***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)

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

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

a. Antiochus IV foreshadows the 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)

* 1. 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)

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.

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)

*I want to give a little introduction to Daniel 11. Daniel 11 actually starts in Daniel 10. We looked at that in the last session. Daniel 10 is the context for Daniel 11. It is the twenty-one days of prayer and fasting and the angel visit. He did not actually get the vision in Daniel 10, but here in Daniel 11 the vision itself is laid out. This is the most detailed prophecy on the Antichrist in the Bible right here.*

*It gives insight into the Antichrist’s political decisions, his religious attitudes, his military activities, along with the Great Tribulation, and then Israel’s ultimate deliverance. Now in Daniel 10 the angel made it clear in verse 1 that the vision’s appointed time was long. That is, it was a long time after Daniel’s life, talking about the end of the age. Then the angel again said, “I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people”—the nation of Israel—“in the latter days”—in the end times. So this vision pertains to a period of time far beyond Daniel’s life.*

* 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.

*Daniel 11:36-45 is the part we are going to focus on. We are just taking a portion of the entire chapter, the part that is really dramatic about the Antichrist. I mean just the real vital information. Of course there is more in the chapter that I am not covering. Daniel 11:36-45 is about the Antichrist. Verse 36-39 is about his religious attitudes, verse 40-45 his military activities, and then we are going to move on for just a moment and talk about the full and final deliverance of Israel and the resurrection of the saints. That is what happens right after the Great Tribulation.*

* 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).

*The two most detailed prophecies in the Old Testament about the Antichrist are Daniel 8 and 11. Daniel 11 is the largest one in the whole Bible, more than even the book of Revelation, chapter 13. The two most detailed in the Old Testament are Daniel 8 and 11.*

* 1. 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.

*Daniel 8 focuses on the Antichrist’s cruelty and Daniel 11 focuses on his lust for power and preeminence. We see that lust for power in his military aggression and his unprecedented self-exaltation, the way he exalts himself. So we do not see his cruelty here in Daniel 11 like we did in Daniel 8, but we see his craving for power and prominence.*

1. 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).

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)

*Well, let’s go ahead and look at the passage itself. In Daniel 11:36-39 we are looking first at his religious attitudes. His religious attitudes are seen in his arrogance, tremendous arrogance, in self-exaltation. We will read it, and then we will go back and make a few comments. “Then the king,” verse 36, “shall do according to his own will. He shall magnify himself above every god. He will speak blasphemies against the God of gods” or the only true God. He will actually prosper but only until the wrath of God has been accomplished on him and through him. Verse 37, “he shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor will he regard the desire of women, nor will he regard any God. He will exalt himself above them all.”*

* + 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).

*So we will look at the first phrase here in verse 36, the king. It says, “then the king will do according to his own will. He will exalt and magnify himself.” Now since the Scripture calls him a king here as the vision in Daniel 8 also called him a king we know by this that he is a political leader. He is not just a religious leader. He is actually the head of a government.*

*Of course we know from other passages that he is the head of a coalition of many nations. It starts off with ten nations, but then he dominates many more nations on top of that and has a vast global empire. He has the biggest empire that any man has ever ruled in history. It will go beyond what Napoleon conquered. It will go beyond Hitler. It will go beyond some of the famous conquerors of history. So understand he is more than a religious leader. We know that he is a political leader. That is very clear in the book of Daniel.*

* + 1. ***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.

*It says that he shall do according to his own will. Now this is a big statement because his arrogance will be manifested by his doing his own will without any fear of consequences at all. When a leader does not have the fear of consequences, he has a spirit of boldness and arrogance that is unprecedented. Even Adolf Hitler, who was a very aggressive, evil man, was constantly calculating the consequences. You know that by just an even casual study of his life. When he was about to attack France and invade France, it was yes, no, yes, no, yes, no, let’s do it, let’s not do it. He went back and forth, back and forth, because he was so fearful of reprisals from other nations. His general and war cabinet were asking, “Are we, or are we not? Is it yes, or is it no?” Even in his aggression he constantly had all kinds of fear of consequences.*

*So when it says “he will do according to his own will,” that is a very big statement. I believe no man has ever been at that level of arrogance. He will not fear consequences from nations, and he will not fear consequences from his own people. Hitler had to worry about that as well–his own people revolting against him. There were over forty recorded assassination attempts on Hitler’s life, most of them by his own people, even his own generals. So a man this aggressive really does have to measure what he does because of consequences. Well, this man will have no fear of consequences from God either. He will blaspheme God with such unspeakable boldness, terrifying boldness.*

