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Daniel / Daniel 11:21–35

Introduction

Last week you we had a history lesson seeing the incredible precision with which God prophesies were fulfilled historically.

It affirmed:

- the trust worthiness of God's word
- the sovereignty of God over history
- reality of wickedness and evil that precedes the coming of Jesus

We learned that Antiochus IV Epiphanes was the product of a long struggle between the Egyptian (southern kingdom) and the Seleucid (the northern Greek kingdom)

At the center of the conflict were the dispute over the land of Israel.

Why is the Land of Israel so important?

Our Calendars are centered on the events of Christ **in Israel**.

Jesus Died and rose again **in Israel**

Armageddon will take place **in Israel**

Jesus Christ will return to Israel

Jesus will set up his millennial kingdom **in Israel**

Israel is the apple of Gods eye (Refers to eye ball).

| Deuteronomy 32:9–10 (ESV)

| ⁹ But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.

| ¹⁰ "He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, **he kept him as the apple of his eye.**

Mess with Israel, and your poking your finger in Gods eye

Zechariah 2:8 ESV

⁸ For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:

This week our passage focuses on one man, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a preview of:

- the future AntiChrist.
- future suffering of God's people.

Repeated throughout this passages are references to time.

vs 23 from the time

vs 24 fo a time

vs 27 at the time

vs 29 at the time

vs 35 until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

Its a passages emphasizes that all of life, history, present and future happens according a divine time table.

vs 2-20 revealed the pinpoint accuracy for God's fulfilled prophecies

vs 21-35 reveals these prophecies happen according to Gods time.

It highlights the eternity of God.

God transcends(beyond) time

He is without beginning or end.

Revelation 1:8 ESV

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Humans are immortal, meaning they start in a specific point of time and their spirits live forever.

God is eternal which means he always exists and continues to exist.

For God a 1000 years are like one day.(Ps 90:4)

God exists in an eternal present and exist beyond the confines of time

God is at every point of the time line.

He sees all time equally vividly and acts in time.

Yet He is distinct from time and his existence is outside of the bounds of time.

If you draw a time line.

God would draw a circle around the time line

Yahweh is.

God is without succession of moments

Time is a tool in his hand.

He is not bound by time.

Yet as God controls what happens, it happens according to God's exact time table.

He humbled Nebuchadnezzar for 7 periods of Time (Dan 4:25)

He killed Belshazzar when his time had run out

He will limit the anti Christ reign to 3 1/2 years(time, times and half a time) Dan 7:25

He limited the time period Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecration of the temple and oppression of His people

He decreed 70 weeks(490 years) for Israel.

One week (7 years) remain

Our passage this morning highlights

Historical Background

Passage

| Daniel 11:21–35 (ESV)

| ²¹ In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

| ²² Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant.

| ²³ And **from the time** that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people.

| ²⁴ Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, **but only for a time.**

| ²⁵ And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him.

| ²⁶ Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.

| ²⁷ And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be **at the time appointed.**

²⁸ And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will and return to his own land.

²⁹ **"At the time appointed** he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not **be this time** as it was before.

³⁰ For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant.

³¹ Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

³² He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

³³ And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.

³⁴ When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery,

³⁵ and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, **until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.**

Proposition

God's fulfilled prophecies concerning the past guarantees fulfilled prophecies concerning the future anti-Christ according to God's time table

1. His deceptive character and rise to power according to God's time table. vs 21-27
2. His hatred of God and conflict with God's people according to God's time table vs 28-31
3. His downfall God's people's failure according to God's time table. vs 32-35

1. His deceptive character and rise to power according to God's time table. vs 21-27

²¹ In his place shall arise a contemptible person

In vs 20 we met Seleucus IV Philopater who raided the temple by sending Heliodorus.

Heliodorus conspired to assassinate Seleucus.

In his place came Antiochus IV Euphron. 175BC, The little horn predicted

Daniel 8:9 ESV

⁹ Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land.

As a boy

He had been as a boy a hostage in Rome

His name means the manifested one.

He even printed coins with the inscription Theos Epiphanes god manifest

Plybius gave him the nickname Epimanes(utterly mad) because of his unpredictable character: at times generous,and times tyrannical

Notably the angel gave no commentary on the moral condition of the previous kings but calls this man contemptible

Contemptible=(bazah) =despised,scorn, despicable, LOGOS = to be looked down on with disdain, possible hatred.

God wanted Daniel and by implication you the reader to notice this person, as he depicts the character of the future Satanic empowered Anti Christ.

What stands out is his deceptive nature/character.

to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Seleucus IV son Demetrius I Soter was the legitimate heir but was a hostage in Rome.

Taking advantage of his absence AntiochusIV Ehipanes assumed the throne.

The Bible says he did this flattery.

