

# CONCERNING THE WAY

February 24, 2009

## LESSON 49: PROPHECY SERIES — THE BOOK OF DANIEL



### Chapter 11

This continues the last section of Daniel, chapters 10-12, which are one unit. This whole section of prophecies about the future is of one chaotic act after another. These acts are known for their violence, for their deceit, for the power struggles, high level politics, dirty politics and all the rest of it. Why are all these events put in here? Because the angel wants to say to Daniel and to believers who are suffering that the violence, the deceit, all these things are there, but above that is God's sovereign hand, not the kingdom of man, but God's kingdom is the one that's the highest authority. So that's the way this should be read.

God is in final control of chaos. If we look at all of the chaotic things happening around us, it's true that as believers we only have a small influence on them. We stand as only one little person amidst millions and therefore our sphere of immediate influence is very small. History, from man's point of view is out of control. And so either you accept ultimate chaos and chance or you accept a totally sovereign God; there is no middle ground. Daniel 11 is God saying "trust Me." Trust Me with the assassinations, trust Me with the radical changes of administration, trust Me with the see-saw battles that will go on over the land of Palestine, trust Me! So the basis of stability for believers living in this kind of a world is enduring faith, which is hope.

And then another principal that is emphasized in Daniel 10-12 is that the believer does have a limited area of responsibility. It's true that history is out of his control, but the believer can act, to a degree, as a king-priest. As a king this means we have some limited sovereignty and it means in those countries where Christians have the right to vote and the right to hold office and the right to direct their community, they ought to exercise their kingship. There's nothing wrong with Christians doing this; what's wrong with Christians is not exercising kingship when you've got the chance to do so.

God is ultimately over all in history. And this should encourage us as intercessors to pray. We are said in Revelation to be kings and priests. That means we as Christian citizens have the responsibility to pray; you know now from chapter 10 what your intercessory prayer can do. You can change history in the quiet of your own heart, in the quiet of your own home, spare moments during the day with intercessory prayer you are silently working, an unseen tool that no unbeliever around you even has an inkling of, you can be using this weapon in front of his face and no unbeliever ever can know what you're doing. Through your own secret weapon, intercessory prayer, you can do your own part as a priest to influence history. Your prayers can activate angelic forces.

There are over one hundred detailed prophecies in this chapter and they are so clear that they can be matched up with the persons and events that did appear in history. Their identity is so clear that no one really disagrees with the interpretation. Of course, critics who can't believe there could really be prophecy have to try to "late-date" the book.

**Daniel 11:1-2 "In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him. (2) "And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.**

This is the angel still speaking from chapter 10, it really wasn't a great place to start a new chapter. He is saying that he came to the aid of Michael or Darius, we're not exactly sure who the "him" is here.

Remember, Persia trampled the holy people from 539 to 331 BC. They were the bear in chapter 7 and the ram in chapter 8. The king of Persia in power at the time of this vision was Cyrus (Dairus was probably Cyrus' governor of Babylon). The three kings that came after Cyrus were Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis, and Darius 1. The 4<sup>th</sup> king after Cyrus mentioned here is Xerxes. Xerxes was king during the height of Persian power and wealth, but also during their demise, as the prophecy states. It is also true that he was the one that led the attack to conquer Greece, but he and Persia were defeated and conquered by the next king...

**Daniel 11:3-4 "And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. (4) "But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides them.**

This, of course, is speaking of Alexander the Great. Greece was the leopard in chapter 7 and the goat in chapter 8. They were the 3<sup>rd</sup> empire in the statue vision, and trampled the holy people from 331 BC to 63 BC. Remember Alexander died at a very young age just as he had conquered most of the known world. The four points of the compass, of course, refers to his kingdom being split into four sections ruled by four of his generals. Seleucus was the most important, because he is the line that affected Israel the most. The vision will be concentrating on the Seleucid dynasty now. Antiochus comes from this line, as we read in chapter 9, and he is a type of the antichrist because of the atrocities he committed against the Jews. He and a leader from another general's line, Ptolemy, will fight back and forth across the holy land for two hundred years. Ptolemy and his dynasty will be called the king of the south, and Seleucus and his dynasty will be called the king of the north.

