

## Daniel 12

### Daniel 11:36-45

Whereas the stress of the message was on Antiochus Epiphanes (11:21-35), the focus now switches to the character of Antichrist (11:36-39.)

**11:36 “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.**

- “Then the king.” This most certainly speaks of the Antichrist for several reasons: Antiochus Epiphanes was not called by this term; Antichrist has clearly been revealed to Daniel previously as the “little horn” (7:8, 24), “a king of fierce countenance” (8:23), and “the prince that shall come” (9:26); moreover, the term, “until the end of time” declared in v.35 is in respect to the true end-time and would not apply to Antiochus, and instead continue until and through the period of the Great Tribulation
- “He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god.” This was also taught by Paul (2 Thess.2:4), and the intentions for destroying the apostate religion called the great harlot during the tribulation (Rev.17:16)
- He “shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods.” This was also revealed to the Apostle John (Rev.13:5-6)
- “And shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.” Antichrist will reign only until the seven-year tribulation (the “seventieth week” determined for the nation Israel (9:24)) is finished thereby accomplishing all God’s purposes for Israel (see also Rev.17:17)

**11:37-39 He shall neither regard the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he**

**shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.**

- “He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women.” This could be taken to mean that he will be so self-absorbed by his objective that he will drown out normal instinctive human behavior
- “He will honor a god of fortresses.” Military activity will become a god for him, and he will honor it with huge monetary expenditures
- “Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses.” Antichrist will not hold back from attacking any stronghold and then honor those who readily give obeisance

**11:40-41 “At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.**

- “At the time of the end” This seems to be reemphasized here to make sure that we continue to see the remaining prediction regarding the king of the North and the king of the South as they apply to Antichrist in the future Tribulation period and not to the historical past as they did to Antiochus Epiphanes earlier
- “The king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him.” Egypt and an Arab bloc of nations (Iran, Turkey, and Libya) along with Russia will move against Antichrist.
- “And he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through” Antichrist will defeat them
- “He shall also enter the Glorious Land” Antichrist will then move into Israel

**11:42-45 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.**

- “And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain” Mount Zion, where the Temple is located. Perhaps this explains the “abomination of desolation” (Matt.24:15; Rev.13:14-15)
- “He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver” Antichrist will amass incredible wealth to feed his war machine as a result of his military victories
- “But news from the east and the north shall trouble him” This could symbolize “the kings from the east” (Rev.16:12) and might be China
- “Yet he shall come to his end and no one will help him” Antichrist and his armies will be destroyed by Jesus at His Coming (Zech.14:1-3; Rev.19:11-21)

#### About the Conflict

The opposing South and North forces seem to speak of the Russian-Arab (Iran, Turkey, Libya, Egypt) alliance of forces that invade Israel according to the prophet Ezekiel (38, 39). It is possible that when Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation week (Dan.9:27) that the Arab bloc would be expected to seek Russia’s help to intervene in an attempt to wrestle control of Israel away from Antichrist and his European confederacy of nations. But once he defeats them and is able to build his treasury it might embolden Antichrist (especially after he is empowered by Satan) to break his covenant with Israel during the middle of the Tribulation week (Dan.9:27), subjugate the nation, desolate their Temple, and set himself as god of the world to the approval of the world. And maybe it is this expansion of global power and influence that causes China to oppose him (?).

## Daniel 12

In view here is a continuation of the fourth prophecy (vv.1-4) with particular focus on the second-half of the Tribulation week known as the Great Tribulation, followed by a message of hope for the people of Israel, and then Daniel's final briefing including another encounter with Jesus Christ (vv.5-13)

