

# Midweek Study

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## STANDING STRONG IN A HOSTILE CULTURE

THE BOOK OF DANIEL



# CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE PT. 2

Daniel 11:21-35

## IV. Antiochus IV Epiphanes – 175-164BC (Daniel 11:21-35)

David Jeremiah says - He is the “antichrist of the Old Testament” and is a picture of the future Antichrist of the Tribulation period. Antiochus Epiphanes was among the wickedest men who ever lived. He had no claim to the Syrian throne, but he deceived and finagled his way into power through bribes and gifts, just as told in Daniel 11:24.

### THE “A” KINGS OF DANIEL 11

Ahasuerus	486–465 BC	Daniel 11:2
Alexander	336–323 BC	Daniel 11:3-4
Antiochus III (the Great)	223–187 BC	Daniel 11:10-20
Antiochus IV Epiphanes	175–164 BC	Daniel 11:21-35
Antichrist	Unknown	Daniel 11:36-45

Antiochus Epiphanes means “Antiochus, God Manifest” However, due to the atrocities he would commit his nickname was Antiochus Epimanes meaning “Antiochus, the Madman”.

**Daniel 11:21–35 (NKJV)** *[notes from Bill Bennett]*— **21** And in his place shall arise a vile *[contemptible]* person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty *[who does not have royal rights to the throne – the real heir to the throne was murdered – Antiochus seizes the throne]*; but he shall come in peaceably *[he came in as a great peace-maker]*, and seize the kingdom by intrigue *[he would flatter the king of Pergamus and Lydia, the noblemen of Syria]*. **22** With the force of a flood *[with an overwhelming army]* they shall be swept away from before him and be broken *[the enemy will be broken]*, and also the prince of the covenant *[the high-priest of the Jews – Onius III – was murdered by Antiochus]*.

**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 *[Syria was relatively small]*. **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 will move in, abuse, tax and take in ways his fathers did not do]*: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches *[he will deprive the wealthy of their money, and he will spread it around – in a similar way that socialists would do today]*; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time *[he will only be able to go so far, because God will stop him]*.

**25** “He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army [*he will wage war with Egypt*]. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army [*Egypt will retaliate*]; but he [*Ptolemy of Egypt*] shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him [*People of Egypt will devise plans*]. **26** Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him [*Those who ate Ptolemy's choice food, those who should have supported him, plotted to destroy him.*]; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain [*Antiochus will defeat Egypt*]. **27** Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table [*they will meet at a Peace Table, but will lie*]; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time [*God will have the last word – according to His timetable*].

**28** While returning to his land with great riches, his heart [*Antiochus*] shall be moved against the holy covenant [*the people of God, the law of Moses the Holy Temple, and everything they stand for*]; so he shall do damage and return to his own land. **29** “At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter [*Antiochus will go back to Egypt*]. **30** For ships from Cyprus [*the Roman fleet*] shall come against him [*The Roman consul, Popilius Laenas, met him at Alexandria and prevented him from invading Egypt.*]; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant [*he vents his rage and anger toward Rome against the people of God*], and do damage. So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant [*apostate Jews will stand with him and give him information to aid him*].

**31** And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile [*pollute or desecrate*] the sanctuary fortress [*the Temple area*]; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation [*Matthew 24:15 – Jesus goes back to this*]. **32** Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery [*those apostate Jews will be corrupted even more through Antiochus' flattery*]; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [*there will be a noble group of people who stood against Antiochus and even died rather than submit to him*]. **33** And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword [*murdered by the thousands*] and flame [*burned*], by captivity [*put in dungeons*] and plundering [*all their property was stolen*]. **34** Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help [*The Maccabees, especially Judas “the Hammer”*]; 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.

## **Antiochus, a Type of the Anti-Christ**

1. He put guards around the Temple.
2. He stopped the daily sacrifices and refuses the Jewish rituals like circumcision.
3. He slaughters the children on the Sabbath.
4. He slaughters the women.
5. He makes heathen idolatry mandatory, like burning incense to Jupiter.
6. Creates athletic games around the Temple, where all participants (including priests and other Jews) are stripped naked while required to compete. This was extreme humiliation.
7. He erects a statue of Zeus on the altar of the Temple.
8. He slays a pig on the altar.
9. He makes the priests eat pork.

The “Abomination of Desolation” is making the Temple so abominable that no one will go to it to worship. Matthew 24:15, Jesus says this will happen during the Tribulation as well.

### **Daniel 11:32b:**

*the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. (NKJV)*  
*but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. (ESV and NASB)*  
*but the people who [are spiritually mature and] know their God will display strength and take action [to resist]. (AMP)*  
*but those who follow God will fight back. (GNT)*