The next verses, from verse 5 to 20, are probably the most difficult verses in the Bible, and the only way you can understand them is to have a detailed knowledge of history between the Old and New Testaments. Even the best Bible scholars can get lost in this section, so the best I can do is to give an overview, just to let you know what's happening. It's interesting to note that those who have studied this history will tell you that these prophecies are accurate in their fulfillment in minute detail. This is why liberals are so upset about the early date of Daniel. They just can't accept that there could be such detailed prophecy given ahead of time, even they believe that these verses were fulfilled in minute detail. So they have no choice but to try to put forth a theory that it was written after the fact, even though there is overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

In verse 5-20 you have an advance history of the warfare between two of the Greek generals and their dynasties, between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids, between 323 and 175 BC. In the midst of the warfare, they kept trampling back and forth through the holy land (the beautiful land). The following are the kings mentioned in these next verses:

KINGS OF THE SOUTH (Egypt)	KINGS OF THE NORTH (Syria)
Ptolemy I (Soter) 323-285	Seleucus I (Nicator) 312-281
Ptolemy II (Philadelphus) 285-247	Antiochus I (Soter) 281-261
Ptolemy III (Euergetes) 247-221	Antiochus Theos 261-246
Ptolemy IV (Philopater) 221-203	Seleucus Callinicus 246-226
Ptolemy V (Epiphanes) 203-182	Seleucus III 226-223
	Antiochus III (Great) 223-187
	Seleucus IV (Philopater) 186-175
	Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) 175-164

There is amazing detail here, but the significant point in time was 198 BC when the rulers of the south (Egypt) lost control of Israel to the north (Syria). The rise to power of Syria over Israel in that year prepared the way for the terrible persecution of Israel by the Syrian king, Antiochus IV. Like chapter 8, much of this chapter is about him, since he pictures the future antichrist.

On a side note, it was during Ptolemy II's reign in Alexandria, Egypt that the Septuagint was written. Many Jews lived there, and most spoke Greek, very little Hebrew, so they wanted a Greek translation of the scriptures. 70 scholars worked on the translation from Hebrew to Greek for about 15 years, from 285 to 270 BC. Septuagint means "70". We still have 5 or 6 copies. It was a major translation because the languages are so different. Hebrew is a very emotional, descriptive, poetic language. Greek is the opposite, it is very precise and rigid, and has the largest vocabulary of any language. The Septuagint is a very useful translation, because the meanings of the words are so precise. Most of the quotes in the New Testament are taken from the Septuagint. The Septuagint, written in Greek, became the Christian Bible of the early church.

**Daniel 11:5 "Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed."**

This king of the south is Ptolemy I, the founder of this dynasty in Egypt. But Seleucus I would eventually become a greater power. Seleucus was not the original ruler of Syria, that was Antigonus of Babylon. But Seleucus joined forces with Ptolemy and eventually conquered Antigonus. Seleucus then established his dynasty in Syria and Palestine. But Ptolemy took Palestine, which is probably what started the bad blood between these two dynasties.

**Daniel 11:6 "After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in those times."**

Probably to try to bring peace between the two powers, the daughter (Berenice) of Ptolemy II was married to the Syrian king, Antiochus Theos. Antiochus divorced his wife, (his half-sister Laodice). But this didn't work out so well. After Ptolemy II died, Antiochus Theos decided to bring back his former wife, Laodice. And she came back with a vengeance, because she eventually poisoned her husband Antiochus, Berenice, and the son of Antiochus and Berenice. Even many of the people Berenice had brought with her died as well, so this event fulfilled verse 6 perfectly. Seleucus Callinicus, son of Laodice, became the ruler of the northern dynasty.

**Daniel 11:7-9 "But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against their army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display great strength. (8) "Also their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from attacking the king of the North for some years. (9) "Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land."**

These verses are about the feats of Ptolemy III, who was the brother of the poisoned Berenice. Seeking revenge, he went north and conquered the northern king, Seleucus Callinicus, taking Syrian strongholds and much of their wealth. Callinicus attempted a counter attack on the southern kingdom, but was unsuccessful.

