**Those Who Sleep in the Dust Shall Awake!**

**Dan 11:36-12:13**

**THE FINAL PHASE: ONE GREATER THAN ANTIOCHUS:**

As we come to verse 36, we lose the great agreement within scholarship we had up to this point. As we read, there does not appear to be a transition to a new character, but many scholars agree there is a transition.

As we progress through this vision towards the conclusion of the prophecy, there is the growing sense on the part of many interpreters that even while the vision addresses the situation under Antiochus, it is not simply about him. **They argue that beginning in verse 36 a new, and more evil man is in view.**

I say all this to say, although we may “think” or “believe” it has transitioned to the antichrist (which I do), it is unwise to be dogmatic, for the Scriptures are not dogmatic. Equally, there are those who do not believe we jumped over the forth kingdom (Rome) but instead this wicked ruler comes out of that time.

***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.”***

**11:36** ***And the king shall do as he wills.*** *We* have seen this throughout Daniel. Kings who did everything and anything they could.

**11:36b** - In the kings we have already seen they all worshipped some false gods, including Antiochus IV. But this one, will exalt himself above every single false god and even the true and living God.

**Vs 37 -** This is one who is interested in no god nor that women show an interest in him. WOW! Rather this one is driven by the insatiable desire that he be worshiped as God.

This one has no interest in even the foundational issues involving God’s creation and sexuality. His interested is completely about himself. **He is the ultimate megalomaniac!**

**Vs 38** - Antiochus IV viewed himself as a god, as his nickname “Epiphanes” made clear. It appears that this person will worship the god of fortresses (i.e., of military power and might) and will spend lavishly (gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts) to support this strength.

Power that only the God of War can provide. It seems that power, might, and control are his deifying features.

**Vs 39 –** It seems this is a larger and more ultimate version of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, one who will truly “do as he wills,” will deal with the strongest fortresses, and will make his followers rulers over many.

The idea here in verse 39 seems to be the idea of rewarding those who follow him by providing them the ability to, in some form, (political or militarily) share in his power.

**Vs 40 -** The language seems to link back to all of chapter 11 and borrows from it the imagery of chapter 11. Unless we believe this future battle will involves horsemen and chariots. A few observations about this ruler:

1. At the time of the end a “king of the South” shall attack him.
2. He will rush upon and apparently crush him.
3. He will overflow into a number of other countries.

**Vs 41-42 -** The geography is the geography of the original audience.

1. He will come into Israel, and many shall fall.
2. Some will be delivered from his hand.
3. He attacks the lands of Egypt.

**Vs 43** - This wicked person possesses great power and is able to destroy many and even annihilate armies.

1. He takes down almost everybody.
2. But news from the east and north alarms him, and he goes out to destroy!

**Vs 45** - One striking difference between Antiochus IV Epiphanes and the Antichrist lies in the events surrounding the king’s death, which do not fit what is known of the death of Antiochus IV. He met his end during a relatively minor campaign against Persia in 164 B.C. This King will set up his camp in Israel and he will be destroyed, with none to help him.

Here is the point… This man of sin, whoever he is, for all his authority, for all his supposed power, **this evil world power goes out, not with a bang, but with a whimper. *He shall come to his end!***

This is just like **Antiochus IV**, just like **Hitler**, just like **Mussolini,** just like **many antichrists** before him.

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***1 "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. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.***

**Vs 1 –** **“At that time”** there will be a **“time of trouble.”** Such as never was since there was a nation, till that time.

Jesus called this **“great tribulation”** in Mat 24:15-31; Mark 13:14-26; and Luk 21:20-28.

But it is not just Jesus:

*“****1*** *¶ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.* ***2*** *For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,* ***3*** *heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,* ***4*** *treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,” (2Ti 3:1-4 ESV)*

*“****1*** *¶ Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,* ***2*** *not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.* ***3*** *¶ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,* ***4*** *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2Th 2:1-4 NKJV)*

John Lennox: *“It is hard to get one’s mind around this grim statement. The time of Antiochus was horrendous, as was the period around the later fall of Jerusalem. The Holocaust beggars description. But Daniel indicates that there is even a worse time to come at the time of the end.”*

**Vs 1 -** Now notice for a moment, **Michael.** His name means: **“Who is like God”**

He is described as the **“great prince”** (the Hebrew word means, important, magnificent, powerful, large, or great). Notice that he is said to **“stand up for God’s people”**

**Vs 1 –** please notice the repetition **“at this time”** Michael will be instrumental in the deliverance of God’s people… ***But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.***

**So here, in these hard and difficult times, and all that could be and mean, God will deliver His people! We could stop right here, that is the message to never forget:**

*“28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one."” (Joh 10:28-30 ESV)*

You and I, regardless of the difficulty in view or at hand are kept by the power of God.

