

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

***Theme: God is Sovereign over History***

***Outline:***

- A. The personal history of the prophet Daniel – Chapter 1
- B. The prophetic history of the Gentiles – Chapters 2-7
- C. *The prophetic history of Israel – Chapters 8-12***

Daniel is a book about prophecy involving prophetic dreams and visions of which Daniel was uniquely allowed to understand and reveal (cf. Dan. 1:17). In Daniel there are two great prophetic emphases. 1) God gives an overview of Gentile world history – especially as it relates to Israel as seen in chapters 2-7; 2) God gives an overview of His special disciplinary dealings with His people Israel as seen in Daniel 8-12.

The great emphasis in Daniel is THE END! The BIG picture of history is seen in relation to THE END. The whole of history is shown to be building toward a climactic conclusion under Antichrist which then gives way to the kingdom of our Lord.

In Daniel 7, as Daniel is given an overview of Gentile world history, his attention was drawn in particular to a “**little horn**” in relation to the final Gentile world power, which will be a revived form of the Roman Empire. This little horn comes out of this revived Roman Empire.

**Slide # 2**

**Daniel 7:8 (NKJV)**

**8** I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, **a little one**, [Antichrist] coming up among them....

**Daniel 7:19 (NKJV)**

**19** “Then **I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast**, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful...

This corresponds in type to another “**little horn**” that would come on the scene earlier in history, who would **prefigure** this latter days “little horn” who is the Antichrist (cf. Dan. 8:9-12, 23-25). This prefigure in history is known as Antiochus Epiphanes ( who ruled over Syria from 175-164 BC).

### **Slide # 3**

#### **Daniel 8:9 (NKJV)**

**9** And out of one of them came **a little horn** [Antiochus Epiphanes] which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.

The type of Antichrist is seen in the little horn of Antiochus Epiphanes. BOTH start from a position of littleness and then grow rapidly into a major political/military power.

Daniel throughout alludes to the idea that, in view all along, is that which will have a complete and total fulfillment at the time of the end.

### **Slide # 4**

#### **Daniel 8:17 (NKJV)**

**17** ....“Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to **the time of the end.**”

#### **Daniel 8:19 (NKJV)**

**19** And he said, “Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time **the end shall be.**”

#### **Daniel 10:14 (NKJV)**

**14** Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people **in the latter days**, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”

Daniel 10-12 is a unit, all related to the final vision given to Daniel, but this builds on the previous vision given in chapter 8, and the point is that there are echoes throughout related to the end times. The “***end***” is not merely talking in reference to Antiochus Epiphanes, but more completely to that which he typifies, which ultimately will be fulfilled in the end times Antichrist.

