

Session 10 The Antichrist's Attitudes and Activities (Dan. 11:36-45)

I. OUTLINE OF DANIEL 11-12

- A. Daniel's fourth vision (11:2-12:3)
 - 1. Future events related to Persia Empire (11:2)—208 years (539-331 BC)
 - 2. Future events related to Greece Empire (11:3-4)—185 years (331-146 BC)
 - 3. Future events related to conflict between Egypt and Syria (11:5-20)
 - 4. Future events related to Antichrist (11:21-45)
 - a. Antiochus IV foreshadows Antichrist (11:21-35)
 - b. The Antichrist's religious attitudes (11:36-39)
 - c. The Antichrist's military activities (11:40-45)
 - 5. Israel's deliverance and the resurrection (12:1-3)
- B. Details about the Great Tribulation (12:4-13)
 - 1. The command to seal the vision (12:4)
 - 2. The length of the Great Tribulation (12:5-7)
 - 3. The purpose of the Great Tribulation (12:8-10)
 - 4. Transitional days after the Great Tribulation (12:11-12)
 - 5. Encouragement to Daniel (12:13)

II. INTRODUCTION TO DANIEL 11

- A. Daniel 10 is the context for Daniel receiving his fourth vision in Daniel 11-12. After 21 days of prayer with fasting in Daniel 10, Daniel received this vision from an angel. The most detailed prophecy on the Antichrist (Dan. 11-12), it gives insight into the Antichrist's political decisions, religious attitudes, and military activities, and into the Great Tribulation and Israel's deliverance. The angel emphasized that this vision pertained to the end times (Dan. 10:1, 14; 11:35; 12:1-3).
¹...but the appointed time was long...¹⁴...I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." (Dan. 10:1, 14)
- B. Daniel 11:2-20 covers the period from this vision (536 BC) up to Antiochus Epiphanes' reign (175-164 BC)—a period of 372 years (536-164 BC).
- C. Daniel 11:21-35 has a dual fulfillment. The prophecies here were *partially* fulfilled in the actions of Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria during his 12-year reign (175-164 BC). He was a prophetic foreshadowing of the Antichrist. They have their *complete* fulfillment in the Antichrist.
- D. Daniel 11:31-35 gives details about activities related to the abomination of desolation. Seven themes are brought together: the abomination of desolation (11:31), knowing God (11:32a), doing miracles (11:32b), receiving understanding (11:33a), reaching many in the harvest (11:33b), receiving supernatural help in persecution (11:34), and being brought to maturity (11:35).
- E. Daniel 11:36-45 is only fulfilled in the Antichrist. This section does not refer to Antiochus.
 - 1. Dan. 11:36-39 describes the Antichrist's religious attitudes.
 - 2. Dan. 11:40-45 sets out the Antichrist's military activities and conflicts in the Middle East.
- F. Daniel 12:1-3 describes the full and final deliverance of Israel and the resurrection of the saints. Daniel 12:4-13 gives more details about the Great Tribulation.

III. THE ANTICHRIST IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

- A. The two most detailed prophecies about the Antichrist in the OT are in Daniel 8:9-26 and Daniel 11:21-36. They parallel Revelation 13 (the most detailed NT prophecy about the Antichrist).
- B. Daniel 8 emphasizes the Antichrist's cruelty towards people. Daniel 11 emphasizes his lust for power and preeminence, as seen in his military aggression and self-exaltation.
- C. In Daniel 8 and 11, the actions of King Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria (Seleucid Kingdom) during his 12-year reign (175-164 BC) give us a prophetic picture of the Antichrist.
- D. The relationship between Antiochus and the Antichrist is that of type and antitype; thus, the Antichrist may be from the same territory that Antiochus IV ruled (Syria or Babylon). Some commentators dismiss these prophecies by saying that they were all fulfilled in the rule of Antiochus Epiphanes, yet less than half of the prophetic details in Daniel 8 and 11 were fulfilled in Antiochus' life. They will be *completely* fulfilled *only* in the Antichrist's rule.
- E. Some see Antiochus IV as the king in Daniel 11:36-45. However, the historical facts of his life and military career do not fit this passage. He did not exalt himself above every god (11:36-37), nor did he reject "the gods of his fathers," nor worship "a god unknown to his fathers" (11:38). Rather, he worshiped the Greek pantheon that his fathers did and built an altar to Zeus in the Jerusalem temple. Antiochus did not die ("come to his end") in Israel (11:45), but in Persia.

