
THE WILLFUL KING | DANIEL 11:36-39

- Verse 36 –
 - **the king** - That is, Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
 - **he shall exalt himself** - The name Epiphanes means "a manifestation of God."
 - **he shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods** - This is a reference to Jehovah God, the God of the Jews. See Dt. 10:17 for a definitive definition.
- Verse 37 –
 - **the god of his fathers** –
 - In immediate context, this refers to Antiochus IV, who is a type of the Antichrist, who is the ultimate context.
 - The prophecy also has a two-fold application.
 - For Antiochus IV (the immediate context), the literal "gods of his fathers" would be a reference to the Syrian gods, whom his fathers had adopted. Antiochus IV, however, rejected these gods in favor of Roman gods.
 - For the Antichrist (the ultimate context), the *Elohim* of his fathers very well may be a reference to the Jewish lineage of the Antichrist.
 - **the desire of women** –
 - This phrase does not mean that he is not interested in female affection. Rather, it means he is not interested in that which women desire.
 - In the case of Antiochus IV, it is likely a reference to the female devotion to the goddesses (see Jer 7:18, 44:17-19, 25 and Ezek 8:14).
 - In a Jewish context, the **desire of women** was the desire to be the mother of the Messiah, fulfilling the prophecy of Genesis 3:15. Thus, in the ultimate fulfillment, the *willful king* will have no regard for the Messiah.
- Verse 38 –
 - See Young's Literal for an easier to understand rendering. The **God of forces** is the literally the "God of strong holds." Note that the same word is used in v. 39, and translated **strong holds**.
 - From an immediate perspective, it could be said that Antiochus IV honored a foreign "god of forces" such as Jupiter, rather than the local Syrian gods. These foreign gods were not **a god whom his fathers knew**. He would honor them **with gold, and silver...** and other items of wealth.
 - From a long-term perspective finds fulfillment of Antiochus IV in the Antichrist, who will honor the "god of forces" by building the greatest industrial military complex ever known to man, a coalition of worldwide forces which will be built with financial payoff from the Antichrist.
- Verse 39 –
 - Antiochus IV was known to buy allegiance. See 1 Macc. 2:18, 3:30. History his division of **the land for gain** in 1 Macc 3:32-36.
 - In the future, we can be assured that the Antichrist will use money and land to build a military complex.

- Verse 40
 - **at the time of the end** - While the content of the previous verses can find a historical fulfillment in Antiochus IV, the events of vv. 40-45 cannot find any historical fulfillment.
 - Stuart Moses (1850) said of these verses, "It is indeed true, that neither Appian, nor Polybius, nor Justin, nor Livy, nor Josephus, have given us any particulars about this latest war of Antiochus" Stuart, Moses. *A Commentary on the Book of Daniel*. Boston: Crocker & Brewster, 1850. Print.
 - Since there are other examples of Scripture in which a portion has been fulfilled and a portion has not, it seems best to reserve the fulfillment of these verses to the end of time, when Antichrist will enter into his final battle.
 - **the king of the south shall push...** - Apparently the "one world government" will be tenuous at best. Eventually the Egyptian empire will seek its independence, and the Antichrist (the **king of the north**) will respond with vengeance and strength.
- Verses 41-42 - On his way south, the Antichrist will enter into Israel, the **glorious land**, and will overthrow many (KJV inserts the word **countries**, but the text does not call for such an insertion). The escapees from the Antichrist's anger are **Edom, and Moab** along with **the chief of the children of Ammon**. Today this would be the nation of Jordan, which could possibly play a role in caring for fleeing Jews and protecting them during the pogrom of the Antichrist.
- Verse 43 - The Antichrist will put down the threat from Egypt, and make sure all of North Africa will be subservient and silent.
- Verse 44 - The news **out of the east and out of the north** are likely the word out of future Babylon, the harlot city. Built by Antichrist himself, the city is now rejecting his totalitarian reign. The city is built on hedonism, which does not take well to totalitarianism.
- Verse 45 –
 - **and he shall plant tabernacles** - This is likely a reference to the final military encampment of the Antichrist, in the plains of Israel, for preparation of the Battle of Armageddon.
 - **he shall come to his end** - Revelation 19:19-21 gives the full account of the death of the Antichrist.