled over Babylon, Media, and Syria, assuming the title of king in 305 BC.
- The result was that Seleucus ruled over far more territory than Ptolemy.
- In other words, though the south started out more powerful, in short time the north became more powerful.

²¹² Whitcomb 1985: 149.

Daniel 11:6 ~ After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in those times.

- Ptolemy I Soter died in 285 BC and he was followed by his son, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, as ruler over Egypt (285-246 BC).
- Meanwhile Seleucus was murdered in 281 and his son Antiochus I Soter ruled until 262 BC
- Then Seleucus' grandson, Antiochus II Theos (which means "God"), ruled in Syria from 262-246 BC.
- Ptolemy II and Antiochus II were bitter enemies of one another.
- However, in about 250 BC, they entered into an alliance, exactly as this verse predicted
- Their alliance was secured in the traditional way of intermarriage for political purposes: Ptolemy II's daughter, Berenice, married Antiochus II Theos.
- But in order for that to happen, Antiochus II Theos needed to divorce his wife, Laodice, which he did.
- This is exactly what verse 6 predicted.

- However, also as the latter part of verse 6 predicted, the marriage would not result in the political advantage they had hoped for in the alliance.
- The marriage between Berenice and Antiochus II fell apart.
- History makes it clear that Antiochus II Theos' former wife, Laodice, was not happy about being divorced and so she took revenge.
- She murdered Antiochus II by poisoning and had Berenice and their infant son killed.
- She then made her son, Seleucus II Callinicus, king of the north (247-227 BC).

Daniel 11:7-8 ~ But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against their army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display great strength. 8 Also their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from attacking the king of the North for some years.

- Berenice's family set out to avenge her death and the death of her infant son.
- "one of the descendants of her line" arose in her place, a reference to Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 BC), who succeeded his father Ptolemy II Philadelphus.
- He did exactly what verse 7 predicted: he came against the army of the North and entered the fortress.
- He attacked the Syrian army, killed Laodice the divorced wife of Antiochus who killed his sister, and took their treasure back to Egypt exactly as verse 8 predicted.
- He returned with 40,000 talents of silver, and 2,400 gold vessels, and many Egyptian idols.

- In doing so, he endeared himself to the people of Egypt and that's why he was given the name Euergetes which means "Benefactor."

Daniel 11:9 ~ Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land.

- After the humiliating defeat at the hands of Ptolemy III, Seleucus II Callinicus (the son of Laodice), the king of the north, invaded Egypt in 240 BC.
- However, he was unsuccessful and returned to Syria badly beaten and humiliated.
- Sometime later he died after falling off his horse.

Daniel 11:10 ~ His sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his very fortress.

- Seleucus II Callinicus' sons (Seleucus III Soter and Antiochus III the Great) continued war on Egypt.
- They did what their father couldn't do: They mounted several campaigns against Egypt and sought to restore the lost prestige of the north.
- Seleucus III ruled initially (227-223 BC), but was killed by conspirators while leading a military campaign in Asia Minor.
- He was followed by his brother, Antiochus III, who became ruler in 223 BC at age 18 and reigned until 187 BC.
- Antiochus III attacked the Egyptian ruler Ptolemy Philopator and was successful in driving the Egyptians back to the southern border of Israel (whom they had previously occupied) in his military campaigns of 219-217 BC.
- Antiochus III the Great did exactly what verse 10 predicted: his campaign against Egypt was highly successful and his army did overflow and pass through a large amount of land.

Daniel 11:11 ~ The king of the South will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but that multitude will be given into the hand of the former.

- Ptolemy Philopator, king of Egypt, didn't want the Syrian army so close to his border so he assembled a large army against Antiochus III the Great.
- In 217 BC, Ptolemy along with his sister-wife Arsinoe led the Egyptians in battle against Antiochus (king of the north).
- History indicates that Ptolemy had 70,000 foot soldiers, 5,000 cavalry, and 73 elephants and Antiochus had 62,000 foot soldiers, 6,000 cavalry, and 102 elephants.
- Ptolemy Philopator devastated Antiochus' army but Antiochus escaped.

Daniel 11:12 ~ When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail.

- Ptolemy slaughtered many thousands of the Syrian army: history indicates that he killed 10,000 foot soldiers, 300 cavalry, and 5 elephants and took 4,000 prisoners.

Daniel 11:13 ~ For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.

- Ptolemy Philopator's victory would be short lived because Syria's Antiochus III would develop a great army again.
- Antiochus recovered from his devastating loss to Egypt and, 13 years later, returned with a much larger, more well-equipped army.
- Verses 13-16 describe how Antiochus launched a series of attacks against Egypt.