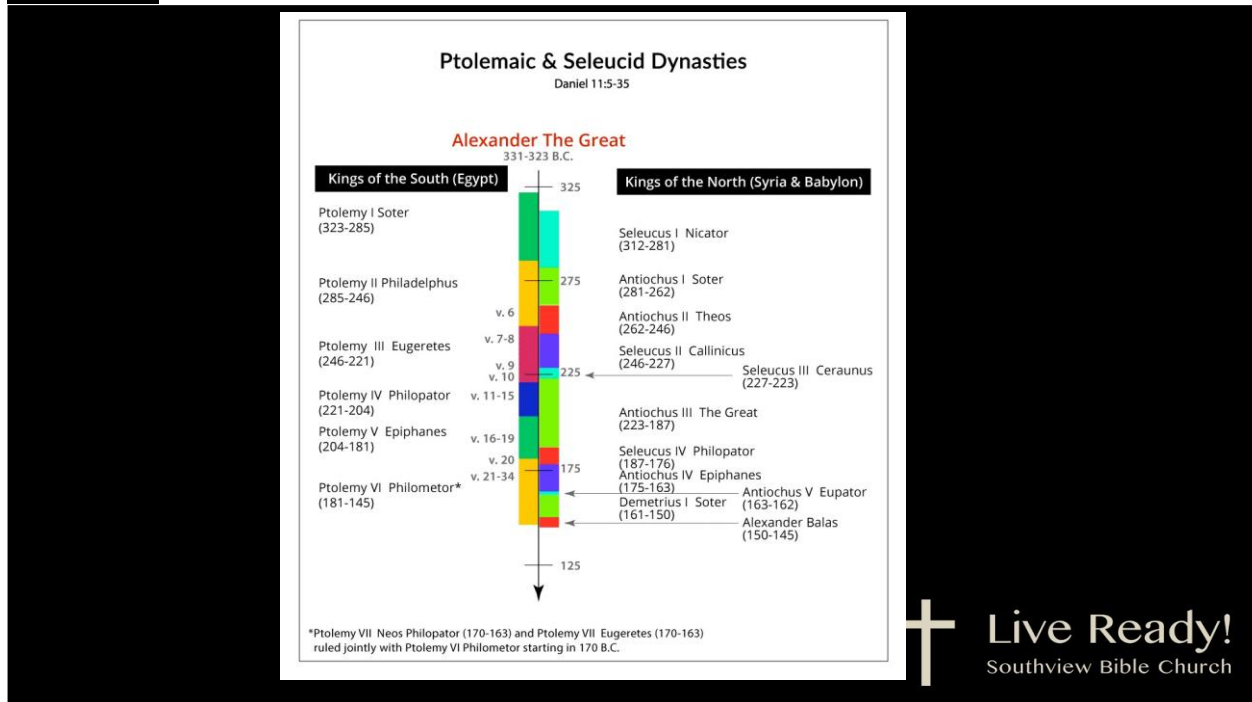
### **Slide # 5**

“The time of the end” is actually a technical expression that refers to the events that will accompany the second coming of Christ to the kingdoms of this world and to establish His own everlasting kingdom... –**John Whitcomb**

The first part of Daniel 11 builds to the climax of Antiochus Epiphanes (a type of Antichrist, and then builds on this to deal with the Antichrist. The point is, this is all illustrating and pointing to the “latter days” and what awaits Israel in the end.

In Daniel 11 we are given many prophetic details (c. 135) that have now literally been fulfilled in history. The Grecian Empire (founded by Alexander the Great) would eventually be broken up into four parts. Daniel 11 zeros in on TWO of these parts – the one from the north (Syria) called the Seleucid Dynasty, and the one in the south (Egypt) called the Ptolemaic Dynasty.

### **Slide # 6**



All the way through we see an ongoing struggle between the Ptolemy dynasty and the Seleucus dynasty – and in the MIDDLE is Israel being trampled down in the ongoing conflict as they are caught right in the middle.

### **Slide # 7**



All of this gives background and builds to the prominent person in our study today – namely Antiochus Epiphanes, who came out of the northern or Syrian division.

Daniel 11:2-20 deals with the time from Persia in the time of Daniel to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, involving a period of about 350 years, including the ongoing 150-year battle between the Ptolemy and Seleucus Dynasties. As I say, that then brings us to Antiochus Epiphanes who came out of the Seleucus dynasty from the north – that is out of Syria.

### **Slide # 8**

“The importance of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.) in prophetic Scripture is very great. Though he was a relatively unimportant monarch in the ancient Near East, he gained eternal notoriety through his devastating attack upon the people of God and their religion. **Thus he prefigured the final Antichrist.**”

**- John Whitcomb**

Note that the importance of this person (Antiochus Epiphanes) is that he is similar to Antichrist – he shows us what Antichrist will be like – thus he is a type of the final Antichrist yet to come.

From verses 21-35, an extended portrait is painted of that dread and treacherous king who has often been called “the Antichrist of the Old Testament.” – **Charles Feinberg**

It is for this reason that he is given so much attention in Daniel, first in Daniel 8 and now again in chapter 11. He is a type or picture of the coming Antichrist in terms of his character and how he abused God’s’ people – the Jews.