*So the fact that he will do his own will with no hesitation, no fear of consequences, gives us insight into the seeming invincibility of his army. One reason, of course, is that he is in constant dialogue with Satan and demons. But also his army is so powerful. He operates in supernatural miracles. His ability to deceive the nations is beyond anything we have ever seen and so that will bolster his doing his own will. Again that is a small phrase, but it has lots of meaning.*

* + 1. ***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)

*Next it says that he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god. His unique power will embolden him to do this–his unique power politically, militarily, economically, and spiritually. Because of this unique measure of power he will exalt himself above every god.*

*Now just before he comes into world onto the world stage as the primary leader in the nations, the harlot Babylon has been promoting false gods, false religions, and all kinds of things. He is even fearless of the Harlot Babylon, and his own ten kings destroy the Harlot Babylon. That is how bold and fearless he is–to take on even false religions and other gods. Paul referenced this passage in Daniel 11:36. In 2 Thessalonians 2, he is referencing Daniel 11:36. He says, talking about the Antichrist, “He will exalt himself above all that is called or regarded as God.” Above all religion is the idea. He will exalt himself above everything that is worshipped. He will not even allow false gods to exist. He will be against all religions so that he is the only one worshipped. He will do this to such a degree Paul said—he is prophesying here—that he will sit as God in the temple of God that is in Jerusalem. They will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem before this happens. He will go into the Holy of holies where the ark of the covenant and the Shekinah glory would be in the Old Testament days. He is going to sit in that place, the place of God, and he is going to declare to Israel and to the nations, “I am the only true God.” That is what he will do.*

* + 1. ***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)

*Continuing in Daniel 11:36, it says that he shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods. The God of gods is the God of Israel, the only true God. The God who is over all, who has power over all the false gods and all the gods of nations, the false gods. He is the God who is over all of those demonically-inspired, idol-worshipping religions, etc.*

*One of the highlighted characteristics of the Antichrist is his boldness to blaspheme the God of heaven. It says four times in Daniel 7, “He will speak pompous words.” The point I am making about four times is that it is such a prominent feature of his reign and his terror that it is mentioned four times. Very few things are mentioned four times in one prophetic chapter. That means it has remarkable meaning or a real emphasis. It is going to be an activity that will be very prominent in his reign as king. He will speak pompous words against God, and they will be shocking words.*

*Revelation 13:5 develops this idea and says that he will be given a mouth speaking great things and speaking blasphemies. Quoting Daniel 11:6, “He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God.” Now when it says that he will speak great things, it does not mean noble great things, but it means extraordinary things that are so unique nobody ever even imagined them. They will be new and unheard of things. He will declare his plans, and he will unveil the things he is doing. It will cause wonder and awe to fill the nations. I cannot imagine what these things will be. He will claim great things and he will do great things: great in the sense of extreme, extraordinary, completely outside the box of what anybody is thinking. This will bolster his profile in the nations. In the context of speaking these great things, he will blaspheme God and he will declare these things that he is about and what he is doing. He will declare them in contrast to God, and he will blaspheme and put God down.*

*Now this blasphemous speaking is one of the primary evidences or expressions of the spirit of the Antichrist. We are seeing that spirit of the Antichrist escalating in this day, even in our culture. There are more and more people, though the percentage is still small and the boldness of the blasphemy is still measured. The things that people are saying about Jesus and the Word of God is at a level it was not at ten and twenty years ago. So one of the primary expressions of the spirit of the Antichrist is blasphemy. We are going to see this escalate to a level far beyond anything we have seen now.*

* + 1. ***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).

*Now the most surprising thing about this blasphemy-speaking man who is doing these extraordinary things and making these claims is what here it says in verse 36, “He will prosper.” This will confuse the nations because the Lord is going to give the nations the chance truly to choose who they want. If this man were just a total failure, then the true choice of the human heart would not come to the surface. The Lord is going to allow him to prosper, He is going to let the nations really choose, and what is in their heart will come fully to the surface.*

*The angel tells Daniel that he will prosper, but only for a short time, only until the wrath that is accomplished through him to the nations. God will use him as an instrument of wrath to the nations, against the wickedness in the nations. So He will use him as a tool of the wrath of God. The wrath of God will be expressed through him, and the wrath of God will come on him as well.*