Daniel 11:14 ~ Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down.

- Daniel is told that many will join Antiochus the Great in his battle against the king of the south.
- And some of those would be Jews (vs. 14 ~ the violent ones among your people).
- Some violent Jews would want their independence from Egypt so they would join Antiochus in his efforts against Egypt.
- They would lend their support to the king of the north and would assist Antiochus in trying to take Palestine from Egypt.
- But "they will fall down" (vs. 14), referring to their failure to achieve what they hoped.
- The Jews hoped to gain independence from Egypt by joining the conflict, but their hopes would not be realized.

- This fits the theme of Daniel's final vision: Israel would experience one conflict after another.
- Their 70-year captivity would not be their only consequence for their disobedience; there would be many more struggles they would face.
- Their land would be the site of conflicts between the kings of the north and the south.

Daniel 11:15 ~ Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege ramp and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand their ground, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand.

- It was predicted that the king of the north (Antiochus the Great) would conquer a great city in the south.
- This is exactly what happened: Antiochus conquered the Egyptian army at Paneas and took control of the entire region.
- Ptolemy sent General Scopas to hold Palestine for Egypt, but Scopas was defeated by Antiochus.
- Scopas then fled and hid himself in the city of Sidon.
- So Antiochus chased him down, built a siege ramp, and captured Sidon so that Scopas was forced to surrender (203 BC).

- His army could not stand up against Antiochus, exactly as this verse predicted.

Daniel 11:16 ~ But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand him; he will also stay for a time in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand.

- Antiochus would be completely successful in his campaigns against Ptolemy and Egypt.
- He would also “stay for a time in the Beautiful Land,” a reference to Israel.
- Antiochus the Great would take possession of the Holy Land and no one would be able to resist him.

Daniel 11:17 ~ He will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand for him or be on his side.

- Daniel is told that Antiochus would try to bring peace between Egypt and Syria by giving “him the daughter of women.”
- This is exactly what happened: Antiochus gave his daughter Cleopatra to marry Ptolemy V Epiphanes of Egypt (192 BC).
- This was another marriage for political purposes.
- When Rome put pressure on Antiochus to make peace with Egypt, he offered his daughter in marriage.
- The agreement was made in 197 BC, but it didn’t take effect until 193 BC because Ptolemy was still only 10 years old in 197.
- His design in this was to “ruin” or “corrupt” Egypt. Secretly he wanted to plant a spy in Egypt to help him destroy Egypt
- He wanted to infiltrate the Egyptian government from the inside and neutralize any alliance between Egypt and Rome.
- But the whole thing backfired because she “would not take a stand for him or be on his side” (vs. 17).
- His plan failed when his daughter decided she was more attached to her Egyptian husband than her father.

Daniel 11:18 ~ Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn.

- Once Antiochus the Great had conquered that part of the world, he decided to go after the coastlands, setting his sights on Greece and the area along the Mediterranean Sea.
- However, he did not succeed because “a commander will put a stop to him.”
- The commander here is a Roman, a man named Lucius Cornelius Scipio (aka Scipio Asiaticus) who was the brother of the more famous Scipio Africanus who had defeated Hannibal and the Carthaginians.
- Scipio was called on by Rome to stop Antiochus which he did by defeating him at Thermopylae in 191 BC.

- He repaid Antiochus' scornful words that the Romans had no business in this part of the world by defeating the Syrian army.

Daniel 11:19 ~ So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more.

- Antiochus returned to his own country in 188 BC with his tail between his legs, defeated.
- He tried to pillage the temple of Zeus in Elam (in Medo-Persia) in 187 BC because he needed money to repay the costs of war to Rome but he was killed by a mob that was defending the temple.
- He had carried out one of the most vigorous military campaigns of any of Alexander's successors, but his dream of reuniting his vast empire was never realized.
- He probably could have gone down in history as one of the greatest conquerors of the ancient world if he had been content to leave Greece alone.

Daniel 11:20 ~ Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of his kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though not in anger nor in battle.

- These details are important because Antiochus the Great was followed by his son Seleucus IV Philopator who was followed by another son of Antiochus the Great, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the notorious persecutor of the Jewish people.
- The word "oppressor" means "exactor of tribute" or "one who collects taxes."
- Antiochus III's son Seleucus IV Philopator (187–176 BC) heavily taxed his people because he was required to pay heavy tribute to Rome which was on the rise.
- But, as the end of verse 20 indicates, he would not die in battle. Instead he was poisoned by his treasurer Heliodorus who wanted the throne for himself.
- The "Jewel of his kingdom" is possibly Jerusalem and its temple.