**Vs 1 –** Notice the people who will be delivered are described as those **“who are found written in the book.”** The book in view is described a number of different ways in the Bible including: **“my book**”, **“written in heaven”,** **“book of life”,** **“God’s book”** or the **“Book of Life of the Lamb.”**

This is the language, for those who are catalogued in heaven. Those who have trusted God and placed faith in Jesus Christ. They are ***“written in the book.”***

*“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."” (Lu 10:20 ESV)*

*“Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.” (Php 4:3 ESV)*

*“and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.” (Re 13:8 ESV)*

So at that time, this time of this man of sin, this time of GREAT trouble, Michael will be instrumental in the deliverance of **God’s people**. That is a good word for you and I. God will send his angels to have charge over us, even in times of the greatest trouble and the greatest testing.

What a beautiful promise, buried in this amazing prophecy. God will send his chief angel, his arch-angle to ensure that no spiritual harm befalls you or I!

**Vs 2 –** Notice, some are getting up to ***everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.***

**Vs 2 –** To be called asleep, when you are dead, is a **biblical euphemism**. It reminds believers that although the body is in the grave, the person is very much alive.

*“For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.” (1Th 4:14 ESV)*

The day is coming when many who sleep in the dust shall awake!

**Vs 2 –** Notice many ***“shall awake.”*** This is another **Biblical euphemism** that indicates the reconnecting of a body and the spirit. This is the resurrection!

\*\* Notice some being called from the dust to **“everlasting life.”**

\*\* Some being called from the dust to **“everlasting contempt”**

The Bible is clear. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord! (II Cor 5:8)

**When we die, our body is placed in the ground, out spirit (our real personality) is ushered into the presence of the Lord.** Spiritually, we are awake and alert and with God!

We are then at that point, waiting for the final day, when our spirit is united with our new glorified body. The body that we will spend eternity in.

What the angel just told Daniel is EXACTLLY what Jesus said:

“25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.” (Joh 5:25-29 ESV)

**The angel visit that started with a discussion about Cyrus and kings that would follow, led to a brief discussion about the anti-Christ, which the led to a discussion about the trouble under the anti-Christ, which has led to a discussion about Michael who will protect God’s people all the way up and until the resurrection and reception of their new glorified bodies.**

**One final point, even this time of trouble cannot destroy the certainty of the resurrection of the dead, the certainty of you and I (God’s children) will be raised from the dead.**

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***3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."***

**Vs 3 -** Here it seems the angel wants to provide a fuller, deeper, and more meaningful description of those who are ***“written in the book”***

Those who are ***“wise”*** and shall shine like the brightness of the firmament.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction (Pro 1:7; ESV).*

They are also described as ***“those who turn many to righteousness”***and they shine like the stars forever and ever.

**Vs 4 -** In view of all that we have just talked about, Daniel is given clear directions:

1. **Shut up the words:** The idea is not to hide the words but to set a seal on them, to protect them, to keep them safe, and to secure these words.
2. **Seal up the book:** The Hebrew word for seal is סתם *saw-tham’).* The idea is to preserve, to shut up like a well, to hide away.

During Daniel’s day, (this scroll) in particular these latter prophecies in Daniel were authenticated, preserved, and hidden away.

1. **Until the time of the end.**

Now the immediate question is, when will they be opened? The answer is clear, at the time of the end.

*“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” (Heb 1:1-2 ESV)*

*“This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 ¶ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."” (2Pe 3:1-4 ESV)*

Not only is this stated clearly, but we see this reality play out in the book of the Revelation. Notice what the angel tells John at the close of the Revelation:

*“I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." 12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.” (Re 22:8-12 ESV)*

Daniel wrote and was told this is not yet the time of the end, seal these things up. John writes (around 95 AD) and is told do not seal these things up for the time is at hand

1. **Many will run to and Fro: T**he idea is running back and forth in search of something.
2. **Knowledge will increase:** Scholarship is divided on the type of knowledge under discussion. Is this knowledge in general or is this specific, religious knowledge? Knowledge about these things.