*So the angel is telling anyone who has a heart to hear, “Do not be seduced by his temporary prosperity.” Do not be seduced by it because he will be crushed by the wrath of God in a three-and-a-half-year period. I mean it is measured; there is a timeframe to it.*

*He will seem invincible until then, and his prosperity will deceive many. What the Lord is really after is He wants the true desire of the heart to surface. People really want sin, and they do not want God. He says, “I am going to give you this choice in the ultimate environment to choose it if you want it.” Yet the greatest revival in history will be happening so for the people who want Jesus, God will give the ultimate environment for Him to be chosen too, for that king to be chosen. So I mean people will chose at the deepest level of anytime in history.*

* + 1. ***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)

*Now this is an interesting thing here; it says that he shall not regard the desire of women. This is an interesting statement, and there are different views on what this means. By the way, I have additional notes on the Internet that are a few pages longer with more detail where I spend several paragraphs on these several different views as to what this would mean.*

*Because verse 37 says that he does not regard the God of his fathers, he does not regard the desire of women, and he does not regard any god, some translate this that he does not have desire for women. Others would regard that in a sexual sense. Others interpret it as he has a hatred of women in the fact that he does not regard God’s value of women and that he does not see the image of God expressed through the woman or the value that is to God. He is at war against it; he has no regard for that and no desire to honor that at all.*

*So it is hard to know exactly what this means, if it means that this is a sexual term in that he does not desire women in that regard as some interpret it or if he has hatred of women as others interpret it. Others interpret “the desire of women” as being the Messiah, because all of the Jewish women hoped that they would be the mother of the Messiah. So some of them say that he does not regard the Messiah; some commentators take that view.*

*It is hard to know for sure what it means, but if it means that he has hatred for women—because that is such a spirit of the Antichrist—we see this hatred of women, this oppression and perversion that is targeted against women so much in certain places, in religions like Islam and other religions, this culture and other cultures. Of course we are seeing this even greater manifestation of the hatred of women in the human trafficking industry on a global level. The pornography industry really is hatred of women; it really is hatred of women at the actual core of it. There is more to it than that, but I believe the whole sexual perversion explosion is rooted in hatred of women. Not only in that, but it has roots in that as well. So that may be one of the meanings of this phrase, though this phrase might have quite a few meanings.*

*The Church will probably understand it more as it unfolds in that hour of history. If it means hatred of women or at least includes that, then he may legalize perversion and oppression that targets women at a level beyond anything we could imagine right now. I mean who knows the depth of what Satan has in his heart. Some trace it back to Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve sinned and the judgment on Adam and Eve. Satan’s curse was that the seed of the woman would crush him. There is something in Satan’s heart that is undoubtedly linked to that prophecy that the seed of the woman would come back and crush him. So I am not sure exactly how this all ties together, but maybe they are all giving us insight into the full interpretation of what this phrase means.*

* + 1. ***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.

*It also says that he will not regard the God of his fathers. Not regarding the God of his fathers means he will reject the religion of his ancestors. Now this phrase, the God of his fathers, is a distinctly Jewish, biblical phrase. Again in my additional notes on the Internet I have more on that than I am presenting here in this smaller version because I did not want to give you so many pieces of paper tonight.*

*The God of his fathers is a distinctly Jewish term. Many people use this phrase, he will not regard the God of his fathers, to make a case that he is Jewish. Because that is a distinctly biblical Jewish phrase and I at least do not know of any other religions that uses that phrase through their history—maybe there are some, but I do not know—he may at least partially have a Jewish heritage. I think it is very possible that he has a Jewish heritage, but that does not mean he would be completely Jewish. He could also have an Arab Islamic heritage, or he could have a Western one. He could have several different root systems in his family tree that kind of brings a whole lot of things together. Anyway, folks use this verse to say that he will be an apostate Jew, that he will be a Jew who has denied the religion of his ancestors. Again we do not know for sure, but it is certainly something that the Church should be paying attention to.*

* + 1. ***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)

*He shall not regard any god. He will have a total anti-God/anti-god policy. He will be against every religion. See, in stage one of Satan’s end-time strategy the harlot religion—the harlot Babylon—will say that every religion is right and promote tolerance where everyone is right and nobody is wrong. That will be Satan’s way of seducing people to leave their religious heritage—Christian or Islamic or Jewish—and they will leave their religious history and embrace a religion where everything is right and nothing is wrong, which will defile their conscience.*

