

## **Daniel's Vision of Great Conflict (Part 2)**

### **Daniel 10-12**

#### **I. Introduction & Purpose (Part 1) 10:1 – 11:1**

“Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.” (10:14)

The Main Players: Persia & Greece (10:20)

#### **II. Conflict in Persia & Greece (Part 2)**

##### **10:20 – 11:35**

##### ***A. Kings of Persia & Greece (10:20 – 11:4)***

##### ***B. Kings of Egypt & Syria (11:5-19)***

- 1. The Strength of the King of Egypt (5-9)**
- 2. The Escalation of Conflict (10-13)**
- 3. The Coming of the King of Syria (14-19)**

##### ***C. The Despicable King (11:20-35)***

- 1. The Rise of Antiochus (20-28)**
- 2. The Conflict against the Jews (29-35)**

#### **III. Conflict in the Last Days (Part 3)**

##### ***A. The Rise of Antichrist (11:36-39)***

##### ***B. The Wars of Antichrist (11:40-45)***

#### **IV. Daniel 12 (Part 4)**

***Next Week***

## **C. The Despicable King (11:20-35)**

### **1. The Rise of Antiochus (20-28)**

<sup>20</sup> “Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of his kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though not in anger nor in battle.

<sup>21</sup> “In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue.

☐ Antiochus’ son, Seleucus IV Philopator (187-176 BC), then came to power. He raised the taxes in order to pay Rome their tribute, also taxing the Jews, “the Jewel of his kingdom.” His treasurer/tax gatherer poisoned him soon after Seleucus had commanded him to raid the Temple in Jerusalem. The coup d’état was unsuccessful.

☐ Seleucus IV’s son, Demetrius should have become king, but was being held hostage in Rome. Antiochus III’s second son, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163 BC), who had been raised in Rome and was presently in Athens heard about his father’s death and came to Syria where he secured the throne by flattery, lies, and promises of wealth and power to key individuals. Demetrius was killed, probably at the command of Epiphanes, and the old treasurer who had poisoned his father fled. Thus Antiochus Epiphanes took the throne and he was indeed despicable, especially from the Jewish standpoint.

Antiochus IV gave himself the name “Epiphanes” which means “Illustrious One.” Others nicknamed him “Epimanes” meaning “The Madman.”

While the first half of this section focused on 350 years of history and the conflict between the north and the south which caught Israel in the middle, the second half keys in on this one king and his dealings with God’s people. Antiochus IV Epiphanes reigned for only twelve years. Historically, this king was insignificant and really made little impact on the world at large. He reigned while Syria was declining and Rome was on the rise. Finally, the only thing which prevented Rome from humiliating him was his death.

However, this one king of Syria plays a prominent role in Daniel’s Vision of Great Conflict. His prominent role arises due to his involvement with and persecution of God’s people. Eventually, he serves as a picture of the despicable nature held by and the horrendous acts committed by the king who will one day be called the Antichrist, another king from the north.

<sup>22</sup> “The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered,

and also the prince of the covenant.

☐ Antiochus IV had many great victories, particularly against Egypt.

☐ In 172 he also murdered the high priest, Onias, in Jerusalem, who was the head of the theocratic kingdom, thus “prince of the covenant.” He replaced Onias with Jason.

<p><sup>23</sup> “After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Antiochus made friendships and treaties with many, including the Egyptian king, Ptolemy VI Philometor (181 – 146 BC) but then when the time was right he attacked and conquered much of Egypt and deceived them.</p>
<p><sup>24</sup> “In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Antiochus gained power by redistributing the wealth to a few powerful individuals who supported him. He amassed great wealth, but no matter how much he enriched himself and those who supported him, he could not break the limits which God had set for him.</p>
<p><sup>25</sup> “He will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>In 170 BC, he heard of an impending attack from Egypt which was planning to retake Palestine, so Antiochus struck first and defeated Ptolemy VI halfway between Gaza and the Nile delta. Antiochus captured the fortress, Pelusium, on the border, entered Egypt and took Ptolemy’s nephew captive.</p>
<p><sup>26</sup> “Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Ptolemy received counsel from his advisors that eventually led to his fall and the loss of the war. It may be that this verse is referring to their council to retake Palestine, which led to their eventual defeat.</p>
<p><sup>27</sup> “As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still to come at the appointed time.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>While Ptolemy VI was a prisoner of Antiochus, Ptolemy VII Euergetes was made king of Egypt. Antiochus professed to be the friend of Egypt; both Antiochus and Ptolemy VI sat down and declared friendship with one another and spoke of peace, making plans to put Ptolemy back on the throne as a puppet king, but both had other intentions in mind so that their treaty never lasted. Ptolemy VI was installed as king in Memphis, but Ptolemy VII remained in control from Alexandria. Later, the two Ptolemies (brothers) established a joint rule of Egypt.</p>
<p><sup>28</sup> “Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Antiochus returned home rich, but his desire to conquer all of Egypt had failed. In frustration he took his anger out on the Jews as he passed through their land. When he came to Jerusalem, he found a revolt taking place. Therefore he put down the rebellion by killing 80,000 men, women, and children; he plundered and desecrated the temple</p>

## 2. The Conflict against the Jews (29-35)

<sup>29</sup> “At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before.

