

First Baptist Church Merritt Island
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The Kingdom To End All Kingdoms
Daniel 11:36-45

This morning we are continuing our study of the book of Daniel. And these last three chapters are really one, long, detailed vision. And, from Daniel's perspective, the whole vision was of future events. But we are living 2600 years into Daniel's future. Most of this vision has now been fulfilled and is in the past for us. Last week, we went through the first 35 verses of chapter 11 and saw prophecy after prophecy that has happened just like God said it would. One Bible scholar identified 135 fulfilled prophecies in this chapter.

But, this morning, the focus is going to shift from rulers who have already come and gone from the world's scene to a world leader who has yet to emerge. In the future, another king is coming and that brings us to our text for today from Daniel 11:36-45.

Daniel 11:36-45

36 "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. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. 37 He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price. 40 "At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. 41 He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. 44 But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. 45 And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

Before we examine the details about this king, let me show you how we know this is a future king.

1. This king is not Antiochus Epiphanes.

Last week, we saw that history reveals the king described in verses 21-35 to be Antiochus Epiphanes, ruler of the Seleucid Empire from 175-163 B.C. But the description of the king in this section no longer matches what we know about him. For instance, verse 37 says "*He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers...*". That's not true about Antiochus Epiphanes. History tells us he

demanded people worship the ancient Greek gods. As a matter of fact, when he took over the temple in Jerusalem, he set up a statue of Zeus. So, the context tells us we are reading about a different king.

Think of it this way. Imagine you were reading a letter that was written in the 1700s that contained predictions about the future of the United States of America. And imagine that prophecy said something like this...

The president will declare slaves to be free. The president will establish a system of national parks. The president will resign from office. The president will purchase the moon from China.

Are those statements true? Well, we know all of them except the last one is true. Our president did declare slaves to be free. Who was that? President Lincoln. Our president also established a system of national parks. But was that President Lincoln? No, it was President Theodore Roosevelt. What about the president who resigned from office? President Nixon.

That prophetic letter uses the same title to refer to at least 4 different leaders from our history. The way we know who is being described is by applying the context of the prediction to what we know about history. It might look like it's talking about the same person, but the context of the predictions tells us otherwise.

But, what about the president who bought the moon from China? Well, that hasn't happened yet. But, if we really believed that the letter was legit, we would have every reason to conclude that that part of the prophecy is referring to something that is in the future ahead of us. And that's exactly what this section of Danie's vision is showing us.

That brings me to the second way we know this is a king who hasn't been revealed, yet...

2. This king will rule at the end of the world.

You see this in at least two different places.

- Verse 40 says "**At the time of the end.**" These events take place at the end of this age, right before Jesus comes again.
- Chapter 12:1 says, "*At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.*" This is talking about the time of Great Tribulation that will occur just before Jesus comes again. And it's at that time that this king will rule. So, this section is referring to the final world leader before Jesus comes again.

Who is that ruler? It's a man known as the antichrist. We've already seen him mentioned in the book of Daniel, but this passage provides greater detail about what he will be like.

1. The antichrist will have unchecked earthly authority.

Daniel 11:36 “And the king shall do as he wills.

The antichrist will emerge onto the world's stage and will eventually exercise a kind of authority that the dictators of history could only dream of having. Listen to the way he is described in Revelation 13 describes him.

Revelation 13:2-4

And to it the dragon (Revelation 12: 9 tells us that the dragon is referring to Satan himself) gave his power and his throne and great authority. ³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴ And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

In this passage, the antichrist is referred to as “the beast.” Verses 2 and 4 say Satan will give his authority to him.

So, the antichrist is a man filled with the power of Satan himself. The most powerful angelic beings will not be stronger than the antichrist. He is evil incarnate. That's what makes him the anti-Christ, the opposite of Christ who is God in the flesh...goodness incarnate. So, what you see happening is that the world is on a collision course. The spiritual battle we talked about a couple of weeks ago will merge entirely with the kingdoms of this earth and will culminate in the last battle but, I'm getting ahead of myself.

2. The antichrist will try to take the place of God.

Daniel 11:36

He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods.

