End of Antichrist

Daniel 11:29-45
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BIG BEND BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

The Northern King's Blasphemies

29 "At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. 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.
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. 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. 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. 34 Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. 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.
36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. 37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.
39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

v29-30 – What does the Antichrist do?
He goes South through Israel again and is disturbed by reports that ships from Cyprus (Hebrew Kittim, western lands) were moving against him. Probably another one of the three horns that opposed him.

What is the holy covenant?
- This is a reference to the people with whom God made a covenant.
- This is not a reference to the covenant the Antichrist made with the people of Israel for peace… it wasn't holy because it wasn't kept. As Jesus said in Matthew 7:20, *"by their fruits you will know them."*

How did the King of the North react to this report?
He got mad at Israel and did more damage there. It is human nature to feel better about yourself if you can hurt someone else.

Who are *those who forsake the holy covenant?*
- The secular and religious Jews who don't regard Jesus as Messiah.
- The Gentiles who reject the idea that the Jews are God's special people with whom He made a covenant.

v31 – What is described here?
The abomination of desolation… the Antichrist's forces will defile the Temple putting a stop to the daily sacrifices then commit the abomination of desolation…

2 Thess 2:3-4 – *the son of perdition, 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*

v32 – How else will the Antichrist damage Israel?
He will encourage others to act wickedly against Israel.

How will the Antichrist corrupt people to act against Israel?
- Flattery – using words to build them up; appealing to their baser instincts to fell better about themselves by denigrating the Jews.
- Such flattery appeals to personal pride (something Satan knows a lot about) … people are predisposed to think they are better than other people.

Who are those in the resistance who are strong and carry out great exploits?
Those who know God… certainly the 144,000 but probably also Gentiles who become believers during the Tribulation.

v33 – What will these members of the resistance do?
They will evangelize others even in the midst of severe persecution.

Why will these *"people who understand"* risk their lives to instruct many?
They understand what is really important, that to help someone else be with the Lord (and themselves) in eternity is vastly more important than their own safety.

v34 – What happens when the *"people who understand"* fall?
God will help them and use their death to add to the ranks of believers who resist the Antichrist.

What does it mean that new believers shall join the *"people who understand"* by *intrigue*?
There will be creative ways people will come to Christ during the Tribulation… when they see how a believer dies, some will seek out other believers in secret to find out how they could die with such confidence in life after death.

How are Christian martyrs different from Muslim martyrs?
- Christians don't seek death but are murdered because of their faith
- Muslims seek death while murdering others to demonstrate their faith

Which is the most effective in making converts?
Christians… people know the difference between genuine faith and terrorism masquerading as faith.

v35 – How will those of understanding who fall be used to refine, purge, and make others white?
- God will use their deaths to help others to know Him.
- Note that we are already seeing the spirit of Antichrist in our culture where it is definitely not politically correct to be made white.

What is this appointed time?
- It is still possible for people who have not taken the Mark of the Beast to become believers.
- There will come a time when it is too late… probably just before the Lord sets foot on the Mount of Olives.

v36 – What will the Antichrist do after the Abomination of Desolation?
- Whatever he feels like… there is no restraint on him
- He will exalt himself above all gods
- Blaspheme the God of gods
- Prosper until the time of God's wrath is complete

How can the Antichrist build himself up to be greater than the Creator-God of Scripture?
- As he builds up God-rejecters to think they're better than the Jews, he will likewise convince them he is greater than God.
- As GK Chesterton said, "When men chose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they become capable of believing in anything."
- I can image this lie of the Antichrist: The entity people regard as God is simply an extraterrestrial seeking to invade the earth but I am empowered by another extraterrestrial who is greater.

v37 – What do we learn of the Antichrist from this passage?
He shall regard neither the God of his fathers – if he is Muslim, he will not acknowledge Allah, he will claim to be Allah. If Jewish (as some believe from this passage), he will not acknowledge the Creator-God claiming that for himself as a superior, evolved person like the extraterrestrials who "terra-formed" earth (term borrowed from Star Trek).

nor the desire of women – Some say this means he is gay. I believe it means he will not acknowledge the Messiah …all Jewish women wanted to be the mother of the Messiah.

nor regard any god – He will exalt himself above all gods claiming to be the Creator-God

v38 – What gods will the Antichrist honor?
a god of fortresses – Back in Daniel's day, fortresses were the technology for protection from invaders; today our technology is different but the spirit is the same… human achievements that protect us from those seeking to do us harm. Our technology will deliver us!

a god which his fathers did not know – This god is honored with gold, silver and luxuries… Wealth! This reinforces the idea that he was Muslim; while oil has made many Muslim's rich, the purists reject wealth considering it a worldly, corrupting influence.

v39 – What is this *foreign god* honored by the Antichrist?
It is a god able to counter act the technology of men (*the strongest fortresses*). Perhaps alien technology? Or more accurately, supernatural demonic activity masquerading as alien technology.

