

# Daniel

**Memorize the TRUTH!**

**Lesson 11**  
**The Final Battle**  
**Daniel 11:36-12:13**

**Many will be purified, made  
spotless and refined, but the  
wicked will continue to be wicked.**  
**Daniel 12:10**

## **Character of the Antichrist – Daniel 11:36-39**

### **Day 1**

1. What will this king's religious views be?
2. Describe his method of ruling. v. 39
3. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 describes this ruler's source, effect, and downfall.
  - a. What are his names and how will he exalt himself?
  - b. What will be the source of his power and how will it be displayed?
  - c. Who will be deceived by this display of power, and why?
  - d. What will happen to this king in the end? v. 8

## **Learn the TRUTH!**

The last days  
prophesied here  
frightening, but  
don't be afraid.  
Keep your eyes on  
the Lord Jesus.  
Accept Him as your  
Savior, and know  
that He will be with  
you every day of  
your life.

## **Final Campaign of the Antichrist – Daniel 11:40-45**

### **Day 2**

4. When will the military campaigns described in these verses take place?
5. Why will the king initiate a final campaign and what will be the outcome? vv. 44-45
6. Revelation 19:11-21 describes the same military campaign. Who will oppose the Antichrist (the beast, his false prophet and his armies) and what will be the result?
7. During the time period described in these passages, the focus of the whole world's military power will be concentrated in the Middle East. What events and circumstances in recent history have made this area so politically and economically significant today?

**Tribulation and Resurrection  
Daniel 12:1-4**

**Day 3**

8. a. What will happen in "the time of distress?"
- b. How does Jesus describe this period?  
Matthew 24:21-22?
9. Who will be resurrected, and what is their destiny?
10. a. Who will receive everlasting life? John 5:24-25
- b. What will be your eternal destiny? Why?
11. What do you think verse 4 means?

**Prophecy's Fulfillment  
Daniel 12:5-7**

**Day 4**

12. How long did the man clothed in linen say it will take for this prophecy to be fulfilled?
13. Reread Daniel 7:23-27.
- a. What attitude will this ruler have toward God and His people?
- b. In the end, what will happen to him, and what will happen to the saints?
- c. What similarities do you see between Daniel 7:23-27 and this week's passage?

**The Effect of Prophecy  
Daniel 12:8-13**

**Day 5**

14. a. What effects will this prophecy have on future generations? v. 10
- b. How would you explain these two opposite effects?  
1 Corinthians 2:12-14
15. What are the two specific time periods involved in this prophecy? vv. 11-12
16. a. What promise did God give Daniel in verse 13?
- b. How does this inheritance also apply to us?  
1 Peter 1:3-5

**Live the TRUTH!**

**We do not need all the answers to tomorrow's questions in order to live expectantly today. But we must know THE Answer. When we stand before Christ one day, He will not ask us what we know but Who we know. Jesus *is* THE Answer!**

# Commentary Daniel Lesson 11

Many of the prophecies in Daniel have already been fulfilled. But from here on, Daniel deals only with unfulfilled prophecy, which makes interpretation less certain but still informative.

At first, this passage seems to be a continuation of prophecies about Antiochus Epiphanes. But many scholars believe that in verse 36 the subject switches from Antiochus to the Antichrist, mainly because much of verses 36-45 does not correspond historically with what we know of Antiochus. It is typical biblical fashion for the prophecy to jump from Antiochus to the Antichrist and the end of the age.

In 12:36 the Antichrist is called "the king," while Antiochus was called "the king of the North" (11:7). The Antichrist does what he pleases because of his great power, while Antiochus was hemmed in by others. The Antichrist allows only worship of himself. Antiochus may have called himself "God manifest" on coins, but he still worshiped Zeus. Though the Antichrist enjoys great success, God remains in control and allows him to prosper only until the appointed time.

The Antichrist rejects "the one desired by women" (11:37). A more literal translation is "the desire of women," which likely means he will have no interest in romantic or even sexual love. He is so dedicated to exalting himself and controlling the world that he cares nothing about women, children, or family but will devote himself instead to honoring "a god of fortresses" (11:38). This is probably the ancient way of expressing his call for total dedication to war and conquest.