From Daniel 11:6-20 we have a seesaw struggle between the Selucids in the north and the Ptolemy's in the south and eventually out of the north came Antiochus Epiphanes who is now the focus in verses 21-35. He is given prominent treatment here in the Scriptures as the forerunner to Antichrist.

**Daniel 11:21–35 (NKJV)**

**21 And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.**

After the death of Antiochus the Great his son Seleucus took the throne of Syria, who was then murdered as noted in verse 20. His young son named Demetrius was the rightful heir to the throne. However, his uncle called Antiochus Epiphanes moved in and, through flattery, seized the kingdom by intrigue.

**“Dear Jane, words** cannot express how much I regret having broken off our engagement. Will you please come back to me? Your absence leaves a space no one can fill. Please forgive me and let us start all over again. I need you so much. Yours forever, Bob.  
P.S. By the way, congratulations on winning the sweepstakes.”

That's not to subtle or slick – but Satan and his agents are....

Be advised, Satan's thing is deception! The antichrist will be a master deceiver! It's not like people will say *“Oh, yeah, I can see that he is evil... no it will be just the opposite”*.

When Antichrist comes in Revelation 6, he comes on a white horse symbolizing peace! That is initially how he comes on the scene. That was true of Antiochus Epiphanes, and it will be true of Antichrist.

Antiochus Epiphanes basically stole the kingdom from his young nephew through flattery and intrigue. He ruled from 175-164 BC. It was not really his right to have as the text says, **“to whom they will not give the honor of royalty.”** But through intrigue, he seized it anyway.

Antiochus took the title ***Epiphanes*** which means **“illustrious one”** or **“magnificent one”**. And he added to it the word **“Theos”** – “Theos Epiphanes” meaning **“God manifest”**. That fits being a type of Antichrist for sure, as the Antichrist will indeed declare himself to be God over all (cf. Dan. 9:26-27; Matt. 24:15-21; 2 Thess. 2:4-5).

However, his enemies called him “**Antiochus Epimanes**” meaning “the madman”.

Indeed, as the text says, he was a vile person, that is a despicable person.

**22 With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.**

Antiochus Epiphanes was then attacked by his nephew Ptolemy VI (c. 181-145 BC) from Egypt, but Antiochus in 170 BC had a decisive victory over him and took him hostage. Thus, he swept him away and broke him.

At the same time, he had the Jewish high priest named Onias (the prince of the covenant) deposed because he was a supporter of Ptolemy. He was then promptly murdered.

Onias was called “the prince of the covenant” because it was the high priest’s responsibility to see that Israel kept its covenant with God.

– **Renald Showers**

In the place of Onias, his brother Jason, who was much more liberal in wanting the Greek culture established in Israel, was installed as high priest in Jerusalem (cf. 2 Macc. 4:7-15).

**23 And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people.**

Antiochus was notorious for breaking deals. He signed deals with power players in the area to help him to the throne and to keep Rome at bay.

But once in position, he had no compunction about breaking the agreement to form a deal with Rome. At the same time, as soon as he had the power to do so, he intended to throw off his connection to Rome.

He was a player – a deceitful player. You couldn’t believe anything he said. Compare Antichrist, who will sign a very binding 7-year agreement with the Jews, but then halfway through will break it (cf. Dan. 9:27).

He was very deceitful. Rome had reduced the Syrian territory to a very small region, but in short order, it began to rise in power with “**a small number of people.**” Again, he started as a “**little horn**”, but then rapidly became very strong. Antichrist, too, will rise from an initial position of relative inferiority.

**24 He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.**

Note the combination of peaceable and deceitful. He comes as a person of integrity and honesty wanting nothing but peace, but in truth he had a whole other agenda!

The strategy of Antiochus was to deceptively come peaceably to wealthy areas, but then plunder and loot them. Then he would disperse the spoils to his supporters.