**Daniel 11:10** "His sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his very fortress.

Callinicus's two sons (Seleucus III and Antiochus III) were successful where their father was not. Seleucus III died in a battle in Asia Minor, and so Antiochus III (the Great) became one of the most powerful kings of the north. He had victory after victory over the southern kingdom, including pushing into Palestine, coming right up to the borders of Egypt.

**Daniel 11:11-12** "The king of the South will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but that multitude will be given into the hand of the former. (12) "When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail.

The king of the South at that time, Ptolemy IV, finally decided to fight back. In 217 BC a major battle took place at the border of Egypt and Palestine involving about 70,000 soldiers and dozens of battle elephants. Even though Antiochus III had a larger army, the Syrians were soundly defeated by Ptolemy's forces, and Antiochus barely escaped with his life. This victory made Ptolemy so happy, he agreed to offers of peace from Antiochus and there was peace between the two kingdoms for a short time, but it would have been better if Ptolemy would have pressed his advantage while he had the chance, because...

**Daniel 11:13-16** "For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment. (14) "Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down. (15) "Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege ramp and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand their ground, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand. (16) "But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand him; he will also stay for a time in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand.

Antiochus recovered from his defeat in time, and started having successful attacks against the South. Then in 203 BC Ptolemy IV and his queen died suddenly and mysteriously. Their son Ptolemy V took over the throne at about six years of age. Antiochus III saw this as an opportunity to invade Egypt, raised a huge army, and headed south with his new ally Phillip of Macedon. At this time in Egypt there were many people unhappy with the Ptolemaic rule, including many Jews living there, and they sided with the northern invaders. Because of this, nothing could stop Antiochus, and he did as he pleased (verse 16), taking the land of Palestine over completely. Israel was now firmly in the hands of the Northern kings, which would set the stage for the terrible persecution of the Jews that we read about in chapter 8.

**Daniel 11:17** "He will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand for him or be on his side.

Antiochus then tried something different to gain control over Egypt. He sent his daughter, Cleopatra, to Egypt as a wife for the young Ptolemy V. This ended up backfiring on Antiochus because Cleopatra tended to take her husband's side instead of her father's. Keep in mind that Rome's power was rising at this time, and they had taken an interest in the young king of Egypt. So some think Antiochus was attempting to keep

Rome from turning against him. This is not the same Cleopatra who was famous for her relationship with the Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, this is about a hundred years earlier. There were seven Egyptian queens named Cleopatra.

**Daniel 11:18-19** "Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn. (19) "So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more.

Antiochus decided to invade Greece, and had some success, but it was a bad decision because it ended up turning Rome against him. Rome warned Antiochus to leave Greece alone, but he didn't listen, and ended up getting soundly defeated twice by the Roman general, Cornelius Scipio. This paved the way for Roman conquests later on. Antiochus III then retreated to his own territory and robbed the temple of Jupiter to restore his depleted money supply. This caused a rebellion, which brought about his death.

**Daniel 11:20** "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.

This is Seleucus IV, the son of Antiochus III. He was very unpopular with his people because of his heavy taxation. And, because Rome forced him to pay tribute, he sent tax collectors to plunder treasure from the temple in Jerusalem ("the Jewel of his kingdom"). His reign ended very quickly after that, apparently he was poisoned ("within a few days").

The next king of the north was Antiochus IV Epiphanes. He only reigned about ten years, but because of his persecution of the Jews and foreshadowing of the antichrist, he is very important historically. He is the "small horn" talked about in chapter 8. Verses 21-35 in this chapter are about him. His goal was to create a Hellenistic culture throughout his empire, and the Jews stood in his way, they would not abandon their religion and their culture.

**Daniel 11:21** "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 IV (the little horn of chapter 8) was not the obvious successor to the throne, there were others in line ahead of him, but after a period of time filled with intrigue and maneuverings, after the dust settled, Antiochus is the one who sat on the throne. He saw himself as godlike, but notice this verse refers to him a despicable person.