4. The Dominion of Antiochus Epiphanes (vs. 21-35)

- The career of Antiochus can be traced through three stages: 1) His climb to power (vs. 21-23); 2) His campaigns against Egypt (vs. 24-30a); 3) His cruelty to the people of Israel (vs. 30b-35).

Daniel 11:21 ~ In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue.

- The reason for such a detailed prophecy up to this point in Daniel 11 is to give the background of and prepare the way for the coming of this "despicable person," a major player in Jewish history.
- This individual is the same one described as "the small horn" in Daniel 8.

- Antiochus Epiphanes is sometimes called the Antichrist of the OT because he was the one who brought suffering to the Jews in his day in the same way the real Antichrist will do during the Great Tribulation.
- He is a type of the Antichrist, a foreshadowing of his life and activities.
- While verses 36-45 describe Antichrist and his horrible work in the future, verses 21-35 provide a glimpse of Antichrist's forerunner, Antiochus Epiphanes.
- "Epiphanes" means "glorious," a title he ascribed to himself because of his desire to be regarded as God.
- "The importance of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-64 BC) in prophetic Scripture is very great. Though he was a relatively unimportant monarch in the ancient Near East, he gained eternal notoriety through his devastating attack upon the people of God and their religion. Thus he prefigured the final Antichrist."²¹³
- He will be a "despicable person."
- And he will be one "on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred," meaning that Antiochus was not given the throne but rather usurped it and seized it when it was not rightfully his.
- He was not the rightful heir to the throne; rather his brother Seleucus Philopator was actually on the throne but he was murdered.
- Next in line to the throne was Philopator's son Demetrius, but he was held as a hostage in Rome.
- When Antiochus heard his brother was murdered, he came quickly and proclaimed himself as king.
- In this sense, he "seized the kingdom by intrigue," taking it by a series of diplomatic moves.
- The word "intrigue" means literally "slippery places" implying that he used "slippery actions" to gain the throne.

Daniel 11:22 ~ The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant.

- Antiochus will destroy the enemy armies (particularly of Egypt) like a flood (cf. "flood" in 9:26).
- And he will shatter "the prince of the covenant," probably a reference to the high priest in Jerusalem named Onias.
- Onias was murdered in 172 BC at the request of Antiochus who turned his brother Menelaus against him.

Daniel 11:23 ~ After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people.

²¹³ Ibid., 150.

- Antiochus developed an alliance with the king of Egypt (Ptolemy VI Philometer).
- But he deceived him and used that as an opportunity to gain power, something he did with only a small army.
- He launched a series of wars against Egypt and took town after town until the Egyptian king was completely in his power.

Daniel 11:24 ~ In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time.

- He went into the richest, most productive parts of Egypt, took their wealth, and redistributed it within the land.
- He was a Robin Hood-type figure, taking from the rich and giving it to his followers.
- He did this to gain support and build favor amongst the poor in his scheme to take over Egypt.
- He was cunning and deceptive as he built his power base.

Daniel 11:25-26 ~ He will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him. 26 Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.

- Antiochus launched another war with Egypt when he attacked Ptolemy Philometer (one of the 2 sons of Cleopatra) in 170 BC at Pelusium, just east of the Nile delta.
- Antiochus was able to march all the way through Palestine to the very border of Egypt.
- Even though Ptolemy had a large army, Antiochus conquered him because “schemes will be devised against him.”
- Ptolemy was betrayed by people in his own government (“those who eat his choice food”), allowing Antiochus to conquer him.
- Such treachery by some of Ptolemy’s trusted supporters led to his downfall.

Daniel 11:27 ~ As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still to come at the appointed time.

- Both kings (Antiochus and Ptolemy) sat down at a table to talk terms of peace but both lied to each other, hiding their true intentions.
- Ptolemy was defeated and the Egyptians put his brother Ptolemy VII Euergetes, up as king in his place.
- Antiochus pretended to want to help the captive king Ptolemy but in reality had an ulterior motive of conquering Egypt back from its new leader.
- Both would enter into agreements without any intention of keeping them.
- The “end” God had in mind would stand and nothing would frustrate it.

Daniel 11:28 ~ Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land.

- The “holy covenant” refers to Israel.
- After this campaign in Egypt, Antiochus would head back to Syria and on his way would stop in Israel to desecrate the land.
- He marched on Jerusalem, attacked the city, struck the temple, and slaughtered many people in the city.
- Likely, this was when Antiochus committed his horrible persecution against Israel.
- He killed 80,000 Jewish men, women, and children, took 40,000 Jewish prisoners, and sold as many into slavery.
- He also robbed the temple of its gold and silver.
- He squelched a Jewish revolt against the high priest Menelaus whom he had set up in Jerusalem.
- He returned to Syria “with much plunder.”