*Then the Antichrist will come on the scene. He will pull off his mask and say, “Now that you have defiled your conscience, away with all of those other religions! There is only one: you worship me or you die.” They will have already broken their allegiance to the religion of their heritage, so they will be far more susceptible to be threatened with death or coaxed by Satan’s power into Antichrist worship.*

* 1. 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)

*Okay, let’s look at his religious attitudes as seen in his worship of war. Again I am still putting this under the religious part even though we have the military part coming up in verse 40-45. This is still in the religious part because it is rooted in his spirituality. It says, “but in their place.” That means in the place of the God of his fathers, in the place of desire for women, in the place of other gods, in* ***their*** *place he will honor a completely different type of god, a god of war.*

*A god of fortresses means a god of war. His god will be military conquest. It is more than just his obsession. It means more than he is obsessed with military conquest. I believe it also means there is a spiritual dimension, there is a god dimension. He is actually interacting with Satan, with demonic power, while obsessed with military conquest. So the way I see this—and again we are looking at it without knowing exactly what these things mean until that time of history; we have guesses and we have indications of what they might mean—he brings together the combination of interaction with Satan and an obsession with military conquest. He combines them together.*

*Of course there are a number of books out where their posture is that this is the occult. Hitler’s high command was deeply involved in the occult. So there was this interaction with demons in a very dynamic and direct way that went along with the military conquest. I am sure this has happened a number of times over the course of history, throughout history. The Antichrist will bring this to a whole other level.*

*Let’s read verse 38 again, “But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses and a god which his fathers did not know.” His fathers will be unfamiliar with this obsession with military conquest mixed with interaction with demons. He shall honor the god of fortress with gold and silver, which means in essence that he is going to have unprecedented finances backing up his military agenda. He will honor it with gold and silver, this god of fortress, and he will honor it with precious stones and pleasant things.*

*Not only will he finance the expanse of his military, but he will also honor it by rewarding with the spoils of war those who are loyal to him. He will use the spoils of war to give to his generals that are fully loyal to support his demonic agenda. Again the analogy I will use is Adolf Hitler. When they conquered nations, they would take the houses and the properties, the art and the jewels. Hitler’s top leaders were rewarded by these spoils of war. The deal is, you have got to kill on my demand, says Adolf Hitler. You have got to attack on my demand and your conscience has to be laid aside entirely. Guess what you get? You get the mansions and the great properties and the fine art and the jewels and all the other fine things as part of the reward.*

*Verse 39, “thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses.” That is talking about the strongest military resistance, the superpowers in the nations, the world superpowers, and he will not be afraid of them. You know right now America is the premiere superpower, but there are several other nations that are growing stronger and in the next couple of decades there is going to be possibly a number of superpowers that will have emerged. He will not be afraid to take them on; that is what it is saying here.*

*He will act against the superpowers with a foreign god. That is, he is acting by a god unknown to his fathers and unknown to the other leaders of the earth. This is talking about Satan himself, a god that is not foreign in terms of being just from another nation but a foreign god that is unknown even to the fortresses that he is attacking. He will have a familiarity and an interaction with Satan and demons beyond what any king has ever had. So he will attack these great powerful fortresses, these superpower nations, by the resource, the inspiration, and the creative wisdom—I cannot even use those words creative wisdom, but—demonic ideas, I will put it that way. I mean he will have military strategies that he will pull from the demonic realm that will help him in his tactics against the strongest fortresses. This foreign god he will acknowledge. Of course we know from the book of Revelation it is Satan, that Satan is the one that gives the Antichrist his throne, it says. It actually says that in Revelation 13:2. Satan gives the Antichrist his throne and his power. That is a remarkable statement: that Satan gives his throne to a man and gives his power and his authority to a man! This man will acknowledge this foreign god. He will acknowledge this god that is outside of the realm of the understanding of the others and that is what I mean by the foreign god. Not only will he acknowledge Satan, but he will even advance the glory of Satan, he will advance the glory of this foreign god.*

*In the Old Testament language they are laying it out without all the full insight, because the theology of Satan is really developed in the New Testament. There are very brief references to him in the Old Testament, very, very brief. In the New Testament with the coming of Jesus, Satan’s kingdom is unveiled. Then through the teaching of the apostles and the book of Revelation it goes to a whole other level, New Testament compared to Old Testament. So there was a very scant insight into or theology of Satan in the Old Testament. I believe that is what the angel is referring to, but he was talking to Daniel who did not have the benefit of the New Testament full-orbed knowledge of Satan that is presented in all the Word of God.*

*It says that he shall acknowledge and advance the glory of this god of fortresses, and he will cause them to rule over many, and he will divide the land for gain. Meaning he is going to bribe his top military commanders, and he will undoubtedly bribe leaders of other nations, with land, with properties, with power, with jewels, with great money as I have just talked about just a moment ago.*

* + 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).