IV. THE ANTICHRIST'S RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE: HIS ARROGANCE (DAN. 11:36-39)

- A. The Antichrist's religious attitude is seen in his arrogance and self-exaltation (11:36-37).
³⁶***"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..."***³⁷***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."*** (Dan. 11:36-37)
 - 1. **The king:** The Antichrist will be a political leader (11:36) in the generation when Israel is permanently delivered at the end (12:1-3). He was earlier referred to as the "little horn" (7:8), "another king" (7:24), a "king who will arise" (8:23), and the "prince to come" (9:26).
 - 2. **His own will:** His arrogance will be manifest in that he will do according to his own will, without any fear of consequences from God or man. Doing His own will speaks of his unstoppable military might.
 - 3. **Exalt himself above every god:** His unique political, military, economic, religious power will embolden his pride, so that he claims to be God. He will exalt himself as high as Jesus, the Prince (8:25). Paul made reference to Daniel's prophecies of the Antichrist exalting himself as high as God (8:11) and above God (11:36) in claiming to be God (2 Thes. 2:4).
⁴***[The Antichrist]...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 Thes. 2:4)***

4. **Speak blasphemies:** He will speak pompous words in claiming things about himself that are shocking, as he speaks with terrible boldness against God (7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thes. 2:4). He shall speak of “great things”—things so unique and extraordinary, as well as new things never heard of before (Rev. 13:5). The spirit of the Antichrist is expressed in blasphemy.
⁵*He was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies...⁶he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle... (Rev. 13:5-6)*
5. **He shall prosper:** He shall prosper, but only until the time that God’s wrath accomplishes its sovereignly determined purpose (11:36). He will only prosper a short time (3½ years).
³⁶*“Then the king...shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.” (Dan. 11:36)*
6. **Not regard the God of his fathers:** He will reject the religion of his ancestors. Some use this verse to make a case that the Antichrist is a Jewish apostate. They say that he may grow up in a Jewish home; however, the text is inconclusive.
³⁷*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.” (Dan. 11:37)*
 - a. Some use this verse to make a case that the Antichrist is a Jewish apostate. They say that he may grow up in a Jewish home; however, the text is inconclusive.
 - b. The phrase *the God of his fathers* can be singular or plural. (Some translate it as the “gods of his fathers.”) In the singular, as “the God of your fathers,” it is specifically a biblical phrase for those of a devout Jewish heritage. Manasseh humbled himself before the *God of his fathers* (2 Chr. 33:12). Ananias told Paul that the *God of our fathers* had chosen him in a special way (Acts 22:14).
7. **Not regard the desire of women:** He shall not regard the desire of women (11:37). Some translate this as the “desire for women,” meaning that he will hate women in every way. If this is the meaning, then he may legalize perversion and oppression that targets women.
 - a. The “desire of women” seems to be something related to God, since the first thing he disregards in verse 37 is “God,” and next is “women,” and third is “other gods.” It seems that the second thing he disregards has to do with God—God’s value of women.
 - b. Some think that the phrase “the desire of women” is a reference to Messiah, because Jewish women were said to all desire to be the mother of Messiah.
8. **He shall not regard any god:** He will have a total anti-God policy. He will require all to worship him under threat of losing their lives (Rev. 13:15).
¹⁵*...to cause as many as would not worship the...beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:15)*
9. **Above them all:** He shall exalt himself above them “all” (11:37). He will view himself as more important and powerful than the concerns of women and religion.

B. The Antichrist's religious attitude is seen in his worship of war (11:38-39).

³⁸***“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. ³⁹Thus 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.”***
(Dan. 11:38-39)

1. ***He shall honor a god of fortresses:*** The Antichrist will honor a god of war, or military conquest (11:38). The god of fortresses speaks of demons that work to promote war, thus combining military and demonic power (11:40-45; cf. 7:8, 24; Rev. 13:4; 16:13-16).

¹⁶***“Those who see you will gaze at you [Antichrist], and consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities...?’”***
(Isa. 14:16-17)

²³***“The fourth beast shall...devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.”***
(Dan. 7:23)

2. ***But in their place:*** The Antichrist will value and exalt war more than the God of his fathers, the desire of women or any god (11:38). He will give “the god” of military might the honor and value that others give to God, religion, and women.

