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The Antichrist
Dani'el 11: 36-45

The antichrist DIG: What are three purposes of the Great Tribulation? What does the antichrist do when he assumes control over the whole world? What is the Abomination of Desolation? What religion will he follow? What two policies will he follow? What fierce conflicts does the antichrist wage? Where does he set up his military command post? To what extent does he succeed? Where does he go next?

REFLECT: When have you stepped out in the flesh and tried to accomplish something, only to have it fall apart? What did you do about it? Why? What assumptions do the arrogant have about ADONDI? Where in your life are these assumptions at work? How do believers, the congregations of God, and nations "honor the god of fortresses?" How do you rid yourself of such fortress-mentality? Who can you pray for?

The one greater than Antiochus Epiphanes.

As previously mentioned, **Dani'el Chapters 10** through **12** constitute one unit. These three chapters comprise a single revelation that spans the entirety of human history from shortly after **Dani'el's** time until and beyond **the Second Coming** of **Yeshua Messiah**. Each part of **the prophecy** that is detailed in **11:2-35** was literally fulfilled in history, with **Alexander the Great** and **his generals** fulfilling **verses 2-20**, while **Antiochus Epiphanes** fulfilled **verses 21-35**. In contrast, **verses 36-45** have not been fulfilled yet.



His rise to power (11:36-39): The unnamed **angel** who had started speaking to **Dani'el** in **10:19** described the nature and ascent of **the antichrist**. Previously, **he** had been identified as **the little horn (7:8** and **20)** and **the coming prince (9:26)**. Now, **the angel** described **him** as **a prideful king** by stating: **The king will do as he pleases. The antichrist** will be characterized by so much **pride** that **he will exalt and magnify himself above every god (11:36a).** In fact, **he** will claim to be **God Himself**, a statement that was already made in **8:24**. The B'rit Chadashah reaffirms this characterization in **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**, where **Paul** reveals: **Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed – the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. John** reaffirmed these truths when **he** stated that **the antichris**t would claim divinity and demand that the entire **world** worship **him** as **God** (see **Revelation, to see link click Dn – All the Inhabitants of the Earth Worship the Beast**).

The angel further declared: **And [the prideful king] will say unspeakable-of things even blaspheming the God of gods.** This is exactly what **Dani'el** said about **the little horn** in **7:25**. **He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed.** The purpose of **the Great Tribulation** is to make an end to wickedness and wicked ones (for example **Isaiah 13:9**), bring about a **worldwide** revival **(Revelation 7:1-7)**, and **break the power of the holy people (12:7).** During the last **three-and-a-half years** of **the Great Tribulation (Revelation 12:6) the antichrist** will be the sole ruler of **the world**. During this period of time, **he** will direct **his** wrath against **the Jews**, starting a global Holocaust against **them**.

The angel further revealed that **the antichrist** would be allowed to prosper until **the time of wrath is completed (11:36b),** namely, **three-and-a-half years.** The persecution of **the Jewish people** will be so severe that, according to **Zechariah 13:8-9**, **two-thirds** of **them** will be murdered. **The angel** concluded his description of **the prideful king** by declaring that **what has been decreed has taken place (11:36c).** The decision was set in stone. Because **it** had been decreed from heaven, **it** was irrevocable. Thus, **it** would be fulfilled even though **the antichrist** would experience initial success.[398]

Verse 37 elaborates on the nature of **the prideful king** by highlighting three of **his** characteristics. First, **He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers** (Hebrew: *elohei*) **(11:37a).** The Hebrew term for **gods**, *elohei*, is the masculine plural of *Elohim*. Depending on the context, *Elohim* can either refer to **YHVH**, **the God of Isra'el**, or to pagan **gods**. The translation of *elohei* as **God** has become the basis of the teaching that **the angel** was speaking of **the God of Isra'el**. That logic resulted in the idea that **the antichrist** will be **a Jew**, for **he** will disregard **YHVH**, **the God of his fathers**, i.e. **the Jewish people**. However, the context of **verse 37** encompasses **verses 36-39,** where the term **god** is used six times. Therefore, the proper translation of the Hebrew term *elohei* in this verse is **gods**. If **11:37a** proves anything, it is that **the antichrist** will be **a Gentile** and not **a Jew**. In the previous discussions of **the antichrist**, it has been established that **he** will be the final ruler of **the times of the Gentiles** (see **Ao – The Times of the Gentiles**).