Daniel 11:29 ~ At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. 30 For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

- He will attack Egypt again, bent on destroying the new coalition and getting revenge on Philometer who had turned on him.
- But by then Rome is on the side of Egypt.
- The “ships of Kittim” was an ancient name for Cyprus and was probably a reference to the Roman army and its power.
- Egypt asked Rome to help them defeat Antiochus.
- From the Roman senate, Popilius Laenas took Antiochus a letter forbidding him to engage in war with Egypt.
- When Antiochus asked for time to consider, the emissary drew a circle in the sand around Antiochus and demanded that he give his answer before he stepped out of the circle.
- Antiochus submitted to Rome’s demands for to resist would be to declare war on Rome.
- Antiochus admitted his defeat and as a result “this last time it will not turn out the way it did before.”
- He returned to his own land.

- On his way back to Syria, Antiochus would take out his bitter frustration on those in Israel along the way.
- He again stopped in Israel (“the holy covenant”) and poured out his rage on the Israelites.

- He gave special favors to defectors (“those who forsake the holy covenant”).

- 1 Maccabees 2:18 ~ Come now, be the first to obey the king’s command, as all the Gentiles and Judeans and those who are left in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons shall be numbered among the King’s Friends, and you and your sons shall be honored with silver and gold and many gifts.
- 2 Maccabees 6:1 ~ Not long after this the king sent an Athenian senator to force the Jews to abandon the laws of their ancestors and live no longer by the laws of God.

Daniel 11:31 ~ Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

- He attacked the people of Israel again, plundered the city, desecrated their temple, abolished the daily sacrifice, set up an image of Zeus in the temple, sacrificed a pig on the altar, sprinkled the temple with the blood of the pig, and forced pork down the throats of the priests.
- This great “abomination of desolation” took place on December 16, 167 BC.
- Both Daniel (9:24) and Jesus (Matt 24:15) said this sacrilegious act was a preview of the final abomination of desolation that would happen later under the final Antichrist.

Daniel 11:32 ~ By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

- There will be two reactions among the Jews, just as in the future tribulation period (cf. Dan 12:10).
- Some would sell out as traitors and compromisers believing his lies (as in vs. 30).
- Others (like Judas Maccabeus who led the revolt) would stand firm in their convictions, willing to suffer for their beliefs.

Daniel 11:33 ~ Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days.

- Jewish leaders (those “who have insight among the people”) will help others when needed by sharing the true viewpoint of life to spur them on.
- This is what Judas Maccabeus did in the Maccabean revolt.
- Mattathias, a priest, was the father of five sons, one of them being Judas Maccabeus, known as “The Hammerer.”
- Mattathias refused to submit to this false religious system under Antiochus so he fled to the mountains with his sons to begin the revolt.
- Although initially only a few Jews joined them, eventually their movement gained momentum and many joined them.
- They recaptured and cleansed the Temple in 165 BC, resulting in the celebration of Hanukkah by the Jews since then.
- But many will “fall” into death as a result of the continued persecution under Antiochus.

- They would be persecuted and even martyred for their faith.

Daniel 11:34 ~ Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.

