

## Daniel 11:36-12:2 – A More Contemptible Person

In chapter 11, Medo-Persia was mentioned in verse 2. Verses 3-4 were about Alexander the Great. Verses 5-20 were about two of the four main Greek kingdoms that arose after Alexander's death. These 16 verses covered the conflicts between the kings of the south, the Ptolemaic kingdom (Egypt) and the kings of the north, the Seleucid empire (Syria). In the 16 verses, 6 kings of the Ptolemaic kingdom and 7 kings of the Seleucid empire were covered. The time period covered was from about 305 BC to 175 BC. Verses 21-35 were primarily about one Seleucid king, Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The time period covered was from about 175 BC to 164 BC. There was a significant emphasis on Antiochus IV because of his persecution of the Jews and his attempt to rid them of their worship and obedience to God. While there is a lot of agreement on the first 35 verses of chapter 11, there is a lot of disagreement about the rest of the chapter.

### **Read Daniel 11:36-39.**

In verse 36, the big question is who was the king who "shall do as he wills"? Was this king still Antiochus Epiphanes? Edward J Young lists the following interpretations: Antiochus, Constantine the Great, the Roman empire (Calvin), the pope of Rome and the papal system, Herod the Great, and the antichrist. Did Antiochus exalt himself and magnify himself above every god? Did he "pay no attention to the gods of his fathers"? He did call himself Epiphanes, but he still worshiped the gods of his fathers, the Greek gods. This is why most understand the "king" of verse 36 as a king other than Antiochus IV. The language is similar to the man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. (11:36-37)

In verse 38, who is the "god of fortresses"? This is difficult but E. J. Young understands this to mean that the king of verse 36 will make war his god. His religion of war would be fueled by gold, silver, precious stones and costly gifts. (11:38)

In verse 39, "the help of a foreign god" goes back to verse 38 and is understood as the king making war his highest priority, or religion. The rest of the verse could refer to any number of conquerors. (11:39)

### **Read Daniel 11:40-45.**

Some understand verses 40-45 as a retelling of Antiochus Epiphanes' exploits. It would be difficult to apply these verses to Antiochus since Egypt (the king of the south) did not attack him (the king of the north). Antiochus was always the aggressor against Egypt. E. J. Young says that other interpreters understand these verses as either referring to Rome or the antichrist. What is "the time of the end"? (11:40)

In verse 41, the glorious land was attacked. NASB and NIV have “beautiful Land”. What is the glorious land? Edom, Moab, and Ammon were delivered. E. J. Young believed that these three nations represented the enemies of God. (11:41)

In verse 42, Egypt was attacked. The language used is consistent with the previous verses which spoke of the kings of the north fighting with the kings of the south (Egypt). E. J. Young believed that Egypt may represent those who fight against the antichrist. (11:42)

In verse 43, what is true of the conquering king? Libya is to the west of Egypt. Cush was the southern neighbor of Egypt. The neighbors of Egypt will join the conquering king. (11:43)

In verse 44, what diverted the attention of the king of the north away from Egypt? E. J. Young noted that this verse does not fit the history of Antiochus IV. (11:44)

In verse 45, what is “the sea”? NKJV, NASB and NIV all have “the seas”. E. J. Young says that “seas” is poetic and refers to the Mediterranean Sea. What is “the glorious holy mountain”? NASB and NIV have “the beautiful holy mountain”. What will happen to the king of the north in this place? Antiochus IV died in Persia. This verse does not fit with the death of Antiochus. (11:45)

#### **Read Daniel 12:1-2.**

In verse 1, what does “that time” refer to? E. J. Young said it refers to “the time of the end” in 11:40. Dale Ralph Davis agrees with that. Three parts of the verse are marked by “that time” or “a time”. What happens during this time? Note that the time of great trouble is sandwiched between the rising of Michael and the deliverance of the people whose names are written in the book. (12:1)

In verse 2, what will occur? What does this refer to? See John 5:28-29. It seems like a big stretch for those who say that 11:40-12:1 are about Antiochus IV. How does 12:2 fit with Antiochus IV? Will the deliverance from the great time of trouble mean that none of those written in the book will physically die during this time? (12:2)