Secondly, **the antichrist** will **show no regard for the gods of his fathers**, **nor for the desire of any woman** (Hebrew: *ishshah*) **(11:37b);** in other words, **the antichrist** will be homosexual. This interpretation seems to make the most sense because **he** will have the mind and attitude of **Satan**, who hates the biblical model for male/female relationships (see the commentary on **Leviticus Ae – The Bible and Homosexual Practice**). Thirdly, **the angel** spells out **his** third point. **The prideful king will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors** and set aside all organized religion, **but will exalt himself above them all (11:37c).**

Verse 38 shows which religion **he** will follow. **Instead of the gods of his ancestors, he will honor a god of fortresses.** The Hebrew term for **fortresses,** *ma'uzzim,* refers to *places* or *means of safety and protection*. Elsewhere in **Dani'el 11:7, 10, 19, 31** and **39**, the term is used for a fortified military defense. **The antichrist** will worship **a god** of strongholds who promises strength and military might. **He** will be the personification of war; therefore, **his** religion will be war. **He**

will follow the philosophy of "might makes right." What will be completely different about **the world** religion at **the time of the end** (or **the Great Tribulation**) will be the destruction of all previous religions (see **Revelation Ek – The Beast Will Hate the Prostitute and Bring Her to Ruin**), and the worship of one **world** leader without reference to any other divine power except that of **Satan**. In other words, **the antichrist** will worship **the god** of war, **a god unknown to his ancestors. He** will claim to be **god**, yet all the while accepting **Satan** as the supreme divine power. Even **his** pagan **ancestors** worshiped **Satan** only indirectly through idolatry, but **the antichrist** will worship **him** directly and **will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts (11:38). He** will be **Satan's** masterpiece, a human being who is **the devil's** substitute for **Yeshua Messiah**; hence, properly identified as **the anti-Christ**.[399]

Next, the policies of **the antichrist** are revealed. First, **he will attack the mightiest strongholds with the help of a foreign god (11:39a). His** ability to conquer will come from **Satan**, and he will receive supernatural power to conquer **the mightiest strongholds**. In **Second Thessalonians 2:9**, **Paul** made the same point: **The coming lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie.** Because **the prideful king** will worship **Satan, he** will receive **the power** of conquest from **him**. **John** reiterated this truth in **Revelation 13:1-8**, pointing out that **the antichrist** will accept the very offer that **Yeshua** rejected: to **bow down and worship Satan** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Bj – Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness**). Therefore, **Satan** will give **his** authority over **the kingdoms of the world** to **the antichrist**. **He** will provide **him** with a **Satanic** ability to take over **the world** because of the worship that **Satan** received from **the antichrist**.

As a second policy, **the antichrist will greatly honor those who acknowledge him.** The Hebrew term for acknowledge, *yakkir*, comes from the root *nachar*, meaning *to regard* or *to recognize*. It refers to *confession*. Those who *confess* or *recognize* **the antichrist** as **God** will be rewarded. On the one hand, **the prideful king** will worship **Satan** as **his god**; but on the other hand, **he** will claim to be **God** and reward those who accept **him** as such. **He will greatly honor those who acknowledge him** and increase **their** position within **his** government. **He will make them rulers over many people** by granting **them** political authority, **and will distribute the land at the price** . . . **their** loyalty **(11:39b).** The followers of the antichrist will have to prove their loyalty by taking **the mark of the beast** (see

Revelation Dp – The Mark is the Name of the Beast). Therefore, **verse 39** prophesies that **the antichrist's** rise to power will come supernaturally through the power of **the devil**. **Satan** will use **the prideful king** in his attempt to annihilate **the Jews** once and for all.[400]

His conquests (11:40-45): At that time **the world** will be divided into **ten Gentile nations** plus **Isra'el**. This political structure will exist during the **first three-and-a-half years** of **the Great Tribulation**. Whatever kind of peace may have existed between **the antichrist** and those **ten kings (7:24)** ruling **the ten kingdoms will** come to an end as **the beast** begins to take political control of **the world**. As a result, the conflict begins when **the antichrist** declares war on **the ten kings**. During **his** war against **the ten kings**, **he** will **kill three** and **subdue the** remaining **seven**. These verses describe that war. As a reminder, **the angel** who started speaking in **10:19** is still speaking. Back in **11:35**, **he** had introduced **the antichrist's** general policy and practice with the phrase **the time of the end.** Now **he** uses the same phrase to preface **the antichrist's** military activities.