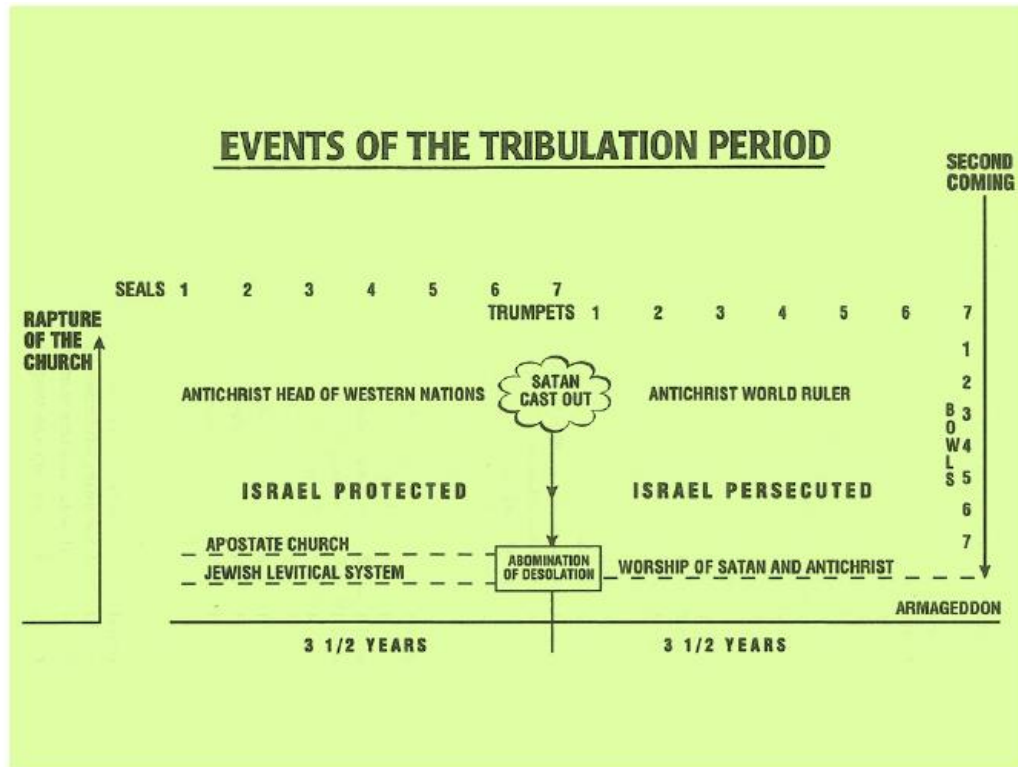
- The number who joined the revolt to help with true motives was limited.
- Some only pretended to be loyal to the cause and they joined with “hypocrisy” or false motives, a prophecy that was fulfilled in time by some of the revolt’s later leaders such as John Hyrcanus (134-104 BC) and Alexander Jannaeus (102-75 BC).

Daniel 11:35 ~ Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.

- The purpose of all this trouble and suffering for the Jewish people was to refine, purge, and purify them.
- They would be sanctified “until the end time,” likely a reference to Christ’s second coming when the persecution on Israel finally comes to a close.
- Referring to this “end” here prepares the way for the verse 36 where the vision leaps ahead thousands of years and focuses in on Antichrist, whom Antiochus prefigures.

5. The Dominion of Antichrist (vs. 36-45)

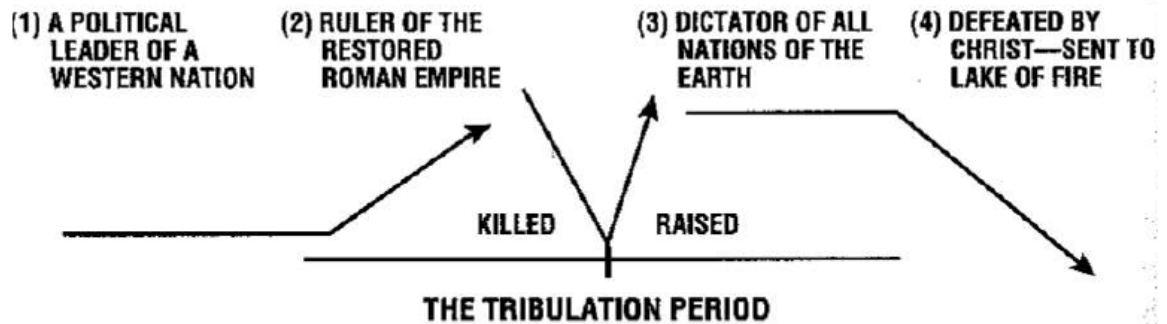
- A future purging remains for Israel, a future time of great suffering and oppression for the people of God.
- The accuracy of the predictions about the events in verses 1-35 guarantees the accuracy of the predictions about the events of the future.
- That future persecution is described in Daniel 11:36-45, a leaping of thousands of years from the time of Antiochus to the future time of Antichrist.
- Starting in verse 36, the angel told Daniel about the final chapter in Israel’s oppression, the time period known as the Great Tribulation, the 70th week of Daniel.
- Antichrist will bring in his reign of terror in the Great Tribulation.
- A lot happens in those final 7 years known as the Tribulation, similar to the final minutes or seconds of a football or basketball game.
- Often there is a flurry of activity in the closing moments of the game.
- Similarly, in the Tribulation, after thousands of years of human history, it is the final 7 years that much happens on the eschatological scene.
- But the 70th week of Daniel is no game; it is a deadly serious spiritual battle between the Lord and Satan.
- It will be a great time of oppression for the nation of Israel when they will suffer greatly for the purpose of disciplining them so that they receive their Messiah.



