

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF
DANIEL

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NOW WILL I SHEW THEE THE
TRUTH

Daniel 11:2

*“But I will shew thee that which is noted in
the scripture of truth”*

Daniel 10:21a

H. David Nichols
Gethsemane Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Class

NOW WILL I SHEW THEE THE TRUTH

Daniel 11:2

Daniel, in the book that bears his name, has been given several revelations concerning the immediate future of his people Israel and a sweeping view of the history of the rest of the nations of the earth. We see this theme continued in chapter 11. “This chapter is an enlargement of the eighth. [which contains the following topics] – The Overthrow of Persia by Grecia – The Four Divisions of Alexander’s Kingdom – Conflicts between the Kings of the South and of the North, The Ptolemies and Seleucids – Antiochus Epiphanes.” JFB. Pt 2. P.443.)

Chapter 11 is, in reality, the continuation of chapter 10. There the Lord Jesus is seen in a Christophany speaking to Daniel and strengthening him as he receives the vision contained in chapters 11 and 12. He begins his revelation with an explanation of the immediate future of Babylon. *“And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall*

stir up all against the realm of Grecia.” (Vs. 2) A thorough study of history is required to understand most of the next 45 verses. However, for this discussion the following summary will suffice. “The vision is divided into three parts. The first part, verses one through twenty, is a presentation of the Persian and Greek world, especially of the wars between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids, between Egypt and Syria. The nation Israel was caught in between. The first part of the vision presents those warring kingdoms. The second part, verses twenty-one through thirty-five, is a delineation of Antiochus Epiphanes, who is a prototype of the ultimate, final dictator of the world, the Antichrist. As the prophecy continues it fades from the picture of Antiochus Epiphanes into the portrayal of that Antichrist. The third part, verses thirty-six through the end of the chapter, is a prophecy of that ultimate, final dictator whose destruction and doom coincides with the end of history and the end of the world.” (Criswell. Vol. 4. P. 156.) We must remember that this detailed history was, in fact, not a history when written but a

prophecy of things to come. The prophecy proved to be accurate to the last point.

In this section of Scripture, we see Alexander the Great represented as the “mighty king” (vs.3). The king of the south is the designation for the nation Egypt. (vs.5) The king of the north is the Syrian Seleucid kingdom. (vs.6) In verse 21 the “vile person” is mentioned and is the person of Antiochus Epiphanes. He is the wicked ruler who persecuted the Jews so cruelly from about 175 B.C. till 163 B.C. (also see Dan. 8:9) Daniel continues the description of Antiochus Epiphanes through verse 36. At this point in the prophecy the topic shifts from Antiochus Epiphanes to the Antichrist (Dan. 7:8) of whom Antiochus Epiphanes is the foreshadowing. “Here the prophetic fore view, having traced the history of the two parts of Alexander’s empire which had to do with Palestine and the Jews, viz. Syria and Egypt, to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, and having described his career, overleaps the centuries to ‘the time of the end,’ when he of whom Antiochus Epiphanes was a type, the ‘little horn’ of Dan. 7:8, the ‘Beast out of the sea’ of Rev.

13:4-10, shall appear.” (Scofield’s note on Daniel 11:2) “The willful king here, thought primarily Antiochus, is antitypically and mainly Antichrist.” (JFB. Pt. 2. P. 450) This is the same king that Paul calls the “son of perdition” in II Thessalonians 2:3-4. Verse 37 refers to him as one who would not “regard the God of his fathers.” The expression “God of his fathers” “is a familiar designation of the Lord.” (Wycliffe. P. 797) Could this suggest that the Antichrist will be an Israelite? Daniel tells us that Antichrist will exalt himself above all and make himself a god. He will extol war fare. *“But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.”* (Vs. 28) The “strange god” of verse 39 may be Satan as seen in Revelation 13:4 as the “dragon” that empowers the beast. He will be attacked by the nations. (vs.40) He attacks “the glorious land” which is Israel. (vs. 41) He brings much cruelty and destruction, *“yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”* (vs. 45)

Daniel gives us a detailed account of the historical events that come after his time. He brings us to the end of the time of the Antichrist at the close of the Tribulation before the Millennium. “Now the principle thing to remember in it is this: The Bible is not a history of the Gentile nations of the earth. Nor do its prophecies as such concern the Gentile nations of the earth. But the Bible is a story of the redemptive purpose and the plan of God through Israel. . . . If you want to know what time it is on God’s [prophetic] clock look at the Jew.” (Criswell. Vol 4. P. 158)

One of the blessed lessons from this passage is the assurance that God is in control and that He will have the ultimate victory! Daniel simply says that the Antichrist, *shall come to his end, and none shall help him.*” When we go to the Revelation, we get a more complete account of his end. *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a*

lake of fire burning with brimstone.”
(Revelation 19:20)

As hard as Satan may fight, he is a defeated foe. As dark as the circumstances seem to be God is still on His throne and nothing is a surprise to Him. He will gain the final victory.

Notes
