

“Wars and Rumors of Wars – Part 2”
Daniel 11
(Preached at Trinity, October 12, 2014)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last time we began **Chapter 11** which forms the core of the final section of the Book of Daniel. **Chapter 10** serves as the preface and **Chapter 12** records the conclusion.
2. The subject matter of this section is a continuation of the material of **Chapter 8**—a terrible leader would rise up from the divided Greek Empire. Of course this was fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes, but he was also a prototype of the conflict that plagues God’s people until the end of time.
3. In many ways the material in this passage is crystal clear. We can see the unfolding as we study the events of history. Yet, there is still an element of mystery as we consider the conflict as ongoing.
In the Olivet Discourse Jesus stated:
Matthew 24:6-8 NAU - "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. ⁷ "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸ "But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs."
 - A. As we see from Daniel’s prophecy these conflicts have been going on a long time.
 - B. But from the words of our Lord, they will continue until the end of time although they will increase in intensity.
"But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs."
4. Last time our focus was upon the cruel leader, Antiochus Epiphanes. He brought terrible suffering to the nation of Israel in his brief reign. His assault upon the temple of God is referred to in **Verse 41** as the “Abomination of Desolation.” As I pointed out last time, his treachery was only a foreshadow of what was to come.
In this way Jesus referred to Antiochus as He prophesied the coming destruction of Jerusalem under the Roman general, Titus:
Matthew 24:15-16 NAU - "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains."
5. Tonight I want us to continue in this passage that so clearly describes the ongoing conflict upon the earth – the wars and rumors of wars.

- I. The wars and rumors of wars will only intensify
- A. As we've seen, Antiochus is but a prototype of the evil lifted upon God's people
1. Titus in his invasion of Jerusalem in 70 AD was but a further manifestation
 2. At the end of **Verse 35** we read that God's purpose in the terrible assault upon His people was that they be purified.
Daniel 11:35 NAU - "in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because *it is still to come* at the appointed time."
 - a. What does Daniel mean by the phrase, "the end time?"
 - b. We should understand it to mean the end of the persecution of Antiochus. We saw this in **Chapter 8**
Daniel 8:17 NAU - "So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end."
 - c. This would be our conclusion here if this ended the chapter. But the chapter continues. Daniel adds in **Verse 35** –
"it is still to come at the appointed time."
The word refers to a continuance.
 3. Could it be that here Daniel is prophesying about the ultimate end—the end of the age when the church will again be undergoing purification. Daniel has been prophesying about Antiochus with amazing detail that we can see carried out in history.
- B. With **Verse 36** the prophecy takes a turn, perhaps looking beyond the life of Antiochus.
1. There is no change in language but the account in these verses do not match up as closely with the historical record of Antiochus.
 - a. We read in **Verse 36** - "Then the king will do as he pleases" Antiochus was powerful but only to a point. The Romans were always far more powerful than Antiochus as we saw when Gaius drew the line in the sand and humiliated Antiochus – **Verse 30** - "For ships of Kittim (Cyprus) will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened"
 - b. Antiochus surely exalted himself to the status of a god. His nickname "Epiphanes" means "illustrious god"
Daniel 11:37 NAU - "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers"
But this was true of many of the ancient rulers.
Here it seems to describe a much greater manifestation of this blasphemy.
 - c. The account of this ruler's death in **Verses 40-45** are entirely different from what we know about Antiochus. We have to see it as pointing to a different fulfillment.
 2. As I pointed out in **Chapter 8** I believe it points to the future Antichrist spoken of by Paul in **2 Thes 2**

- C. Daniel's prophecy gives us several characteristics of this Antichrist
1. The quest for autonomy – lawlessness
Daniel 11:36 NAU - "Then the king will do as he pleases"
 - a. This has been the desire of men since the fall. All want autonomy, self-determination.
 - b. At the end of the Book of Judges we read of this spirit of rebellion
Judges 21:25 NAU - " In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - c. The remnant of this is in the heart of all of us and it must be mortified.
 - d. This final terrible representation of this evil is described by Paul as a "man of lawlessness."
2 Thessalonians 2:3 NAU - "Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed"
 - e. The KJV follows the textual variance of the TR and uses the Greek word for "sin" and calls him the "man of sin." Our Confession follows this. ἁμαρτίας vs. ἀνομίας
 2. Self-exaltation
Daniel 11:36 NAU - "and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god"
Daniel 11:37 NAU - "nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all."
2 Thessalonians 2:4 NAU - "who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship"
 - a. The Antichrist will be driven by the motivation of self. Remember, he will be driven by the archetype of pride, Satan.
 - b. Again, we find this state of pride within our own hearts. And again it must be mortified.
 3. Blasphemy – total assault upon God
Daniel 11:36 NAU - "and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods"
2 Thessalonians 2:4 NAU - "that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."
 - a. This is also in the heart of all of lost humanity
Romans 1:28-30 NAU - "And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God"
 - b. The Antichrist will demonstrate an insatiable hatred of God.
 4. He worships power and will spare no expense to acquire it
Daniel 11:38 NAU - "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."

- D. **Verses 39-45** speak of his demise – The prophecy uses the now familiar designations of North and South, but distinct from the earlier meanings. He also brings the addition of East.
1. There are many interpretations here. They hype-literalists try to pinpoint specific nations today as the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy. The East becomes China and the North becomes Russia or some other of today's superpowers. The "chariots with horsemen" become tanks. In doing so, however, they are admitting that the language has to be interpreted symbolically rather than literally.
 2. The truth is the ultimate fulfillment of these verses will not be fully understood until they are fulfilled.
This doesn't satisfy the curiosity of those seeking sensational scenarios but Daniel's vision is designed to describe God's overwhelming power.
 3. The god of the Antichrist is power and self-exaltation. His power will probably involve not only military but social, intellectual, and economic power. Christians will suffer not only physically but emotionally and financially.
Multitudes will fall away during this unprecedented time of apostasy.
 4. This world rewards those that follow its patterns and curses those who do not.
Daniel 11:39 NAU - "he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him* and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price."
 5. As the final Antichrist rises Christians will be considered undesirable outcasts. Multitudes will fall away under such pressure.
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NAU - "Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction"
 6. Remember, **Chapter 10** reminds us that this is ultimately a spiritual war. Paul tells us that the weapons of our warfare are not ultimately of this world. Our greatest weapon is prayer. This is the lesson we find in **Chapter 10**.
 7. The ultimate end is simple to describe: God wins!
The Kingdom of our Lord is an everlasting Kingdom. It is also an infinitely powerful Kingdom. His enemies will be crushed.

Conclusion:

Daniel 11 teaches us several truths for the Christian life

1. We can expect tribulation in this world which will only grow worse before our Lord returns.
Daniel 12:1 NAU - "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 such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."
 Persecution only serves to purify and refine God's people.
Daniel 11:35 NAU - "Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because *it is still to come* at the appointed time."
2. Our duty must always be to display strength in Christ and resist evil.
Daniel 11:32 NAU - "By smooth *words* he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action."
3. As God's people we must not be easily swayed by "smooth words." This is why it is important for the church to be built upon sound doctrine.
 "By smooth *words* he will turn to godlessness"
Ephesians 4:14-15 NAU - "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,"
4. God has called us to be light in this world of darkness. We must always be ready to speak the truth in love. We have been entrusted with the words of life.
Daniel 11:33 NAU - "Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many"
5. Above all men, we have the hope of glory that should shape how we live.
Daniel 12:2-3 NAU - "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt. ³ "Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."