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The Antichrist

If you would turn with me to Daniel 11. There are two prophecies that are arguably the most remarkable prophecies in the entire Bible. The first is Daniel 9:24-27, the calendar of seventy sevens or 490 years assigned for Israel and Jerusalem to accomplish the six things listed in Daniel 9:24. The 483 year countdown began with the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and concluded with mathematical precision on the very day Messiah was presented at His Triumphal Entry, after which Daniel 9:26 predicts an intercalation in the calendar during which the Messiah would be cut off and the city of Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed. The intercalation will end when the anti-Christ signs a seven year peace treaty with the leadership of Israel. This undoubtedly is one of the most impressive and significant prophecies in the entire Bible setting up a prophetic framework for interpreting other prophecies. The second arguably greatest prophecy in the Bible is Daniel 10-12, the great warfare that will affect the Jews during the times of the Gentiles. In Daniel 11 alone more than 150 prophecies are recorded. There is no more highly concentrated portion of prophetic Scripture anywhere in the Bible. And this fact alone makes Daniel 11 one of the most difficult chapters in the Bible and certainly the most difficult in the Book of Daniel. The detail is so specific that critics of the Bible simply cannot accept that Daniel wrote this before the fact. But because we presuppose the God of the Bible who plans all things in advance and reveals some of these things then we have no trouble accepting this chapter as written before the fact. This prophecy revealed through the angel reveals in Daniel 11:2 facts regarding the Persian kings, in Daniel 11:2-4 facts regarding the Greek ruler Alexander the Great, his defeat and the four resulting divisions of the Greek empire, in Daniel 11:5-20 facts regarding wars between the Seleucid and Ptolemy branches of the Greek empire, in Daniel 11:21-35 facts regarding the despicable Antiochus Epiphanes IV who

persecuted the Jews and in Daniel 11:36-45 the one in the end times who Antiochus foreshadowed, the even more despicable anti-Christ.

You will see then that I am suggesting a large gap of time between Daniel 11:35 which closes with the angels dealing with Antiochus and Daniel 11:36 which opens with the angels dealing with the anti-Christ. So I would insert a gap of time of at least 2,175 years between verse 35 and 36 and that gap of time is widening each year that anti-Christ does not come on the scene. Now this gap of time should be no surprise for dispensational interpreters of the Bible who are familiar with this kind of writing in the prophets. Jesus Himself in the synagogue in Luke 4:18 quoted only Isa 61:1 as fulfilled in His first coming leaving Isa 61:2 to be fulfilled in His second coming. So prophetic gaps of time in the OT prophets are commonplace and we see that here between Daniel 11:35 and 36. Now of course there are people who say there is no prophetic gap and that what follows is a continuation of Antiochus. But there are several problems with this view and I want to cite a few. First of all, Antiochus did not fulfill any of the things described in verses 36-45. We have historical evidence that he fulfilled the details of Daniel 11:21-35 but no historical evidence that he fulfilled anything in Daniel 11:36-45. Therefore these verses must refer to someone else. Since other passages that describe the anti-Christ fit nicely with the descriptions in these verses then we think these verses describe the anti-Christ. Secondly, verse 36 begins to introduce this person and yet Antiochus had already been introduced in verse 21. It would be strange to re-introduce him since this had already been done. Therefore it follows that this is an introduction of the anti-Christ and not Antiochus. Third, verse 40 uses the expression, "the end time" and this seems to launch us forward to the period of Daniel's 70th week. Otherwise "the end time" has to refer to the times of Antiochus over 2,175 years ago which seems very unlikely. Fourth, Daniel 12:1 says "At that time Michael, the great prince...will arise" and "there will be a time of distress that has never occurred since there was a nation." Since there can only be one time of distress for Israel that is incomparable and that time is stated elsewhere to be the last half of Daniel's 70th week, a period of three and a half years, referred to by Jeremiah as the time of Jacob's trouble and by Jesus as the great tribulation, then the timing of this passage is again confirmed to be yet future. It therefore cannot refer to Antiochus over 2,175 years ago but to the yet future anti-Christ. And fifth, we might add that there is precedent for seeing a prophecy of the anti-Christ growing out of a prophecy of Antiochus

since Daniel 8 records the same pattern, a prophecy of Antiochus followed immediately by a prophecy of anti-Christ.