The antichrist's military campaign will eventually focus on **the land of Isra'el**, but first **he** will have to overcome an attack by **the king of the south** and **the king of the north (11:40a)**. These two **kings** will form an alliance against **him**. The term **"south"** refers to **Egypt**, while **"north"** refers to **Syria**. Many sensational prophecy teachers choose to ignore the context and identify **the king of the north** as Russia. It is true that Russia will lead a northern alliance of nations around the Black and Caspian seas, along with Persia and North Africa, who will invade **Isra'el (Ezeki'el 38:1** to **39:16)**. But that invasion will take place before **the Great Tribulation** starts (see **Revelation Bq – For Seven Months the house of Isra'el Will Bury Them in Order to Cleanse the Land**). In **his** description of this invasion, **Ezeki'el** didn't simply speak of **the north**, but **the most remote parts of the north.** From the perspective of **Isra'el**, Russia is the **northernmost** country. Here in **11:40**, **the angel** didn't mention **the most remote parts of the north**, but **the king of the north.** In the context of **Dani'el 11**, this expression always refers to **Syria**.

The king of the north will storm out against him, meaning the Syrian **king** will attack the antichrist suddenly, **with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood (11:40b).** When the word **flood** is used symbolically in the Bible it is always used for a military invasion. Initially, **he** will be very successful militarily. **He will also invade Isra'el, the Beautiful Land.** During that war, **Isra'el** will fall. Although

the antichrist will eventually gain political control of **the** whole **world**, **he will extend his power over many countries** and **many will fall,** three countries will escape **his** domination, **Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand (11:41).** Today all three of these ancient **countries** lay in modern day Jordan.

In the middle of **the Great Tribulation**, **the Jewish State** will be conquered as the **Israeli** government collapses. The same **Gentile** takeover is described in **Revelation 11:1-2: Then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, "Go and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers. But do not measure the outer courtyard, for it has been turned over to the nations. They will trample the holy city for 42 months."** According to this passage, **the antichrist** will attack and conquer **the Temple compound**. The first event tied to the breaking of the seven-year covenant (see **Revelation Bz – The Signing of the Seven-Year Covenant with the Antichrist**), is **the abomination that causes desolation** (see **Revelation Dr – The Abomination That Causes Desolation**) that will mark the beginning of the second half of **the Tribulation**.

Matthew 24:15 and **Mark 13:14**, finds **Jesus** referring to **Daniel's** prophecy, saying: **So when you see the abomination that causes desolation standing in** the most holy place **spoken of through the prophet Dani'el, let the reader understand.** This **abomination** will involve two stages. The first stage is when **the antichrist** claims the Tribulation Temple as **his** own (see **Revelation Bx – The Tribulation Temple**), sits down in the most holy place and declares himself to be **God**. The second stage is when the false prophet makes an image of **the antichrist** and places it inside the most holy place to be worshiped (see **Revelation Do – The Beast Out of the Earth: The False Prophet**). At that point the spiritual scales will fall from the eyes of **the Jews** and they will finally recognize the true identity of **the antichrist**. **He** is the one **spoken of through the prophet Dani'el (Matthew 24:15b).** As **Micah 2:12-13** shows, only those who will decide to obey **Yeshua's** command will survive **the Time of Jacob's Trouble.**

Up to the mid-point in the Tribulation, **Isra'el** will consider **the antichrist** an ally. But **the abomination** will cause **42 months of desolation**, as **two thirds** of **the Jews** will be **killed (Zechariah 13:8)**. **The abomination that causes desolation** will be the signal for **the Jews** to escape to **Bozrah** (see **Revelation Ds – The Woman and the Dragon**). **Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains (Matthew 24:16).** That will start the second half of **the Great**

Tribulation where **Satan** and the rest of **the Gentile world** will attempt to hunt down and destroy **Isra'el** for the last time (see **Revelation Fc – The Sheep and the Goats**). **Satan** will try to accomplish what Hitler only dreamed about – final solution to "the Jewish problem."

The takeover of **Isra'el** will cause **the Jews** to **flee**, and **they** will know when to **flee** because of this passage. The freedom of the Trans-Jordanian territory will provide the means of escape. **Yeshua** called that area **the mountains**, in **Revelation 12:6** and **14**, it is called **the wilderness.** Finally, **Micah 2:12** identifies the city of refuge as **Bozrah**, located in the ancient territory of **Edom**. It will be the principal city of refuge until the end of **the Great Tribulation** and **the Lord's** return (see **Isaiah Kg – The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Bozrah**).