Term flatteries= halaqlaq = smoothness, **deception**.

One pastor called him a smooth operator.

Antiochus's sister Cleopatra I was married to Ptolemy V.

Antiochus was thus the uncle of their son Ptolemy VI who was too young to rule and so Antiochus's sister Cleopatra I ruled Egypt on Ptolemy's behalf and was pro Greek.

176BC She died.

Two court members(Lenaios and Eulaios) became the guardians of Egypt, and they started to reconquest Coel- Syria, which started the 6th Syrian war (170-168BC) against Antiochus IV

²² Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, even the prince of the covenant.

Antiochus defeated Ptolemy VI's army who had launched an attack on the Palestine and Phoenicia territories.

Ptolemy VI was captured as a hostage

Judah's leader was the high priest Onias III, who was sympathetic towards Egypt.

But his Jason was pro Greek.

The Bible called that office the prince (nagid = appointed ruler, commander) or ruler of the covenant.

Antiochus had Onias removed and appointed his brother Jason to be the chief priest for a large sum of money allowing him to Hellenize the city.

Jason built a gymnasium in which Jews following the Greek custom exercised in the nude.

Jason called Judah's citizens Antiochites.

Many Jews eagerly integrated into the Hellenistic society and were being uncircumcised, embarrassed by their old Jewish traditions.

The Hasidim (meaning the holy/pious one) formed a resistance movement and Antiochus saw this as a divisive force and so he set out to implement a full program of Hellenizing (civilizing) the masses

Menelaus, from the tribe of Benjamin, offered a higher tribute rate to Antiochus for the priesthood, and so he nominated him as High priest, breaking his promise to Jason.

The priesthood was up for grabs by the highest bidder.

The Bible states that the ruler of the covenant was broken

broken = shavar = injured, = Halot = destroyed = Logos to forcefully be caused to separate into pieces or fragments

The replacement of Jason with Menelaus enraged the Hasidim.

Menelaus also had Onias assassinated for exposing his theft of some of the golden vessels in the temple in 175 BC (2 Maccabees 4:32-34) (The history of the Jewish rebellion against their Syrian rulers)

23 And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people.

Antioch's used alliances as a means to get what he wanted, and broke them if needed.

He also rose to power with the help of a relatively small number of people.

24 Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds,

Antiochus targeted the richest Egyptian places.

What he plundered he used to expand his influence.

Like an evil ancient Robinhood, buying peoples' allegiances.

Even all this corruptive behavior that led to his early successes :

- The deceptive schemes,
- betrayed agreements
- purchased influence

Were simply part of God's appointed time table.

but only for a time.

25 And he shall stir up his power and his heart against the king of the south with a great army. And the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army, but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him.

26 Even those who eat his food shall break him. His army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.

Antiochus carried out two primary campaigns against Egypt.

The first in 169BC where he mobilized his forces against the king of the south(Egypt) with his great army.

He used plots and treachery to defeat Ptolemy VI Philometer.

Those eating royal food were the leading characters in the Egyptian court, the true power wielders behind the throne of Ptolemy VI (16)

Its by their counsel the Egyptian army was thrust into war and their army was defeated (swept away)

27 And as for the two kings, their hearts shall be bent on doing evil. They shall speak lies at the same table, but to no avail, for the end is yet to be at the time appointed.

Here we see a picture of international treaties/international politics.

Antiochus planned to attack Alexandria, but before that he sat down to have a meeting with his Nephew Ptolemy VI.

They reached some kind of agreement.

Antiochus posed deceptively as protector for his nephew, in which Egypt would be subjugated to Antiochus to preserve Ptolemy.

Yet both acted treacherously.

But even this political sceniving did not succeed, because things had not run its predetermined course according to **God's timetable**.

Application

God wants you and I to notice the deceptive nature of Antiochus IV Ephanes.

But even with all his deceitful manipulations, he could not defeat God's schedule with God's pinpoint control of history.

The future anti-Christ nature will similarly reveal a deceptive nature.

He will make a covenant with Israel, but will not keep his word, and Paul describes him as coming with wicked deception.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–10 ESV

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,

¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

But what you should know is that even when this wicked ruler by deceptive strategies seem to be successful, its only for a time period.

The God appointed time period as God's sovereign control of history will happen.

Something you may ask yourself.

How deceptive is your own heart?

Do you make commitments to God or other people and on the whim of the moment do you break your commitments.

Do you follow Gods commands until its not comfortable for you any more and then cast it out of your mind.

The Bible says, People will become lovers of self, money(2Tim 3:2), and lovers of pleasure.

2 Timothy 3:4 ESV

⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2. His hatred of God and conflict with God's people according to God's time table vs 28-31

²⁸ And he shall return to his land with great wealth, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will and return to his own land.