There are three pictures of anti-Christ that have already been revealed to Daniel prior to Daniel 11:36-45. Each of these pictures reveals several details of his character and his career. Starting in Daniel 9:26-27 we learned that the anti-Christ is the prince to come who will make a seven year peace covenant with the leadership of Israel but in the middle of that seven years he will break the covenant by putting a stop to sacrifice and grain offering and committing the abomination of desolation. At that point he will set out to destroy the Jews but he himself will be destroyed. In Daniel 7:8, 11, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26 we learned that the anti-Christ will begin his career when there are already ten kings in power. He will grow to great power as an eleventh king. He will subdue three of these ten kings; speak out against the Most High and wage war against the Jews for three and a half years at which point he will be destroyed. Finally in Daniel 8:23-25 we are taught that the anti-Christ will be insolent and skilled in intrigue and that he will be mighty but his might will be supernatural, and that he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and he will use deceit to succeed and he will destroy many Jews while they are at ease and he will even oppose the Prince of princes but he will finally be defeated supernaturally.

Daniel is giving us the prophetic framework for interpreting later prophetic passages. Dr Walvoord called Daniel the key to prophetic revelation. And that's what I'm wanting you to take away from this. People come along with lots of hair-brained prophetic ideas because they haven't dealt carefully with Daniel. Daniel sets the frame inside of which the later prophetic passages are to be interpreted. So passages like Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 4-19 fall into Daniel and you can't interpret them outside of Daniel or you wind up with contradictions. So you want to be real sharp on Daniel or the rest of the prophetic picture is foggy.

Tonight we'll look at a fourth picture given to Daniel that adds to the general picture. I'd outline the passage by dividing it into two sections; Daniel 11:36-39 is describing general characteristics of anti-Christ's character and career while Daniel 11:40-45 is describing a particular conflict that results in the establishment of anti-Christ's base of operation in Jerusalem at the mid-point

and 12:1 starts at the mid-point when he will wreak havoc on the Jewish people.

Now let's work into the prophecy starting with the general characteristics of anti-Christ and his career in Daniel 11:36. **Then the king shall 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.** The remarkable thing about this verse is the fact that **he will prosper** doing these things. Remember, in the Book of Daniel, every time we've seen a Gentile king get arrogant God has brought him down. For example, God humbled Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4, He divided Belshazzar's kingdom in Daniel 5 and He broke Alexander the Great in Daniel 8 and 11. But there are two individuals in the Book of Daniel who actually prosper when they get arrogant; one is Antiochus and the other is anti-Christ and both prosper because they share one thing in common, they are disciplinary rods in the hand of God. They are disciplining Israel for rebellion against Him. And God is gracious to up the volume of the discipline because that's what it takes to get repentance.

You see it says in verse 36 that **the king will do as he pleases** meaning he's going to do whatever he wants to do when he comes on the world stage. Now he doesn't come on the world stage until after the Rapture according to 2 Thess 2. We have the Rapture first, then the removal of the restrainer, then the revealing of the anti-Christ. And when he comes on the world stage he's going to run over everybody. He rules by force and he's going to push his agenda on the world.

It also says in verse 36 that **he will exalt and magnify himself above every god.** These are pagan gods, and you can see here he is extremely arrogant, most people worship a pagan god but he's going to exalt himself **above every god.** So he is extremely conceited.

And I suggest that the **gods** of paganism that are being referred to here are ultimately demons. Pagans, whether they realize it or not, worship demons because demons are behind the material world. So when it says that the anti-Christ will **exalt and magnify himself above every god** it indicates to me that he himself is indwelled by the highest rank demon which is Satan

himself, who is over every demon. Now the way this comes about when we take into account Rev 13 is that at the mid-point of Daniel's 70th week the anti-Christ will be killed but amazingly he will be resurrected and then the whole earth will be amazed and will worship him because Satan will give his authority and power to the anti-Christ and by worshipping the anti-Christ they will be worshipping Satan. Now of course the anti-Christ doesn't raise himself from the dead and Satan doesn't raise him either. I take it that only God has that power and God is the one raising him. And I'd inject 2 Thess 2 in here to explain that God raises him as strong delusion for those who rejected the truth so as to be saved and this will set the world for judgment. But ultimately the anti-Christ will magnify himself above every god because he is personally indwelled by Satan. Satan is extremely arrogant and anytime you see arrogance you are in fact seeing Satan. And notice his extreme arrogance works out such that he even **speaks monstrous things against the God of gods**. The noun **monstrous** means "incredible" things, "extraordinary" things, things no one would dare say against God. Granted humans say bad things against God but no one would dare say the things that the anti-Christ will say about Him. And I take it again that the primary reason he has the degree of arrogance to utter such things is because he is indwelled by Satan.

