

The Last Prophecy Given to Daniel: The prophecy given in Chapters 11-12 is long and complex. The first 35 verses of Daniel 11 were prophecy in Daniel's day but are now history. At Daniel 11:36, the prophecy shifts from Antiochus Epiphanes to the man that he foreshadowed, the Antichrist, the last world dictator. This portion of the revelation was not only prophecy to Daniel, but it is prophecy yet to be fulfilled for us as well. The following seven events are predicted: (1) The Rise of Antichrist (11:36-39), (2) The Tribulation (12:1), (3) War and Invasions, (11:40-43), (4) The Battle of Armageddon (11:44-45a), (5) The 2nd Coming of Christ (11:45b), (6) The resurrection of the dead (12:2), (7) The Glorious Kingdom (12:3).

The Outline:

- A. The Character of the Coming Willful King, Antichrist (11:36-39)
- B. The Military Career and Judgment of Antichrist (11:40-45)
- C. God's Final Deliverance of Israel (12:1-3)

The Willful King of Daniel 11:36 is NOT Antiochus Epiphanes:

1. Historical matters do not allow for the passage in verse 36 and beyond to be speaking of Antiochus Epiphanes. The events recorded by Daniel in 11:2-35 have been clearly and precisely fulfilled by historic events. However, nothing in history corresponds to the events recorded in verse 36 and beyond.
2. Policies are introduced in the passage as if the Willful King is being introduced for the very first time.
3. The character of the "Willful King" as described in verses 36-39 agrees with other prophetic passages concerning Antichrist, not Antiochus Epiphanes. For instance, the Apostle Paul referred to him as the Man of Lawlessness in 2nd Thessalonians 2:3. This is like the description of the Willful King who "does as he pleases," and "shows no regard for any god." Additionally, the little horn of Daniel 7:25 and the first beast of Revelation 13:5-6, two passages speaking of Antichrist, speak of him as a blasphemer against God. This is like the description that says that he will speak marvelous things against the God of gods.
4. The "Willful King's" rule is a time of trouble and corresponds to the Great Tribulation of Matthew 24:21. In this passage, Jesus speaks of a time of trouble that is "unequaled from the beginning of the world until now." In Jesus' time, well past the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, this event is still in the future, and is close to his 2nd coming.
5. Verse 36 refers to the "Willful King" as "the King" rather than the "King of the North" which is what Antiochus Epiphanes and his predecessors have been referred to up to this point in the prophecy. In fact, verse 40 distinguishes between the "Willful King" and the "King of the North." Therefore, they cannot be the same person.
6. All other prophecies that Daniel was given included a description of Antichrist. Why would this one be different? And this King, according to 11:36 shall prosper until the indignation against Israel is completed. In other words, until the end of the seventy weeks.
7. Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated Jerusalem and God's sacrificial worship system. His relationship to Israel is now complete. Why would this prophecy continue to discuss him?

The Character of the Coming Willful King, Antichrist: This King will do as he pleases, be an absolute dictator, he will demand that he have his own way, he will tolerate no restraints on himself, he will recognize no authority higher than him, and he blasphemes the God of Israel. Once he comes to power, he will be able to prosper until The Indignation is finished - until God's chastening program for Israel will be completed at the 2nd coming of Christ (Daniel 8:19). He will show no regard for the gods that his ancestors worshipped. He will show no regard for the "Desire of women." He will not show regard for any object of worship other than himself. He will oppose every form of established worship in order to clear the way for the worship of himself. In place of a personal god, Antichrist will make war his god. He will be devoted to the conquest of the world. He will pour huge sums of wealth into the building of his military machine and the waging of war. His devotion to war will motivate him to attack the strongest military installations. As he conquers new areas of the world for his Roman kingdom, he will reward his most avid followers in two ways. To some he will give positions of rulership over large groups of people. To others he will give gifts of choice land. In order to obtain these rewards, people will have to pay a price - the selling of their souls in total devotion to this man who will claim to be God.

The Military Career and Judgment of Antichrist: "Him" & "he" refer to Antichrist. The King of the North and the South are from the same geographical regions as they were in V2-35 (Syria and Egypt respectively). Gabriel tells Daniel that the two Kings will attack Antichrist by attacking Israel. The attack will likely be in the first half of the 70th week. Because of a covenant, any attack on Israel will be an attack on Antichrist and when this occurs, Antichrist will move his armies toward Israel. Antichrist's initial military movement in the Middle East will be from the north to the south. He will conquer north of Israel first and then march south through Israel. Many people of different countries will become subject to him, but the people of east of the Jordan will escape his conquest. Antichrist will get his Roman army to Egypt and there he will enjoy further military success. He will rob Egypt of its wealth and will conquer to the eastern border of Libya and the northern border of Ethiopia. Apparently, Antichrist will not conquer Libya and Ethiopia, because, when he will turn himself around to head north, those two nations will be "at his heels" (behind him). While Antichrist will be enjoying success in Egypt, he will receive disturbing news from the east and north. The predicted reaction of Antichrist to the news seems to indicate that it will inform him of new military action against him - military action from the east and north. When Antichrist hears that Israel has been invaded by people from the north, "he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many." Antichrist will not be able to persecute indefinitely.

God's Final Deliverance of Israel: "That time" refers to the time that the events of Daniel 11:40-45 are taking place. Michael the Archangel will stand up and guard Israel. Why does Israel need protection: (1) Israel invaded by King of North & South, (2) Antichrist moves his armies into the area, (3) News will come of attacks from the north & east, (4) Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel. Jeremiah referred to this as a time of distress for Jacob (30:7). Jesus referred to this as a time of Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21-22). At the 2nd coming of Christ those Jews with their names found in the Book will be saved from great distress. Daniel 12:2 teaches that there is more than one resurrection. Some will be resurrected here, and others will be resurrected at another time. Not only those believers alive at the 2nd coming will enter the Kingdom but those Jews that believed and died in the Tribulation period will be resurrected. Some will be resurrected to suffer eternally. Some people in the coming Tribulation Period will have enough insight into the lies of Antichrist and the truth of God to believe in Christ unto salvation. These shall be rewarded.

Next Week: "A Resolute Man God Greatly Loved" (Daniel 12:4-13)