Alexandria rejected the agreements of the two kings, and made Ptolemy's younger brother as king(Ptolemy VIII)

Antiochus attacked Alexandria, but they mounted a good defence.

Antiochus returned home with much riches, leaving Ptolemy VI in Memphis for his protection and Pelusion under siege.

On his return trip to Syria, he stops of at the ATM (At the Temple mount in Jerusalem.

The Holy Covenant refers to the special covenant relationship God has with the Jews.

The Covenant that God in opposition to Antiochus keeps.

Setting his face against the Holy covenant meant that he was hostile to Jews and their religion.

He entered the sanctuary, took the golden altar, the lampstand, all its utensils, the table of the bread of presence its cups, bowles golden censors and all the gold and costly vessels, whil shedding much blood.(1Macc 1:20-24)

He then returned to Syria.

29 “At the time appointed

Once again we see God controlling what happen with pin point accuracy, according to His time table.

he shall return and come into the south, but it shall not be this time as it was before.

While Antiochus was absent the two Ptolemaic brothers reconciled and established a joint rule.

Antiochus saw this as a breach of agreement and decided to invade Egypt again.

AS he marched his army into Memphis

But this time something differnt happened.

30 For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant.

Kittim was used by Jewish literature to refer to the Mediterranean coast lands in general and at times specifically to Rome.

168BC the Romans defeated the Macedonians at the battle of Pydna.

Rome was annoincing it would become the inheritors of the previous empires, spoils.

When they heard Antiochus was marching on Alexandria, Rome sent a fleet to intervene.

The Roman Consul Gaius Popillius Laenas confronts Antiochus handing him a letter from the Roman Senate ordering him not to fight , but with draw from Egypt.

We have a record of what happened.

Daniel iii. Antiochus’ Persecution of the Jews after the Second Egyptian Campaign (11:29–31)

Popillius refused to acknowledge Antiochus’s greeting and presented him with the Roman ultimatum which was very straightforward in its demand: the immediate cessation of the war and complete withdrawal from Egypt in the shortest time possible. When Antiochus asked for time to consider, Popillius drew a circle with a stick around the king and ‘bade him to give his answer to the note within the circle’ (Plb. XXIX.27.5). The humiliated Seleucid king agreed to the ultimatum and acted accordingly.

In fear, disheartened, shame and fury Antiochus returns.

His route: through the land of the Jews.

Deciding that Palestine needs to be held more tightly, he sends his general Appollonius to occupy Jerusalem.

He takes out his anger upon the Jewish people.

Jason the former high priest also had made an attempt to overthrow Menelaus and retake Jerusalem.

Antiochus acts with great severity.

He commanded his soldiers to cut down every person they met, to massacre young old, boys, women children.

Within 3 days 80000 people were killed or sold into slavery.

He also entered the holy of holies led by the High priest Menelaus.

He defiled the holy vessels.

He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant.

Antiochus however showed favor to the Jews who were:

willing to compromise

willing to turn their backs on their faith and embrace Greek Hellenization

³¹ Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering.

Antiochus sent an Athanian philosepher to supervise the reprogramming of the people.

He identified Jupiter as god of Israel and set up an altar upon the temple altar.

Soldiers were left in Jerusalem, tasked with the job of suppressing an insurrection.

Drunken orgies associated with Bacchus was made compulsory.

Some engaged in sacred prostitution.

He sent a letter instructing Israel:

- to adopt his idolatrous religion.
- to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings
- to profane sabbaths and festivals
- to defile the sanctuary and the priests,

- to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and other unclean animals,
- to leave their sons uncircumcised.

The goal was to make :

- everything unclean and profane,
- to forget the law
- to change all the ordinances

Josephus wrote that altars to idols were erected in every city and village and wine were offered every day and he appointed overseers to compel the people to comply

You participate or die

So who resisted were whipped, their bodies torn to pieces and crucified.

Circumcision was forbidden.

Women caught having their children circumcised were strangled with their infants and crucified with their infants hung around their necks

Any books of the law that were found were torn in pieces and burned and its owner killed.

Many sadly compromised, many were killed and many fled.

And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

15 chislev 167BC they erected a new altar to the Greek god Zeus in the temple and sacrificed a pig to zeus.

He also had an idol of zeus with his own face in it.

The Jews were forced to eat the meat.

This was the abomination that makes desolate

Abomination =siqqus= detestable, vile, abhorrence, a object to abhor, horror, A thing that is detestable, and can make you unclean.

that makes desolate

Desolate = Shammam =desolate, deserted, lay waste, be horrified,devastating , to strike with disgust or revulsion

Something that brings about nauseating horror.