**Daniel 11:22-24** "The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant. (23) "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. (24) "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.

The "prince of the covenant" is believed to be a reference to Antiochus' murder of the high priest Onias III in 171 BC, although there are other interpretations. This was a normal title for the high priest, because without a king, they were the head of Israel. Onias favored the Ptolemies of Egypt, so Antiochus killed Onias

and replaced him with Jason, Onias' brother.

An interesting note here, there are letters recorded in 2 Maccabees between the high priest Onias and the king of Sparta. Reading these letters carefully unveils evidence that the Spartans and the Trojans were actually Jewish! They even identify themselves with the tribe of Dan. But that's another study.

Verse 24 describes the fact that Antiochus was like a sort of evil Robin Hood. He would plunder the wealthy areas, like Palestine, and then distribute that wealth to other cities and people for the purpose of buying their support. Apparently this was pretty successful; he gained much loyalty this way.

**Daniel 11:25-26** "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. (26) "Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.

The king of the south at the time was Ptolemy VI Philometer, the son of Cleopatra. Historians believe that the Egyptians were getting ready to attack Antiochus and the Syrians, but Antiochus decided to attack first, and he was successful partially because Ptolemy had disunity among his leadership (verse 25).

**Daniel 11:27** "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.

Various treaties and agreements were put on the table between the king of the north and the king of the south. This was done to try to gain an advantage over each other, not for peace. They were both liars and deceivers.

**Daniel 11:28** "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.

As Antiochus returned to Syria with the spoils of his successful attacks, he stopped in Israel long enough to plunder the temple, create great destruction, and kill a lot of people. Some of this was recorded in 1 Maccabees 1:20-25.

**Daniel 11:29-30** "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. (30) "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.

Several years later, Antiochus came down to Egypt and attacked the Ptolomies again, but this time he was defeated and humiliated. The "ships of Kittim" is a reference to Rome. It was Rome who forced Antiochus to stop trying to conquer Egypt. Rome wanted to keep either kingdom from becoming too powerful, so they sent Caius Popilius Lenas to Egypt with soldiers to demand that Antiochus cease his aggression against Egypt and go home. Antiochus knew how powerful Rome was and did not want to have to face them directly, so he returned bitterly to Syria. As we talked about in the Chapter 8 study, he arrived in Palestine only to learn that everyone thought he had been killed, so there was a rebellion going on. Quickly he slaughtered and enslaved tens of thousands of Jews. He realized that the ones who were causing the most trouble were the ones that were faithful to their God, the ones who refused to submit to the Hellenistic culture, so he was most cruel to the Jews who faithfully served the Lord. He treated those who had

forsaken God very well, and gained their support.

**Daniel 11:29-31** "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.

Antiochus tried to completely stamp out Judaism and promote Hellenism. These were some of the darkest days in Jewish history. In chapter 8 we went over the details of what Antiochus did, the laws he put in place to keep the Jews from practicing their religion. Much of this is described in 1 Maccabees 1:37-64.

Here you have the "abomination of desolation", where Antiochus not only sacrificed a pig on the temple altar, but set up an idol in the Holy of Holies. This was a direct insult to God, the greatest offense imaginable. And it did offend God; He intervened. The Jews rose up against Antiochus and successfully gained their freedom. (the Maccabees)

This will happen again in the future, this pictures the future desecration of the temple and the atrocities committed by the antichrist against the nation of Israel during the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, the Tribulation period. Jesus Himself says the "abomination of desolation will happen again in the end times.

**Daniel 11:32-35** "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. (33) "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. (34) "Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. (35) "Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.

Within Israel there were two distinct types of people – those who accepted the lies and deceptions of Antiochus, and those who boldly resisted him and were faithful to God. Verse 32 is speaking of the Maccabean revolt, where the faithful Jews successfully rebelled against Antiochus, which we've spoken of in chapter 8. They were few in number at first, but they instructed and encouraged the people and the rebellion grew. This, of course, brought down the wrath of Antiochus on them and many died. This caused some to stop fighting and give in to Antiochus, which revealed who among the people were truly faithful. This was kind of a purification process for the nation, and verse 35 says it will continue to go on until the end time. This verse also transitions from speaking about Antiochus to speaking of the antichrist to come at the time of the end.