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

* + 1. ***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.
		2. ***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.
		3. ***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.
		4. ***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.
		5. ***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.
		6. ***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.

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)

* + 1. 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.
		2. 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.

*Now we are moving from his religious attitudes, from his interaction with the demonic realm in order to gain power in his dark spirituality, and we are moving to his outward military activities. Let’s read about his military activities in verse 40. The king of the south—which I believe to be Egypt and that is what most commentators commonly take that to be—the king of the south, Egypt, shall attack him. The king of the north–that would be Syria. Syria is the nation just north of Israel because north, south, east, and west in the Bible is almost always given in proximity to Jerusalem. There are a few exceptions but almost all the directions in the Bible particularly those given in a prophetic way are in proximity to the city of Jerusalem itself.*

*So the king of the south will attack him. The king of the north, that is Syria, will attack him. Look at his response: he will enter the countries that are attacking him and others besides, and he will overwhelm them. When it says, “he will pass through them,” that does not mean he is just passing through and saying hi to them. No, he is bringing his armies and just trampling these nations. When he passes through, it is what was described in Daniel 7:7-8, where it talked about the Antichrist. He will trample down and he will crush and devour the nations; that is what it means. That is the implied thing when he passes through. That is a very graphic description back in Daniel 7:7-8.*

*Verse 41, “he will enter the Glorious land;” that would be the nation of Israel. He will enter many countries. When he enters those countries, his purpose is to overthrow them, which he accomplishes. He does not enter to negotiate with them. He enters to dominate them. When he goes to a nation, it is not for negotiations. It is for dominion; it is to overthrow them. He will stretch out his hand against the countries, many countries. The land of Egypt shall not escape. Now you will notice here in verse 40-45, Egypt is mentioned several times. Egypt is emphasized in the prophetic Scriptures. Egypt has a heightened role in the end-time drama. Egypt actually starts off in full attack against the Antichrist. Egypt does not like the Antichrist. You would think there are evil leaders in many nations. Well, all the nations of the world have got evil leaders in them. I am thinking of the whole Middle East Islamic hatred of Israel. For the Antichrist, one of his main objectives is to destroy Israel. Egypt will say, “No, we do not like this guy. We know this guy hates Israel, but we do not like this guy.” Egypt actually attacks him, and then he goes after Egypt. I mean he really turns his fierce rage and anger against Egypt. So notice these verbs here: he will overwhelm, overthrow, and stretch out his hand against nations. That is describing his activity.*

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

*We ask the question, “Why would God give us these five verses here, these six verses that give us prophetic information about the Antichrist military activities?” I mean it is a three-and-a-half-year period, so why does the Church care? I mean if he is going to do this, and it is inevitable, why should we need to know them? I have four reasons here, and there could be many more reasons besides these four.*

* + 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.

*The Antichrist’s military activity is not limited to Daniel 11. It is in a number of places in Isaiah, Zechariah, and other books of the Bible as well. One reason He has given us this information is that God wants us—I am talking about the Body of Christ across the nations—to be able to pray for those nations, with divine information being prophetically informed in the sense that though the nations do not know who is going to attack the Antichrist and who he will attack, Daniel has military intelligence 2,500 years ago about who is going to attack him. I mean this is insider information.*

*Now obviously the ungodly of the nations will not believe it, but it will be absolutely true. This information will be helpful for the Church praying, because the Church will be so gripped with prayer in that hour. The idea of prayer being peripheral will be long gone. Prayer will be so central in the life of the entire Body of Christ at that point in time when all these things are taking place. So I believe it will be, give tremendous prophetic insight for prayer.*

* + 1. 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.

