

## The Wicked End-Time King

Daniel 11:36-45

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At verse **36** the prophecy shifts to the end-time Antichrist yet to come.

### I. First, personal characteristics of the Antichrist are described. (v. 36-39)

#### A. He will be a megalomaniac and a blasphemer. (v. 36a)

He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

<sup>2</sup>The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup>One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. <sup>4</sup>People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"

<sup>5</sup>The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup>It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. <sup>7</sup>It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. <sup>8</sup>All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

<sup>9</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear.

<sup>10</sup>"If anyone is to go into captivity,  
into captivity they will go.

If anyone is to be killed with the sword,  
with the sword they will be killed."

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people. (Revelation 13:1-10)

#### B. He will prosper within God's ordained plan and timeframe. (v. 36b)

Go, my people, enter your rooms  
and shut the doors behind you;  
hide yourselves for a little while  
until his wrath has passed by.  
See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling

to punish the people of the earth for their sins.  
The earth will disclose the blood shed on it;  
the earth will conceal its slain no longer. (Isaiah 26:20-21)

See, the Name of the LORD comes from afar,  
with burning anger and dense clouds of smoke;  
his lips are full of wrath,  
and his tongue is a consuming fire.  
His breath is like a rushing torrent,  
rising up to the neck.  
He shakes the nations in the sieve of destruction;  
he places in the jaws of the peoples  
a bit that leads them astray.

And you will sing  
as on the night you celebrate a holy festival;  
your hearts will rejoice  
as when people playing pipes go up  
to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the Rock of Israel.

The LORD will cause people to hear his majestic voice  
and will make them see his arm coming down  
with raging anger and consuming fire,  
with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.

The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria;  
with his rod he will strike them down.

Every stroke the LORD lays on them  
with his punishing club  
will be to the music of timbrels and harps,  
as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm.

Topheth has long been prepared;  
it has been made ready for the king.  
Its fire pit has been made deep and wide,  
with an abundance of fire and wood;  
the breath of the LORD,  
like a stream of burning sulfur,  
sets it ablaze. (Isaiah 30:27-33)

For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time.

“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

“Immediately after the distress of those days

“the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Matthew 24:21-31)

Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666. (Revelation 13:11-18)

### **C. He will usurp all other religious authority. (v. 37)**

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. (Matthew 24:15-21)

### **D. He will be devoted to war without concern for cost. (v. 38)**

### **E. He will be aided by Satan and will reward those who follow him. (v. 39)**

- II. Beginning in verse 40, significant battles to be fought by the Antichrist are described. (v. 40-45)**
- A. He will go to war with nations to the South of Israel. (v. 40)**
  
  - B. He will invade Israel but Jordan will be left alone. (v. 41)**
  
  - C. He will plunder the nations he conquers. (v. 42-43)**
  
  - D. He, in the midst of his battles, will encamp in the holy land. (v. 44-45b)**
  
  - E. At God's appointed time, he will be destroyed. (v. 45b)**

And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12)

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. (Revelation 19:19-21)