



“The Prophetic End” (Daniel 11:36-12:13)

Danny Hodges – OT3450

Intro: Last time we looked at the most detailed prophetic passage in all the Bible. It culminated in predicting the rise of a man named Antiochus Epiphanes IV, who was a type of the coming antichrist.

11:31-35 Antiochus sent his general, Apollonius, to occupy Jerusalem with the intention of stamping out every trace of Judaism and replacing it with Hellenism. An edict was made that all nationalities in Antiochus’ kingdom were to be fused into one people. All were to worship Greek deities. The regular Temple sacrifices were stopped. Heathen rituals were performed in the Temple. Pigs were sacrificed to Greek gods in the Temple. Jews who attempted to sacrifice to God, practiced circumcision, or observed the Sabbath were killed. The Scriptures were ordered destroyed. A pagan altar was erected over the altar of God, and the Temple rededicated to Zeus (“the abomination that causes desolation”).

A faithful priest named Matthias lived during this time. He had five sons, and his family led a revolt against the pagan policies and atrocities of Antiochus. They fled to the mountains and over time gained a substantial following. One of Matthias’ sons became the key leader of this rebel band. His name was Judas Maccabeus (“the Hammerer”), and he ultimately led his band of followers to victory. In 164 B.C. Judas Maccabeus led the refurbishing and restoration of the temple that had been so desecrated. But victory did not come without a price. Many of “the wise” were “burned or captured or plundered” (v.33). But through these trials God purified a remnant, and that remnant ultimately saw the overthrow of the enemy and complete restoration.

Now we come to a section most scholars agree is yet future and there are several reasons why:

1. There is nothing from the past that corresponds exactly with the prophecies beginning in verse thirty-six.
2. Other prophetic scriptures describing the coming antichrist correspond exactly with the king of verses thirty six and following.
3. Daniel 12:1; Matt.24: 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened...
4. Daniel 12:2 (resurrection)

11:36 II Thess.2: 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

Dan.7:20 ...a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Dan.7: 25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

Rev.13: 5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. 6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Isa.14: 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

He will be an absolute dictator. He will tolerate no restraints upon himself. He will recognize no law or authority higher than himself.

He will be successful until "the time of wrath is completed" ("The Great Tribulation"). Refer to Dan.8:19. Jer.30: 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

11:37 This is a Jewish phrase, leading some to believe that the antichrist may be a Jew. John 5: 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.

He will show no regard for "the one desired by women." Some say he will not care for women, but this seems to refer to the one every Jewish woman desired giving birth to - the Messiah. This is why he is called antichrist (anti-Messiah).

11:38-39 His god will be power – military power. He will attack "the mightiest fortresses" with the help of a foreign god. Who is the mightiest fortress on the earth today? (America.) Rev.13:2... The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority...4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

He will greatly honor those who acknowledge him, making them rulers and rewarding them with land.

11:40-43 Egypt and Syria will come against him. In 1958 Syria and Egypt unified under the United Arab Republics, then broke up in 1961; In 1973 Egypt joined Syria in the October war against Israel. Because they border the Mediterranean Sea, they both have a navy as part of their military.

11:44 Could this be Russia and her allies? (Ezek.38-39). Russia is north and her ally Iran is east of Israel.

11:45 Between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. The beautiful holy mountain is Mt. Zion. See Psalm 48:2.

12:1 This is the point where the theme from Rocky begins to play. Just when the situation is at its worst, heaven moves, and Michael comes to the rescue! Refer to Rev.12. Right in the midst of a time of distress unequalled from the beginning of time, hope shines through, a light in the midst of hellish darkness.

12:2 This a broad prediction of resurrection, because there are two resurrections (Rev.20:1-6, 11-15).

12:3 GLORY! Refer to Rom.8:18.

12:4 The idea is not to seal so that the knowledge contained is not available, but rather just the opposite, to preserve it “until the time of the end.” During this period of tremendous distress, people will be looking for answers to what is happening, and for those with ears to ear, the book of Daniel will provide those answers.

12:5-6 Daniel is standing beside the Tigris River (Daniel 10:4). The two standing on each side of the river are no doubt angels, and one of them asks a question to a man clothed in linen, suspended above the river – How long...? The man in linen has to be Christ. Linen is what the priests wore, and Gen. 14:18 tells us that Melchizedek was “priest of God Most High.” See also Psalm 29:10. Why would these angels be inquiring about further details? See I Peter 1:10-12. Secondly, because they are just as anxious to get this whole battle against evil over with as we are. They are in an even more real battle against the forces of hell than us!

12:7 Three and a half years; second half of Daniel’s seventieth week. Jewish calendar 30 days in a month, so 1260 days = three and a half years. What is interesting about the question of these angels is that God had already revealed how long it would be in Daniel 7:25. So why do they ask here? Have you ever asked God a question about something you already know the answer to? Just for confirmation, God tells us in several places how long this time of distress will last (Rev.12:14; 13:5, noting vv.9-10).

It will end “When the power of the holy people has been finally broken.” See Zech. 13:7-9. The ultimate purpose in God allowing antichrist to have his reign of terror is to humble Israel to the point where they call out to their God, and He answers by removing the veil that has blinded them to the truth about Jesus, and all Israel is saved in one day! (Rom.11:26) If we stop and think about this, this is one of the reasons why God allows evil to continue in the world presently. God allows hell to humble people so they might finally call out to God that their souls be saved from damnation. Refer to Israel’s history in the Bible, how they turned from the Lord, and as a result he turned them over to the enemy until they cried out to Him in humility, and he comes to their rescue (Judges). Refer to Amos chapter 4; I Cor.5:5; I Tim.1:20).

12:8 Daniel, a man who had interpreted one prophetic dream after another, who God gave “knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning...could understand visions and dreams of all kinds” (Dan.1:17). This Daniel is stumped here. Why?

12:9-10 God will only give complete understanding of these prophetic words to the people living in “the time of the end.” The remnant will be given eyes to see, and ears to hear. What a gracious thing, because that fresh revelation will help them to endure the darkest days the world has ever known.

12:11 This is a mysterious prophecy, and the good news for me is I do not have to know exactly what it means (refer to vv.9-10 above). I will simply say that some believe this additional 30 days is the judgment Jesus talked about in Matthew 25:31-46.

12:12 Another mysterious prophecy, and once again one I do not have to presently know the exact meaning. But some have suggested that these 45 days will involve the setting up of the governmental machinery for Christ to rule the world, as well as the establishment of the borders of Israel to fulfill God’s promise (Gen.15:18).

12:13 Daniel, these things will not be fulfilled in your lifetime (Daniel is approx. 90 years old here). You are going to die, but when the times will have reached their fulfillment, you will rise again!

CONCLUSION

- Something in life you do not understand? Focus on those things that have been clearly revealed (II Cor.4:8-9; I Cor.13:12)
- Distressed because evil seems to have the upper hand in your circumstances? Be patient, persevere, because the faithful ultimately win in the end (I Peter 5:8-11).
- Is God allowing evil in your life in order to refine and purify you? Stop resisting Him, humble yourself, and let Him begin to restore you (Psalm 119:67, 71).