

# THE BOOK OF DANIEL

## Chapter 11, Part 2

- **This is part 2 of the lesson on Chapter 11.** Part 1 concerned verses 1-35, Israel's immediate history relating to Gentile powers up through the end of the Greek Empire, or the Seleucid Dynasty (kings of the north) and Antiochus Epiphanes. The 100-year rule of the Hasmoneans interrupted Gentile dominion over Israel, but for a short period only, prior to the start of the Roman Empire. Part 2 covers verses 36-45, focusing on **the final "week" of Daniel's 70 week message in chapter 9**, the last seven years of human government, the final world ruler, and the period we call the "Tribulation."
- Verses 1-35 cover a vision given to Daniel of consecutive time periods from that moment in Daniel's timeline, until the end of the Greek Empire. There is an implied **gap of time at verses 34-35**, with the narrative beginning again in verse 36 after an unspecified length of time which projects these events into end times.
- Although we covered verse 35 in the last lesson (Part 1 of this chapter), we will pick up Part 2 with that verse as well, since it provides a link between the two sections.
- We **must strongly remind here that these verses relate to a person in history who has not yet been revealed.** This is pre-written history, and only God has foresight and complete knowledge. All we have is speculation, and there is plenty of that when it comes to the identity and actions of the Antichrist. These verses may give us some idea of his nature and identity, but until he is actually seen in history, we cannot be sure. Until then, understand that the interpretation of these scriptures is the source of major disagreements and controversy among the "scholars" who debate them. There are many seemingly "sound" positions that can be argued. We do not want to insist on any one of them. Be open to everything you hear, but test all according to the scriptures. It is very important to keep this in mind when studying these passages. We believe these verses will be most useful and important to the people who live on earth during this time when Antichrist is revealed. They will be able to positively identify him then.



<sup>35</sup>“*And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.*”

- This is a **transitional verse**, indicating that the future of the Jews before verse 36 will be filled with persecution and hard times, but many will be purified (saved) in this time. (See the previous comments at the end of Part 1 of the study on Chapter 11). The phrase “until the time of the end” gives us information that we are now leaping forward in history, where another “king” will be introduced. He is the king of the last days of human government, a final world kingdom.

<sup>36</sup>*“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.*”

- **All the events in this chapter, up to verse 35, are easily traced by historical record.** But beginning here in verse 36, the events portrayed to the end of the chapter take us into the future, so far unfulfilled. **A gap of an undisclosed time is assumed between vv. 35 and 36.** This time gap was observed previously in Daniel 9 between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks, and is **the age of the church.** These latter verses apparently refer to a ruler of the Tribulation who will attempt to substitute himself for God.
- *“Then the king ...”* In verse 36 a **new individual is introduced simply as “the king.”** He’s not the king of the south, or the king of the north, as seen in previous verses – he is merely THE king. He is someone new on the scene, now advancing the timeline well into the future.
- *“...shall do according to his own will: ...”* This “king” will do essentially whatever he wants. He is sometimes referred to as “the willful king.” His actions go beyond those of Antiochus Epiphanes, or anyone else in history so far. This verse refers to the **same individual already prophesied by Daniel, the little horn of 7:8 and “the prince” of 9:26; that is, the Antichrist.** The individual described here aligns perfectly with the work of the Antichrist described in the 2 Thessalonians. 2:4 and Revelation chapters 13 through 17.
- *“...he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, ...”* The little horn (the *name given to Antichrist in chapter 7*) tries to be a big horn “And magnify himself above every god.” In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Paul wrote of the Antichrist: *“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”* From these verses we know the Antichrist will claim to be god, and will establish himself in the Temple. In the Daniel verse, he will also apparently blaspheme the One true God, the “God of gods.” This is confirmed in Revelation.
- Though Antiochus Epiphanes considered himself deity to some extent, as evidenced by his coins and other archeological evidence and by historical record, this will be one of the main **characteristics of the Antichrist** as seen in this passage in 2 Thessalonians. Other world leaders (such as the Egyptian Pharaohs) have considered themselves to be gods, but never in history will one take it as far as the final world ruler. He will exalt himself above God, and demand worship. We should be reminded of a passage in Isaiah 14:12-15, that speaks of the enemy himself: *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”* It is clear that the Antichrist will serve and be empowered by Lucifer himself. Both will have final and complete ends in the lake of fire.
- **Antichrist is given many names in Scripture.** It is interesting to take a quick look at some of them at this point, as they describe his character and behavior. We have been asked how we know that it is one man, and not a group, or if it could be a woman. The names given this person are evident the Word is speaking singularly, not as a group, and Hebrew pronouns are also clear this is a man (not a woman). These are just some of the names for this final world ruler in scripture. Some are still debated, such as the direct reference to Lucifer. This can be to the enemy himself, as well as to the one he empowers:

1	Antichrist, "opposed to / instead of Christ"	1 John 2:22
2	Bloody and Deceitful Man	Psalms 5:6.
3	The Wicked One	Psalms 10:2,4
4	The Man of the Earth	Psalms 10:18
5	The Mighty Man	Psalms 52:1
6	The Enemy	Psalms 55:3
7	The Adversary	Psalms 74:8-10, Isaiah 59:18
8	Head over Many Countries	Psalms 110:6
9	The Violent Man	Psalms 140:1
10	The Assyrian	Isaiah 10:5,12
11	King of Babylon	Isaiah 14:4
12	Lucifer, Son of the Morning	Isaiah 14:12
13	The Spoiler	Isaiah 16:4,5
14	The Nail	Isaiah 22:25
15	Branch of the Terrible Ones	Isaiah 25:5
16	The Profane and Wicked	Ezekiel 21:25-27

	Prince of Israel	
17	The Little Horn	Daniel 7:8
18	The King with Fierce Countenance	Daniel 8:23
19	The Prince that shall come	Daniel 9:26
20	The Desolator	Daniel 9:27
21	The Vile Person	Daniel 11:21
22	The Willful King	Daniel 11:36:
23	The Worthless (or "Idol") Shepherd	Zechariah 11:16,17
24	The One Who Comes in His Own Name	John 5:43
25	The Man of Sin	2 Thess 2:3
26	The Son of Perdition	2 Thess 2:3
27	The Lawless One	2 Thess 2:8
28	The Beast (from the sea)	Rev 11:7, 13:1
29	The Angel of the Bottomless Pit	Revelation 9:11

- Based solely on the names for this final world ruler we can see he is not a nice guy. **He will stand in stark contrast to the Messiah, the Son of God, yet he will try to put himself in His place and be a substitute for the Messiah**, the Savior of the World. He will “mimic” and “imitate” Jesus in many ways, passing himself off as the Messiah. But he is a fake. It is important to know that the word “Anti-Christ” means “instead of,” “against,” or in place of the Messiah. He claims to be Messiah, and deceives many who don’t know the Truth.
- *and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.* Here is yet another reminder that God has pre-determined all of this. This evil ruler will seem to “prosper,” be successful in his attempt to rule the entire world and exalt himself as god, but this verse says it is a temporary success,...”until the wrath has been accomplished.” The “wrath” here is God’s wrath on the unbelieving world. Thankfully, that too has a determined end. These times will be terrifying, but those who live through them must know that God is in control. He always has been, and always will be.

*<sup>37</sup>“He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.*

- *“He shall regard neither the God of his fathers...”* This phrase has stirred up a lot of controversy. There is some argument about whether or not this says “the God” or “the gods” of his fathers. Either way, he has no time for the God, or gods, of his ancestors. However, many argue that this phrase is inherently Jewish, and that what is implied here is the God of Israel, and the Messiah. In other words, that the Antichrist would be Jewish. There is evidence in scripture that points to an identity of either Jew or Gentile. Both positions can be supported, though somewhat weakly. Using this phrase to support the fact that the Antichrist will be Jewish is not adequate. There are many others that indicate he will be Gentile. We recall the scriptures that call him “The Assyrian” and the fact that Antiochus Epiphanes, the first major historical “type” for the Antichrist in Daniel, was an “Assyrian.” These would indicate he is not Jewish. Either way, the **Antichrist will be vehemently oppose God, the true Messiah, and God’s people**. He will magnify himself above all, but have particular animosity towards Jesus – and his followers. Paul declared that the Antichrist would enter into the Jewish Temple and declare himself to be God (II Thess 2:3–4).