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He did not squander this wealth upon himself, as his ancestors had done. Instead, he very generously distributed it among his poorer subjects in order to gain their support (1 Macc. 3:30).

– ***Renald Showers***

The secret plans of Antiochus called for overcoming rich strongholds, and for a time it had success, but note “***only for a time.***” Inserted here is a reminder that God is sovereign!

Tyrants are only allowed by God to go so far! God sets the boundary lines! He remains ever sovereign!

They can’t really do whatever they want. They can only do what God allows!

**25 “He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him.**

This evidently refers back to Antiochus Epiphanes' first battle with Ptolemy VI in Egypt (cf. v. 22) and gives more detail as to why Ptolemy was defeated.

Ptolemy was brought down because some people from his own court plotted from the inside against him, thus undermining him from the inside.

**26 Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.**

Ptolemy VI's own trusted advisers who ate at his table brought him down. Evidently, they encouraged him to go to war with his uncle Antiochus Epiphanes, resulting in Ptolemy being soundly defeated, as previously mentioned in verse 22.

The plot thickens!

When Antiochus defeated Ptolemy VI and took him hostage, then the brother of Ptolemy VI named Ptolemy VII assumed the throne in Egypt. But then Antiochus and Ptolemy VI entered into a commitment – each hoping to take advantage of the situation for himself.

Ptolemy VI hoped Antiochus would help him to regain the throne back from his brother who had usurped it while he was held hostage in Syria. Antiochus hoped Ptolemy VI could help him apply pressure against his brother Ptolemy VII and thus gain control of the whole of Egypt. This is explained in verse 27.

**27 Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time.**

Antiochus Epiphanes was pretending to help reestablish power for Ptolemy VI in Egypt, whereas Ptolemy was pretending to be a willing and faithful ally. But both were liars intent on self-serving purposes.

One good liar deserves another! In a sense, what we have here is an ***“all the family”*** situation with these people all being extended relatives.

But at the same time, they were all cut-throat connivers, all seeking power for themselves, no matter WHO they destroyed in the process.

Both were trying to out deceive the other, with both having the goal of ultimately controlling Egypt. However, neither one was able to fully capitalize on the situation.

Antiochus did make some advancements in Egypt but had to return home without taking all of Egypt. Ptolemy VI did again become a king in Egypt but this time he had to share in a joint rule with his brother Ptolemy VII. Thus, the plans of both failed. Their lying schemes did not really pan out like they had hoped.



And then another statement on sovereignty at the end of verse 27 which says, ***“for the end will still be at the appointed time.”***

This emphasizes once again the sovereignty of God. No matter how scheming people are, the conclusion of the matter is still according to God’s appointment and timing (cf. v. 24).

### **Slide # 10**

God in His sovereignty was using these wars as part of His indignation against Israel. Since Israel was located between these two Gentile powers, it suffered greatly during the course of these wars (vv. 25-27). - ***Renald Showers***

In terms of prophetic history, world history revolves around Israel! What is happening to the Gentile nations is really ultimately about Israel’s story, which is God’s story! If you get that right, then you will be able to properly understand world history and what it is ultimately about!

Take World War II, for example. It took place from 1939 to 1945 and involved the largest and deadliest conflict in history. It involved many nations of the whole world, but right in the center of it all was Israel. And what happened at that time became a springboard for Israel to once again be re-established as a nation in 1948 as recognized by the United Nations. What God was doing in relation to Israel was really the catalyst of it all.

Take what is currently happening with Iran. The whole world is focused on this and once again Israel is front and center. How God is using it exactly remains to be seen. But you can be very sure that it is part of the setup for what is to come in relation to Israel. You do realize that Iran is specifically mentioned in the last days war of Gog and Magog found in Ezekiel 38-39?

