

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 (11:2)
 - 2. Future events related to Greece (11:3-4)
 - 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; it is the most detailed prophecy in the Bible (Dan. 11-12). It gives insight into the Antichrist's political decisions, religious attitudes, and military activities, and the Great Tribulation and Israel's deliverance.
- B. Daniel 11:2-20 covers the period from Daniel's lifetime up to Antiochus Epiphanes' reign (175-164 BC), more than 400 years.
- C. Daniel 11:21-35 has a dual fulfillment. The prophecies, partially fulfilled in the life of Antiochus Epiphanes (who foreshadowed the Antichrist), will be ultimately fulfilled by 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. Antiochus is not referred to in this section.
 - 1. Dan. 11:36-39 – the Antichrist's religious attitudes |
 - 2. Dan. 11:40-45 – the Antichrist's military activities and conflicts in the Middle East
- F. Daniel 12:1-3 describes full and final Israel deliverance and the resurrection of the saints.
- G. 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 (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 seek to 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..."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)
 1. ***The king:*** The Antichrist will be a political leader (11:36) in the generation when Israel is permanently delivered (12:1-3). He was earlier referred to as "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:*** He shall do according to his own will (11:36). 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:*** He shall magnify himself above every god (11:36). His unique political, military, economic, religious power will embolden his pride, so that he claims to be God. He shall exalt himself above every "god" in the harlot Babylon religious system. After the one-world harlot religion prospers for a season, he will destroy it (Rev. 17). He will exalt himself as high as Jesus, the Prince (8:25).

- a. 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)
- b. There is no evidence that Antiochus Epiphanes claimed to be God. However, he exalted himself by committing an abominable act when he put an altar to Zeus in the temple and offered a swine upon it in December 167 BC.
4. ***Speak blasphemies:*** He shall speak blasphemies against the true God (11:36). He will claim 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, and 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)
⁸"In this horn [Antichrist] was...a mouth speaking pompous words...¹¹The... pompous words which the horn was speaking...²⁰that horn had...a mouth which spoke pompous words...²⁵He shall speak pompous words against the Most High..." (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25)
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 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.
 - a. I think this refers to his hatred of women. I believe he will see to it that legalization is in place for many expressions of perversion and oppression that target women.
 - b. The "desire of women" is 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 deep value of women.
 - c. God so values women that a man's prayers are hindered if he does not honor his wife.
⁷...giving honor to the wife...that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Pet. 3:7)
 - d. Some think that the phrase "the desire of women" is a reference to Messiah, because Jewish women desired to be the mother of Messiah. Thus, they say, the Antichrist will reject the Messiah. I think this is a weak case for what is plainly laid forth in other verses.

7. ***Not regard the God of his fathers:*** He will not show regard for the God of his fathers, nor for any other god, because he shall exalt himself above them all (11:37). He shall utterly despise the God of Israel, along with all religions, because devotion to any other will take the focus away from him. He will reject the religion of his ancestors.
 - 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).
 - c. He shall not “regard any god” (11:37). He will have a total anti-God policy. He will require all to worship him or lose their lives (Rev. 13:15).

¹⁵*...to cause as many as would not worship the...beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:15)*
 - d. He will claim to be God, demanding that the whole earth worship him. One of Satan's purposes in giving him power is to lead a global worship movement (Rev. 13:4, 8)

⁴*So they worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast [Antichrist], saying, “Who is like the beast?” (Rev. 13:4)*
 8. ***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; 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 far 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:*** He will honor the god of war with gold and silver, etc., (11:38). The Antichrist will honor the god of military might (god of fortresses) with gold and silver 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 even the strongest nations by demonic power. He will acknowledge the satanic source so that the nations will worship Satan (Rev. 13:4). He will acknowledge Satan and his demons, and advance the glory of the demonic realm by only promoting leaders who have zeal for Satan and are demon-possessed. 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:*** He will reward leaders (political, military, economic) who fully support him with “rule,” i.e., promotions to new positions, giving them authority over many. He will reward them with land that was gained as the spoils of war. In other words, he will use bribes to gain cooperation and alliance with leader in the nations.

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

- A. This section summaries some of the Antichrist's most significant military campaigns. Two key issues in 11:40-45—does it speak of two kings or three, and when is the timing of verse 40?
- B. Scholars debate whether there are two or three kings in Daniel 11:40. The “three-king view” sees the Antichrist, the king of North, and the king of South in the passage. The “two-king view” sees the king of North (Antichrist) and the king of South. In my opinion, at this time, I lean towards the “three-king 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:** Sees 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).

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

- A. The Antichrist’s military activities (11:40-45). He will overwhelm (11:40), overthrow (11:41), stretch out his hand against (11:42), and annihilate (11:42) the nations.
- B. The kings of the north and south will attack the Antichrist (11:40). In Scripture, north and south are determined in relation to Israel. They may have a coalition of nations working with them, because without the help of others, Syria and Egypt could not threaten the Antichrist’s empire.
- 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. These attacks against the Antichrist may be a preemptive strike before He invades them.
 2. What will be the relationship between Egypt to Syria?
- C. Syria may be the leading country in a Northern Confederation called the “king of the North” (11:40)—it will most likely be an Islamic/Arab bloc. The king of the North will attack the Antichrist like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships (11:40). He will be destroyed or incorporated into the Antichrist’s kingdom.

- 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. The Antichrist will conquer Egypt for a short season (11:42).
- E. 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 (11:40a, 45). He will invade and occupy Israel (Dan. 8:9; Zech. 11:16). He will plant part of his headquarters in Israel (11:45).
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 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, ¹⁵because you said, “We have made a covenant with death...”¹⁸Your 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)
¹⁹...the fourth beast...exceedingly dreadful...which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue [of the nation] with its feet... (Dan. 7:19)
- 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.
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)*
⁴“The sword shall come upon Egypt, and great anguish shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain fall in Egypt, and they take away her wealth, and her foundations are broken down.” (Ezek. 30:4)
- B. The Antichrist shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over 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 will follow at the Antichrist's heels (11:43). The Ethiopians (Nubians, *kusim* in Hebrew) may include Sudan and/or parts of East Africa.
- D. 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.
- E. 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).

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

- A. The Antichrist will be attacked from the east and the north (11:44).
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. The troubling news from the north (11:44) probably does not refer to the Syrians (king of the North). It speaks of trouble from the Antichrist's 10-nation confederation based in the far north (Ezek. 38:6, 15; 39:2).
 - 1. It may be news of treason/division in his ranks, which are not deeply unified (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)
 - 2. In Ezekiel 38-39, the Antichrist, called Gog (with Magog), is described as being in the far north, in contrast to Syria being in the immediate north in relationship to Israel.
- C. The Antichrist will hear troubling news from the Asian kings of the East who persistently resisted his financial seductions, refused his demonic miracles, and stood 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)
- D. The Antichrist shall go out with great fury to destroy many (11:44). He will act in great anger to completely annihilate the leaders and nations that participated in the troubling news.

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 [Jerusalem] yet, he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.” (Dan. 11:45)***
- B. The Antichrist will be suddenly defeated (11:45). 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 the Antichrist with the breath of His mouth, by His very breath.
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. The angel encouraged Daniel, after telling him of the Antichrist’s invasion of Israel, by assuring him that Michael will rise up to help, and the martyrs will rise 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...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)***
- 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 resurrect the dead saints who are His dearly beloved (12:2). Many saints will be martyred in the end times (11:33-35), but they are only sleep 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. ¹⁷Then 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)***
- C. 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)***