* From Paul Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy*

- The person and work of the Antichrist has already been discussed in Dan 7:7, 8, 20, 21, 24-26; 9:26-27 but Dan 11:36-45 provides additional details about him.
- He will rise to prominence by Satanic power, will gain authority not by military conquest but by the consent of the 10 kings who will submit to him, and will eventually conquer other nations through military might.
- He will make a covenant with the nation of Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation promising to guarantee their safety but will break it halfway through.
- Revelation 13:3, 12 indicate that he will either be assassinated near the midpoint of the Tribulation and be restored to life or will fake his death and stage a supposed resurrection from the dead.
- By his persecution of the Jewish people, he will make what Antiochus Epiphanes and Hitler did to them look minor.
- He will be a vile, Satanic, wicked, arrogant man who will ultimately be destroyed by Christ at His Second Coming.

THE CAREER OF THE ANTICHRIST



* From Paul Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy*

- Some scholars believe Antiochus is still in view in verses 36-45; however, there are good reasons to take verses 36-45 as referring to Antichrist of the future.
- First, the phrase “until the end time” seems to close off the Antiochus segment and to move through the centuries to the end times.
- Second, Daniel 12:1 clearly refers to the Tribulation since what follows immediately in Daniel 12:2 is a reference to the resurrection and final judgment which are still future events.
- Third, the description of the events in 11:36-12:1 does not fit what is known about Antiochus Epiphanes.
- Thus, the context of verses 36-45 is that of a future time period, the Tribulation.
- Thus, the “the king” of verse 36 must be a future ruler in that time period.
- The career of Antichrist can be traced through three emphases in this section: 1) His exaltation (vs. 36-39); 2) His enemies (vs. 40-44); 3) His end (vs. 45).

Daniel 11:36 ~ Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

- “Now the most notorious tyrant who will ever live is introduced into the narrative. First Antichrist’s evil character is related (11:36-39); then his wars are described (11:40-45).”²¹⁴
- A number of characteristics of Antichrist emerge from this text.
- He will be self-willed (“the king will do as he pleases”), insolent, arrogant, brazen, and unsubmitive to authority.
- He will be a dictator, ruling with utter arrogance and selfishness.
- He will set himself up as the absolute ruler of the world.

²¹⁴ Miller 1994: 306.

- He will be self-exalting, promoting himself as God (“he will exalt and magnify himself above every god”).
- He will assume absolute power in the religious realm, magnifying himself above all gods and blaspheming God (cf. 2 Thess 2:4).
- He will be initially supportive of religion, even allowing the Jewish people to keep their temple worship and sacrificial system.
- But in the midpoint of the Tribulation he will erect the abomination of desolation, destroying the Jewish system of worship, declaring himself to be God, and demanding their worship (cf. Rev 13:8, 12, 14-15).
- He will exercise the political power given him by the 10 kings who will have elected him (Rev 17:12–13).
- “Because of his personal charisma, intelligence, evil character, and political power, Antichrist will arrogantly believe that he can function sufficiently well without God. The passage seems to indicate that Antichrist will be an atheist (2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:6), although he evidently will use religion to gain his position of power (cf. Rev 17).”²¹⁵
- He will be blasphemous (“and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods”).
- His blasphemous statements against God will be unparalleled.
- The phrase “monstrous things” means literally “things done astonishingly, unbelievably.”
- Antichrist will speak things against God that will be different from what any other would dare to speak.
- He will be unique in his blasphemy (cf. Dan 7:8, 11, 20, 25; Rev 13:5-6).
- This will occur according to God’s plan (“and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done”).
- Judgment will come upon Antichrist after he has accomplished his evil purposes (7:11, 26; 2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:20).
- What Antichrist will do will be only what God has sovereignly beforehand determined.

Daniel 11:37 ~ He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.

- Not only will Antichrist blaspheme the true and living God, he will also be blasphemous against all gods (“he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers”).
- Some scholars think Antichrist will be Jewish because the phrase “gods of his fathers” is an OT phrase used to refer to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- However, he will not be Jewish since he will be the final ruler of the revived Roman empire meaning he must be Gentile.

²¹⁵ Ibid., 306.

- That phrase probably refers to the gods of pagan Gentiles, the gods of the Romans.
- He will have no respect for his religious heritage and will likely reject the religion practiced by his ancestors, which might be some form of Christianity if he arises from Rome.
- He will also “show no regard...for the desire of women”.
- This possibly refers to a lack of desire which men normally have for women, namely homosexuality.
- Although, that is unlikely since Antiochus Epiphanes, who prefigured Antichrist, was not homosexual.
- It could also mean that he doesn’t possess the “desired” characteristics of most women, namely mercy, gentleness, and kindness.
- But most likely, it refers to Christ who was the “desire of women.”
- Pious Jewish women in pre-Messianic times had one great desire, namely to be the mother of the Messiah.
- If that’s the case, then this is predicting that Antichrist will hate God His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He show his atheistic nature by requiring that all worship him rather than their deities (“nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all”).