My point is what happens to the nations in the BIG scheme of things does not happen in a vacuum! It ultimately relates to God’s sovereign plan regarding His special chosen nation of Israel. That’s what the 150-year war between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies was all about – they just didn’t realize it!

**28 While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.**

Antiochus had intended to take all of Egypt but couldn't do it – nevertheless he did amass great riches from the surrounding area.

However, he was upset that he couldn't totally conquer Egypt. Also, he got word that a revolt was taking place in Jerusalem, and so he proceeded to vent his wrath on the Jews as he passed through Israel on his way back home to Syria.

Before the campaign in Egypt to supposedly help Ptolemy VI regain the throne Antiochus had removed Jason as high priest in Jerusalem and installed in his place a real “suck up” priest named Menelaus.

Menelaus promised to pay Antiochus more tribute money.

But while Antiochus was in Egypt trying to take it over, Jason (the former high priest) got word (fake news) that Antiochus had been killed. He proceeded to gather a force in order to try and overthrow Menelaus (the current high priest) in Jerusalem.

Menelaus beat back the attack, but Antiochus, now on his way home to Syria from Egypt, decided to teach the Jews a painful lesson.

He took Jerusalem by storm. He plundered it, killing 80,000 men, women, and children in the process. He took 40,000 Jewish prisoners. He entered the temple sanctuary and stole its gold and silver vessels.

Worst of all, he sacrificed a pig on the Jewish altar of worship and sprinkled the whole temple with swine broth (cf. 1 Macc 1:21-28; 2 Macc 5:15-21).

### **Slide # 11**

The holy covenant (vv. 28, 30, 32) refers to the Jewish faith, with particular emphasis on the sacrificial system. – **William MacDonald**

Nice guy this type of Antichrist (sarcasm)! Vicious and inhumane through and through! Indeed, he did do much damage to Jerusalem before returning home to his own land of Syria.

**29 “At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter.**

Four times in our study today there is an emphasis on “***the appointed time***”. God is in charge of the calendar. Everything is ultimately according to his appointed time schedule – including the time for you to die.

### **Slide # 12**

**Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)**

**27** And as **it is appointed** for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

We all have an appointment with death unless Jesus comes in our lifetime! However, this life is full of God-ordained appointments as we see here in verse 29. History is not just happening - it happens in accordance with what is appointed by God!

Even though Antiochus returned home from Egypt in 170 BC with “***great riches***” he would return for another Egyptian Campaign in 168 BC, but this time he would be met with humiliating defeat because the Ptolemy brothers then joined together in resistance, and also Rome would intervene, as will be seen in verse 30.

Now Antiochus determined to take the entire nation of Egypt, to make it a part of his empire. However, we read, “This last time it will not turn out the way it did before.” The former successes of Antiochus against Egypt would not be repeated, for he would be unable to pierce through the Egyptians’ united front. – ***Charles Feinberg***

**30 For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. “So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.**

In view are Roman ships. The Romans sent an ambassador to Antiochus with the demand that he stop and desist from further attempts to invade Egypt.

Antiochus responded that he would take this up with his council when he got home.

However, the ambassador drew a circle in the sand around him and said, ***“Before you leave the circle, you must give me an answer that I can report to the Roman Senate.”***

**Slide # 13**



Antiochus knew that he was in no position to take on the fledgling power of Rome. He was vile but he wasn't totally stupid, and so he said, ***“If it so please the senate, we must depart.”***

Remember, his enemies called him “Antiochus Epimanes meaning “Antiochus the madman”. This madman was publicly humiliated, and his response seems to indicate that he was mad at the God of the Jews for what had happened.

So once again, he took it out on the Jews and their religion. However, at the same time, he showed favor to those Jews who apostatized from their faith – forsaking the Mosaic Covenant of the OT.

**31 And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.**

This took place in 167 BC.

Two things are involved here: 1) The removal of the Jewish sacrifices, and 2) their replacement with the grossest of idolatry. This dual offense characterizes both Antiochus Epiphanes and the Antichrist.