- *"...nor the desire of women ..."* This is also a very Jewish phrase and as such, refers to the desire of Hebrew women to be the mother of the Messiah. Not only will the Lord Jesus Christ be absolutely rejected, He will become the enemy. Antichrist leads a rebellion against God and Christ. As Psalm 2:2-3 puts it: *"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."* However, again, this phrase does not in itself indicate the Antichrist is Jewish.
- Also, it should be noted that others have interpreted this to mean that the **Antichrist is a homosexual**, or at least not interested in women. **COMMENTARY:** *"There is another possible explanation of this scripture. We are told in several prophecies that in the last days there would be a great increase in homosexuality. Jesus said that it would be as it was at Sodom. We are seeing this alarming rise in sexual perversion to the extent that marriages between members of the same sex are becoming quite common. The laws against homosexuality have been removed in almost every country in the world. By the time Antichrist appears, homosexuals may be considered more normal than heterosexuals. Therefore, the prophecy that the Antichrist will not regard the desire of women could simply mean that he will be a sexual pervert."* (Noah Hutchings) The scripture reference for this is Luke 17:28-30: *"But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed."*
- Yet **another interpretation of this phrase is that the Antichrist is Islamic, a Muslim**. The Islamic faith has little regard for women, treating them as second class, necessary only for procreation. They are repressed, and kept "in their place" hidden behind veils and heavy clothing. They are considered temptresses, worthy only to be used and hidden. Some believe this phrase is referencing this Islamic practice and mindset about women.
- Some commentators also suggest that when the Antichrist is mentioned in scripture, the characteristics and nature of this person may imply that it is **two people, not one**. This is based on Revelation 13:11-18, which mentions two beasts: *"Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666."* *We won't spend time here evaluating these verses, especially the "mark of the beast." See the Revelation studies, chapter 13, for more information on this passage.*
- These verses come after the initial discussion of the first beast in Revelation chapter 13. We see two beasts here, so **there are two men**, one is the Antichrist, the other is called the False Witness or False Prophet – the one who testifies to the Antichrist and enforces his will. Some see scriptural descriptions of the Antichrist as applicable also to the False Prophet.



*The False Prophet, as described in Revelation 13*

- **COMMENTARY:** "... I believe that it takes two men to fulfill this office, and they are both presented in chapter 13 of Revelation. This first one is a political ruler who comes out of the Roman Empire and probably the Greek section of the Roman Empire. He is the one who doesn't have to be an Israelite.... The second beast that arises is a religious leader, and he imitates Christ—I assume he will be an Israelite." (McGee)
- Many others believe that when the Antichrist, or the coming world leader, is portrayed in scripture, **that the descriptions are appropriate to him**, and not to two different people. It is also possible that the Antichrist may be Jewish of Seleucid ancestry, which would be in fulfillment of Daniel 8, but also merely because Jesus was Jewish. This coming world ruler will mirror the real Messiah in so many fake ways that this is a big possibility. However, there is much discussion and controversy over it, so we will let you make up your own minds about that. We should not be surprised if it goes either way. (However, keep in mind that scripture is clear – there ARE two beasts, two men who will work together in their evil pursuits, but only ONE is the Antichrist.)
- **"...nor regard any god ..."** This is very clear that he will oppose all religions and worship, except worship of himself, and of the evil one who powers him. He is not only a believer in the ecumenical movement, he promotes it; in fact, he is *it*. One religion for one world will be his agenda, and *he* is that religion, and is the object of all worship.
- **"...for he shall exalt himself above them all."** This is the ultimate desire of this willful king. His total ambition is self-praise, and even worship. This reminds us again of Isaiah 14, of the enemy who wished to exalt himself even "above God." The Antichrist will do this as well. He has no interest in any gods except himself. A quasi initial one world religion will emerge during the early part of the Tribulation (perhaps even before that official start), but according to the book of Revelation, the Antichrist will destroy that and insist on worship of himself instead. He will not share worship with anything or anyone else.

<sup>38</sup>*"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."* <sup>39</sup>*"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."*

- ***But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know...*** Once again, this statement is the source of much controversy and disagreement among commentators. **"The God of forces" (in some translations) and is more accurately translated "the God of fortresses."** This passage states that the Antichrist will honor a god previously unknown to his ancestors – a god of fortresses.
- **COMMENTARY:** "We know from pagan mythology that both Cybele and Diana are variously represented as crowned with multi-tiered crowns, plainly setting forth the idea of fortification with turrets, battlements, and so forth" (Newell)
- **COMMENTARY:** "I am sure you have seen pictures of these heathen idols with their multi-tiered crowns with all kinds of fortresses on them which represent the kingdoms of this world. Antichrist will honor the god of fortresses who had the kingdoms of the world. Who is that? Well, it was Satan who offered to Christ the kingdoms of this world, and our Lord rejected his offer. Apparently, Satan had a right to make that offer. Antichrist will accept the offer and become the world's dictator. We are told in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 and Revelation 13:4 that Antichrist will accept worship and will have the world worshiping Satan in that day. All the kingdoms of the world will be under his rulership, the first truly worldwide dictatorship." (McGee) This commentator believes this "god of fortresses" is Satan himself. The enemy will empower this world ruler, and will give him power over the earth. The enemy will make the most of this short time. He knows his time is short, so he intends to do the most harm possible (Revelation 12:12).