Now as I said before the strange thing is what is said next, **and he will prosper**. How could such a wicked one prosper? Because Israel is under divine discipline. The entire times of the Gentiles is a time of discipline for Israel. The discipline may or may not be intense, it varies down through history, it even varies in the 70th week of Daniel. The first half is basically geopolitical peace but the second half is the worst it's ever been or ever will be for Israel. So the explanation for the anti-Christ's prospering in this period of time is that Israel must pass under the rod of discipline for her to recognize her Messiah, believe in Him and call upon Him to be saved. So **he will prosper** and notice, there's a time limit put on his prospering, **until the indignation is finished**, that's the **indignation** of God against Israel. God is extremely angry at Israel for her rebellion and the anti-Christ is God's rod of discipline upon the Jews so they'll repent. **for that which is decreed will be done**, the seventy sevens are the decreed calendar program for Israel. If you remember there are six things in Daniel 9:24 decreed to take place by the consummation of the 490 years; to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, those three things have all been

accomplished by the death of Christ, the last three things will be the application of the death of Christ to the nation Israel, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place, the millennial temple. So by the time those 490 years have run their course the discipline will have served its purpose and the kingdom will come.

Verse 37 and here the key is there are three unnatural characteristics of the anti-Christ. Three things that really stand out as strange about this man; **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.** The first area of unnatural character is rejection of his religious heritage. **He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers.** Most people follow or at least respect their religious heritage but not the anti-Christ. Now we don't know what his religious heritage is. Some think he will be a Muslim and I don't have any problem with that. There are some indications that he could be an Assyrian (or like an Assyrian) since Assyria is related to Syria and Iraq and the dominant religion of Syria and Iraq is Islam. But if he comes from there then he's not a Muslim because this verse says he will show no regard for his religious heritage. So he may come from an area like Syria or northern Iraq but you can't identify with certainty his religious heritage from any verse in the Bible. We only know that he will not regard his religious heritage.

Now some people use three arguments to support that the anti-Christ will be a Jew. First, on the basis of the KJV rendering of verse 37 which translates "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers..." The debate is over whether the Hebrew word *elohim* should be translated gods plural referring to pagan gods or God singular referring to the Jewish God. The Hebrew word can be translated either way depending on the context. However, since Daniel 9:26 says that the anti-Christ will be descended from the people who destroyed the Temple in AD70 then the anti-Christ is a Gentile and not a Jew. Jews didn't destroy the Temple, Gentiles did.

Second, the anti-Christ must be of the Jewish tribe of Dan because that tribe is absent from the list in Revelation 7 as being one of the twelve tribes that make up the 144,000. However, basing your argument on the tribes absence in Rev 7 is nonsense because the tribe of Dan is listed among the twelve tribes as recipients of land in the Millennial kingdom. Furthermore, there are

nineteen lists of the twelve tribes in the OT and NT and none of the lists are the same. To discover the reason why some tribe are left off in some lists and on in others is a matter of context and probably the reason Dan is left off in Rev 7 is because the 12,000 from each tribe will witness and Dan was the tribe that constantly fell into idolatry. So their absence has nothing to do with the absurd idea that the antichrist is a Jew from the tribe of Dan. Especially when Daniel 9:26 as I said shows that he will be a Gentile.

Third, some say that the anti-Christ must be a Jew because the Jews would never accept a Gentile Messiah. However, the Bible never teaches that Jews will accept a Gentile Messiah. It only says that they will enter into a peace treaty with a Gentile. Since they have done this many times before, for example the treaty with Anwar Saddat of Egypt in 1979, then it should not be a surprise that they will do it again in the future.

So that covers the arguments that claim the anti-Christ will be a Jew. He will not be a Jew, he will be a Gentile and the first unnatural thing about this Gentile is that he will reject his religious heritage.

The second unnatural thing about the anti-Christ will be that he will **show no regard...for the desire of women**. There are three views. First, some say this means he will be a homosexual. Second, some say it means he will have no regard for the Messiah since the desire of women in the OT was to give birth to the Messiah. Third, some say it means he will have no regard for the natural affection for women, being kind to them, gentle with them. I think the third view is best, I think that most men are naturally fond of women but he will not be and this is an unnatural characteristic.

Finally, the third unnatural thing about anti-Christ is **he will show no regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all**. So he will not only turn from his religious heritage but he will turn to himself as God. And again this is where I call attention to 2 Thess 2 where he sits in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God and receiving the worship of the world. He does this because he is indwelled by Satan and is extremely arrogant. So in conclusion, verse 37 reveals three unnatural characteristics of the anti-Christ; he rejects his religious heritage, does not show affection toward women and makes himself God.