"It is estimated that there are a little over 125 distinct prophecies in verses 1-35, all of which have been fulfilled. The God who can give us this kind of detail about events which are now past to us is fully capable of giving us details about events which have not yet taken place." *Paul Benware*

**Daniel 11:36** "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.

Starting with this verse, we have a decision to make. Is this continuing to speak of Antiochus, or is it someone else? Well, there are mainly two views – one is that verses 36-45 are still about Antiochus, the other is that they are about the future antichrist.

Those who believe this is still about Antiochus would say that there is no indication here that the subject has changed. There is no transitional statement. However, the major problem with this view is that these

next verses really don't fit what we know of Antiochus in history, and in some places, even contradict what we know of him. Those who adhere to the Antiochus view even admit this. So, verses 5-35 are detailed prophecies that actually came true in history, but starting with verse 36, these are things that have not been fulfilled yet.

It seems best to understand 36-45 as prophecies of the coming antichrist, for the following reasons:

1. Actually, this makes sense, because Antiochus is not that important a figure in history, and we've already seen from chapter 8 that he is a type of the antichrist. So we would expect the antichrist to appear in this passage.
2. It becomes obvious that this "willful king" (as he is often referred to) is neither the king of the north or the king of the south. Verse 40 tells us that this is a third king who is in conflict with both the north and south. This king is not Antiochus.
3. There are chronological references in these verses that clearly place these events in the time of the Tribulation. We'll discuss this as we go through the verses.
4. While these verses don't fit Antiochus, they do fit other prophecies we have (Daniel 7, 2 Thessalonians 2, Revelation 13 and 17) regarding the coming antichrist very well

The Bible, at the end of verse 35, "yet for a time appointed," skips from the four kingdoms of history on down through what we call a gap, down to the end time just before the return of Jesus Christ. This is the way prophecy is written; you can observe this in Daniel 2, 7, and 8, there is a gap; it's like you're on a mountain top and you look out and you can only see the mountain way off in the distance higher than the mountain close up but you can't see the valley in between. The valley in between is the Church Age and the centuries that have come and gone between Christ's coming and His future coming.

But prophecy skips over the Church Age because during the Church Age due to the restraining work of the Holy Spirit the kingdom of man is held down; Christian citizens always act, Jesus says, as the salt of the earth, they preserve it, they retard the growth of the kingdom of man but as soon as the rapture occurs, as soon as the Christian Church is removed from history at that future point in time, then, just like a pot that's been boiling under pressure and you suddenly take the lid off and the water just boils over, so when the Christian Church is removed from history then all the powerful forces that have been operating in society, temporarily held down by true believers here and there, will suddenly rise up and explode. Then you'll have the bringing in of the ultimate form of the kingdom of man, for God has designed history so that before He ends history, men will see where sin leads when completely unchecked. We've seen it somewhat, talk to the survivors of the massacres under Stalin, they'll tell you where the kingdom of man leads. Talk to Solzhenitsyn, he'll tell you where the kingdom of man leads. Talk to Corrie Ten Boom, she'll tell you where the kingdom of man leads. But even all these awesome, horrible illustrations of the kingdom of man are only a foretaste of what will come in the end times under the antichrist.

So, starting with verse 36, one of the most obvious features of the antichrist is his self-magnification. The phrase "he will" is used about a dozen times in the next few verses. This verse says "he will do as he pleases." He will be an absolute ruler who will dominate all others with unchallenged authority. This does not fit Antiochus. This description goes along with Daniel 7:23 and Revelation 13:7. His self-exaltation and his big blaspheming mouth spoken of here is echoed in Daniel 7:11, 25, Revelation 13:6, and 2 Thessalonians 2:4. This sets him apart from all who have come before. And it says he will have some success, but it will be short-lived, because he will be terminated at the end of the tribulation (the indignation).

