

Lesson Notes:

Daniel and the End Times

The final 2 chapters of Daniel describes events leading up to the end of the age. While much of **Daniel 11** describes the escapades of a tyrannical Antiochus Epiphanes IV some events described in the final chapter of Daniel did not occur in 167 BC or 70 AD for that matter. Below is a discussion of **Daniel 11** and **12** and its potential relationship to the end times.

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **Daniel 11:36** - Here Daniel is describing a type of Anti-Christ. Some denominations consider this a reference to Antiochus Epiphanes IV. Evangelical circles feel it is a reference to a figure of future world prominence.
- 2) **Daniel 11:37** – The person described here exalts himself above all. This could be an obvious reference to both Antiochus Epiphanes or a future world figure.
- 3) **Daniel 11:39** – The described leader divides the land of Israel for gain. Antiochus Epiphanes divided Samaria and Judea to enhance his power as a future figure might do as well. There is currently discussion of the formation of a Palestinian State consisting of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. **Joel 3:2** talks God pouring out his wrath on nations that have split up the nation of Israel.
- 4) **Daniel 11:40** – Daniel 11:40 begins by stating, “At the end time.” Since Antiochus Epiphanes IV lived and died in the 2nd Century BC many theologians believe that the events described in the remaining verses of Daniel 11 are referring to a future Antichrist rather than Antiochus Epiphanes IV. Daniel 11:40 talks of pursuit from a King of the North and a King of the South. The King of the South may represent Egypt whom Antiochus Epiphanes conquered and the King of the North may represent the Maccabeus revolt by the Jews in an effort to overthrow Antiochus Epiphane’s authority. Both of which he put down. In evangelical circles they believe the King of the South is represented by predominantly Arab nations and the King of the North is represented by nations or a nation north of Israel. Both of these powers will be subdued by this future world leader.
- 5) **Daniel 11:41** – The Edom, Moab and Ammon refer to Jordan which was not attacked by Antiochus Epiphanes.
- 6) **Daniel 11:42** – Indicates that Egypt would not escape. This is true under the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes and will also be true in the future according to the evangelical movement.

- 7) **Daniel 11:44** – Indicates he will be infuriated by what he hears out of the east and out of the north. This may refer to the King of Parthia attacking trade routes of the east and the Maccabeus revolt in Jerusalem. As a result Antiochus Epiphanes returned to Jerusalem and killed over 80, 000 people including women and children as well as sacrificing a pig in the temple. Evangelicals believe this is yet to occur and the issue from the north will be a nation north of Israel advancing against Israel and the issue from the east will be eastern nations moving in to take their spoils. According to Evangelical thought the future leader will return to Jerusalem to lead his campaign against northern and eastern invasions against Israel. According to evangelicals the future world leader returns to defend Israel as a result of a covenant he entered into with Israel in **Daniel 9:27**.
- 8) **Daniel 11: 45** – Indicates that the ruler will meet his end. Antiochus Epiphanes died in 164 BC of disease. Evangelicals believe the death of the future world leader will occur upon Christ's return.
- 9) **Daniel 12:1** – Refers to the time of Jacob's troubles referred to in **Jeremiah 30:7**. And to those whose name being written in the book of life being spared or delivered.
- 10) **Daniel 12: 2-3** – This is reference to the resurrection described in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** and **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**.
- 11) **Daniel 12:4** – Daniel is told to shut up the book of prophecy until the end times when knowledge will be increased and people shall run to and fro. Evangelical circles claim that we are in the end times since knowledge doubles every 5 years and many are traveling as they never have in the past.
- 12) **Daniel 12:5-12** – The arch angel Michael tells Daniel that the length of the tribulation will be 3 ½ yrs and the time from the elimination of the daily sacrifice to the abomination of desolation as 1290 days. Verse 12 blesses those that endure to 1335 days. This may be interpreted in several different ways. Some Adventist interpret this as 1290 days (as years). In 508 AD France joined support of the church which in some circles is believed when the daily sacrifice was taken away and 1290 years later Napoleon imprisoned Pope Pius in 1798. And the 1335 days refer to the beginning of the Adventist movement and the restoration of 7th day worship. In the Catholic faith the time periods referenced correspond to the persecution of Christians by Roman Emperors Nero and Domitian. The evangelical interpretation believes these are two time periods in the future. The 1290 days referring to literal days of tribulation (1260) and the 30 minutes (days) of silence when God pours out his wrath on the followers of the Anti-Christ in the book of Revelation and the additional 45 days to set up his rule in the Holy City (New Jerusalem).