

# DANIEL

Lesson 21: Daniel 11:36-45  
Spot the Difference

- This morning we will be looking at a passage that feels like a game of “spot the difference.”
- Here are two pictures, there are seven clear differences between them.



- Previously, we have taken a close look at a Seleucid king who preferred to be known by the title, “Antiochus Epiphanes.”
- We read Daniel’s prophecy (vss. 21-35) and were able to make a clear connection between what Daniel saw in 536 BC and what actually happened almost 400 years later.

### VSS. 21-35 – HISTORY OF ANTIOCHUS IV

- The Rise of Antiochus Epiphanes (21-24) – a despicable schemer from the start.
- Antiochus’s First Campaign (25-28) – against Egypt, secures Palestine. (Land of Israel)
- Antiochus’s Second Campaign (29-30) – no joy
- Antiochus’s Rage Against Israel (31-35) – introducing a new religion / death to the old

### VSS. 21-35 – HEART OF ANTIOCHUS IV

- He is a despicable manipulator working a cunning plan for personal advancement.
- He uses affirmation and rewards to dissuade others from living in a way that pleases God.
- He replaced worship of God with worship of himself using an idol as his centerpiece.

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

- So when we read Daniel 11:36-45, at first glance it seems to present a portrait that echoes what we already know about Mr. Despicable, Antiochus Epiphanes.
- But they are some subtle but irrefutable differences which suggest we are not looking at the same person.

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

- Antiochus was a Seleucid heir representing “the North.”
- But the king in Daniel 11:36-45 is opposed by the king of the North (as well as the King of the South).
- **They cannot be the same person.**

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

2 • Daniel 12:1 – “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.”

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

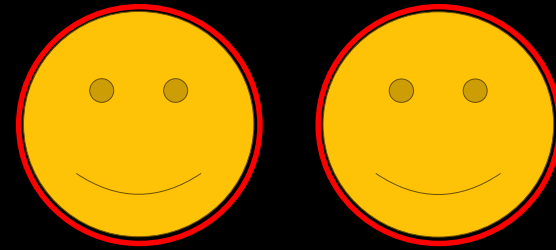
- This king is associated with a time of unprecedented difficulty prior to the final deliverance and resurrection of Daniel’s people (12:1).
- We are not able to make any definitive connections between language in these verses and historical events during Antiochus reign.

- Because of the level of precision in previous verses (that make clear connections between what actually happened in history), we are left to conclude that Daniel 11:36-45 is describing events that haven’t happened yet.
- These are descriptions that await future fulfillment that will **answer perfectly** to the specifics in the text.

- This corroborates Jesus’ prediction that something Antiochus did will be repeated in a day yet future.
- Much of what is predicted here is predicted elsewhere in the Bible, notably in the Book of Revelation.
- There we are introduced to a prominent king (also called the beast) who is the most obvious fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy.

- Even Jerome (a well-known biblical scholar from the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD), saw Daniel 11 as a prophecy concerning the antichrist, the ego-driven king who will take on Jesus, and lose!
- He has not yet made his appearance on the stage of human history. But He will. And from what we learn in Daniel 11:36-45, he will be a profound and real threat to God's people.

## HOW PROPHECY WORKS



3

## MODUS OPERANDI

Daniel 11:36-39

4 36 – *“Then the king will 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.”*

- “Do as he pleases” = like Alexander the Great.
- AE on steroids; The Eden playbook – become like God
- God **will decide** when his time is up.

5 37 – *“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.”*

- AE supported the Greek pantheon; **This king** has no place for **any** god.
- “Desire for women” may mean women-favored-gods or he is uninterested in women.

5 37 – *“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.”*

- He genuinely believes that he is superior to every other so-called god, including the One True God!

6 38 – *“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 god will be someone, something new.
- “Fortresses” is simply “strength” and suggests his “god” is his capacity to control others.
- He supports this control mechanism no matter what the cost.

7 39 – *“He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god;”*

- The “foreign god” (of verse 39) is his newly invented god of strength (from verse 38).
- His new god will effectively overcome any level of resistance. Nothing blocks it.

8 s 39b – *“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.”*

- He will take a page from Antiochus’s playbook and handsomely reward his sycophants with honor, position, and land.
- He has both carrot and stick: He cannot be beaten but blesses his adoring followers.

### IMAGINE LIVING IN A WORLD...

- Where the king requires all men to worship him as their god.
- Who declares worship of the one true God as a capital offense.
- Who has the means at his disposal to identify, isolate, and confront those who refuse to recant their belief and trust in God.

### 9 ACTIVITY & CAMPAIGNS

Daniel 11:40-45

10 s 40 – *“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.”*

- “End time”
- Caught between a northern (better equipped) and southern power.
- Overwhelmingly victorious

11's 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.”*

- Numerous countries are defeated.
- Occupies Israel.
- Some neighbor countries (E. of Jordan) will be spared.

12's 42 – *“Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.”*

- He will advance to the SW.
- Egypt will not successfully oppose him.

13's 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.”*

- He will gain access and exercise control over hard assets and high value items in Egypt despite high security stealth storage.
- Libya and Ethiopia will meet the same fate.

14's 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.”*

- Intelligence reports will suggest rising resistance from the north and east.
- His ire aroused, he will mobilize a highly motivated force poised to overwhelm the opposition.

15's 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.”*

- He will establish a suitable basecamp between the Mediterranean Sea and Jerusalem.
- But his clock will run out; he will be abandoned and meet his end.

### IMAGINE LIVING IN A WORLD...

- Where a king who deems himself worthy to take god's place is in power.
- Where in every battle he is the victor.
- Where people who worship God or serve Jesus have no place.
- **This is the world that is coming.**

### IMAGINE LIVING IN A WORLD...

16 Revelation 13:3–9 – *And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”*

### IMAGINE LIVING IN A WORLD...

16 *There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.*



### IMAGINE LIVING IN A WORLD...

16 *It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. **If anyone has an ear, let him hear.**"*

### IMAGINE LIVING IN A WORLD...

- If your name **is not** written in the Lamb's book of life, you will drink the Kool Aid!
- **You will find living in this world perfectly normal.**
- If your name **has been** written in the Lamb's book of life, you can hear the warning claxon.
- **You can prepare to stay true / stand strong!**

### 17 HOW TO GET READY

### WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

18 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 – *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.*

### WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

18 *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

### WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

18 *Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

1. Paul is describing a facet of “the coming of the Lord.”

### WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

2. Paul is addressing a concern: Will those who have died in Christ miss out? No – Jesus will bring them with Him when he returns!
3. “Meet the Lord in the air” is *ἀπάντησις* which denotes an ancient civic custom – welcome delegation.

### WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

- But nowhere in this passage, in the rest of Paul’s writings, or in the whole NT is there a reference to this event as a basis to ignore the numerous readiness warnings in the Bible.
- See Him coming! Know you will be there! Prepare to stay true until that moment! How?

## BE READY!

## 19 • Be a watchman!

- Acts 20:26–27 – *“Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.”*
- Don’t neglect to say what God says on a matter for fear of reprisal!

## BE READY!

## 20 • Celebrate Name Shame!

- Acts 5:40–41 – *And after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.*

## BE READY!

## 21 • See Him Coming!

- Revelation 1:7 – *Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*
- Visualize the moment when it will be obvious to all that following Jesus was the right path.