<u>Daniel</u> Chapter 11:36-45 (Part 4) The Last Wicked King

Daniel 11:36-45

The King Who Exalts Himself

36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. 37 He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. 38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. 41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. 42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. 43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Cushites in submission. 44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. 45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Introduction

Now comes the final act of the history of the world, playing out before Daniel's very eyes. The last king who will ever persecute the Jews steps into the spotlight as the narrative leaps forward through the centuries, to the very end of time. The Antichrist is the "king who shall do as he pleases" in verse 36. In him will be the culmination of Satan's hatred of the people of God.

Antiochus Epiphanes, in his demonically inspired persecution of Israel, was merely a forerunner to the king who will come to power in the last seven years of earth's history. The final trinity of evil, Satan, The Antichrist, and the False Prophet (**Rev. 13**) will one day come to take Jerusalem by storm. As Daniel had earlier prophesied in **chapter 9**, this "beast" would at first pretend to be a great friend to the Jews, making a covenant with them and even rebuilding their temple (**9:27**). He will, in fact, be merely using them as a pawn in order to fulfill his true purpose, to rule the world as both its king and its god. The Antichrist will wreak devastation upon all who oppose him, and for a time, it will seem that he is unstoppable. But God has given him only an allotted window (**seven years, Dan. 9:27**) for this reign of terror. Once God's purpose for the Antichrist has been served, The Lord Himself will bring him to a quick and decisive end.

His Defiance

The Antichrist will be able to convince the Jews that he identifies with their religious beliefs. This is the only reasonable explanation for his being able to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Many Messianic Jews today, in fact, hold to the belief that the Antichrist himself, will be a Jew from the tribe of Dan. The reasons for this belief are rooted in the Biblical history of Dan's early penchant for idolatry (Judges 18:27-31), which is believed to be the reason for the tribes omission from the listing of the 144,000 Jews to be sealed as preachers of the gospel during the great tribulation period (Rev 7:5-8). Whether this will be the case or no, Daniel tells us in verse 37 that the Antichrist will have "no regard" for the God of his fathers, which is a direct reference to The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In short, the Antichrist will despise God, no matter what he may say to the Jews when he enters into a covenant with them. For the first three and one half years of his rule, the Jews will believe that he is one of them. It is not until the mid point of the tribulation period that he will reveal his true nature by setting up an image of himself in the temple and demand to be worshiped by all. The Jews refusal to comply will bring the wrath of this wicked ruler down upon them. Many will be executed, demonstrating to both the Jews, and the rest of the world the Antichrist's true hatred of The God of Abraham.

The scripture goes on to say that he will have no regard for "the desire of women" (vs. 37b). Many have argued that when put in context with the statements made about God, in this verse this reference is to the "one desired of women" or the Messiah, since all Jewish women held the deepest desire to give birth to the Messiah. While this could be the explanation, it is not specifically written this way in the original text. Another possible explanation, is that the Antichrist could in fact be a homosexual. This description would actually fit the narrative perfectly, for this man will be the embodiment of everything that is in rebellion to God's natural order for his creation. He has no regard for God, or His creative purpose for mankind. It is fairly well documented that Adolf Hitler (who was, I believe, yet another forerunner of the Antichrist) was suspected of being homosexual. It is said that he merely pretended to be attracted to women, in order for the German people to be able to identify with him. He and his mistress/wife Eva Braun were known to sleep in separate rooms, and Hitler's own physician listed homosexual as the German dictators sexual orientation in his medical file. As Christians, we should not be surprised to find that someone who is hostile to the things of God, will also be given to sexual immorality (Romans 1:24-32). Rebellion against the The Creator of all things will generally run its course in every aspect of a sinners life. And the Antichrist will be rebellious to the core. So why would he draw the line at sexual immorality?

