

"Antiochus and the antichrist"

Daniel 11:21-35

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1. Antiochus IV _____ – Vs. 21-35

A. Summary of his _____: vs. 21-24

Vs. 21-22: In his place shall arise a **contemptible** person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and **obtain the kingdom by flatteries**. Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the **prince of the covenant**.

B. Focus of his _____: vs. 25-31

Vs. 28a: And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be **set against the holy covenant**.

Vs. 29-31: "...and **shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant**. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant. Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

C. Resistance to his _____:

Vs. 32: He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but **the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action**.

2. The _____ – Vs. 36-45

2 Thess. 2:3-4: Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Vs. 36a: "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods.

Vs. 37b: He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.

Vs. 45b: Yet **he shall come to his end**, with none to help him.

1 Thess. 2:8: And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

1 John 4:2-3: By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

2 Peter 3:10-11,14: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness... Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God told faithful Jews, through Daniel, about the coming of Antiochus IV Epiphanes? How might knowing in advance fortify them against the coming persecution?
2. Should we Christians today living in America expect persecution for our faith? What might it look like?
3. Can you see how it would be easy to keep reading vs. 36-45 thinking it is just more prophecy of the same man (Antiochus)? Do you agree that these verses are warning us of another persecutor to come?
4. How can we identify the spirit of the antichrist (cf 1 John 4:2-3)? How might we be tempted by this spirit in our day?
5. What should our lives look like now, as we think about the end times?
6. Think about the beast (Rev. 13:1-10) vs. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Which is stronger?