**Daniel 11:37 "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.**

Many believe that this statement tells us that the antichrist will be Jewish, especially if you use the King James translation, which says “the God of his fathers”. It makes sense, because it doesn’t seem likely that the Jews would accept anyone as their Messiah that isn’t Jewish. But it is not certain that they will be looking at him as their Messiah, but only a deliverer that will bring peace to the nation. But the term Antichrist (used only by John in 1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3, 2 John 7) is used in the sense of “one who will take the place of Christ.” In other words, he will most likely be posing as a Messiah figure but will actually be against Christ. The scriptures are clear that the antichrist will come out of a gentile nation, not Israel (Revelation 13:1, Daniel 7:19-20). What no one seems to consider is the possibility that he could come out of a European nation and still be Jewish! We just can’t know for sure about his heritage.

The phrase no regard “for the desire of women” is just as difficult. This has been interpreted many different ways. Some think this means he will be homosexual. But the original Hebrew word indicates this is not about sexual preference, it means the desire of women, not a desire for women. Remember that the desire of all godly Jewish women was to give birth to the Messiah. This is what the antichrist will disregard. It probably means he will be anti-messianic. He will be trying to erase the idea of Messiah coming back.

**Daniel 11:38-39 "But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. (39) "He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; 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.**

The meaning of the “god of fortresses” is debated as well. The previous verse said he will show no regard for any god, so what is this speaking of? It may mean he will put his “faith” in his military power. He will worship the god of war and destruction. This could also be referring to Satan. He will have the power and authority of Satan, which will make him unstoppable. (Revelation 13:2,4,7) He will reward those who follow him, short-lived as that will be, mimicking the Lord Jesus, who will give ruling authority and great rewards to His loyal servants in His everlasting kingdom.

Let’s pause here and summarize. We studied verses 36-39; we have seen something of this strange man, and you can sit there and take it just as prophecy, ho-hum, isn’t that interesting, or you can ask yourself the more mature question, why do you suppose the Holy Spirit bothered to record this ahead of time for me? There must be some applications today, and there is, because the process of the beast and this willful self-worship, this culmination of sin, is what you personally would be apart from common grace. You can ask yourself how much of this man is in your heart; how much of the beast lies within me? If God gave me the intelligence He gave this man I’d do the same thing if I were left on my own to do it; the total depravity of us all, that’s one great application of this passage. It’s not just prophecy, it’s to show us what a horrible cancer is eating its way into all our souls. And it’s just held down by God’s grace and that’s all. So how much of the beast is in you?

**Daniel 11:40 "At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, 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.**

The phrase “the end time” places these events in the Tribulation period, the 70<sup>th</sup> week. You can see that there are three kings spoken of here in this verse, the “him” is obviously the antichrist. We should probably assume that the geographical areas of the North and South referred to in this verse are the same as they were earlier in the chapter. In other words, the South is Egypt, and the North is the area of Syria. Some say that these are actually coalitions of nations, so they can tie in the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog war

prophecies. For example, they will say that Russia is included in the coalition of the king of the north. That may be, but there is no indication from the text that this is so. After we finish Daniel we're going to do some studies on some of the prophetic chapters of Ezekiel, and we will study this in detail then.

Verse 40 probably occurs halfway through the Tribulation. This is the triggering event that sets up those terrible last three and a half years. This is a local regional conflict between the world government of the antichrist and the area of the Middle East. Up to this point presumably there is global peace, and no sooner do men say that but then the peace begins to crumble and, of course, it begins to crumble in the Middle East. The Middle East is always the anvil on which many hammers are broken. The king of the south will be an uprising by Egypt, possibly including Libya and Ethiopia, the countries in northeastern Africa against the world government.

They will "collide with him," is a metaphor of military activity. And the king of the north in this case is what he has always been, just like the king of the south, and that is the Seleucid area up north of Israel, which would include what is now Turkey and Syria. You have Egypt moving northeastward into Palestine. You have the king of the north coming down from Syria and Turkey. And because the antichrist has made a treaty with Israel an attack against Israel is an attack against him.