*Number two, it gives the Church prophetic insight. Meaning, God’s people will be able to declare these events ahead of time. This will convince some unbelievers that the Scriptures are real. I can imagine the Antichrist coming on the world stage. Here he is on the world stage, and there is peace in the Middle East, and the prophetic Church is saying, “Well, we know there is peace, but he is a demon.”*

*They retort, “Demon? There is peace! You guys have been praying for peace for years. Finally there is peace, and all you have to say is that he is a demon?”*

*He is more than a demon; it is worse than being demonized. I mean he himself is not a demon, but he is demonized. That is what I mean. He will be a human, but he will be the most demonized man in history is how I would say it.*

*Then the prophetic Church will say, “Well, okay, so you think that this is just guesswork when we say that this man is demonized? Well, Egypt is going to attack him.”*

*They say, “Egypt is not going to attack him. He is friendly with Egypt.”*

*“Yes, Egypt will, and Syria will attack him too.”*

*“No, that is not going to happen.” Then all of a sudden Syria and Egypt do. They say, “How did you know that?”*

*“Well there was this Jewish guy 2,500 years ago who said it.”*

*“Who is this?”*

*“A guy named Daniel.”*

*“I never heard of him.”*

*My point is that having this understanding is actually going to be like a sign of the times in that period of history. Again, this may happen in the lifetime of some people alive on the earth right now. Maybe it will not. Maybe it is for their children and their grandchildren. Maybe it is a little bit down the road, but it might be sooner. It might be in the lifetime of some of the folks in this room. Who knows? I know that this information will be vital to the Church in that day. It will be information that will be told to leaders, and it will be information to be told to unbelievers. There will be several different ways where this prophetic information will be valuable.*

* + 1. 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.

*This information assures us that the Antichrist does not conquer every nation of the earth. Meaning some people when they read a passage in Revelation believe it says that all the nations will worship him. It does* ***not*** *mean* ***every*** *person in* ***every*** *nation will worship him; that is not what it means. They have read into it. That is, they read it casually and assume he will dominate every nation. He will* ***not*** *dominate every nation.*

*I believe he will influence the nations of the earth and maybe every nation. He will have a presence, or he will have an influence. He will have an influence is the way I will say it. Some nations he will dominate and control. You know there are about 200 nations in the earth. By some accountings there are 230, but 200 is a good number. The United Nations is about that number. He is not going to dominate all 200 nations. Egypt will be fighting him, Syria will be fighting him, and the kings of the east will be fighting him. So do not have this idea that once he comes on the scene everything is over and he has total power. That is not how it is going to be.*

* + 1. 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).

*Another benefit of this is that this will prepare believers in those nations for the worse. For example, one of the statements about Egypt is that he will dominate their national economy. That is how it is described. Believers in Egypt in that time knowing this was sovereignly ordained by God, they will know there is good in it, and they will know it is temporary.*

*So instead of just caving into fear and worshipping the Antichrist, they will be in faith. They will say, “We know it is going to get tough* ***and*** *we know what area it is going to be rough in. He is going to come to Egypt, and he is going to dominate our economy, but it is going to be short-term and it has a divine purpose. It is in the prophetic Scriptures, and it is going to turn around for good before it is over.” So having that information in that hour of history I believe will more than serve just to satisfy curiosity, It will be vital information. Undoubtedly there are maybe four or five other reasons for this information as well.*

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.

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)

*Let’s read verse 40 again. “At the time of the end”—so we know that this is at the end times—“the king of the south”—I believe that to be, and it is a common view, a southern confederacy of nations, a coalition of nations with Egypt. It will not be just Egypt, but probably a coalition. Probably. You cannot be sure, but that is most likely. They will attack the Antichrist.*

*“The king of the north”—this Syrian coalition, confederacy of nations—“will come against him” too. They will come against him “like a whirlwind.” They will come with all of their might against the Antichrist army. I mean Syria is going to say something like, “it is either all or none. We are investing everything. There is no holding back. We are burning every bridge.” They are going to come with chariots and horsemen and with many ships.*

 *The king, the Antichrist, will be enraged by this. He will enter the countries related to the king of the north and the king of the south and their coalitions, and he will overwhelm them. He will pass through them, and a military passing through means trampling and devouring them like in Daniel 7:7-8.*

* 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).

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)

*Verse 41, “He shall enter the glorious land.” That is Israel. “Many nations shall be overthrown, but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and Ammon.” Now it is interesting that Edom, Moab, and Ammon today are modern-day Jordan. So somewhere in the coalition with Egypt, nations with Egypt, and the coalition of nations with Syria, Jordan is going to be an exception. They are not going for it. Somehow they will have his favor or they will have some alliance with him early on, and they will escape his rage. They should not get too excited by coming into an early alliance with the Antichrist and escaping his rage, because Isaiah 63 says that when Jesus comes marching up into Jerusalem to defeat the Antichrist, He marches up through that land of Edom, Moab, and Ammon. He has blood on His garments destroying the armies of those nations as He marches up to Jerusalem. You can read that in Isaiah 63. So Edom should not think because they have got a pass with the Antichrist that their troubles are over. Because if they have an alliance with him, and that is the indication, they will have to answer to the Lord for that.*

* 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.