<sup>30</sup> “For ships of Kittim will come against him;

therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

<sup>31</sup> “Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

<sup>32</sup> “By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant,

but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

<sup>33</sup> “Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days.

In 168, Antiochus campaigned against Egypt again, but things did not turn out as planned.

When he marched into Egypt, he was met by a fleet of Roman ships sent by the Roman senate. He was given a letter forbidding action against Egypt. Antiochus responded by asking for time to consider to which the emissary responded by drawing a circle around the king of Syria demanding that he make a decision before he stepped out of the circle. To declare war on Egypt meant war with Rome, an endeavor Antiochus dared not make.

Again, Antiochus returned home through Israel and again, he took out his frustrations on the Jews.

He sent 22,000 soldiers on a “peace” mission who plundered the city, attacking on the Sabbath, abolished the sacrifices, killed many, took others as slaves, and desecrated the temple. On December 16, 167 he set up an altar to Zeus in the temple and a pig was sacrificed on the altar. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month, a pig was to be sacrificed to Zeus.

Antiochus rewarded those Jews who aided his army and those who rejected Yahweh as their God to serve his false god.

1 Maccabees 1:62 “But many in Israel stood firm and were resolved in their hearts not to eat unclean food. <sup>63</sup> They chose to die rather than to be defiled by food or to profane the holy covenant; and they did die. <sup>64</sup> And very great wrath came upon Israel.”

Under the leadership of the Maccabees, the Jews resisted Antiochus’ demands. The faithful fought and many died fighting. The resistance began in 166 BC and lasted for years, even beyond Antiochus’ death in 163. Some say that he died of insanity and that his death was in horrible agony.

<sup>34</sup> “Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.”

☐

The Maccabean rebellion gained momentum and as the faithful gained ground, many who had once submitted to Antiochus’ demands turned and assisted the Maccabees. Thus the revolt grew strong, though some fought for the wrong reasons and did not truly believe.

<sup>35</sup> “Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time;

☐

Many faithful believers died in the course of the war, but Antiochus’ persecution served its purpose. It refined the nation of Israel and the individuals within the nation. It revealed who truly trusted God and who did not.

because it is still to come at the appointed time.

☐

This promise would serve as a great comfort for those who went through this time. To know that God had an end in sight would bring hope for those suffering persecution.

Verse 35 marks the end of historical events which have already been fulfilled. The following verses (11:36 – 12:12) still speak of a time yet to come, a time of great tribulation and when one like Antiochus Epiphanes will rule and persecute the people of God once again.

The “king who will do as he pleases” has been separated from Antiochus Epiphanes even since the early Jewish interpreters living before Jesus. This “willful king” has been identified as Constantine the Great, Herod the Great, the pope, the Catholic church as a whole, the Roman Empire (Calvin), but most of these views are not accepted today. As a whole, the church (since the days of Jerome and his predecessors) has identified this king as the antichrist who is also described in Daniel 7, 2 Thessalonians 2, and Revelation 13. Many believe that Daniel is still referring to Antiochus IV, but they have a difficult time showing how the prophecies after verse 36 were fulfilled. Following are the reasons we will accept that the “willful king” is someone different than Antiochus:

1. The prophecies of Daniel 11:1-35 can easily be recognized in historical events, the events of verse 36 and following have not been fulfilled and can not be seen as being fulfilled unless one takes an allegorical interpretation.
2. The prophecies of Daniel 11:36-45 do correspond to the description of the Antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13.
3. The context of the preceding verse (35) describes a period “until the end time” and a prophetic note is made that “that which is decreed will be done.”
4. In this context there is a natural literary break between verses 35 and 36.
5. In Daniel 12, the angel says, “at that time” referring to the time of 11:36-45. The events of Daniel 12 include “a time of distress such as never occurred” before and the resurrection of the saints and of the ungodly.
6. In 11:36-39, this king’s policies are reviewed as if he is being introduced for the first time. That this king is the same as Antiochus would be strange since the reader has already been introduced to his policies in 11:21ff.
7. Up to this point, the kings of Syria have been referred to as “the king of the north”. A clear distinction is made here in verse 36 as Daniel is introduced to “the king” used with the definite article, a distinction which was not used of Antiochus in verses 11:21-35.

