

The Book of Daniel / Chapter Eleven (Part Twelve)

Lesson 52-Daniel's Apokalypsis

I. REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

The use of Aramaic (the language of the Gentile world) in chapter 7 and Hebrew in chapter 8 suggests the prophetic focus includes both the broader world (Babylon) and the nation of Israel. Based on the evidence presented, the qualities of the rulers described in Daniel 7 and 8 align with the profile of the "king who does what he pleases" in Daniel 11:36-39. This suggests that the text of Daniel 11 transitions from chronicling historical conflicts to prophesying the actions of a unique, final figure whose rule represents the culmination of "the indignation."

II. THE CENTRAL FIGURE: THE KING WHO DOES WHAT HE PLEASES

The analysis begins by isolating the figure described in Daniel 11:36-39, establishing this king as a uniquely profiled ruler whose attributes are not found among the preceding Kings of the North and South described earlier in the chapter.

- **Autonomy and Success:** He operates according to his own will and is highly successful in achieving his objectives.
- **Arrogance and Blasphemy:** He disregards all established gods, both false deities and the one true God.
- **Idolatry of Power:** He honors a "strange god" or a "god of fortresses," a deity unknown to his ancestors. He recognizes this god's strength and leverages it to conquer and dominate (Daniel 11:38-39).
- **System of Patronage:** He rewards those who honor him by making them rulers over "the many," a term interpreted as Israel.
- **Geographical Origin:** Subsequent conflicts reveal he is not the King of the North or the King of the South, as he wages war against both.

II. THE "END TIME" CONFLICT: DANIEL 11:40

"...At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through..." (Daniel 11:40 NASB95)

The prophecy specifies that this conflict occurs "at the end time," a phrase unique to the book of Daniel. This period marks the revival of the "king of the South" and the "king of the North" as distinct entities.

The conflict is described with specific Hebrew terms that emphasize its intensity and the overwhelming nature of the king's counterattack.

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Hebrew Term	Transliteration	Meaning/Implication
End Time (קץ עת)	‘ēṭ qēṣ/ <i>ayth kates</i>	A specific eschatological period.
Collide (נגח)	nāḡaḥ/ <i>nawgakh'</i>	A reciprocal action suggesting "engage in war" or "destructive conflict."
Storm (שער)	śā‘ar/ <i>sawar'</i>	Underscores the intensity of the conflict; a heavy discharge or extreme violent commotion.
Overflow (שטף)	šāṭaḇ/ <i>shawtaf'</i>	A submerging or overtaking by a massive force, like a flood.
Pass Through (עבר)	‘āḇaṛ/ <i>awbar</i>	To cause something to go through a barrier or obstacle.

The text implies that although the kings of the North and South initiate the conflict, the "king who does what he pleases" responds with a devastating force that completely overwhelms them, allowing him to "enter countries, overflow them and pass through" without significant struggle. Notably, the instruments of war mentioned—chariots, horsemen, and ships—are described as primitive.

III. CONQUESTS AND SUPERNATURAL ESCAPES: DANIEL 11:41

"...He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon..." (Daniel 11:41 NASB95)

Following his initial victory, the king's campaign of conquest extends into the "Beautiful Land," an idiom used in Daniel to refer to the land of Israel (cf. Daniel 8:9, 11:16). While many countries fall to him, a select few are supernaturally rescued from his grasp.

The Rescued Nations:

- **Edom:** Descendants of Esau (Genesis 25:25), also known as Idumaeans. Their territory is located in the southernmost part of Israel, neighboring Judah.
- **Moab and the Sons of Ammon:** Descendants of Lot through his two daughters (Genesis 19:35-38). Their territory is located to the east of Judah and Jerusalem.
- **The "Foremost" of Ammon:** The Hebrew word *rē'šîṭ* ("foremost" or "chief") may refer to the prime or choice part of the Ammonite land.

The escape of these three specific regions is presented as a significant and puzzling event. The source offers two possible explanations:

1. **A Buffer Zone:** These regions may serve as a protected area for the remnant of Israel who will flee to the mountains during this time.
2. **Future Inheritance:** Citing Zephaniah 2:8-9, the source suggests that the remnant of Israel will ultimately inherit these lands after fighting alongside their Messiah at his return.

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Hebrew Term	Transliteration	Meaning/Implication	Occurrences in Daniel
Rescued (מָלַט)	mālaṭ	To escape or be delivered. The passive stem suggests they are acted upon by an external force.	2 times.
Foremost (רִאשִׁית) ית	rē'šîṭ	"Beginning," "chief," or "choice part."	1 time.

IV. SUBJUGATION OF THE SOUTH AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES: DANIEL 11:42-43

"Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape... But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels..." (Daniel 11:42-43 NASB95)

The king's campaign continues southward, where he achieves a decisive victory over the power bloc that initiated the conflict.

Key Developments:

- **Conquest of Egypt:** The land of Egypt, representing the kingdom of the South, will definitively fall and will not be "rescued" (p^olêṭâ).
- **Seizure of Wealth:** The king will gain "dominion" or "rule" (māšal) over Egypt's vast treasures. This action aligns with his character, as he honors his "god of fortresses" with gold, silver, and treasures (Daniel 11:38-39).
- **Formation of Alliances:** The Libyans and Ethiopians, likely witnessing the king's unstoppable power, will join him in an alliance. The phrase "at his heels" (miṣ' āḏ) suggests companionship or marching in step with him, expanding his power base.

IV. THE FINAL CAMPAIGN AND INEVITABLE DEMISE: DANIEL 11:44-45

"...But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many... He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him..." (Daniel 11:44-45 NASB95)

The King's Final Acts:

1. **Reaction to Rumors:** Reports from the east and north "disturb" or "terrify" him, provoking him to unleash a final campaign of "great wrath" to completely destroy many. The source speculates this news could be the message of the Kingdom of God and the preparation of the Messiah by the remnant.

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2. **Establishing His Throne:** He establishes his center of power, a "royal pavilion" ('apeden) or palace-fortress, in a strategic location between "the seas" (likely the Mediterranean and other Middle Eastern bodies of water) and the "beautiful Holy Mountain" (Jerusalem).
3. **Supernatural Defeat:** Despite his immense power and strategic positioning, his end is absolute and unsupported. The text states, "he will come to his end, and no one will help him." This implies his allies will also be defeated or will abandon him. The source concludes that since no human force could defeat such a figure, his destruction must come about by supernatural means.

V. CONCLUSION

The statements in verses 40-45 the "one" man speaks to Daniel about the activity of "the man who does what he pleases" and his character and work in spreading his tyrannical and destructive influence throughout the world in the future.

To Be Continued...