When the antichrist assumes authority, he won't be satisfied with political power. He will demand that people abandon worship of the One, True God and give themselves wholly to antichrist and the system he will impose on the earth.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; 9-10

For that day will not come (the day of Christ's return), unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ 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. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

The antichrist will be the man of lawlessness. That means he will abandon the law of God and lead others to do the same. He assume the role of God and will make new rules. He will redefine what is good and evil. He will demand that the people of this world align their lives with his upside-down morality or suffer his wrath. In essence, he will attempt to take the place of God.

And just think about how the stage is already being set for this. We are wholesale abandoning absolute truths God has established from the beginning of time. Marriage, sexuality, biological gender, common human decency...love for our neighbors is a thing of the past because love has been completely redefined. Love now means accepting and affirming that our neighbor is a cat or a dog if that's how they feel that day. The basic laws of biology, not to mention biblical morality, are being rejected in favor of lawlessness, a world that has no absolute authority, where each one does whatever they please. But, we need to know that a world where there is no absolute authority won't bring about a world where everyone becomes free to do whatever they want. It will culminate with a world where everyone is a slave because there will be no law except for the absolute power of whoever is in charge. Who's to say that the world leader is wrong for annihilating those who resist him? There is no right or wrong in a lawless world, there's only the power of those in charge. That's where all of this nonsense is heading. It's not about gender or sexual ideologies. It's about the attempted overthrow of God as God.

And that will set the stage for the antichrist to emerge in power.

3. The antichrist will value power above everything.

Daniel 11:37-38

He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.

When verse 38 says he will honor the god of fortresses, that means he will treat military power and might as though it is divine power. He will put all his treasure into amassing an army that is nothing like this world has ever seen before.

Revelation 19 describes the last battle when the antichrist comes out to fight against Jesus. And what we find there is that he has every soldier on earth at his disposal. And I don't want to go too far down this road, but we have seen in the last few years just how far leaders are able to control the lives of ordinary citizens. Just think about what we have seen in China (1.4 billion people) where people have spent years in mandated lockdowns, having every detail of their lives under surveillance and control of their government. Imagine when this world is run by a single dictator who has the full power of Satan to deceive people to the point where they will willingly worship him as though he is a god. The antichrist will value that kind of power more than anything else and will do whatever it takes to have and keep it.

4. The antichrist will violently oppose Christ and His people.

Daniel 11:37

He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women.

That phrase “the one beloved by women” is an interesting phrase. It could mean that he has no natural desire for women. But remember, this vision is directed to the Jewish people through Daniel. And one of the deepest desires of Jewish women of old was to be chosen as the one to give birth to the Messiah. I think that’s the best interpretation of that phrase. It fits with everything else the Bible tells us about the antichrist. He won’t generically oppose God, he will actively oppose the Son of God, Jesus Christ. And that will include an all-out assault on anyone who follows Jesus.

Listen to the description of him from *Daniel 7:21*

As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came...

Revelation 13:7

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.

Matthew 24:9

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.

Matthew 24:21–22

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

A time of great tribulation will unfold through the power of the antichrist. Christ and His people will be treated like a plague that is to be wiped off the face of the earth. For the sake of time, I won’t linger here, but the reality is that this world is not going to grow more and more receptive to Jesus, it’s going to grow more and more opposed to Jesus until a global holocaust breaks out under the leadership of the antichrist.

5. The antichrist will establish a one-world government.

Daniel 11:42-44

He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. 44 But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction.

This description of the battles the antichrist will fight is detailing just a small glimpse of how he will come to world power. And without going into detail, what we see is that he will overthrow the nations.

Ultimately, Revelation 13:7 says he will have authority over every tribe and people and language and nation. He will establish a global kingdom, an empire that rules every nation. A one-world government that rules the lives of every single person under his authority.

Revelation 13:16–17

Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

The time will come when no one on earth will be able to buy or sell without the permission of the antichrist. I remember as a kid wondering how that could even be possible. But just think how far we have come with technology. I almost never carry cash anymore. I can buy everything I need with a card or even with my phone. We already have the possibility of a government monitoring every transaction and being able to turn them on or off with a press of a button. We already have something like a global economy that holds the framework for global governance.

So, there we have a portrait of the antichrist and the direction our world is heading. And it could be a demoralizing thing for us to see. Our world is plummeting toward godlessness and global government. We are heading toward a future where Satanic power and persecution of Christ-followers will rule the day. And it would be easy to despair, but that's not the point of this passage.