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)

*Verse 42, “He will stretch out his hand against the countries.” Here it is mentioned again, “the land of Egypt shall not escape.” That is, the land of Egypt is mentioned several times in the passage here. Verse 43, “He [the Antichrist] will have power over the treasures of gold and silver. He will have power over the precious things of Egypt.” I wonder if the precious things of Egypt are the oil and the Suez Canal? I mean there are several things that are economically precious and very valuable to the nation of Egypt. Verse 43, the Antichrist will have power over their gold and silver and their valuable—precious could be the word valuable as well—things. That is an indicator that he will have dominance over their national economy for a season.*

*“Also Libya”—that is in North Africa—“and Ethiopia”—that is East Africa—“they shall follow at his heels.” Some Bibles translate “to follow at his heels” as they will be in step with him or they will be in cooperation with him. So Libya and Ethiopia will have some kind of cooperation. That does not mean the Church will not go for it in those nations, but the Church will want this information for prayer. The global Body of Christ will want this information for prayer. Again, the prophetic Church will be declaring these things before they happen, or as it is leading up to happening, they will be declaring them. It will give credibility and credence to these prophetic messengers.*

1. 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.

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)

*But news will come from the east and news will come from the north, and this news will trouble him. Therefore he will go out with great fury; he will go out to destroy and he will annihilate. The picture we are getting here is that these will be nations from the east. The book of Revelation talks about the kings of the east, about a whole Asian block, an Asian coalition, that will resist the Antichrist up to the very final weeks. I mean literally up to the very final weeks of the Great Tribulation they will be resisting the Antichrist. They will resist his bribes, his seductions, and his threats. They will resist him. There is something about what will happen in the Church in Asia. They will resist him and resist him and resist him. Even here at the very end they are doing something that is causing him very much trouble, and he has great rage.*

*It says also those from the north will trouble him. I do not believe the north here means Syria or the kings of the north and the verses before. I think the north means something else.*

* 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).

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).

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)

*I realize today we are reading this and it is kind of interesting, kind of intriguing. There is coming a day where this information will be life-and-death information. The praying, prophetic church will use this information in a very practical way in the four ways that I indicted, plus probably a few more. So I believe it is important that this mighty angel gave the information to Daniel and that it was given for the end-time generation. I believe the Church should be familiar with this information, not just to watch the news to figure out who the Antichrist is because some people do that, but to pray. I want to watch the news to see what God is doing and to see what the enemy is doing so I can engage in prayer, not so I can win a Bible Jeopardy game about who the Antichrist is ahead of time. I have no interest in that kind of stuff. We have the enemy’s plans unveiled in the prophetic Scriptures and so are God’s plans. It is for the benefit of the Church and for the harvest.*

*So it really is important, at least to the mighty angel who gave it to Daniel because he was called a mighty angel or described as a mighty angel. This information is really worth knowing. It is going to be valuable. I might not apply it in my day; it may be after my time, but I am going to know it and understand it and pass it on to my children and their children and young people so they are familiar with this information whether it happens in my day or not.*

*So troubling news from the north, I do not believe this speaks of the kings of north that we just looked at immediately north of Israel. I believe it speaks of the ten-nation confederation, which is in the far north. Again remember distances are in proximity to the city of Jerusalem. In Ezekiel 38 the ten nations that are in alliance with the Antichrist are described as the far north. So I think that these ten nations are going to have disturbances; there are going to be conspiracies maybe in some of them. There is going to be resistance. I mean they will be unified with the Antichrist, but there might be pockets in their midst where things unfold that are very disturbing to the Antichrist. It says that he will come with great rage. He will come with great rage to attack tshem.*

1. 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.

