



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 29: Understanding the Rise of the Antichrist, Part 11

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REVIEW:

- A few weeks ago we began to give some attention to a portion of ***Daniel Ch. 11*** that is dense with insights about the future and final antichrist.
- It's a good section of the Bible to gain a foundation of understanding on this final apocalyptic world leader, though we will be looking at other passages in other places to supplement what we're learning here.
- So far, we've studied ***Daniel 11:36-39***, and in these few verses that we have studied, we've learned a good deal about the antichrist:
 - He's a leader that will have no worship system or religious affiliations that have characterized mankind up to that point.
 - For example, he will move the world at that time, into a worship of fallen angels.
 - The post-rapture world will be a very different place than the pre-rapture world. It will be one that is dramatically infused with the supernatural.
 - I believe the Biblical evidence strongly suggests a physical return of fallen angels into the sphere of daily human life.
 - The purpose of this fallen angelic return will be to deceive humanity, to convince mankind of "the lie." It will feed a "powerful delusion" that God Himself will send in judgement against those who have rejected the truth.
 - This Scriptural position is affirmed by the various conditioning and disclosure processes we see escalating even today, and it is absolutely confirmed by what occultic leaders are saying.
 - We spent a couple weeks on these matters, and we learned that the antichrist will be supported in all his political ambitions by these fallen angels, and he will honor them greatly for their help.
- In our last lesson, we learned that the governing system of the antichrist will be a socialist one. However it will be more extreme than history has never seen before.
- It will embrace all the deceptions and socialist ideals we see and hear from various leaders today. But rather than bringing the utopian ideals they claim it will bring, we know it will be a system that causes great destruction.
- And so, we did some digging into the history of socialism, including the how's and why's of it. We learned it is a political and economic system that is anti-God at its core.
- It has never worked. It has always failed. It has always violated God's laws. It has always persecuted God's followers, and it has always deceived the ignorant and foolish as it becomes a means of destruction and perversion.
- Unfortunately, we see the flames of socialism being fanned in our own nation today. I believe with all my heart that there is a huge population of people being conditioned and deceived in preparation for the arrival of the antichrist and his governing system.

I. UNDERSTANDING THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST

NOTE: So, in review, the few verses we have studied about the antichrist so far in *Dan. Ch. 11* have been full of information about the world that is coming and the world we live in right now.

NOW, WE'RE STILL STAYING IN THIS PITHY PART OF DANIEL FOR A BIT MORE TIME. Today we are MOVING ON TO *Daniel 11:40*:

- A. Again, as is our habit to gain a proper foundation, let's first grapple with the obvious points of this verse.
- a. The primary subject is still the antichrist. The "he" and the "him" in this verse is still in reference to.....the antichrist.
 - a. As we have noted before, a number of commentators and scholars claim the pronouns in **vs. 40** are STILL in reference to the historical Antiochus Epiphanes, but their arguments are weak.
 - b. There is nothing in the historical records about Antiochus Epiphanes which conform to the details of this text, just as the previous four verses do not conform to those records either.
 - c. So, **vs. 40** is clearly about the antichrist, just as the few verses before this are about the antichrist.
 - b. So, since the "he" and the "him" are about the antichrist, then **vs. 40** is describing two other future leaders who will seek to oppose him.

QUESTION: Can we know who they are? Or, can we know what territories define these two parties?

- c. Let's do our best to home in on what regions are being discussed here.
- d. Remember, the antichrist is most likely a future figure that emerges from the region of the ancient Seleucid Kingdom.
 - a. This is that general region which includes northern Syria, southern Turkey, and northwestern Iraq.
 - b. This is the region which was known as ancient Assyria. This is why the antichrist is called "the Assyrian" in other Biblical texts (*Micah 5:5-6 for example*):

And this [one] shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.

- c. Similar references to the antichrist being Assyrian are also found in Isaiah and Ezekiel.

