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

1. outline of Daniel 11-12
	* 1. Daniel’s fourth vision (11:2-12:3)

Future events related to the Persian Empire (11:2)—208 years (539–331 BC)

Future events related to the Greek Empire (11:3-4)—185 years (331–146 BC)

Future events related to conflict between Egypt and Syria (11:5-20)

Future events related to the Antichrist (11:21-45)

Antiochus IV foreshadows the Antichrist (11:21-35)

The Antichrist’s religious attitudes (11:36-39)

The Antichrist’s military activities (11:40-45)

Israel’s deliverance and the resurrection (12:1-3)

* + 1. Details about the Great Tribulation (12:4-13)

The command to seal the vision (12:4)

The length of the Great Tribulation (12:5-7)

The purpose of the Great Tribulation (12:8-10)

Transitional days after the Great Tribulation (12:11-12)

Encouragement to Daniel (12:13)

1. introduction to Daniel 11
	* 1. Daniel 10 is the context for Daniel receiving his fourth vision in Daniel 11-12. After 21 days of prayer with fasting (Dan. 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.
2. 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)
	* 1. Daniel 11:2-20 covers the period from this vision (536 BC) up to Antiochus Epiphanes’ reign ending in 164 BC—a period of 372 years (536-164 BC).
		2. Daniel 11:21-35 has a dual fulfillment. The prophecies of the Antichrist in Daniel 8 and 11 were partially fulfilled in the actions of King Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria during his 12-year reign (175-164 BC). He was a prophetic foreshadowing of the Antichrist.
		3. Daniel 11:31-35 gives details about activities related to the abomination of desolation. Seven themes are bought 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).
		4. Daniel 11:36-45 is only fulfilled in the Antichrist. This section does not refer to Antiochus.

Dan. 11:36-39 describes the Antichrist’s religious attitudes.

Dan. 11:40-45 sets out the Antichrist’s military activities and conflicts in the Middle East.

* + 1. 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.
1. the Antichrist in the book of Daniel
	* 1. 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).
		2. 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.
2. The Antichrist’s religious attitude: His Arrogance (Dan. 11:36-39)
	* 1. The Antichrist’s religious attitude is seen in his arrogance and self-exaltation (11:36-37).
3. 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…37He 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)

***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).

***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.

***Exalt himself above every god***: His unique political, military, economic, religious power will embolden his pride so that he will claim 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)

***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).

5He 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)

***He shall prosper***: He shall prosper, but only until the time that God’s wrath accomplishes its sovereignly determined purpose (11:36). He will prosper only a short time (3½ years).

***Not regard the desire of women***: 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 target women.

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)

***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.

***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)

* + 1. The Antichrist’s religious attitude is seen in his worship of war (11:38-39).
1. 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)

***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).

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

***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.

***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 will not be involved in the military or in satanic worship.

***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.

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

***A foreign god***: This speaks of a demonic source behind his military strategy and success. He will acknowledge Satan, advancing the glory of the demonic realm by promoting leaders who have zeal for Satan. He will advance “its” glory and shall cause “them” to rule over many (11:38-39). The “it” and “them” may be demonized leaders who zealously worship Satan.

***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.

1. The Antichrist’s military activities (Dan. 11:40-45)
	* 1. ***Antichrist’s military activities (11:40-45)***: This identifies some of his most significant campaigns. He will overwhelm (v. 40), overthrow (v. 41), and stretch out his hand against (v. 42) nations.
2. 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. 41He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown…42He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. (Dan. 11:40-42)

Scholars debate whether there are two or three kings in Daniel 11:40. The *three-king view* identifies the Antichrist, the king of the North, and the king of the South as separate people. The *two-king view* sees only the king of the North (Antichrist) and the king of the South.

In my opinion, the *three-king view* is the best view, but I am not dogmatic. This view sees the Antichrist as separate from the king of the North.

* + 1. Why would God give prophetic information about the Antichrist’s military activities?

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.

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.

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 all.

Fourth, *to prepare believers* in the nations mentioned in Daniel 11 to understand some of the challenging things ahead. Knowing that these are part of God’s prophetic plan will help them to respond in faith instead of fear. For example, the Antichrist will take over the treasures of gold and silver (the national economy) of Egypt for a short season (Dan. 11:43).

1. his military activity (Dan. 11:40-43)
	* 1. The kings of the north and south will attack the Antichrist (11:40). They may each have a coalition of nations working with them.
2. 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)
	* 1. 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.
		2. The Antichrist shall enter the “Glorious Land” of Israel (11:41, 45; cf. 8:9). Many countries shall be overthrown; Edom, Moab, and the leaders from Ammon shall escape (11:40). These three nations refer to present-day Jordan. They escape trouble until Jesus marches through Edom (Isa. 63:1-6).
3. 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…Ammon.” (Dan. 11:41)
	* 1. 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. The precious things of Egypt may be their oil wells. The Libyans (North Africa) and Ethiopians “shall follow at his heels,” (11:43) or be in step, in cooperation, with the Antichrist.
4. 42“He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.
43He 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)
5. his military activity: attacked from the east and north (Dan. 11:44)
	* 1. The Antichrist will be firmly resisted and possibly attacked from the east and the north (11:44).
		He shall go out with great fury to destroy many nations and people (11:44). He will act in great anger to completely annihilate the leaders and nations that participated in the troubling news.
6. 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)
	* 1. ***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).
7. 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)
	* 1. ***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 (Gog) and his army are 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. It may be news of treason and division in his ranks, which will not be deeply unified with one another (Dan. 2:41-43).
8. 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)
9. his military activity: invading Israel (Dan. 11:45)
	* 1. The Antichrist will plant part of his headquarters near Jerusalem (11:45). The “mountain” speaks of the temple. The seas on the two sides of Jerusalem are the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea.
10. 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 [Jerusalem] yet, he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.” (Dan. 11:45)
	* 1. Jesus will destroy the Antichrist (7:11-14, 22, 26-27; 9:27; 11:45; 2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 16:16; 19:20).
11. 8Then 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)
12. The victory of God’s people over the Antichrist (Dan. 12:1-3)
	* 1. 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).
13. 1“At that time Michael 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…2And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection], some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3Those 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)
	* 1. Messiah was killed (9:26) and raised to sit at God’s right hand, 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).
14. 16The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)
15. 27“The kingdom…shall be given to…the saints of the Most High.” (Dan. 7:27)
16. 43“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (Mt. 13:43)
17. 41…for one star differs from another star in glory. 42So also is the resurrection of the dead.
(1 Cor. 15:41-42)