3. ***Honoring a god his fathers did not know:*** His fathers did not “know” or have experience of war. The combination of military and demonic power will be unknown in his heritage. He will grow up in a family that was not involved in the military or in satanic worship.

4. ***Honor with gold and silver:*** The Antichrist will honor the god of war, the god of military might (god of fortresses), with gold and silver, etc., (11:38) by spending unprecedented amounts of money on developing his military.

5. ***Act against the strongest fortresses:*** He will take aggressive military action against the strongest nations (and military alliances), ones with superpower status in military might.

6. ***A foreign god:*** This speaks of a demonic source behind his military strategy and success. The Antichrist will take aggressive action against the strongest nations by Satan's power. He will acknowledge the satanic source so that the nations worship Satan (Rev. 13:4).

a. He will acknowledge Satan and his demons, and advance the glory of the demonic realm by only promoting leaders who have zeal for Satan.

b. He will advance “its” glory and shall cause “them” to rule over many (11:38-39). The “it” and the “them” may be demonized leaders who zealously worship Satan.

7. ***He shall cause them to rule:*** Leaders—political, military, economic—who fully support him will be rewarded with opportunity to rule, i.e., promotions to new positions, with authority over many. He will reward them with land gained as the spoils of war. In other words, he will use bribes to make alliances with and gain the cooperation of leaders in the nations.

V. THE ANTICHRIST'S MILITARY ACTIVITIES (DAN. 11:40-45)

- A. **The Antichrist's military activities (11:40-45):** This section identifies some of the Antichrist's most significant military campaigns. He will overwhelm (11:40), overthrow (11:41), and stretch out his hand against (11:42) nations.

⁴⁰“...***the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him...and he [Antichrist] shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.*** ⁴¹***He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown...*** ⁴²***He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.*** (Dan. 11:40-42)

- B. There are two issues in 11:40-45.

1. When is the timing of verse 40?
2. Does it speak of two kings or three? Scholars debate whether there are two or three kings in Daniel 11:40. The *three-king view* identifies the Antichrist (a king, 11:36), the king of the North, and the king of the South. The “two-king view” sees only the king of North (Antichrist) and the king of South. In my opinion, the “three-king view,” is the best view but I am not dogmatic.

- C. In Daniel 11:40-45 there are 16 masculine, third person, singular pronouns: “he,” “him,” “his.”
- **HE** is used 7 times (11:40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45)
 - **HIM** is used 4 times (11:40 twice, 44, 45)
 - **HIS** is used 5 times (11:41, 42, 43, 45 twice)

- D. **Three-king view:** Interprets all 16 pronouns as referring to the Antichrist. In other words, this view sees the Antichrist as separate from the king of the North. The rationale for this view is that throughout 11:5-28, the “king of the North” *always* refers to the Syrian king, and the “king of the South” *always* speaks of the Egyptian king. One reason that the angel gave such detailed information was to establish these identities: 20 of 22 uses of “king of the North” for Syria.

⁴⁰“***At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack HIM [Antichrist]; and the king of the North shall come against HIM [Antichrist] like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and HE [Antichrist] shall enter the countries...***” (Dan. 11:40)

- E. **Two-king view:** Sees 15 pronouns as referring to the Antichrist, and one referring to the king of the South (11:40). This view sees the Antichrist as the king of the North. Part of the rationale for this view is that since Antiochus was described as the king of the North, so the antitype, the Antichrist, should also be the king of the North.

⁴⁰“***At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack HIM [king of the North]; and the king of the North shall come against HIM [king of the South] like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and HE [king of the North] shall enter the countries...***” (Dan. 11:40)