- d. In Micah 5:5-6, the phrase “the land of Nimrod” is used to further identify the region from which the antichrist emerges from. We know Nimrod from **Genesis 10 and 11**. He was the one who raised the Tower of Babel at the location which became Babylon, and he is also a detailed type of the future antichrist.
- B. Moreover, it is specifically stated in **Daniel Ch. 8:9** that the antichrist will grow in power from an origin that is northwest of what will be the expanded territory of Israel in those last days.
1. Keep in mind, Israel will have gained substantial additional territory by that future point due to wars and conflicts which we may see very soon in our time.
 2. But again, this places the antichrist as emerging from an area that is within the borders of the Seleucid Kingdom, an area that is within the ancient empire of Assyria.
 3. So we need to keep all these texts and reference points in mind as we consider what **Daniel 11:40** is trying to tell us:
 - a. That brings us back to the main points of **Daniel 11:40**, and one of those main points now becomes more obvious: there is a “king” or a leader to the south of the antichrist that will oppose him, and a king to the north of the antichrist that will also oppose him.
 - b. Both northern and southern kings will engage the antichrist in “battle,” so this is clearly a war or a military conflict.
 - c. This will be at some point in the antichrist’s career, probably before the midpoint of The Tribulation (At the midpoint he is regarded as an all-powerful and unchallenged global leader).

(Cf. Revelation 13:4) - “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?”

- d. See also, “At that time” in **Daniel 12:1**. That is to say, “at that time” of these same events, also called “the time of the end” according to **Daniel 11:40**, Israel will experience her greatest distress, and this is why the archangel, Michael, rises up in advocacy for the Jewish people.
- e. So, **vs. 40** strongly hints at a timeframe just before the “abomination of desolation” and moving into that phase of the seven years known as The Great Tribulation.
- f. Remember, this is referred to as the “Time of Jacobs Trouble” (**Cf. Jeremiah 30:7**). And, in **Daniel 10:14**, the angel who is speaking to Daniel states, this is all about “your people.”
- g. This is another reminder that we need to evaluate Biblical prophecy ‘primarily,’ from the perspective of Israel and the Jewish people. We need to know what will take place with them during this future timeframe if we are to grasp the full and clear picture.

- h. Now, it's not clear if **Daniel 11:40** is describing two separate conflicts, or one event that involves a pincer-type military strategy.
 - i. If I had to guess, I think it'd be the latter. To me, it seems the text is talking about two leaders that come against the antichrist militarily at the same time.
 - j. Perhaps the southern-oriented kingdom initiates the conflict and the northern kingdom jumps in to help. It's not clear, but the text may be hinting at that arrangement.
 - k. In any case, it's a pretty major conflict. Consider the terms used:
 - It's a "battle," so this is not a diplomatic spat; it's a military conflict, and it's sufficient in nature to be noted in Scripture.
 - There is mention in **Daniel 11:40** of "...chariots and calvary....and a great fleet of ships."
 - NOTE: To me, it's interesting that the military resources of the northern king are specified whereas the military resources of the southern kingdom are not. (Implications of Africa and the Islamic nations there?)
 - Look further down in **11: 42** where the radical northeastern nations of Africa are called out as being defeated. This may be giving some additional commentary on this conflict....
 - Further, the phrase "great fleet of ships" suggests that whatever the northern kingdom is, they have a great navy. This probably limits the candidates: (Turkey? Russia?)
 - Some commentators suggest Syria at this point, but that's the same place that the antichrist will emerge from, so that's problematic. Also, Syria is not noted in our time for "a great navy."
4. If I had to tender a guess with what's going on in **Daniel 11:40**, and with the various tidbits of information offered here and there, I'd guess that this continues to be a commentary on the antichrist's rise, and on his career in development.
- a. We're seeing a sequential evolution of events in the antichrist's ascent on the world stage.
 - b. First, he rises to power, prestige, and world prominence in **Daniel 11:36-39**.
 - c. During this phase, he acts in support of a one world religious system that deludes the earth-dwellers. He needs this arrangement for a time.
 - d. He himself honors the fallen angels and he supports THE LIE and the GREAT DELUSION in order to distract from the truth of God's Word. All of this is very public and out in the open.
 - e. During this time, he builds his own power and his control. He figures out who his real allies are, he redistributes wealth to them, and he tears down any laws and institutions which threaten his globalist goals.