Syrian soldiers were now stationed at the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. Temple sacrifices were stopped. The Syrian soldiers and prostitutes performed licentious heathen rites in the Temple courts.

Antiochus now commanded all to worship the Greek deities.

Jews who tried to sacrifice to God, practiced circumcision, or kept the Sabbath were put to death. Many thousands of Jews were killed. Those that survived were forced to Hellenize – that is, accept the Greek culture and religion. The law of Moses was to be burned and no one was even allowed to possess it.

An idol of the Greek god Zeus was placed in the temple, and a pig was offered on the altar, and then the Jews were commanded to eat of it (cf. 1 Macc. 1:29, 37-49).

In the OT idolatry is commonly referred to as “***an abomination***” – meaning something that is intensely hated by and is exceedingly offensive to God.

God hates idolatry more than any other kind of sin. For this reason, the first two of His ten commandments prohibit worshipping any other gods but Him or making any likeness of Him (Ex. 20:3-6).

– **David Harrell**

This abomination of desolation was an extreme desecration of the temple.

The desecration of the sanctuary was the crowning calamity for Israel, and the fact that God had permitted it was proof of His displeasure with His people. – **John Phillips**

This explicit terminology, “***the abomination of desolation***,” is the exact language also used in reference to what the Antichrist will do in the Temple as he goes into the rebuilt Jewish temple and declares himself to be God. Jesus referred to this future extreme act of sacrilege in Matthew 24:15 by quoting from Daniel 9:27.

#### **Slide # 14**

##### **Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)**

**27** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

##### **Daniel 12:11 (NKJV)**

11 “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the **abomination of desolation** is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)**

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation**,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

#### **2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV)**

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.**

This is the HIGH point of idolatry in the history of humanity! A man sitting in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God! This is THE abomination of desolation! Nothing could be more highly offensive to God than this!

There are four major reasons to believe that Antiochus Epiphanes is a type of Antichrist.

### **Slide # 16**

#### ***Type and Fulfillment of Antichrist***

- 1) Both are initially called a “little horn” – cf. Daniel 7:8; 8:9.
- 2) Both are uniquely described in terms of “abomination of desolation” – cf. Dan. 9:27; 11:31; Matt. 24:15.
- 3) The characterization of Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel 11:21-35 immediately segues into the characterization of the coming Antichrist in Daniel 11:36-45. The one portrays the other!
- 4) The similarities are remarkable!

### **Slide # 17**

#### **Daniel 7: The Antichrist**

- A man of awful cruelty and violence; rips up three of the horns (kings) that had appeared before he did (7:8, 24).
- Has “the eyes of a man”; sees all things from a human perspective, with no regard for God or His Law (v. 8).

- Stunningly blasphemous and defiant of God, with a mouth that speaks pompous words against God (vv. 8, 25).
- As the Ancient of Days (God) takes His throne, this horn continues to blaspheme, amazing Daniel (v. 11).
- Grows to great fame, celebrity and power, greater than all his fellows (v. 20).
- Makes war with Israel and cruelly prevails against it until deliverance comes (vv.21–22,25). (Source Douglas Bookman)

### **Slide # 18**

#### **Daniel 8: Antiochus Epiphanes**

- A man of awful cruelty and violence who “destroy[s] fearfully” and “destroy[s] the mighty” (8:24).
- Has “fierce features,” “understands sinister schemes,” and “cause[s] deceit to prosper under his rule” (vv. 23, 25).
- He shall “exalt himself in his heart. . . . even rise against the Prince of princes” (v. 25).
- Culmination of a vision that caused Daniel to faint and left him sick for many days, astonished by the vision (v. 27).
- Grows to become exceedingly great, prospering greatly (vv. 9, 24).
- Removes the daily sacrifices in the Temple and casts revealed truth to the ground (v. 12) (Source Douglas Bookman)

The abomination of desolation is that which is tantamount to the **HIGHEST offense** against God that can be imagined. The temple represents the dwelling place of God. For someone to go into the temple and profane it in this way is doing something that is absolutely detested by God in the strongest of terms. It defiles and completely corrupts the temple. It is nothing short of blatant sacrilege. It shows the grossest of irreverence for the Holy God of Israel.