Daniel 11:38 and here we find he does worship something in addition to himself, that he is a polytheist, **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.** His honor or respect will be for **a god of fortresses.** The Hebrew word for **fortresses** refers to a place of safety or a means of safety. It might be a shelter or a means of securing shelter, perhaps referring to his war machine as his means of acquiring safety. So I take it that he will put his trust in his military might. Revelation 13 says that after he is resurrected the whole world will wonder and say, “Who is able to wage war with the beast?” He will appear undefeatable and he will put his trust in his war machine. So a **god of fortresses** seems to refer to his trust in his military might by which he will seek to secure his kingdom. This god the verse says is **a god whom his fathers did not know;** meaning they did not worship military might. But the anti-Christ will and further he will **honor** this god of military might **with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures.** That is, he will take the war booty that he takes from his military campaigns and funnel it back into his war machine in the quest for global conquest.

Daniel 11:39, **He will take action against the strongest 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 many, and will parcel out land for a price.** So when he enters a new territory to conquer if the people quickly acquiesce to him he will give them **great honor**, probably setting them up as rulers in those areas as he marches onward. And the expression he **will parcel out land for a price** means literally that he will reward those who readily acquiesce to him with larger areas of rule.

Now we come to Daniel 11:40 and this begins the section dedicated to a particular conflict engaged *against* the anti-Christ. So let’s read the verses and then I’ll make some introductory remarks and try to give an interpretation. **“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. 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.**

⁴²“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. 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. 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. Now it sounds to me like this is a large campaign initiated in verse 40 by the king of the South and the king of the North coming against the anti-Christ but they are unsuccessful and then the anti-Christ will go into the land of Israel and pass through toward Egypt and Libya and Ethiopia and then return to Israel and set up his military headquarters and then be killed. That’s a general picture but there are a lot of views among conservative scholars on this passage.

On Monday I talked to John Whitcomb and he said the king of the north will come through Israel about the mid-point of the tribulation and kill the anti-Christ and then go and take Egypt and then will hear rumors in Israel that the anti-Christ is alive and so he’ll go back and be defeated by the anti-Christ. He connected this battle with the battle of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39. He also said, I’ve been teaching the OT for 60 years and believe it or not, I still don’t understand every verse in the OT. I talked to Dave Olander on Monday and he said, it happens somewhere around the mid-point of the tribulation and pay attention to the king of the north and the king of the south and the kings of the east in Revelation 16 because the anti-Christ is the king of the west along with the ten kings and in the end there are four spheres of power according to the four points of the compass and the anti-Christ is trying to take over those four spheres. I talked to Robert Dean today and he said, I take it that this is a battle that is a prelude to the campaign of Armageddon which is the seventh bowl judgment and occurs in the second half of the tribulation along with the distinct battle of Gog and Magog that also occurs in the second half. However, he said, I would hold this issue to be of the least certainty in my understanding of the Bible. Arnold Fruchtenbaum says this battle occurs at the mid-point of the tribulation and is not the battle of Gog and Magog which must occur at least seven years before the mid-point of the tribulation and the campaign of Armageddon occurs in eight stages during the second half of the tribulation. The great commentator Leon Wood says that it occurs at the mid-point of the

tribulation and is the same as the battle of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39 and is the prelude to the campaign of Armageddon which occupies the entire second half of the tribulation. Dwight Pentecost says this battle occurs at the mid-point of the tribulation and is the same as the battle of Gog and Magog. Thomas Ice who I spoke with on the phone today said he doesn't know but it might be one of the battles in the second half of the tribulation.

My point is it is very difficult to organize the thousands of prophetic passages into an unquestionable scenario everyone can agree on. In the past I have stated that I identify this battle with the battle of Gog and Magog in Ezek 38-39 at the mid-point of the tribulation. After three days of study I am less inclined to make that identification. As far as the battle of Gog and Magog I'm going to do a highlights class on Ezekiel and we'll cover it then because this stuff is very important right now because current events are lining up in a certain pattern and while we don't interpret the Bible in terms of current events we don't ignore current events either.

Now I'm going to do something with this battle that nobody else does that I know of so don't take this as gospel. I presented it to Dave Olander and he said he could buy that, it's a possible explanation and that Toussaint may take it in a similar way but honestly, nobody knows for sure what to do with this passage so if you read someone who sounds like they know and everybody else is wrong then you're probably reading someone who's a little naive.