- This reminds me of a gaming computer customer I had at TI called Alienware… they were representing themselves as being better than their competition with technology that is out of this world.

How will the Antichrist honor this foreign god?
advance its glory – help others to appreciate is superiority over human technology

cause them to rule over many – Put demons masquerading as aliens over human subjects… sort of like what we have now with the Prince of Persia but a good deal more obvious.

divide the land for gain – this goes along with spreading the wealth around, rewarding the favored groups and punishing those opposing him. This could also apply specifically to Israel where that has been the peace strategy from its inception…

Joel 3:2 – *I will also gather all nations,*
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
And I will enter into judgment with them there
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
They have also divided up My land.

The Northern King's Conquests
40 *"At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.* ***41*** *He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.* ***42*** *He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.* ***43*** *He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.* ***44*** *But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.* ***45*** *And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.*

v40 – What is the time of the end?
Given the context in this case, this is probably referring to the final battle of the Antichrist at Armageddon.

- Things are not all rosy for the Antichrist with opposition still popping up from his old nemesis, the King of the South.

v41-43 – What other countries will the Antichrist have to deal with?

Glorious Land – This is Israel which the Antichrist will run back and forth across with impunity… the people of Israel will not be there, they are being supernaturally protected by God in the wilderness… some think in Petra, a remote area of Jordan.

Only 1/3 of the Jews will escape the murderous hand of the antichrist.

Zechariah 13:8-9 – *And it shall come to pass in all the land, says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people; and each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.*

They flee with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Those who are not hunted down (the last to get out of town) will eventually congregate in Edom, present day southern Jordan, in the area of Biblical Bozrah. It is here in the area of Bozrah that God has prepared a place for the surviving Jews to be protected from the Antichrist's murderous hand.

"And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days." Rev 12:6

"Enter the rock and hide in the dust.... The proud look of man will be abased, and the loftiness of man will be humbled..." Is 2:10-11

"And men will go into caves of the rocks, and into holes of the ground" Is. 2:19

"...In order to go into the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs" Is. 2:21

2000 years ago, a civilization called the Nabateans, sprung up in south Edom, in the area called Bozrah. History doesn't know for sure where they came from, or what caused them to disappear seemingly almost overnight. But they lived there for about 300-400 years continually building and expanding a city called that today we call Petra ("rock").

Petra has only one entrance that is a mile long, roughly 10 to 20 feet wide, with towering cliffs above reaching as high as 300 feet. The long winding entrance, called the siq, opens up into open spaces and canyons large enough to hold 5 million people, when fully excavated.

All throughout Petra, the Nabateans carved tens of thousands of caves into the miles of soft sandstone walls. They carved houses, stables, meeting rooms, caves, tombs and more. The amount of digging, and the beautiful stone edifices still there today are mind-boggling.

v41-43 – What other countries will the Antichrist have to deal with?

many countries shall be overthrown – of course, the Antichrist is invincible…

> Revelation 13:4 – *they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

Edom, Moab, and Ammon – These are ancient nations that lived in the area now called Jordan. It is interesting that Jordan of all places escapes the destruction of the Antichrist… this reinforces the idea that Petra is where Israel is supernaturally protected.

Egypt shall not escape – This is undoubtedly the leader of the King of the South that is subdued by the Antichrist.

Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels – the Antichrist will have his sycophants.

v44 – What is this news from the North and East that will give the Antichrist heartburn?

Probably the Kings of the East, maybe the third regional king that challenges him?

> Revelation 16:12 – *Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.*

How does the Antichrist react to the disturbing news from the East and North?

It will infuriate him and he will go out destroying and killing as many as he can. That is what the devil does, destroy.

v45 – Where will the Antichrist meet his end?

tents of his palace – a temporary, mobile headquarters… reminds me of a Brigade Tactical Operations Center that I spent some time in when deployed.

between the seas and the glorious holy mountain – The seas are probably the Mediterranean, Sea of Galilee, and the Dead Sea. The mountain is a reference to Jerusalem. This is a pretty good description of the valley at the foot of Israel's Mount Megiddo, overlooking the Plain of Esdraelon (Valley of Jezreel). It lies about 18 miles (29 km) southeast of Haifa in northern Israel.

What happens to the Antichrist?

he shall come to his end, and no one will help him

> Revelation 19:20 – *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*