As I am writing this, I am fully aware that in this day and age it has become politically incorrect to call this particular sin out for what it is. But the Word of God, that endures forever (1 Peter 1:25), remains unchanged upon the matter. Therefore given this indisputable fact, I choose the ofttimes uncomfortable position of rebuking sexual sin, in an effort to warn those who might repent and find forgiveness. This is preferable to remaining silent as the unrepentant are in danger of facing the fires of hell. How can we say that we love the lost and dying and not actually WARN them that they are in fact, lost and dying. The facts do not care about our feelings, no matter how unpopular they might have become in this fallen world. God doesn't need to be politically correct. He isn't running for office, He forever holds His title as Lord of the Universe! Any who foolishly believe that by persecuting those who stand for Biblical truth, that they will somehow be able to mitigate its warnings of coming wrath are sadly mistaken. They will ultimately find themselves facing the same horrible judgment that will befall the Antichrist himself. To take a stand against the Word of God is in fact taking a stand for Satan. Stand firm then, upon the truth of God's Word even as the world calls you an intolerant bigot. Warn those who will listen, and God will one day cause your righteousness to shine like the noonday sun (Psalm 37:6).

His Demise

The Antichrist will worship Satan (<u>vs. 38</u>), and will go to great lengths to honor him in all that he does. His many conquests will be accredited to the power of the devil himself, as he energizes his "beast" to do his bidding (<u>vs. 39</u>). Nation upon nation will succumb to the onslaught of this wicked king (<u>vs. 39-43</u>). The "beast" will become richer and more powerful with each conquest as he gains not only territory, but spoils of war (<u>vs. 43</u>). He will "divide the land " and assign portions to those who remain loyal to him in an effort to shore up his hold upon the globe (<u>vs. 39</u>).

Satan has long desired to rule the earth. In his temptation of Christ in the **gospel of Luke Chapter 4:5**, the devil offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth in exchange for His worship. Jesus refused the temptation because He would eventually have ruler-ship over all the earth as a result of His finished work upon the cross. He was not about to fall for the Devil's scheme. Satan was offering The Lord a way to gain the whole world and bypass the sufferings of the cross, leaving no hope for the redemption of mankind. The Antichrist will be only too happy to oblige Satan's wishes in exchange for the chance to rule the world. Driven by demonic political greed he will bow before Satan, and shall be given the kingdoms of earth, with but a few exceptions (**vs. 41**).

The Antichrist will in fact be taught the undeniable truth of history: NO ONE can bring stability to the middle east. Pockets of resistance will plague the antichrist in his quest to rule, and his dominion will be short lived. The king of the north (Syria, even possibly in alliance with the Russians), and the king of the south (Egypt) will both come against him simultaneously (vs. 40). This is not difficult to envision because both these regions are predominately Muslim, and predictably, would be most displeased with the Antichrist's decision to remove their infamous dome of the rock in order to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

Edom and Moab, (now associated with modern day Jordan) will also oppose the devil's puppet king (vs. 41). The Antichrist will find himself fighting a war on many fronts, and just when he is distracted, the final crisis emerges. Armies from the far east advance upon his borders in an attempt to destroy him. Imagine the military might of China combined with the technological prowess of the Japanese, united in an onslaught against his kingdom. It is no wonder that the Antichrist will go out to meet such a threat with incredible force and fury (vs. 44). We will never know however, the outcome that would have resulted from this great battle, for it is at this precise monument that the Lord Jesus Christ will descend with His heavenly armies and crush the armies of this world in the great battle of Armageddon (vs. 45, Rev. 19:17-21). God, in His sovereignty, will "draw" all the armies of earth to one place in order to annihilate them forever. How great is our God!!!

After the battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist along with his false prophet will be cast alive into hell (Rev. 19:20), and there is no one who can save him (Dan 11:45). This final troubler of Israel will meet his end. Satan's desire to have the world worship him as god, shall be forever denied. All of the persecution of God's holy people will culminate in their permanent redemption as Israel turns to Jesus as it's Messiah (Zech 12:10), and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2:10-11). Jesus never needed Satan's help in order to receive the worship of this world, for He has already been granted this honor by being obedient, even obedient to death on the cross (Phil. 2:8). He is the rightful heir to the earth because in meekness He came and suffered for our sin in humble obedience to the will of God The Father. Satan never had a chance, and when the Antichrist is destroyed, The Lord Jesus will come to reign upon the earth. Israel's troubles will be over. Finally, the people of God will know lasting peace, for only God can bring peace and stability to the middle east! We live in a time of great uncertainty, as we see the rise of Islam, and it's bent for the destruction of Israel and any who would defend her; but take heart, these things are all part of God's ultimate plan to restore His people to Himself. The outcome has been pre-determined! Stand firm in your faith. God will prevail. Jesus shall reign!