But here's a question I've always wondered and that is, "Why would the nation Israel enter into a peace treaty with a foreigner as Daniel 9:27 says they will?" "Why would they put their national security in the hands of someone other than themselves?" Well obviously because that somebody else is either forcing it on them or that somebody else is immensely powerful. Either way verse 40 fits the conditions that could put the anti-Christ in such a position. So let's say just say that the rapture occurs today. 2 Thess 2 says that when the rapture occurs then the Holy Spirit will lift his restraining ministry and then the anti-Christ will be revealed. When he is revealed then the day of the Lord begins and I take it that's in the end time as verse 40 requires, this battle occurs in **the end time**. So the church is already gone. Now when the day of the Lord begins the anti-Christ is going to begin his meteoric rise to power. And I think verse 40 is depicting a key battle that will

be waged against him that will launch him into savior status of Jewish opinion. Think about it. **At the end of 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. 41 He will also enter the Beautiful Land,** which is Israel.

Let's make several points. First, this battle occurs outside the land of Israel because the anti-Christ doesn't enter the land of Israel until verse 41. He defeats the alliance of the king of the South and the king of the North. Then he enters other countries and defeats them. Finally in verse 41 he enters the land of Israel.

Second, this victory will launch him in the minds of Israeli's as a major force to be reckoned with, a man of great military might, someone who could protect your security interests if you were in league with him. And I take it that this is a necessary pre-requisite for entering into the peace treaty of Daniel 9:27.

Third, this victory will establish him as Jew friendly. Why do I say that? Because if you identify the king of the South and the king of the North consistently with their identifications from earlier in the chapter then the king of the South is the king of Egypt and the king of the North is the king of Syria. And the Syrians are not very Jew friendly right now. They're Arabs and they're stockpiling weapons of mass destruction that are being funneled to them by the Russians and Iranians. The Egyptians aren't very Jew friendly either. We see the political tide turning in Egypt with the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood and the peace treaty they made with Israel in 1979 by Anwar Sadat is looking pretty shaky. And, by the way, Egypt also has the largest Arab army in the world. So, thinking from the perspective of Israel, if a one man war machine rises and defeats two of your Arab enemies that man starts to look pretty Jew friendly to you. So this victory will establish his reputation as a friend to Israel.

Then in verse 41 this friend of Israel **enters the Beautiful Land**, and this is when I take it that they will enter into the seven year peace treaty with this great and very powerful friend of Israel. This peace treaty of Daniel 9:27 Isaiah calls "a covenant with death" because later he's going to turn on them

when they are at ease. And the verse goes on, **and many countries will fall**; he will perhaps defeat other enemies of Israel in the region further establishing his Jew friendly status; **but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.** Those three territories are all over in modern day Jordan and if you plug Rev 12 in here you understand that in a few years when the anti-Christ turns on them this is the area the Jews will flee to. He's a deceiver. He appears Jew-friendly but he's not Jew-friendly, just like Antiochus, he appears friendly but he turns on you. So that area is off limits to the anti-Christ at the time, he takes over **many countries** but not those countries.

In verse 42 he expands his kingdom further, **Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.** He leaves the land of Israel, presumably leaving some of his army to protect them and he starts to attack **other countries** in the region and take them over. The **land of Egypt** won't **escape** because he's already defeated the king of Egypt in verse 40 so going in and taking over the land of Egypt will be a piece of cake. He goes in, verse 43, **But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt**; this is the war booty of Egypt and he'll use it to fuel his war machine. Also **Libya** which is on the northern coast of Africa **and Ethiopia**, which is south of Egypt. So he's expanding his kingdom. Remember the anti-Christ wants to take over the whole world. So he's on his war path. Verse 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.** In other words, his progress is hindered just as Antiochus' progress was hindered and this frustrates him and makes him angry because now he's got to go back to places that he's already conquered, areas **North** of Israel and **East** of Israel and whoever he has put in charge may be behind these rebellions so he has to go and put down these rebellions before he can proceed on his global conquest. And as his new base of operation you have verse 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.** So he goes back into the land of Israel, that's the land **between the seas**, the two seas being the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea and he sets up his **royal pavilion** which is his central military headquarters. When a general would conquer a new territory he would set up a military tent as his central headquarters. So he sets up his central headquarters in

Jerusalem, actually the Hebrew says, “at the beautiful Holy Mountain,” which is Mt Zion where the Temple is located. So these are his new headquarters and I’d say at this point we are at the midpoint of Daniel’s 70th week and this is when he’ll enter the temple and commit the abomination of desolation breaking the covenant. And the verse says **he will come to his end, and no one will help him.** At the mid-point he will be all alone and he’ll be assassinated by someone but God will raise him, he’ll be indwelled by Satan and the whole world will worship him so they are really worshipping Satan.