- *“...he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things...”* This sounds as if the Antichrist will be the willing tool to completely do the will of the enemy in that day. He will rule over many people and dispose of property as he pleases, all for the benefit of the enemy and himself. They are in league together. Perhaps he will even openly worship the devil, and encourage others to do so. Occult activity and paganism is currently on the rise.
- *“Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory;...”* Even the strongest earth powers cannot stand against this ruler, who has the backing, the power and the opportunities given to him by this “foreign god” who most believe is Satan, the dragon of Revelation. He will even apparently “advance its glory” meaning that many others will also honor Satan in this time because of the Antichrist’s activities.
- *“... and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.”* The Antichrist will obtain very quick power and popularity because he is going to have a great sounding plan for the world. When everyone else throws up their hands and wonders whether the world can get out of the mess it’s in, this final world ruler will come on the scene and seem to have all the answers. But it will all be for his gain, not the good of the world. **COMMENTARY: “In his ingenious plans to reform the world’s economy the Antichrist will win great popularity with his plans to redistribute the wealth of society. Early in this century the communists won initial popularity in their promises to divide the land of the rich to distribute it to the peasants. The rise of democratic socialism in Europe has prepared the masses for the promises of the coming world dictator to “divide the land for gain.” A growing sense of entitlement in the citizens of the West is setting the stage for the economic system of the Antichrist.** (Jeffrey)

<sup>40</sup>*“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.*

- **Initially**, when the Antichrist gains control over the whole world and establishes his one-world government, **the world will be grateful and will praise him.** However, it will quickly become obvious what his true nature is, and his true agenda. Many will try to oppose him, but it will be too late. Although he will have to use more and more power and cruel strength to hold his government together, he will remain in control.
- *“At the time of the end ...”* This little phrase **reminds us** that we are not still dealing with the end of the Greek Empire and the Seleucid versus Ptolemaic dynasties. We are at the time of the end, the very last days of human government on earth. This refers to the end of the Tribulation period – the end of the times of the Gentiles - just before Jesus returns with His saints to set up His earthly kingdom.
- *“...end the king of the South shall attack him;...”* The king of the South here is most likely Egypt, but not under the Ptolemies at the end of the Greek Empire. This is Egypt of the final days, which may have vastly different boundaries than we know of today. This may also indicate another African country, or perhaps the head of a confederation, which will attack the Antichrist. Keep in mind this is all speculation. Egypt has always been referenced as the enemy to the south, but may just be a launching point or part of a confederation of states that are a bit disgruntled with Antichrist. Perhaps, since the Antichrist will demand worship only of himself, those extremist Muslims in Egypt and elsewhere will take great issue with this and the Antichrist’s desire for world domination.
- **COMMENTARY: “Today, Egypt is a target for some of the most dangerous terrorists in the world. Muslim fanatics are desperately trying to take over the government and turn Egypt into a staging ground for attacks on Israel. If they succeed, something will have to be done to protect Israel. This is not a good sign, but it is interesting to watch Bible prophecy being fulfilled.”** (God’s Word for Biblically Inept)