## V. Conflict in the Last Days (Part 3)

### A. The Rise of Antichrist (11:36-39)

<sup>36</sup> “Then the king will do as he pleases,

and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods;

and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

<sup>37</sup> “He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.

Future

Future

Future

Future

This king is the “little horn” of Daniel 7:8, the other king who will arise after the ten as interpreted in 7:24. He is the same as the “prince who is to come” found in Daniel 9:26 who will destroy Jerusalem and the sanctuary. This king is the “man of lawlessness” and the “son of destruction” found in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. He is also the beast of Revelation 13:1-10.

Dan 7:25 ‘He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Rev 13:5 “There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.  
<sup>6</sup>And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”

2 Thess 2:4 “who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”

At the midpoint of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel (the Tribulation), this king will break his treaty with Israel and set himself up as God in the temple of Jerusalem. He will succeed for a time (i.e. 42 months or 3½ years).

Some have assumed the AntiChrist will have Jewish heritage based on this verse in which case the “god of his fathers” would be Yahweh. Assuming Roman descent for the Antichrist, this “god of his fathers” may be the Lord as worshipped by various branches of Christendom. Whatever the case, this king will magnify himself above all the others. His influence and worship will spread all over the world (Rev 13:7-8 which will be promoted by a false prophet (13:11-15). He will depend on no god but himself and will thus demand worship of himself.

“The desire of women” may be a reference to Jesus. Many a woman desired to be the mother of the Messiah (Gen 3:15), the One whom the Antichrist will despise. It also may be a reference to feminine characteristics such as gentleness, kindness, mercy, and compassion.

<sup>38</sup> “But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know;

Future

God created man to worship and when man fails to worship the Creator, he will completely devote himself to something else. The Antichrist will honor military strength. The empire of Rome was constantly at war, but they clearly honored their gods. This king will have no regard for any god but himself and will promote himself by constant attention to war and building his strength through military might.

It is possible that the “god whom his fathers did not know” is Satan himself.

he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures.

Future

The Antichrist will devote his resources to developing this military strength and ultimately in promoting the worship of himself. It will be, as it always has been, costly, and this one will have the resources to devote to great military might.

<sup>39</sup> “He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god;

Future

He will attack his strongest enemies and will come out victorious.

he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

Future

He will reward those who submit to his authority by honoring them and redistributing land.

### ***B. The Wars of Antichrist (11:40-45)***

<sup>40</sup> “At the end time the king of the South will collide with him,

Future

At some point in the Great Tribulation (the final 3½ years), Egypt (and possibly nations allied with Egypt) will oppose the Antichrist. This will occur either at the midpoint of the seven year tribulation or towards the very end.

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.

Future

Likely, the king of the North here is not the Antichrist, but a king from north of Israel, i.e. Syria and perhaps other Arab allies.

Some commentators take another view that the king of the North *is* the Antichrist and the first pronoun, “him,” refers to the king of the South whom the Antichrist will storm against.

Whichever the case, the Antichrist will storm down from Europe and invade many countries and pass through them to Israel

<sup>41</sup> “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.

<sup>42</sup> “Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.

<sup>43</sup> “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.

<sup>44</sup> “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.

<sup>45</sup> “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.

Future

He will enter Israel. During this time, many will be killed and another holocaust will take place. Perhaps this is the event is linked with Daniel 9:27 where he will break his covenant with Israel.

Future

Edom, Moab, and Ammon were all nations which existed within the modern day borders of Jordan. For some reason, the territory of these three ancient nations will be spared from the Antichrist. It is perhaps due to God's protection, especially if Israel were to flee at this time into modern day Jordan (Rev 12:13-17).

Future

After sweeping into Israel and perhaps after an attempted invasion of present day Jordan, Antichrist will attack other nations who rebel against his authority. Egypt will certainly be one of the first to suffer his wrath for its rebellion against him.

Future

He will take control of Egypt to the extent that he is able to obtain vast resources from their country. This will perhaps be needed because his kingdom which had been without opposition will perhaps begin to meet many challenges from other nations, which he will answer with warfare.

Future

Egypt's Arab allies will follow quickly after the southern king's defeat.

Future

Probably, these things will take place over a prolonged period of weeks or months, maybe years; and will involve many battles. While taking care of his Arab enemies in the south, the Antichrist will be alarmed by rumors of an attack from the East and the North. This perhaps is related to the army of the Sixth Trumpet in Revelation 9:13-21.

Regardless, he will at this time devote himself to the destruction of many.

Future

The Antichrist will occupy Israel and will establish his base between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean. He will pose as Christ with his headquarters in Jerusalem. At this time Christ will return and Antichrist will turn to attack the Lord with the other armies at Armageddon (Rev 16:16).

Future

As predicted in Daniel 7:11, he will be destroyed. Revelation 19:17-21 speaks of his final doom when he and the false prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.