And Daniel 12:1 picks up at the midpoint when the angelic conflict will intensify because it’s at this time that he will turn against the Jews. “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress,” - see up to this time Israel has been at rest under his security, but at this time “a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time;” that’s the last half of Daniel’s 70th week. And Jesus said in Matt 24, “When you see the abomination of desolation, flee to the wilderness,” don’t go back and get your cloak, just flee and it’s at this time that the believing remnant will flee to the areas of verse 41, Edom, Moab and Ammon which the anti-Christ didn’t conquer. It’s in modern day Jordan and other passages say they’ll be kept in the sheep-pen of Bozrah or Petra, the ancient rock city of the Nabateans, and within that rock city God will supernaturally nourish them for three and a half years, the conclusion of which God will rescue them. Everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued. Then comes the kingdom and Daniel 12:2 gets into the resurrection of the remnant of Israel to enter the kingdom.

Alright, that’s what I think. What do you think? What kind of questions do you have? I’m not saying you have to go along with all of this, it’s just this is the best way I can put it together and harmonize it with other prophetic passages.

So that’s basically how I see the flow of this passage. Verse 40 it starts with two Arab kings coming against the anti-Christ who is Jew friendly at the time and rising to great power, he’s trying to take over the world and the Arab’s are threatened so they try to defeat him in a land and sea battle, they are unsuccessful, the anti-Christ furthers his kingdom by going through

many countries. In verse 41 he enters the land of Israel and makes a peace treaty with the leadership of Israel for seven years, many other countries will be defeated but not Edom, Moab and Ammon. Then he will leave the land of Israel in verse 42 and go south to Egypt, in verse 43 he will take the war booty, defeat Libya and Ethiopia but in verse 44 he'll be forced to go quell some of the

Let's ask a few questions about this battle in Daniel 11:40-45. First, where does this battle occur? It does not sound like it takes place in the land of Israel because in verse 41 it is only after the battle that the anti-Christ will enter the Beautiful Land of Israel. Further, in verse 40 it is a location involving both land and sea because the implements of war are chariots, horsemen and many ships. So it is a land and sea battle and quite frankly I have no idea where the battle will take place but I do know one thing, it does not take place in the land of Israel. And I would plug Matt 24:4-8 in here where there are wars and rumors of wars. That's written to Israel and Jesus is saying you will be hearing about these wars, obviously they're not all wars occurring in the land of Israel or they wouldn't just be hearing about them, they'd be experiencing them. So I take it this is a war occurring outside the land of Israel on both land and sea.

Second, who is involved in this battle? Daniel 11:40 says the king of the South and the king of the North. If we are consistent with the identifications of these kings from earlier in the chapter then the Today these are both Arab nations who are predominately Islamic. Of great interest is the fact that Syria is currently being supplied with arms by both Iran and Russia. Egypt already has the largest Arab army and with the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood to power the 1980 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt seems likely to be broken. The United States is still funding the Egyptian military and is sending them 16 F-16's to add to the 200 they already have starting in January 2013. So the participants in the battle are Syria and Egypt allied against the anti-Christ who for some reason is a rising threat to these Arab countries.

Third, why is this battle fought? Two possible reasons. First, because the anti-Christ is Jew-friendly early on and the Arabs hate the Jews. So he's a threat to their program to annihilate the Jews. Second, because these Arab kings want to stop the anti-Christ's growing power. The anti-Christ will be a

rapidly growing threat to their kingdoms and so they make an alliance against him to try and depose him.

Fourth, when does this battle occur? The only hint we have is Daniel 11:40 where it says **At the end time** and I'm going to suggest actually that this is after the Rapture of the Church but before the 70th week of Daniel. The reason is because the anti-Christ does not enter the Beautiful Land of Israel until after he has won this battle against the king of the South and the king of the North. So his defeat of these two kings is the evidence that Israel needs to trust him and enter into a peace treaty with him for seven years. So I place this battle after the rapture but prior to Daniel's seventieth week.