- F. The three-king view is consistent in the way it interprets each of the pronouns (11:36-43). However, the three-king view turns the historical enemies—the king of the North and the king of the South—into allies against a common enemy (Antichrist), thus turning Antiochus into both a type of the Antichrist (11:21-35) and a type of one of the Antichrist's enemies (11:40-45).
- G. Why would God give prophetic information about the Antichrist's military activities?
1. First, so that God's people would be *able to pray* for the nations and their leaders as indicated in Daniel 11:40-45. This "military intelligence" will affect and direct their prayers.
 2. Second, so that God's people would be *able to declare* these events even before they happen. This may cause some unbelievers to believe in the prophetic Scriptures and thus turn to the Lord. For example, when God's people boldly declare that the Antichrist is a demonized man though he brought peace to the Middle East, then they will tell unbelievers that Egypt and Syria will attack the Antichrist and mention the other events signified in Daniel 11:40-45.
 3. Third, this passage assures us that the *Antichrist will not conquer every nation of the earth*. There will be nations resisting him at the end as seen here in Daniel 11. Yes, he will have some influence in all nations, but that is not the same as dominating them.
 4. Fourth, *to prepare believers* in the nations mentioned in Daniel 11 to understand some of the challenging things that will come. By knowing these are a part of God's prophetic plan will help to respond in faith instead of fear. For example, the Antichrist will take over the treasures of gold and silver (i.e., the national economy) of Egypt for a short season (Dan. 11:43).

VI. HIS MILITARY ACTIVITY: ATTACKED FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH (DAN. 11:40)

- A. The kings of the north and south will attack the Antichrist (11:40).
- ⁴⁰***"At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack HIM [Antichrist]; and the king of the North shall come against HIM [Antichrist] like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through."* (Dan. 11:40)**
- B. In Scripture, north and south are determined in relation to Israel. The kings of the South and the North may each have a coalition of nations working with them, because without the help of others Syria and Egypt would not be able to threaten the Antichrist's empire seriously.
- C. Syria may be the leading country in a northern confederation, called the "king of the North" (11:40), which will most likely be an Islamic/Arab bloc. Egypt may be the leading country in a southern confederacy, called the "king of the South" (11:40, 42)—it may also be an Islamic/Arab bloc. These attacks against the Antichrist may be a preemptive strike before he invades them.
- D. Egypt may be the leading country in a Southern Confederacy called the "king of the South" (11:40, 42)—it will most likely be an Islamic/Arab bloc. The king of the South will attack the Antichrist, who will conquer Egypt for a short season (11:42).
- E. These attacks against the Antichrist may be a preemptive strike before he invades them. Then the Antichrist shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through (11:40d).

VII. HIS MILITARY ACTIVITY: ATTACKING MANY NATIONS (DAN. 11:41)

- A. The Antichrist shall enter the “Glorious Land” of Israel (11:41, 45; cf. 8:9). Edom, Moab, and Ammon refer to present-day Jordan. They escape trouble until Jesus marches through Edom (Isa. 63:1-6).

⁴¹“***He shall also enter the Glorious Land [Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.***” (Dan. 11:41)

¹⁶“***I [the Lord] will raise up a shepherd [Antichrist] in the land [Israel] who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken...***” (Zech. 11:16)

- B. The Antichrist will probably use the covenant of Daniel 9:27 to gain a stronghold in Israel. The Antichrist will annul or betray the covenant and trample Israel as Daniel saw in Daniel 7:7, 19.

¹⁴“***...you scornful men, who rule...Jerusalem,*** ¹⁵***because you said, “We have made a covenant with death...”*** ¹⁸***Your covenant with death will be annulled [violated]...when the overflowing scourge passes through [Israel], then you will be trampled down by it...***” (Isa. 28:14-18)

- C. ***Many countries shall be overthrown***: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people (leaders) of Ammon shall escape (11:40). These three nations refer to present-day Jordan. They will be spared, possibly because they help him. They escape trouble until Jesus marches through Bozrah and Teman, which both refer to the same area (Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3).

VIII. HIS MILITARY ACTIVITY: ATTACKING EGYPT (DAN. 11:42-43)

- A. The Antichrist will attack Egypt (11:42-43). Egypt will be temporarily overthrown and occupied by the Antichrist's military, giving the Antichrist control of their national finances.

⁴²“***He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.***

⁴³“***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.***” (Dan. 11:42-43)

- B. The Antichrist shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver and all the precious things of Egypt (11:43a). The precious things of Egypt may be the oil wells of the Middle East.

- C. The Libyans (North Africa) and Ethiopians “shall follow” at the Antichrist's heels (11:43). The NIV translates “at his heels” as “in submission,” thus, conquered by him. In other words, to be “in step,” or in cooperation, with the Antichrist. The Ethiopians (Nubians, *kusim* in Hebrew) may also include Sudan and/or parts of East Africa.

