

The Book of Daniel

Week 12

Seleucid king, Antiochus IV, was a contemptible king and persecute the Jews relentlessly. He came to power in devious ways, used power to trick countries, he ruled the Israelites with an iron fist, and believed himself to be the only true god. Yet we see that God is God alone and His Kingdom is the only forever kingdom to stand.

1. Antiochus: First invasion of Egypt
 - a. LARGE ARMY- Chariots, elephants, cavalry, fleets, and foot soldiers.
 - b. Conquered Ptolemy VI in battle and wanted to set up a, underhanded, peace treaty with this kingdom.
 - c. Peace treaty didn't work and Antiochus takes it out on Jews.
2. Jewish Persecution
 - a. His heart was set against the holy covenant
 - b. Holy Covenant- Umbrella term encompassing the people of God's holy covenant, the Jews, and their land of Judah.
 - c. Praises those who deceive and hurt the Jewish people.
 - d. After failed invasion of Egypt he returns to Judah to vent frustration.
3. Occupation of Jerusalem
 - a. Temple became military base of operations to end the revolt in Jerusalem.
 - b. Antiochus issues edict forbidding all forms of Hebrew worship to Yahweh.
 - c. Erects, on the altar, image of idol dedicated to Zeus...desecrated the temple!
 - d. This action split the Jews down the middle. Some gave into the flattery of Antiochus (probably offered them power and wealth) and there were those who defied.
 - e. Persecution eliminates the waverers.

Sacrilegious character and policies were but a pale foreshadowing of the atheism and shocking blasphemy of the antichrist figure (Antiochus IV).

4. Antiochus IV Spirals
 - a. Beliefs he himself is the only god and denounces, not only Yahweh, but all Greek gods as well. (Completely unheard of!)
 - b. Great battles ensue but Antiochus has no allies.
 - c. In fury Antiochus drives harder and harder and wins many battles...but it is never enough but eventually meeting his end...alone.
5. Final chapter
 - a. Historicist view = unparalleled time of distress for the Jews under Antiochus
 - b. Futurist view = Time of distress with the great tribulation as God pours out final wrath on this world. Second coming of Jesus.
 - c. Deliverance is promised for all those whose names are written in the book (of life). First unambiguous reference to resurrection from the dead in the old testament.
 - d. Final vision returns to the banks of the Tigris River.
 - e. Comfort to God's People for then & now.
 - f. John 16:33