So the picture emerges that the anti-Christ will have already made a seven year peace treaty with the nation Israel promising them security. That's Daniel 9:27, "he will make a firm covenant with the many for one seven." He will keep this treaty for three and a half years. But Isaiah calls this treaty "a covenant with death" (Isa 28:14-15) because at that point the Egyptian and Syrian kings ally to defeat him and when he is killed God resurrects him and he goes on to defeat them and take over their countries but when he comes back to the land of Israel he's not so nice to the Jews anymore and he sets out to annihilate them. And I take it the reason for the dramatic change is that when he is resurrected the anti-Christ will be indwelled personally by Satan and so it is Satan's hatred for the Jews that is manifested through the anti-Christ. The Jews will think that the anti-Christ will be able to give them protection from their enemies but he will actually turn out to be their worst enemy. However, he will protect them for the first half of Daniel's 70th week. And it is at that time that the king of Egypt and the king of Syria will make an attempt to defeat the anti-Christ

In this conflict, which you see in verse 40 involves the king of the South and the king of the North colliding against him; I take it Jesus is referring to in Matthew 24 where He says there will be wars and rumors of wars. This is one of those wars. Also in Revelation 6, the second seal which describes war on the earth. There is a lot of conflict as the anti-Christ attempt to achieve global dominion. The kings of the earth aren't just going to let him have his way. So there are other kings that are obstacles to the anti-Christ's attempts at global dominion and one of those wars is described in Daniel 11:40-45. It is waged by the king of the South and the king of the North and you also see in

verse 44 rumors from the East, I take it there are kings of the East and these somehow disturb him and I'm putting Revelation 16:12 in here because it says the Euphrates River will be dried up so the kings of the East can make their way toward Israel. So I'm putting some additional things into the picture to try and understand what we have in Daniel 11:40-45.

Now I've mentioned three of the four points of the compass; North, South and East and you have to understand with respect to what? North of what? South of what? East of what? Israel and Jerusalem. Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular are almost always the focal point of prophecy. So Israel and Jerusalem are the center of the compass so to speak and so you go North, you go South, you go East, it becomes real clear where these kings are located. North is primarily Russia, South is primarily Egypt, East is primarily China. The only direction not listed is West and that's simply because the anti-Christ is the king of the West and I'd take that as Europe. So the focal point of the conflict that occurs in Daniel 11:40-45 is Israel and Jerusalem, taking over that land and that city. The prophet says, Jerusalem will be a cup of trembling in the last days and I think you see that here. But keep in mind and never forget that the reason for this distress coming on Israel and Jerusalem is because they are under divine discipline. Israel has rejected the word of God and will remain under divine discipline until they repent. So this distress is God putting Israel in the pressure cooker in the last days so they'll repent.

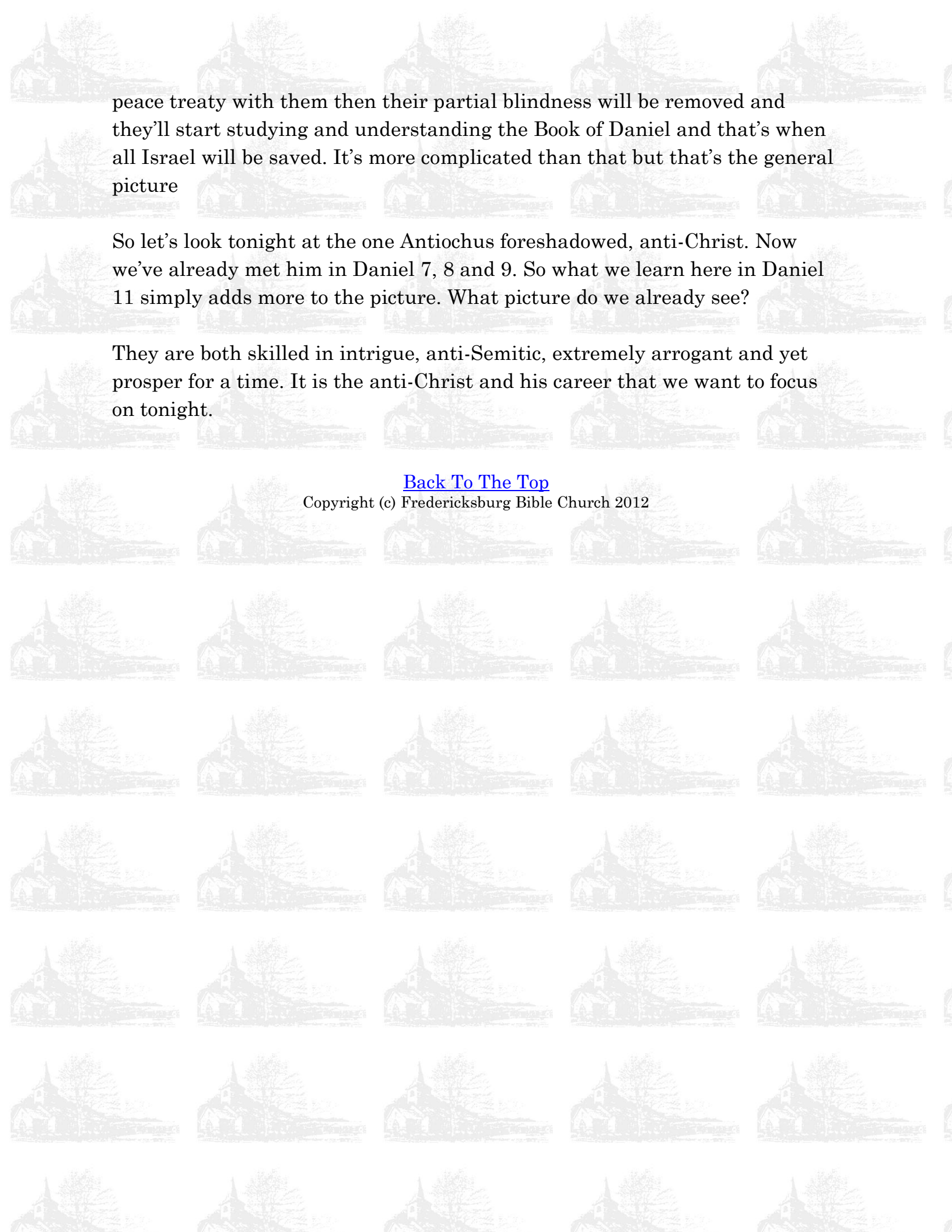
Now you'll detect that I've had my thinking changed a bit. What I suggested earlier in this class was that the ten toes and the ten horns are the ten kings that are ten divisions of the world in the last days. What I'm suggesting now is that those ten divisions are only within the western kingdom which is one of four spheres of the world according to the directions of the compass. And I admit you won't read this in any prophecy book that I'm aware of. I'm told from my inside sources that Dr Pentecost worked his way into this some years ago and from a conversation I had with Dr Whitcomb this week it sounds as though he might have gotten into this. And there's no doubt the Bible refers in the last days to the king of the North, the king of the South and the kings of the East. So there, for what it's worth, in the end times it seems there are four kingdoms according to the four points of the compass, the anti-Christ is a ruler in the West, which I take basically as Europe and he's going to try and take over the world but there are others who are trying