Next, **the angel** deals with the fall of **Egypt**. In **7:8, 20** and **24**, it was prophesied that **the antichrist** would **kill three kings**. Here, **the angel** revealed who the first of these three kings would be: **The king of the south, the king of Egypt will not escape**. **He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt.** As a result of conquering **Egypt, the antichrist** will have unhindered access to Africa. The fall of the continent is described in terms of **the submission** of **Libya** and **Ethiopia (11:42-43).**

But the antichrist will be furious with the **reports** that **he** hears **from the east**, **and the north. He will** also invade **the king of the east.** In the Scriptures, **the east** is not China, but **Mesopotamia**. Today, the area is known as Iraq. Whatever it will be called during **the Great Tribulation**, its ruler will join **Syria** in its resistance against **the antichrist**. When **he** hears of **their** resistance **he** will respond in rage to the attack by the combined forces of **Syria** and **Mesopotamia**, and **destroy and obliterate them (11:44)**. In the process, **the king of Mesopotamia** will become the second victim of **the antichrist**, and **the king of Syria** will become **his** third victim. **The** three **kings** that **he** will end up **killing (7:8, 20,** and **24)** will be **the king of the south** (or **Egypt**), **the king of the king of the east** (or **Mesopotamia**), and **the king of the king of the north** (or **Syria**)**.**

Finally, **the angel** reveals where **the antichrist** will set up **his** headquarters. **He will pitch his royal tents between the seas**, meaning the Mediterranean and Dead Sea, **at the holy mountain (11:45a). He will** set up **his** military command post in **Jerusalem**. The Hebrew word for **tent**, *ohel*, refers to **a** military **tent** of a general. **His** command post will be **at the beautiful holy mountain** of **Jerusalem**, or **Mount Zion.** According to **Zechariah 14:2**, **the antichrist** will

bring complete destruction on **Zion**, and this would make **his** setting up **his** headquarters on the Temple Mount possible. Before this, **he** will have brought **Isra'el** to a state of complete humiliation, with both **their** army and **their** government being fully crushed. At that time, **he** will have already have committed **the abomination that causes desolation**, and **the Jewish people** will have fled to **Bozrah**.[401]

This verse ends with a passing remark about **the death** of **the antichrist**. Having reached **his** zenith of power and with **Isra'el** prostrate at **his** feet, **the antichrist** then turns **his** attention toward the invading **kings** from **the east** and **north**. In the course of this conflict **he** appears to be **killed**. **The beast will** seemingly **come to his end, and no one will help him. His body** appears to be **destroyed and thrown into a blazing fire (11:45b** and **7:11).** But this is all an allusion of **Satan**, **the father of lies**. **The** counterfeit **father** will stage the counterfeit **death** of **his** counterfeit **son** to set up a counterfeit resurrection.

As far as **Satan** is concerned, at this point, all is going as planned.

One of the heads of the beast, the antichrist, *seemed* **to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound** will *seemingly* be **healed (13:3a). Only ADONAI can breathe life into a dead body. Only God can create, only the LORD can call into existence that which did not exist (Genesis 1:1)**. Thus, **the antichrist's** alleged **death** and resurrection will be a **counterfeit** of **Messiah's death** and resurrection. The people of **the world** will believe that **the beast** is their savior. Since the Great Tribulation will be a time where **the world** will experience **death** on a scale never seen before in human history, **his** seeming invincibility to **death** will win **him** even greater fame than before. As a result, **the whole world** will be **astonished and** follow **the beast (13:3b).**

He will seem bulletproof.

The antichrist will be the counterfeit **son** in every respect. There had been a counterfeit virgin birth, a counterfeit god-man, and now a counterfeit **death** and resurrection. Not very original. A counterfeit Second Coming to rule will be seen as **he** moves to possess the nations and kingdoms of **the world**. **Satan** is playing the part of the counterfei**t Father** in this scenario. For just as **the** true **Father** gave **His** authority to **His** true **Son**; consequently, the counterfeit **father** will give **his** authority to **his** counterfeit **son**.[402] It is no wonder that **the** entire **world** will be swept off its feet by this articulate, persuasive figure. **The world** will cry out: **Who**

is like the beast, and who is able to make war against him (Revelation 13:4)? The answer to that question will be **Messiah Yeshua**. Come, **Lord Yeshua**.

Dear Heavenly Father, Praise you for your Great Love that so graciously and willingly paid the huge price of shame and pain, to redeem for your family. You call those who love ***(John 14:23)*** *and trust/believe you to be your children.* ***But whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12).*** *How wonderful heaven will be without any crying, dying, pain nor shame. And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this judgment.* ***He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away." And the One seated upon the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new!" (Revelation 21:4-5a).*** *How important it is to live now with eternal values in view. Riches on earth mean nothing towards getting someone into heaven, as Messiah tells in the story of the Rich man and Lazarus.* ***(Luke 16:19-31).*** *Loving* ***God*** *with all one's heart is what counts****. Love Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength (Deuteronomy 6:5).***