Daniel 11:38 ~ But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures.

- He will be powerful (“he will honor a god of fortresses”).
- The word “fortresses” is used five other times in this chapter (vs. 7, 10, 19, 31, 39) referring to “a strong place.”
- It refers to military strength and the power to make war.
- Antichrist’s hope and confidence, his “god,” will be in his military capacity.
- He will build a massive army and will use large amounts of money to do so (“he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures”).
- Antichrist will be over the top with his defense budget, spending lavishly to build a massive war machine.
- It will be like “a god whom his fathers did not know,” meaning his army will be unparalleled in human history.

Daniel 11:39 ~ He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

- He will attack every stronghold and every opposition to him and his reign.
- He will do so with “the help of a foreign god,” namely his military might (the same as “a god whom his fathers did not know” from the previous verse).

- And “he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him,” meaning he will honor those who submit to him and offer their allegiance to him.
- They will be given positions of honor in his government (“he will cause them to rule over the many”).
- And “he will parcel out land for a price,” meaning he will reward with land those who obey him.
- He will reward those who loyally vow allegiance to him as their king.

Daniel 11:40 ~ At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through.

- Verses 40-45 describe the wars of Antichrist, conflicts that will come “at the end time” various peoples.
- Likely, the battle described here is not the battle of Armageddon which will occur at Christ’s Second coming.
- He will conquer every foe in his path when he sweeps southward through Palestine into Egypt and then moves his army back to the vicinity of Jerusalem where it will be camped when he is destroyed by Christ.
- Since Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel to protect them (Dan 9:27), any attack against the land of Israel will be an attack against him.
- Thus, Israel will suffer greatly at the hands of Antichrist’s oppression and persecution which will most likely occur in the midst of this great conflict waged in the land of Israel.
- It will be during this time that Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and devastates their entire country.
- Verse 40 contains a problem related to the number of kings being referred to.
- The two primary views are as follows:
 - a. The Three-King View (i.e. the Antichrist, the South, the North – Walvoord, Wood, Whitcomb, BKC)
 - “This view emphasizes the ‘he’ of v. 39 and then says that in v. 40 the ‘him’ (twice) and ‘he’ all refer back to the willful king of vv. 36-39. In this explanation, then, both the king of the South and the king of the North (two other powers) come against ‘him.’ Some who take this view...also say that the South is Egypt and the North is the northern invader of Ezekiel 38-39. They believe that the willful king (the Antichrist) destroys a pan-Arabic power bloc combined with an invading army of Russia and its northern cohorts at the mid-point of the tribulation period. This, then, helps clear the

path for the Antichrist to hold world sway during the last half of the tribulation period until Christ defeats him at the second advent.”²¹⁶

- Support for this interpretation includes the following:
 - The Antichrist is referred to as the “king,” not the “king of the North,” in verses 36-39.
 - Antichrist will come from Rome which is not necessarily north of Israel.
 - It is predicted in Ezekiel 38-39 that there will be an invasion of Israel from the north, possibly Russia.

- Thus, in this view, since the king of the South was Egypt in the previous context (vs. 5-35), it most likely refers to Egypt or some coalition of African forces in the future (cf. reference to Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia in vs. 42-43).
- And, since the king of the North was Syria in the previous context, it most likely refers to Syria or some coalition of forces around Syria in the future (Russia?).

- Ezekiel 38 describes a battle, involving an army that comes from the north, that is similar to the battle described here.
- Ezekiel 38:2 describes a ruler named “Gog” from the “the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.”
- Those are names of areas associated in the OT with what is present day Russia.
- This region is described a number of times in Ezekiel 38-39 as the “remote parts of the north” (38:6, 15; 39:2).
- It is possible that this description in Ezekiel 38-39 of a massive army coming from the north is the same event spoken of in Daniel 11 (although others hold that the battle described in Ezekiel takes place at the end of the Millennium).

b. The Two-King View (i.e. the Antichrist/North, the South – Miller, EBC)

- “The two-king view explains v. 40 differently. It understands the first ‘him’ as referring back to the ‘he’ of v. 39, so that the king of the South will push at the willful king. But it says that the second ‘him’ refers back to the attacking king of the South. When the South does push at the willful king, the willful king (here called ‘king of the North’) shall come against him (the South) like a whirlwind. In other words, he fights back. In this view, then, the ‘North’ is the willful king or Antichrist, not the northern invader of Ezekiel 38-39.”²¹⁷

- Support for this interpretation includes the following:

²¹⁶ Rosscup 2001: 128.