This event mirrors what the anti Christ will do in the future.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 ESV

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Application

Jesus warned

John 15:20 ESV

²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Paul stated

2 Timothy 3:12 ESV

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

The Bible warns you that the persecution of God's people will increase.

But in that situation, remember, Jesus warned you, its part of God's plan that will take place according to His timing.

And before you will wear the crown, you need to carry your cross.

But Jesus also promised

Matthew 5:11–12 ESV

¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

3.His downfall God's people's failure according to God's time table.vs 32-35

³² He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

Many Jews forsook Yahweh and embraced Hellenization.

But some Jews sought to be faithful to Yahweh and rose up against Antiochus and his followers.

The Book of Maccabees reveals what sparked the Maccabean revolt.

| 1 Maccabees 2:22–28 (NRSV)

| ²² We will not obey the king's words by turning aside from our religion to the right hand or to the left."

| ²³ When he had finished speaking these words, a Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice on the altar in Modein, according to the king's command.

| ²⁴ When Mattathias saw it, he burned with zeal and his heart was stirred. He gave vent to righteous anger; he ran and killed him on the altar.

| ²⁵ At the same time he killed the king's officer who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar.

| ²⁶ Thus he burned with zeal for the law, just as Phinehas did against Zimri son of Salu.

| ²⁷ Then Mattathias cried out in the town with a loud voice, saying: "Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!"

| ²⁸ Then he and his sons fled to the hills and left all that they had in the town.

vs 33-35 describe the Maccabees revolt.

³³ And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.

The Maccabean revolt was a long and bloody war led by Judas Maccabeus (the hammer).

The wise here refers to those who knew the Scriptures, who exhorted the common people to remain faithful to Yahweh.

But there would be a price to pay.

Some stumbled by sword meaning they were killed in battle.

Others were tortured by flame, while some were taken captive and their homes plundered.

³⁴ When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery,

The stumbling refers to when some of the Jewish rebels suffered and died.

But Judas Maccabeus's movement became popular and many joined.

But many did so with impure motives.

Flattery is the same hebrew term used to describe Antiochus IV Epiphany in Dan 11:21 .

Flattery = halaqlaq =slippery words, intrigue, insincere,flattery accompanied by empty promises.

³⁵ and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white,

The term stumble =kashal=stumble, falter, fail, be brought down, stagger.

Here the term refers to the faithful wise(those who knew the scriptures) who suffered and some died , which served to refine and purify them.

In the end the Jews were able to defeat the Syrian governors.

Antiochus being distracted by troubles in his eastern empire had left his trusted commander Lysias in Juda.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes was killed in 164 BC

Judas held off the Seleucid commander Lysias.

They regained the temple mount, destroying the idol dedicated to Zeus, built a new altar, renovated the temple and selected a faithful priests, rededicating the temple in 164BC.

The s feast called Hanukkah(feast of dedication or lights) still commemorates that occasion.

John 10:22 ESV

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,

This was called the Hasmonean dynasty that lasted till 37BC in which Pompey conquered Syria and Palestine.

until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

Once again we see history happening according to God's timeline.

The desecration of the Temple, and the banning of the regular sacrifices, and the holy place being trampled continued for a time period of according to Daniel 2300 evenings and mornings when the sacrifices took place.

Daniel 8:14 ESV

¹⁴ And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

If it refers to the morning and evening sacrifices, then it accounts for 1150 days, or 3 years and 70 days with (1 Year = 360 days)

This was the time from Antiochus' desecration of the temple to its refurbishing and restoration under Judas Maccabeus late in 164/163BC

The point is simply this,

Antiochus IV Epiphanes illustrates the deceitful nature, the deceptive schemes, the breaking of promises, the hatred and disdain of those who worship God by the future anti Christ.

But it also reminds you that he will ultimately also be destroyed.

There is a reminder of how much God's people suffered and will suffer in the tribulation period

It reminds you of the precise nature of God's plan being fulfilled in pinpoint accuracy.

It highlights the inerrancy of God's Word.

Application

Throughout history God's people have endured persecution and will continue to endure persecution.

It is in those times like in Dan 11:33 the wise (those people of the Scriptures) are to encourage God's people to be faithful to God.

It is a reminder that in difficulties and persecutions some people will forsake God and His word.

Others will be faithful to God and His word.

Jesus calls his people:

to follow Him.

to be faithful to God,

to encourage to prioritize Him and follow His word.

It is through trials and great suffering that God's people of then are sanctified

towards Christ likeness. (James 1:2-4)

You must remember history is consequential events that happen under God's control according to God's time line.

You should know that even with the greatest wicked ruler still to come in the future, God has numbered his days.

His rise, his coming in to power his deception and his demise, will all happen precicely according to God's time table.

And then Jesus will come according o God's divine timetable.