**12:1 At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.**

- “At that time” continues the thought of the prophecy prior to the demise of Antichrist; namely, his rule during the second half of the Tribulation week called the Great Tribulation when he is fully empowered by Satan, revered by the world, and is absolutely opposed to God and His people (Rev.13:2-7)
- “Michael shall stand up.” Michael (“your prince”; Dan.10:21) is the great angelic prince assigned by God to guard, protect, and defend Israel against the schemes of Satan to annihilate them. During the middle of the Tribulation it is Michael who leads the angelic host to battle Satan from heaven to earth (Rev.12:7-9) and undoubtedly will then continue to deliver Israel from the persecution Satan masterminds throughout the Great Tribulation
- “And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time”. This was later quoted by Jesus (Matt.24:21)
- “And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book”. One-third of the Jews will be miraculously delivered by God for the entire second-half of the Tribulation week, shall come to know Christ as Savior, and shall be saved (see Zech.13:8-9; Rev.12:6; Jer.30:7; Deu.4:30-31). The book speaks of the Book of Life which contains the names of the redeemed (Rev.20:15)

### About the Great Tribulation

There is a seven-year period yet determined for Israel (see notes Dan.9) by which God will refine them, purge them, and make them white (Dan.11:35). The second half is called the Great Tribulation; when the bowls of the wrath of God are

poured on the earth with devastating results (Rev.16), Satan is subjected to earth with great wrath (Rev.12:12), and the most intense persecution of the Jews that ever was shall begin (see Rev.12:13-17). It is “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer.30:7). It is sad to think that it will require such severe measures for God to turn the hearts of His people back to Him.

**12:2-3 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.**

- “Some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.” This seems to be a reassurance to Israel that a resurrection of the body does follow death, so even when the redeemed are persecuted to death they will have the hope of resurrecting to everlasting life (of which the unredeemed have no hope)
- “Those who are wise shall shine.” But there is even more hope, because after the resurrection comes the hope of reward for those who turn others to righteousness. It’s almost reminiscent of the message given earlier regarding the persecution the nation would suffer under Antiochus Epiphanes: That the wise will cause others to understand though they will die (Dan.11:33)

**12:4 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.**

- “Shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end.” The instruction given is for Daniel to “guard and preserve” the words until the end; that is until the Great Tribulation
- “Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” In other words, I believe that Jews will be trying to figure out why these awful things are happening and will search the Book of Daniel for answers, and will find it

**12:5-6 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders *be?*”**

- “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” (v.6). It seems that even the angels don’t know and are curious to discover what was just revealed to Daniel (see also 1 Pet.1:12). They, too, want to know how long will Antichrist have the authority to do these things

**12:7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half *a time*; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these *things* shall be finished.**

- “Then I heard the man clothed in linen.” This is undoubtedly Jesus Christ making His appearance to Daniel as He did earlier at the start of the vision (Dan.10:5-9)
- “Time, times, and half a time.” This is consistent with the duration of activities attributed to the “little horn” (Antichrist) in the first vision (7:25); namely, three and one half years (see also Rev.11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

**12:8-9 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?” And he said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”**

- “Although I heard, I did not understand.” Though Daniel was trying to understand, he couldn’t
- “Go your way, Daniel.” The thought is that Daniel did not need to understand because the events concerned those in a future generation, and because the words would be faithfully preserved, it would be available for them to profit accordingly

**12:10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.**

- “Many shall be purified, made white, and refined.” In other words, many Jews during this awful period will experience being “cleansed,” “made white,” and “refined” according to God’s intention and purpose (Dan.11:35; Zech.13:8-9)

**12:11 “And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days.**

- “One thousand two hundred and ninety days.” This additional thirty days to the duration of judgment is best explained as the number of days it will take Christ to complete His judgment of nations after He comes into power at the close of this period (see Matt.25:31-46)

**12:12 Blessed *is* he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.**

- “One thousand three hundred and thirty five days.” These other additional forty-five days are best understood as the time it will take to establish the government for carrying on the rule of Christ in the Millennium. In other words, seventy-five days after the Return of Christ, the Millennial reign of Christ will begin

**12:13 “But you, go *your way* till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”**

- “But you, go your way till the end.” In other words, Daniel was told to stop being anxious over these matters, but to simply be satisfied with what he did understand as long as he lived. He was given full assurance that he would resurrect and receive his inheritance lot.