Notice the final phrase of our text...

Daniel 11:45

Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

What's that talking about? It's talking about the return of Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 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.

One day, Jesus is coming again. And when He does, the most powerful ruler in the history of this world will meet his end and there won't be anyone left to help. Every army of every nation will be no help. Satan himself will be no help. The antichrist isn't the final and most powerful king who will come...THE CHRIST is!

How will He kill the antichrist? With the breath of His mouth. Have you ever had an annoying little gnat flying around your face? Man, that can be annoying. Sometimes, I'll be working in the yard and have a tiny little gnat flying around my face. You know how I get rid of a little gnat? I just blow it away.

And that's the picture the Bible gives us of the power of Jesus. One day, the most powerful ruler in the history of the world will rise to power. He will control every nation, every army, every dollar, every person. He will be the embodiment of all the powers of hell itself. But the antichrist will one day meet

THE Christ and it will be even less of a battle than my war with the gnat. Christ will blow him away with a breath!

And that gives our big idea for this morning...

The dreaded antichrist will be no match for THE GLORIOUS CHRIST.

Satan and his army of darkness are no match against the King who is coming. As a matter of fact, Satan has already been dealt a mortal blow. Jesus defeated him at the cross.

Hebrews 2:14

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

At the cross, Jesus did battle with Satan himself. And he did it on our behalf so that we could become children of God. Jesus took our sin at the cross and paid its punishment in full so that we could be forgiven and restored to God. And the only power that Satan has against us is the power to accuse us of sin so that God would have to punish us by sending us to hell with Satan, but Jesus made a way for us to live forever in His victory by paying for our sin at the cross. And it looked for a moment like the enemy had the upper hand. They laid the body of Jesus in a borrowed tomb, and it looked like Satan had won the war. But, up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph o'er His foes. Satan is a defeated foe and every Satanic power has been disarmed already at the cross and the empty tomb. ***And when Christ comes again, He will throw Satan into hell forever and will redeem everyone who has placed their faith and truth in Jesus. Victory is already ours in Jesus. The dreaded antichrist is no match for the glorious, victorious Christ, our Savior, our God, and our King!***

And there are two quick points of application I want to give you before we close.

1. Follow no one, but Christ.

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, 3 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.

The spirit of antichrist is already at work in our world. The spirit that would try and tempt you to live a godless life, to pursue godless pleasure, to value godless power, that spirit is already at work in our world. And our world is following that spirit more and more with every passing day. And there are a thousand temptations you face to give in to the spirit of this age. Every marketing campaign that would make you think you need the latest and greatest stuff of this world to be happy, every song or movie or celebrity that would lead you to believe you need a worldly pleasure to be satisfied, every get-rich-quick scheme, every ideology of sexual revolution, every sport or hobby that demands your every waking moment, every political platform that promises to be the end all be all to your problems, all of it is emanating from the spirit of antichrist to lure you away from following Jesus, only Jesus.

Friend, do not fall for it. Do not bow your knee or give your heart to the godlessness of our age. Our allegiance isn't to slick politicians or sexual revolutions or secular pursuits. Our allegiance is to the One and only Christ. We have no other king but Jesus. So, bow before Jesus as Lord and give your heart to Him and Him alone. And, certainly, Jesus calls us to honor those in authority over us, our parents, our spiritual leaders, our government but, we honor authority as an expression of our devotion to Jesus, not in competition with our devotion to Him. Do not follow anyone but Jesus.

2. Fear nothing in Christ.

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

It's easy to watch the news and see that the stage is being set for the antichrist to assume power. It's easy to look around at the world and see that it is succumbing to the power of hell on earth. It's easy to see that persecution and tribulation are on our horizon. And it's easy to fear the days ahead. Trains are falling off the rails and UFOs seem to be falling from the sky. This world is coming apart at the seams. But, if you are in Christ, you have nothing to fear in life or death. Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

What do you fear today? What in this world would keep you up tonight? What present chaos or future calamity are you most afraid of today? Listen to the word of our God: if you are in Christ, then you have NOTHING to fear. Greater is He who is in you than he who is in this world. Antichrist and Satan will be damned to hell...Jesus is coming again.