This is the “wing of abominations” (the high point) as so stated in Daniel 9:27, but is portrayed by Antiochus Epiphanes as seen here in Daniel 11:31.

**32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**

The great issue in life consistently involves CHOICE! Will people side with the true God as He has revealed Himself to be or will they follow the world in rebellious idolatry?

Some of the Jews were willing to apostatize and wickedly forsake their covenant commitment to God as they followed in the idolatry of Antiochus Epiphanes as he corrupted them with flattery – promising them the good life if they sided in with him.

Flattery is smooth words that promise benefits, but it is insincere. Flattery is saying what people want to hear, so one can have their way with them.

But in contrast, there would be those who truly KNOW their God. For them, it is real in the HEART and would show in their commitment!

***“But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”*** This is descriptive of those who have a true saving faith!

To be “**strong**” here means to not compromise in their stand for God! To do “**exploits**” means to do noble feats, to do great and heroic things in the name of God. This is the kind of FAITH that takes a stand for God in the face of severe consequences (cf. 1 Macc. 1:62-63).

This is the kind of faith Hebrews 11 describes...

### **Slide # 19**

#### **Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)**

**6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek [FOLLOW] Him.

Hebrews 11 describes those in the OT, such as those described here, who were willing to die for their faith. This is indicative of true God-honoring faith that pleases God.

### **Slide # 20**

#### **Hebrews 11:35–38 (NKJV)**

**35** ... Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

**36** Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

**37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—



**38** of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

At this point in 167 BC there **was a Jewish revolt** against Antiochus Epiphanes that started with a godly priest by the name of Mattathias and his 5 sons.

They killed the kings agents who tried to make them eat swine meat and then ran for the mountains where they organized and carried out **guerilla warfare** for the next 3 years. **Mattathias's son Judah** became the major leader and acquired the name Maccabee which meant "hammer". In 165 BC the Jews were able to get the temple mount back and cleanse it in preparation for worship once again.

Out of this came the celebration of **Hanukah** – the feast of dedication in which tradition says God supernaturally made the menorah (candelabra) in the temple continue to burn for 8 days without going out when the sacred oil available to burn was only thought to be sufficient for 1 day (cf. Apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees). In John 10 Jesus participated in this ongoing celebration (cf. Jn. 10:22).

**33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.**

Those who truly know God (v. 32) are people who "understand". They know the truth. They knew the Scriptures and the truth from Daniel that this was all in accordance with prophecy. They knew that it was discipline and that God was using it to refine them.

They could see how these things had been foretold. They were living in the days about which Daniel had written. As line by line, word by word, the prophecy was fulfilled, they could put a finger on a page and say, "We are right here, right now." – **John Phillips**

And this would encourage them to live in light of an eternal perspective. As it says in Hebrew 11:35, "**not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.**" Those who understood served as evangelists instructing many – warning them, and calling them to stand with God and His truth in light of eternity!

But standing for the truth came with a great cost. For many days, many would be killed and plundered! Only an eternal perspective carries you through at a time like this.

According to the historian Josephus, this great struggle went on for three years (cf. 1 Macc. 1:59).

**34 Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue.**

This idea of “a little help” is thought to refer to the Maccabean revolt. It gave a little reprieve. They were part of the faithful remnant that knew God and were strong, doing great exploits as seen in verse 32.

However, MANY would join in with this movement, who would not sincerely be committed to God. They were in on the resistance, but not really sincere about God! The word “intrigue” here in verse 34 is translated by some as “hypocrisy” (NASB) or “insincerely” (HCSB).