The Antichrist apparently invades the Middle East and Israel, conquering nations with lightning-like speed. Edom, Moab, and Ammon — modern Jordan — escape his invasion for unknown reasons. He subdues Egypt and conquers Libya, west of Egypt, and Nubia, modern Sudan, to the south. Verses 40-45 seem to be a description of the Antichrist's victorious military campaigns against powerful confederacies that try to overthrow him.

He makes his military headquarters for his last, great conquest in Jerusalem, where the temple mount stands between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean. The last sentence of verse 45 records his demise. The prophecy dismisses the most evil and powerful ruler the world has ever known as if he were but a speck of dust to be blown away. Ironically, Jerusalem, where Jesus died, is now the place where the Antichrist dies as well. The great difference is that Jesus died there in submission to God; the Antichrist dies there fighting God.

The scene changes to the Jewish people themselves. Michael, the archangel, will protect a core of Jewish believers. He will be needed sorely because "There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then" (12:1). Biblical scholars use the phrase "the Great Tribulation" to describe the time of distress preceding Christ's return to earth. Jesus says it will be so bad that, if it were not cut short by His Second Coming, humanity would become extinct (Matthew 24:22).

## *Check It Out:*

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the fulfillment of these prophecies in Daniel seemed incredibly remote. The Middle East was poor, weak, and backward — hardly the place where the world's great armies would gather for their final battles. But since then, the modern state of Israel has been founded, which owns land and holy sites formerly belonging to the Arabs, and which the Arabs want back. In addition, the discovery of oil in Arab countries has enriched them and provided leverage in world affairs that they never before had. Added to this is the growth of terrorism and radical fundamentalism among both Moslems and Jews.

All of this creates incurable tensions in the Holy Land that continually threaten to involve the major world powers. If we were to pick a trouble-spot today where history's final battles would be most likely to erupt, it would be Israel and the Middle East.

Daniel 12:1 concludes, "But at that time your people...will be delivered." Because of Michael's intervention, a core of Jewish believers will survive through the Great Tribulation and Christ will rescue them at His return. Many Gentile believers will also survive those days and be rescued as well, but this prophecy focuses only on the Jews. Many biblical interpreters believe that these Jewish and Gentile survivors will become the citizens of Christ's kingdom on earth, which He will set up at His return.

But what about believing Jews who have died during the Great Tribulation? Verses 2-3 teach that at the end God will raise us from our graves and give us new bodies. Believers will receive wonderful bodies, free from disease and physical imperfections, to complete their salvation (1 Corinthians 15:42-44; Revelation 21:4). Unbelievers will also rise from the dead, apparently later at the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15), but they will receive bodies appropriate to a condition of "shame and everlasting contempt" (12:2).

Daniel is to "close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end" (12:4), meaning that he is to carefully preserve the prophecy for future generations, not that he is to hide it. He then sees two more angels who ask the first one, "How long...before these...things are fulfilled?" (12:6). The puzzling reply is, "It will be for a time, times and half a time" (v. 7). This is the equivalent to the 42-month reign of the beast in Revelation 13:5, and the last half of Daniel's 70th "seven." The angel's answer implies that the prophecy will be fulfilled with the culmination of the three and one-half years and the final rescue of believing Israel. Meantime, Daniel is told that he should go on his way, so to speak, for no more major information is needed.

Finally, Daniel is told in verses 11-12 there will be 1,290 days "from the time ... the abomination that causes desolation is set up," and "Blessed is the one who ... reaches the end of the 1,335 days." The exact meaning of this is not known but will become clear at the end. If 1,290 days, or three and one-half prophetic years, is the time from the "abomination that causes desolation" to the Second Coming of Christ, then probably both the 1,290 days and 1,335 days envisage a brief period after Christ's return when He is involved in judging evildoers, rewarding His followers, and preparing the world for the setting up of His kingdom on earth, otherwise known as the millennium. The final word to Daniel is "You will rest, and then ... receive your ... inheritance" (12:13).



**Who is the main character in the Book of Daniel? Who could forget Daniel himself — or his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? How about the Jews living in captivity — or the Gentile kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius or Cyrus? What about Antiochus Epiphanes, or the Antichrist himself? No, none of these people is really the main character of the Book of Daniel. The One around whom this book revolves is God Himself — the Revealer of Mysteries, the Sovereign King over all kings and governments. He shows himself to be absolutely faithful and just. Daniel is a great book, but don't miss the Main Character!**