Notice what it says in the middle of verse 40, "the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships," the word for chariots and horsemen was used for the shock troops in the ancient world, it's a picture of rapidly mobile forces. The word used here for chariot is used in modern Israel for the word for ride, and it would refer to mechanized infantry and armored units; that would be the corresponding thing today. Notice too that this looks like conventional war, and that is a very significant thing. Though there may be modern weapons that are symbolized by the horses and chariots the tactics are still those of conventional war all the way to the return of Christ. Why that is we do not know, except for the fact that more sophisticated weapon systems may not work in the turmoil of the tribulation. When you have geophysical catastrophe after catastrophe you're going to see situations where sophisticated electronic equipment is going to fail, so commanders will have to use weapons that are reliable and conventional warfare will be the norm.

So at the end we find infantry, mechanized infantry, armor and ships. Where the block of Syria and Turkey is going to get its ships we don't know, unless they fall heir to what is left of the Russian navy after Ezekiel 38 and 39. Remember the Russian navy has almost always had most of their ships in the Black Sea just north of Turkey, so it's possible that Turkey will then take those naval resources from a decimated Russia. However it happens, we have an army from the north that comes with armor and ships.

You see, something's got to happen in world history to get everybody assembled around the city of Jerusalem. So even though these kings don't think that's what they're doing, under God's great overall sovereignty that's what's slowly happening; God as He works His plan out in history is bringing all these kings, so that everybody will be around Jerusalem when Jesus Christ returns. I believe that there may be a political representative from every nation on earth that will personally observe the Lord Jesus Christ descending on the Mount of Olives. Christ will descend, and when He descends it's not going to be just somebody's back yard, it is going to be right smack in the military camp of the armies of the world.

So something has to happen to bring all the armies to that place. Up to this time the beast has been in the west, he has probably had his capital in Rome or some European city and that's where he's ruled the world from; but now through the little rebellion that's occurring in the Middle East he is going to move his whole capital over to the city of Jerusalem, and apparently also build a world center at Babylon, or at least occupy it in a stronger way than he had before because the Bible also says that the city of Babylon will be restored and be in operation at the time of the last days. If you want a good investment, buy some land there, the

price will go up; though I won't guarantee you'll be around to realize your investment..... The beast will then respond with his military, "and shall enter countries," at the end of verse 40, "the countries," now what are those countries? Well, the countries would be Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and so on, all the countries associated with the king of the north. He is going to go in there and it says he "shall overflow them and pass through," which is an idiom used over and over again in Isaiah and Jeremiah for absolute complete military destruction. He is going to clean out that whole area, obviously offended by the fact that these people have not accepted his great world government, offended because they have chosen to rebel against him, he is going to physically destroy them.

**Daniel 11:41 "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.**

He's going to occupy "the Beautiful Land" which is Israel. So at the end time you then have the antichrist coming from Europe, going over to the Middle East, clearing out the area that has rebelled to the north, and occupying Israel. It is perhaps this occupation of Israel that leads him to break the covenant that he had previously made with Israel. "... and many countries will fall," so he will be victorious, but there are three countries or areas that will not be occupied by the antichrist at the end time. We don't know why but for some reason he will not consider it important that his military forces occupy those areas. This is considered to be a safe zone at the end times and will be God's provision for believers of that day. God wants to save a remnant and this place of refuge will be the place where they will flee to.

Now where is Ammon? The capital of modern day Jordan is Amman and the word is the same, Ammon, Amman; the capital city of Jordan is named after the tribe of Ammon. So the modern country that corresponds to Edom, Moab and Ammon is the modern state of Jordan. At least the western part of the state of Jordan will escape the antichrist's activities and occupation at this time.

He will enter Israel, and this would lead us to believe that the heavy persecution of the Jews begins at this point. (Matthew 24:9,15, Daniel 9:27, Revelation 12:7-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:4)

**Daniel 11:42-43 "Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. (43) "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.**

So he will move in to the south after he destroys these countries to the north, clean out the rest of the Middle East revolt against his world government. "He will stretch out his hand" means to invade, extending his power into these countries.