- *This commentary is chilling, especially since it was made years before the recent coup in Egypt and the fall of its president, Hosni Mubarak. The world thought this country wanted democracy, but instead it is getting the rise of Islamic law. The Muslim Brotherhood has moved into Egypt, and it is likely they, or some other Muslim power, will control this country. Their only wish for Israel is her destruction. February 2011 saw the beginning of the massive Egyptian revolution, which has not yet been completed. This country's government is changing rapidly, and it is very likely it will fall into Islamic hands, subject to the ultimate goals of Islam to eradicate Israel. It should be noted here as well that Egypt is not the only Arab power going the way of Islamic law. There have been revolts in many Arab countries this past year. It appears now that Syria will be the next power to fall, to be replaced by Muslim extremists. All of this, while very frightening to watch and speculate on, is in line with scripture. The world is moving away from Israel, as Zechariah said it would, and is promoting a violent Islamic agenda. The stage is being set before our eyes for a fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39.*
- ***“...and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships;...”*** We see also that the future **“king of the north”** will also come against this end time world ruler. In the previous section of this chapter, the Seleucids are considered the kings of the north. Antiochus Epiphanes was himself called the king of the north. But this message is no longer speaking of that time. **This territory is now identified with Russia.** Every Bible scholar agrees that the king of the North is most likely Russia and perhaps a confederation of nations. The former Soviet Union has crumbled and fallen apart in many disjointed and seemingly non-powerful states. However, Russia itself is again on the rise, with a current ruler (Vladimir Putin) who intends to become the next tsar (Russian for “Caesar”). He has the intent, the passion, and the opportunity to do so.
- Many commentators believe there will be a future Russian invasion of Israel. **Some believe that the passages in Ezekiel 38 and 39 are merged here with Daniel 11 and that these are the same invasion.** Others show differences between the two passages and say that it will take two invasions. The timing of the prophecies in Ezekiel are hotly debated. The first invasion could be the one described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 in which most likely Russia's army and air force would suffer a decisive and divine defeat. The second invasion would then be the one here in Daniel 11, in which Russia's navy would be defeated. This might explain why the nations of Persia, Gomer and Togarmah are mentioned in Ezekiel but not in Daniel, and why the Antichrist is mentioned in Daniel but not in Ezekiel. The first invasion would be a Russian/Arab alliance, in their own desire to wipe out Israel, and the second would be to oppose the Antichrist. Some very interesting thoughts, but again, all speculation. This just means we need to keep our eyes open, understand what is happening in our world, and compare everything to what scripture says will happen.
- ***“...and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.”*** It appears that those who oppose the Antichrist will not win. This verse states that he enters (probably militarily) those nations and overwhelms, then passes right on through. This reveals that all resistance will be futile.
- **We know there is a great deal of controversy of all end time prophecies.** The major points, however, are clear. We need to learn how to sort through the controversy and not get hung up on any one position, unless it is clearly Biblical. If it is a matter of speculation, fine, but don't hang your hat on it – yet! As they say, *“all will be revealed!”*



<sup>41</sup>*“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.”* <sup>42</sup>*“He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.”* <sup>43</sup>*“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.”*

- *“He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; ...”* The “glorious land” is Israel. The whole world will suffer at the hands of the Antichrist, but the **Middle East will be the major hot spot**. The Antichrist and possibly the Arabs, if they still have an opportunity at this point, will want to destroy the nation of Israel. The Antichrist will want to occupy Israel so he can maintain a foothold in the Middle East and protect his wealth (possibly oil supplies), and also be worshipped in the Temple. Other nations will want to take Israel, but the Antichrist will want it for his own, and will fight anyone who tries to take it. Many countries and nations, if they still exist as such, will fall, including the king of the north and the king of the south. Anyone who opposes him will be overpowered.
- *“...but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon....”* There is, apparently a little wrinkle in the Antichrist’s plan of world domination. This is a very interesting statement. **Edom, Moab and the leaders (prominent people) of Ammon is a reference to three areas located in the nation that today we call Jordan**. The capital of Jordan is Amman, a name derived from Ammon. This area apparently will not come under the control of the Antichrist. This is particularly of interest since the **ancient city of Petra** is located in southern Jordan, and this is seeming more and more likely (speculation, but likely) to be the place where many Jews will flee for protection during the last half of the Tribulation (see Revelation 12). Seems God is keeping the area from the Antichrist. He will protect His people.
- *“He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape....”* Here is a direct reference to Egypt, who will also fall under Antichrist’s power. There may be some early resistance (as in the reference to the king of the south who opposes him but is overthrown) but eventually the Antichrist wins power over Egypt.
- *“He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt;...”* He will have control of the wealth of this world. Egypt has been referenced both in scripture and in history as one of the major treasure houses throughout history. They amassed great treasure during their glory days, and even stole the treasures of other nations. At this time of the end, the Antichrist will control all the treasures of the world, including the once vast treasures of Egypt (the archeological treasures of Egypt today are worth billions.) These treasures may even refer to new deposits of literal gold and silver that may be discovered. Whatever the wealth of this nation and others, all of it will come under the control of the final world leader.
- *“...also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.”* When we read the names of nations in scripture that still exist under those familiar names (such as Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, etc.) we must remember that their current boundaries are not the ones referenced in scripture. To understand the complete territories referenced, we must do a little research and determine what was under the control of those nations during Biblical times. At any rate, those areas once referred to as Libya and Ethiopia will also not just be overwhelmed by the Antichrist, but will apparently follow him and perhaps even aid him in his pursuits. No one, with the exception of the three areas inside what we call Jordan today, will escape his control.