to either stop him or take over the world themselves and the king of the North and the king of the South are mentioned in particular in this prophecy as colliding against him as well as rumors from the East which I take as referring to the kings of the East.

We have more introduced here in Daniel 11:36-45 and just as in Daniel 8 the picture emerges out of the picture of Antiochus. Antiochus is something of a forerunner or foreshadowing of the anti-Christ. And I believe God gave the revelation of Antiochus to the Jews so that when anti-Christ comes they would recognize him as a false Messiah. So what its really going to get down to is the Jews that are paying attention to the word of God vs the Jews who are not paying attention to the word of God.

When they recognize the nature and career of Antiochus then they'll be able to recognize the nature and career of the anti-Christ. Later Daniel says many Jews "will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase." They will be searching to understand what is happening in the last days and they will find it in Daniel's book, when their eyes are opened to understand these prophecies and that the one they consider Christ is anti-Christ.

They will realize this when they realize that the exact nature and career of anti-Christ has already been manifested by the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes IV, whom every Jew detests. Antiochus was the Seleucid king who tried to reconsolidate the Greek empire by war and intrigue but was repeatedly obstructed by the sovereign plan of God. Due to his failures he repeatedly vented his anger on the Jews. For example, in 168BC he entered the Temple in Jerusalem and slaughtered a pig on the altar and spilled the broth all over the Temple. This abomination of desolation rendered the Temple unclean. The orthodox Jewish response was a revolt recorded in the 1 and 2 Book of Maccabees led by Judah Maccabeus. The Maccabees led many successful military battles against Antiochus and his armies. Finally in 164BC Antiochus came to his demise and the Temple was restored. Isn't it interesting, the Jews celebrate Hannukah, the festival of lights, to commemorate this re-dedication of the Temple while we as Christians celebrate Christmas, the birth of their Messiah. Paul explains in Romans that the Jews are partially hardened until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. So they can't see that Jesus is the Messiah right now. But when the rapture occurs and anti-Christ comes on the scene and makes a seven year



peace treaty with them then their partial blindness will be removed and they'll start studying and understanding the Book of Daniel and that's when all Israel will be saved. It's more complicated than that but that's the general picture

So let's look tonight at the one Antiochus foreshadowed, anti-Christ. Now we've already met him in Daniel 7, 8 and 9. So what we learn here in Daniel 11 simply adds more to the picture. What picture do we already see?

They are both skilled in intrigue, anti-Semitic, extremely arrogant and yet prosper for a time. It is the anti-Christ and his career that we want to focus on tonight.

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