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)

*We are going to bring this to an end here in just a moment here. Verse 45, “He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to an end and nobody shall help him.” What this is talking about is that part of his headquarters—he may have several headquarters around the world, not just one—part of his headquarters will be near Jerusalem. The “tents of his palace” is speaking of his headquarters or at least one of them. It will be between the seas. Of course we know Jerusalem is between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea. The glorious holy mountain is a reference to the temple site where the temple is when the temple is functioning and is in place. It is called the glorious mountain, the mountain where the temple sits.*

*So the Antichrist will have a headquarters there, a palace there it says, a residence and probably a royal court and a whole military operation. “Yet he shall come to his end, and nobody shall help him.” Meaning of all the nations that he has got under him—those that are loyal to him and all the nations that are under his servitude—none of them will be able to deliver him from the Jewish Man who marches up to him to destroy him.*

* 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).

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)

*We know that Jewish Man. He is the One that we love. It says here in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 where Paul prophesied that when the lawless one is revealed the Lord will consume him with the breath of His mouth and destroy him with the brightness of His coming. So not one of his coalition of nations will help him; none of the nations under his servitude will help him. Jesus will come up to him and turn His gaze on him, the brightness of His countenance. He will blow on him and completely immobilize the Antichrist. He will be completely immobilized and destroyed. Then he will be bound and cast into the lake of fire alive. So there is no point in any nations trying to come to his aid. There is no point in trying to have an assassination plot. You know like I said, Hitler had forty documented assassination plots where even some good guys tried to rise up and get rid of him. There is no point in it here. There is only one Man who is going to get rid of this man.*

1. 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).

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)

*Let’s just read the verse, as it just speaks for itself. Daniel 12:1-3, “At that time”—we are still at the end time, we are at the Great Tribulation—“Michael the archangel shall stand up”—and help Israel. He is “the great prince,” which means the archangel. He is the one that assigned to watch over the people of Israel. When Michael stands up at that time—which means arises to action—when Michael stands up, it does not mean he is sitting down taking it easy and then he stands up to stretch a little bit. It means he arises to dynamic action that will be manifest on the earth; that is what that is talking about.*

*There will be a time of trouble when this happens. This is the angel telling Daniel and this is the verse that Jesus quotes later when he talks about the Great Tribulation. This is the very verse he quotes. He said, “There will be a time of trouble” and the angel tells Daniel, “such as there never was.” The angel is saying in this time of trouble to tell Israel not to give up, for they will be delivered. It will look like they are outnumbered and it is over. There is no help. America did not bail them out. The nations did not bail them out. There is one Man that will come and bail them out. The hope of Israel is not America. I am all for supporting Israel, but we are not Israel’s answer. Israel’s answer is a Man right now seated at the right hand of the Father, who loves Israel. At this time Israel does not love Him, but they will love Him before it is over. I assure you, the angel said, your people be delivered. He just gave, you know, all of Daniel 11, these horrible scenarios, if you study the whole chapter, that culminate in this evil man.*

*You can imagine that Daniel is thinking, “What is going to happen?” The angel says, “Deliverance and full salvation for your people.” Every individual will make his or her choice. He says that many are those who will be asleep in the dust of the earth, but they will awake. The multitudes of the earth, the billions that are killed in that process, the righteous and the unrighteous, they will all awake.*

*Beloved, the wicked are resurrected, not just the righteous. Did you know the wicked get a resurrected body and that they will have physical senses and feel the things they experience in eternity? They will not just remain in a spirit state or spirit-body-type thing. They will have a material, physical body; they will all be resurrected. Some will be resurrected to eternal life, those that are born-again believers. The others will be resurrected, but they will be resurrected to everlasting contempt and everlasting shame.*

*Look at verse 3. Somebody might say that this will be tough and will not be worth it. The angel says to tell them that if they are wise, and they stand for the truth, and they speak the truth, they will shine like brightness. It will be worth everything. If they are martyred, it will be worth it. If they lose everything, they will shine bright like the sun. “Those that turn many to righteousness”—that does not just mean they lead people to be born again; it is much more than that. I have heard people say it means if you are a soul winner. This is much more. It is convincing the Body of Christ that righteousness is part of the kingdom mandate, to walk in righteousness. There is so much teaching that is validating unrighteousness in the Church today. The angel is telling Daniel to tell them that if you influence people for righteousness believers and unbelievers, and you take a stand for righteousness, you will shine like stars forever. In other words, it will be worth it.*

* 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).

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)

27“The kingdom…shall be given to…the saints of the Most High.” (Dan. 7:27)

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. 42So also is the resurrection of the dead.
(1 Cor. 15:41-42)

*It will be worth it because the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of an archangel, with the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ will rise first. Those that are alive and remain on the earth at that time will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air in the clouds, and they will be with the Lord FOREVER. Amen and amen, let’s stand. It is worth it!*