The Bible has quite a bit to say about Egypt in the end times:

1. Egypt's armies will be destroyed by God (Isaiah 19:16, Ezekiel 38-39)
2. Egypt will be easy prey for the antichrist, who will conquer and plunder it (Daniel 11:41-43)
3. Egypt will become a wasteland and a wilderness (Isaiah 19:16-17, Joel 3:19)
4. Many in Egypt will turn to the Lord for salvation (Isaiah 19:22)

**Daniel 11:44 "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.**

Most prophecy experts agree that this is a reference to the kings of the East mentioned in Revelation 16. According to that prophecy, the Euphrates River will dry up and a 200-million man army (China and her

allies) will march into the Middle East. We don't know for sure what the reference to the North is, but it will probably be a northern army that has come from many northern nations including Russia, Turkey, etc. These armies will pose a major threat to the antichrist, and he will in great anger move to destroy these armies. This appears to be the setup to the final battle; Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16).

So while antichrist is down in Egypt he's going to get intelligence reports that there's a military threat again coming down from the north and from the east. So for some strange reason now the Middle East blowup at the end time starts like a magnet, sucking the countries of the world to the vortex of history, which will be Jerusalem.

So antichrist does a 180 and starts moving back into the northeast area which is Palestine, because he's going to meet with the kings of the east heading west, and this new threat from the north. Now here is where history repeats itself and it's why the Bible makes this comparison between the antichrist and Antiochus Epiphanes.

Now look at how history repeats itself; the antichrist comes in to defend the nation of Israel from the enemy, he goes down into Egypt, and it says these tidings cause him shock, and like the prior Antiochus Epiphanes, this future man, he too will retrace his steps back northeast and when he comes back into Palestine after having been thwarted this way, he is going to be vicious in his prosecution of his policies in Israel. That's why it says, "he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many," the Hebrew here means to make holy war, dedicate everything for destruction, men, women, children, the land, the trees, the orchards, the vineyards, everything will be destroyed. Something snaps in him in the same place that had happened to Antiochus Epiphanes.

**Daniel 11:45** "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.

This is where he will make his last stand. The valley of Megiddo is exactly between the sea of Galilee, the Mediterranean Sea, and Jerusalem (Mt. Zion, site of the Temple Mount). The armies from the east and the antichrist's armies from the west will converge on Israel in this place. "He will come to his end" is a reference to the second coming of Christ with the armies of heaven, the capture of the antichrist, and him being thrown alive into the lake of fire. (Revelation 19:11-21) Verse 45 is a tremendous word of encouragement to the Jews, that this guy will be brought down.

*"When the nations that are gathered together against Jerusalem see the Lord's armies in heaven coming after them, they will forget about the fact that they are at war with each other. They will all get together and decide that they are going to fight against the Lord. All the armies with their military leaders and advanced technology won't have a chance." Dr. David Jeremiah*

So now we have, as the scene draws to a close of history, we now have the Russians knocked out, they're probably already destroyed in the Ezekiel 38-39 war, we have the Syrians destroyed, we have Egypt and northeast Africa destroyed, we have the armies of the beast from all over Europe, we have a further invasion coming down from the north, we have an invasion coming in from the east, we have the beast setting up his command post in Jerusalem; all the armies of the world gathered together for the battle for "the great day of the Lord God Almighty" it says in the book of Revelation. This is how God in His sovereignty pulls strings, we don't know how He does it, He does it without affecting volition, without rendering man non responsible, but somehow men are brought together and they're going to be brought together face to face with Jesus Christ.

These verses describe the future antichrist. We know these verses will be fulfilled literally, because all the

other verses have been fulfilled literally.

Questions:

1. What perspectives on the peace process currently going on in the middle east might this chapter give to us? Knowing about these coming events, should we even support peace efforts in that part of the world?
2. How does this chapter contribute to our confidence in the inspiration of the scriptures?