Some things never change! There are always “***pretend believers***” who are along for the ride for whatever reason, but in truth, they are not true believers. The wheat and tares continue to grow together (cf. Matt. 13). Many will say “Lord, Lord” on judgment day, only to have Lord say, “I never knew you; depart from Me” (Matt. 7:21-23).

**35 And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.**

Note the double emphasis on “***understanding***” in verses 33 and 35. This is what defines those who truly know God! They understand the truth of God and take their stand accordingly!

Some of them would fall- that is be severely persecuted or killed. But it has a sanctifying purpose. It would serve to refine and purify them. Suffering has a sanctifying purpose.

Verse 35 is very important in understanding WHY God allows this. Suffering has a way of turning those who will be saved to God and a way of purifying the walk of those who are genuinely God’s people. This process would go on “***until the time of the end***” (cf. 10:14).

The purging process is indicated in verse 35 to continue “to the time of the end.” It is clear from this reference that the persecutions of Antiochus are not the time of the end, even though they foreshadow them. The mention of the time of the end in verse 35 is notice, however, that from verse 36 on the prophecy leaps the centuries that intervene to the last generation prior to God’s judgment on Gentile power and its rulers.” - **John Walvoord**

“This verse forms a bridge spanning the period from the times of the persecutions of Antiochus to the rise of him of which Antiochus is a type, the Antichrist...” – **Merrill Unger**

The phrase “***the time of the end***” is consistently used in Daniel in reference to the Tribulation period (cf. 11:40, 12:4, 9, also consistent with 10:14).

This purifying process of the Jews would continue “***until the time of the end, because it is still for the appointed time.***”

In view is either the **demise of Antiochus Epiphanes** or more probably this jumps ahead ultimately to the **final antichrist**, in which this time of discipline will finally see a complete fulfillment. Even now it is ongoing as God is disciplining His people and this will continue “until the time of the end” in keeping with God’s appointed time schedule. See the 70 weeks of Daniel in Daniel 9.

“End...appointed time” These two eschatological terms point to a forward leap across thousands of years of history from Antiochus Epiphanes to a future similar trial [under antichrist]”

– **John MacArthur**

This involves an ongoing process until the divine timetable is brought to an end. There is a tremendous emphasis throughout this section on the fact that God is sovereignly in charge of the timetable. It is according to His appointment!

### **Slide # 21**

- v. 24 “only for a time.”
- v. 27 “at the appointed time.”
- v. 29 “At the appointed time...”
- v. 35 “the appointed time.”

The prophecies up to this point [approx. 135 of them in Daniel 11] have all been literally fulfilled, constituting a most remarkable testimony to the supernatural inspiration of the Scriptures.

**-Henry Morris**

This happened during what we call **the 400 silent years** – the intertestamental period. Even though God was silent in that He was not speaking through the prophets, yet this period was still prophetically in view as seen in the fulfillment of the many prophecies of Daniel 11. God was still working – still bringing to pass His plan. Everything is according to His appointed time!

**The Prussian Emperor Frederick** would often test his chaplain in matters of theological questions. However, he did NOT want long drawn out dialogue or answers. He wanted simple answers that he could comprehend quickly. One day he asked his chaplain if he could give **simple and succinct evidence** for the truth of the Bible. In fact, he asked if he could provide this evidence in **just ONE word**. The chaplain said he could do this. “*What is this magical word*” Frederick asked. The chaplain responded, “**Israel**”.

In terms of prophecy, preservation, and prominence, there is no other people or nation in the world like Israel. And it is all tethered to a special holy book called THE BIBLE!

The centerpiece of the Bible in terms of the nations is Israel, and the centerpiece of Israel is the Messiah, who came out of Israel.

And the great question is do you believe in Him? This is all orchestrated to bring us to faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior!

**Luke 24:25 (NKJV)**

**25** Then He [Christ] said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Do you believe?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved! (Acts 16:31)