- D. Will the Antichrist overthrow Libya, Ethiopia, and Sudan during the military campaigns described in verses 40-41? They eventually become allies with him (Ezek. 38:5).

⁵***Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet...*** (Ezek. 38:5)

IX. HIS MILITARY ACTIVITY: ATTACKED FROM THE EAST AND NORTH (DAN. 11:44)

- A. The Antichrist will be firmly resisted and possibly attacked from the east and the north (11:44). He will act in great anger to completely annihilate the leaders and nations that participated in the troubling news.
⁴⁴“But news from the east and the north shall trouble him [Antichrist]; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.” (Dan. 11:44)
- B. **Troubling news from the east:** The Antichrist will hear troubling news from the Asian kings of the East, who persistently resist his financial seductions, refuse his demonic miracles, and stand against his threats. Eventually he will win over the kings of the East (Rev. 16:12-14).
¹²The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the East might be prepared. ¹³I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon [Satan], out of the mouth of the beast [Antichrist], and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴They are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth...to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... ¹⁶They gathered them together to the place called...Armageddon. (Rev. 16:12-16)
- C. **Troubling news from the north:** This probably does not refer to the Syrians (the king of the North). It possibly speaks of trouble from the Antichrist's ten-nation confederation based in the *far north*. The Antichrist, called Gog and his army, is described as being in the *far north* (Ezek. 38:6, 15; 39:2) in contrast to Syria being in the *immediate north* in relationship to Israel.
⁶...the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you... ¹⁵Then you will come from your place out of the far north...a mighty army. (Ezek. 38:6, 15)
- D. It may be news of treason or division in his ranks which will not be deeply unified with one another (2:41-43) and/or news of crises related to the seals, trumpets, and bowls destroying his resources.
⁴¹“You saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided... ⁴²so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.” (Dan. 2:41-43)

X. HIS MILITARY ACTIVITY: INVADING ISRAEL (DAN. 11:45)

- A. The Antichrist will plant part of his headquarters near Jerusalem (11:45). The “glorious holy mountain” speaks of the temple site in Jerusalem, where he will claim to be God (2 Thes. 2:3-4). The seas on the two sides of Jerusalem are the Mediterranean Sea (west) and the Dead Sea (east).
⁴⁵“And he [Antichrist] shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas [Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea] and the glorious holy mountain [temple site in Jerusalem] yet, he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.” (Dan. 11:45)
- B. **Come to his end:** The Antichrist will be defeated (11:45) without help from any human sources (8:25). Jesus will destroy him (7:11-14, 22, 26-27; 9:27; 11:45; 2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 16:16; 19:20).

- C. Jesus will consume and destroy the Antichrist simply by breathing on and looking at him.

⁸*Then the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)*

XI. THE VICTORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE OVER THE ANTICHRIST (DAN. 12:1-3)

- A. After relating the Antichrist's invasion of Israel, the angel encouraged Daniel by assuring him that Michael will rise up to help Israel, and the martyrs will be raised up in the resurrection (by Jesus).

¹*“At that time Michael [archangel] shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people [Israel]; and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation], such as never was since there was a nation...at that time your people shall be delivered...² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection], some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.³ Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” (Dan. 12:1-3)*

- B. The deliverance will come from Messiah who was killed (9:26) and raised from the dead to sit at the right hand of the Father, the Ancient of Days (7:13). In Daniel's first vision, he saw the Son of Man ruling with His saints (7:13-14, 27). The enthroned Messiah will rescue Israel (12:1) and raise the dead saints in the resurrection (12:2). Many will be martyred in the end times (11:33-35), but they only sleep until Jesus *awakens* them (12:2). The wise and those who turn people to righteousness shall shine like the stars forever (12:3).

- C. Until Jesus *awakens* them (12:2)

¹³*“One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds...¹⁴To Him was given dominion...and a kingdom...²⁷The kingdom...shall be given to...the saints of the Most High.” (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)*

¹⁶*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)*

- D. The wise (11:33) and those who turn people to righteousness (Mt. 5-7) shall shine like the stars forever (12:3). Jesus spoke specifically of this end-time promise (Mt. 13:43).

⁴³*“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (Mt. 13:43)*

⁴¹*...for one star differs from another star in glory.⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)*