²¹⁷ Ibid., 129.

- “[E]arlier in this chapter (vv. 6-28) various rulers from the Seleucid line were designated as ‘the king of the North.’ Antiochus IV Epiphanes was a Seleucid-Greek monarch (a ‘king of the North’) and probably should be understood as a type of the future Antichrist described in the latter portion of the chapter. It would be appropriate, therefore, to designate both the type and the antitype by the same phrase, ‘the king of the North.’”²¹⁸
- “[T]he ‘he’ of vv. 40b-43 invades the Holy Land and sweeps through toward Egypt from out of the north (just as Antiochus of Syria in the north struck against Egypt in the south). In light of this, it is natural to view the ‘he’ of v. 40b as identical with the ‘king of the North’ earlier in the verse.”²¹⁹
- “[T]here is a reason for the wording of v. 40 just as it is, in a way that fits this view...the verse speaks of the king of the South pushing and then immediately refers to the willful king as the king of the North for the sake of distinctness, or to avoid ambiguity. If, after introducing the king of the South as pushing at ‘him,’ the next clause had then simply said ‘and he shall come against him,’ the ‘he’ might be misunderstood as still referring to the king of the South. And so, for the purpose of making the meaning very clear, the next clause reads ‘and the king of the North.’”²²⁰
 - Thus, in this view, “a southern force (‘the king of the South’) will attack Antichrist (‘the king of the North’), whereby Antichrist will retaliate and decisively crush his opposition (‘against *him*,’ then, refers to the king of the South). He ‘will invade’ the ‘countries’ of those who have attacked him and will ‘sweep through them like a flood.’”²²¹
 - He will come with “chariots, horsemen and with many ships,” weapons consistent with OT times which are probably representative of the kinds of weapons that will be used in that great battle.

Daniel 11:41 ~ He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

- “The Beautiful Land” is Israel which Antichrist will invade (cf. 8:9; 11:16).
- He will leave the area of Edom, Moab, and Ammon alone, either because they are his allies (i.e. enemies of God’s people just as Antichrist is) or because they will not be in the path of his armies.

²¹⁸ Miller 1994: 310.

²¹⁹ Rosscup 2001: 129.

²²⁰ Ibid., 130.

²²¹ Miller 1994: 310.

Daniel 11:42 ~ Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.

- Antichrist’s conquest of Egypt is singled out as a special example of his takeover in a number of lands.

Daniel 11:43 ~ But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels.

- Antichrist’s triumph will place within his grasp the treasures and provisions of Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia (oil reserves?).

Daniel 11:44 ~ But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

- Antichrist will hear about new attacks upon his interests from nations in the east and north (possibly those described in Rev 9:13-19; 16:12).
- “Furious that anyone would dare oppose his power and authority, the evil dictator will arrogantly marshal his forces against the enemy with the intent of totally obliterating them.”²²²

Daniel 11:45 ~ He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

- The first part of this verse describes the total subjugation of the land of Israel to Antichrist.
- His “tent” will serve as a symbol of his domination and a base from which to continue his oppression of the Jews.
- His tent will be pitched “between the seas” (i.e. the Mediterranean and Dead Seas) and “the beautiful Holy Mountain” (i.e. Mount Zion in Jerusalem).
- He will wreak absolute destruction upon his enemies and particularly upon Israel.
- “Daniel was here reporting that the final war will be fought in Israel, a fact set forth elsewhere in Scripture (cf. Ezek 39:2-29; Joel 3:2-16; Zech 12:2-9; 14:1-21).

- But the second half of this verse details Antichrist’s end.
- Despite his power and military victories, he will stand no chance against God Himself.
- Antichrist and his armies will meet their end at the Second Advent when Christ demonstrates His might (cf. Rev 19:11-21).

C. Theology Notes

1. The Absolute Omniscience of God

²²² Ibid., 312.

2. The Exact Fulfillment of Events Under Antiochus in the Past Argue for the Exact Fulfillment of the Events Under Antichrist in the Future

D. Preaching Helps

1. Todd's Outline (2 messages):

Predictions About the Kings of Medo-Persia (vs. 1-2)
Predictions About Alexander the Great (vs. 3-4)
Predictions About the Ptolemies and Seleucids (vs. 5-20)
Predictions About Antiochus Epiphanes (vs. 21-35)

His Arrogant Personality (vs. 36-39)
His Military Pursuits (vs. 40-45a)
His Imminent Punishment (vs. 45b)