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***5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?"***

**Vs 5 -** Daniel now sees two other angelic beings one on each side of the Tigris.

**Vs 6 -** Then one speaks to the **“man”** who is **“clothed in linen”** and who was **“above the waters.”**

More than likely this one clothed in linen is the one who we were introduced to in the start of this vision (Chapter 10), following Daniel’s three weeks of fasting:

*“2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.” (Da 10:2-6 ESV)*

The question asked, is one that Daniel would be interested in knowing, to be honest, it is one that you and I would be interested in know. **“How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders *be*?”**

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***7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.***

**Vs 7 -** Daniel hears and obviously sees the **“man clothed in linen”** who **“was above the waters of the stream.”** **He lifts both hands** to heaven and swears by the eternal God.

In the Bible and oath is normally executed with one hand raised. Here, this being, raises both hands, in the presence of two witnesses and swears!

**First how long…** His answer – It shall be for time, times, and half a time. We cannot be sure but the answer appears to be (2+1+1/2) = 3 1/2 and all the evidence points to years.

If you remember Nero’s reign of terror, his Nero’s persecution of Christians is well documented and began in November 64AD and ended on June 9th, 68AD. It lasted 3 ½ years. He was a type of antichrist (Dan 7). Also, if you remember the time of Antiochus IV’s reign of evil over the nation of Israel was nearly 3 ½ years, with the daily sacrifice being taken away 1150 days (Dan 8).

This timeframe of 3 ½ is repeated in different ways in the Revelation:

Time and times and half a time - Rev 12:14 (woman is nourished in the wilderness)

42 Months - Rev 11:2 (the holy city trampled)

- Rev 13:5 (time the beast is given to exercise authority)

1260 days - Rev 11:3 (the two witnesses prophesy)

- Rev 12:6 (the time the woman was fed in the wilderness)

But now to the shocking part! The when.

When the power of the **“holy people”** has been **“completely shattered.”** These words combined **“holy people”** and **“completely shattered”** are shocking!

Sinclair Ferguson: *“When the powers of darkness have done their worst against the kingdom of God, and the truth of God has been set at a final devaluation, God will act!”*

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***8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.***

**Vs 8 –** So Daniel heard and he did not understand.

**Point of application.** Being a man of faith, does not mean we understand everything. It turns out (according to Daniel) that a life of faith is lived out with unanswered questions.

**Vs 9 -** Did you hear what the angelic being said to Daniel. Go your way, the words are shut up until the end. Go live by faith, God will unfold these issues at His appointed time!

History is His story and the sovereign of the universe has brought us, you and I, to this point in His Story, for such as time as we find ourselves in.

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***10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.***

**Vs 10 –** speaks of the time of trouble and how God will use it to purify His people.

The wicked shall not only continue, but increase in wickedness, and none shall understand what is going on, to be honest they will not even be interested!

**Vs 11 –** Meets with various interpretations:

Here we add 30 days to 1260 and then we add 45 days to 1290.

At this point in my journey, I have not found a satisfactory answer to the additional 30 days or the additional 45 days. Most scholars willingly admit we have no idea what these extra days mean. If you find a scholar declaring they know with certainty, I will tell you they are simply speculating.

Now, I do not believe these dates were given so you could mark your calendar on the day of the Lord’s return, for no man knows the day or the hour. But rather you would know that the day is marked out. This should cause you and I to live every day in light of that great truth.

Great disagreement on this abomination of desolation:

1. This is the abomination of desolation that was executed by Antiochus Epiphanes, and as the vision closes, the angelic being is reminding Daniel of this horrible time and providing additional time elements.
2. This is the future abomination of desolation of which Jesus spoke about (Mat 24:15-17) and will be fulfilled at the end of time. Problem, this time are not mentioned in the New Testament.
3. This involves events when Jerusalem was compassed about by armies in 70AD (Luk 21:20-22).

Whether alive when it happens, or asleep in Jesus. **We shall arise to our inheritance at the end of the days.**

Yes, there will be a time of trouble. But that trouble has a set length (of which God controls) and it will end. Like the Babylonian empire, like the mighty Grecian empire, like the mighty Roman empire. The wicked arrogant self-absorbed king will be put down. The lesson for you and I is in spite of what he does, we can lead a victorious life for Christ until He returns!

**Where is Jesus in Daniel 12?**

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**Faith lessons from Daniel 12.**

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