<sup>44</sup>*“But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.”* <sup>45</sup>*“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.”*

- *“But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; ...”* Something happens during the Antichrist’s military outings of conquest to trouble him. This news comes out of the east, and the north. Many commentators believe this refers to the great army out of the east mentioned in Revelation 9:11 - *“The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.”* and Revelation 16:12-16. *“The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. “Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.” Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.”* The great armies, not only from the east, but everywhere, come to the Valley of Jezreel, Har-Megiddo (the mountain of Megiddo) in Hebrew for the great world battle mentioned in Revelation 16.
- **The “north” is also involved here.** This could be a continuing reference to the armies of the east, which are from Israel also in the northerly direction. Or, it could be another reference to Russia, which might have gained some strength since the initial overthrow by the Antichrist. It could also instead be the regions of Turkey, Syria and Lebanon, all north of Israel. Whatever it is also shows some activity that bothers the Antichrist. Perhaps even the north and the east have joined forces against him. At any rate, whatever happens here worries the Antichrist.
- *“...therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many...”* This may be a reference to the fact that the Antichrist is infuriated at the mounting opposition to him and sets out to slaughter them all. It may or may not be implying the battle of Armageddon, which might come later. However, the last verse indicates simply that he comes to an end. We don’t know when that is, at the time of this campaign to take care of his opposition, or at the time of Armageddon, if they are separate events. They may be one and the same.
- *“And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain;...”* There is speculation that the headquarters for the final world ruler will initially be in Babylon. However, toward the end of the Tribulation, it appears that he moves those headquarters to Israel. He establishes his presence and palace in Jerusalem (between the Mediterranean Sea and Mount Moriah, Zion, in Jerusalem). This will be his final stand. Here he proclaims himself god and causes the second abomination that causes desolation. Shortly after, apparently, he will also die here during the battle of Armageddon, and be relegated to the lake of fire. (see Revelation 19:19-20)



- **COMMENTARY: “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. After the Antichrist is captured, and the False Prophet too, the two of them will be thrown alive into the Lake of Fire.”** (Jeremiah/Carlson)
- As mentioned before, many of these details are up for speculation, since these events have not yet unfolded in history. When they do, however, the people living through these times will have concrete information here and will not have to speculate about what things will happen. They will know. The information about the final world ruler, and the final world kingdom, presented in Daniel, Revelation, Zechariah and several other places will serve as guidelines, markers, and encouragement for those who must live during these times. Speculation will be days past. In those days the fulfillment of these events will be clear.
- An interesting note about Armageddon, for all the world’s hype (even unbelievers know what this means), the Battle of Armageddon is really quite anti-climactic – as are the last few words of this chapter: **he shall come to his end, and no one will help him**. No human can come to this final world ruler’s rescue, and Jesus triumphs over them all with merely a word. The way Daniel writes this last verse is almost like God just wipes them all out, including the Antichrist, without fanfare. He merely comes to an end here. That is good news! We know this terrible time has a pre-determined end. It cannot go on indefinitely, and all human governments come to an end. That is worth celebrating!
- Some people have asked why God gave these precise prophecies to Daniel, at that time. Here are a few reasons:
  - 1) They were initially recorded for the comfort and encouragement of the people of God who would live through the difficult days it describes (near fulfillment, the historical part, AND for those who will live through the end time horrors)
  - 2) To show those who follow God His plan, especially for the end times, so we can be aware and watchful.
  - 3) For all generations as a testimony to the fact that God knows the end from the beginning, and has it all in His hands.
  - 4) God is who He says He is, and His Word is true. These prophecies, both the early near fulfillments in the time of Daniel to the end of the Greek Empire, and the final fulfillments at the end of time VALIDATE and AUTHENTICATE God. All prophecy given by God is primarily for this reason. It is to convince us that He is indeed God.