- f. We know that everything at this time is moving towards his self-worship. He is building a political and economic system that cements himself at the top of a turbo-charged socialist empire.
- g. He arranges around himself boot-licking acolytes that will serve and support him unquestionably.
- h. But “at the time of the end,” which suggests the final three and a half years, the same timeframe which causes Michael, the protector of the Jewish people, to rise up. The antichrist will face military opposition from various places. Why?
- i. Well, remember, this is the timeframe where he will declare himself to be ‘god,’ where the mark of the Beast will be implemented, where the one world religion will be done away with, and where the antichrist will require the world to worship him!
- j. Terms and conditions will change abruptly all around the globe, and despite the fact that the world will be greatly deceived in general by this point, some will oppose these dramatic new changes.
- k. Recall, Jesus discussed how Satan’s kingdom is divided against itself in **Mark 3:23-26**.
- l. Just because the antichrist is rising in power and influence does not mean that the pervasive depravity of his empire is unchallenged by dark forces. The dark side suffers the consequences of extreme jealousy and PERPETUAL sinfulness.
- m. And so, we see kingdoms and their leaders rising up against the antichrist, and **Daniel 11:40** and other texts give us a glimpse into all of that and when it takes place.
- n. The antichrist is power-hungry, paranoid, tyrannical, and proud. This is why **vs. 40** ends with an over-arching comment: “he will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.”
- o. As his power and his pride both grow, the world suffers. Whatever political and diplomatic means he once used to rise to power, whatever tactics he employed to be seen as the world’s Messiah or ‘answer man,’ all that gives way to force, conflict, and war.

NOTE: That brings us to **verse 41**

- C. Now, we have further discussion about the antichrist’s military conquests and motives. The information gets more specific than what we saw in the previous verse.
 - 1. Here’s the high-altitude summary: the antichrist is very successful in defeating his foes, in subduing all opponents, and in conquering a variety of territories throughout the middle east and Northern Africa. This is evident if you quickly scan the subsequent verses.

2. But one statement stands apart from all the others “*Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab,, and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand...”*).
3. Uniquely, this specific region, named as Edom, Moab, and Ammon – escape the antichrist’s pattern of conquest. These are ancient territories within the modern nation of Jordan. The big question is why? What’s so special about this place?

NOTE: This question - - and this particular verse, **Daniel 11:41** – opens up a series of related issues. I need to unpack several topics that – at first glance, may seem unrelated. But, they all overlap and impact one another, and we need to explore them so that we can best understand what is happening in **vs. 41**.

4. What **vs. 41** is telling us is there is a specific region of the Middle East that will not conform to the antichrist’s otherwise “routine pattern of conquests.” To understand how this comes to be, we need to look at certain issues in our own time, at some present developments in the Middle East.
5. That means we need to redirect our attention to the pending **Psalms 83** war. This is the first issue we need to understand if we are to properly interpret **Daniel 11:41**. Please locate **Psalms 83** and have it in front of you as I’ll be referring to it often.

D. BACKGROUND ABOUT THE TEXT:

1. It was written some 3,000 years ago by King David’s worship leader, **Asaph, during a time of great prosperity, liberty, and peace.**
2. Psalm 83, despite its warlike language was not written during any time of conflict. That’s very important to understand. Contrary to the assumptions of some people, this prophetic psalm was not written during a time of Israel’s vulnerability.
3. In fact, King David had had decisive victories over Israel’s enemies, and Israel could expand freely since the superpowers of Egypt and Assyria were both declining.
4. David’s kingdom was large during this time. It was not as large as his son Solomon’s would be, but it extended from the Red Sea to the Euphrates.
5. The point here is that **Psalms 83** was written during a time of peace and prosperity.
6. Also, it was written by Asaph. Who was he?
 - a. I mentioned a moment ago that Asaph was King David’s worship leader. He was an official member of King David’s court.
 - b. However, Asaph was also a “seer” or a prophet. This distinction is specified in **2 Chronicles 29:30**

- c. As a prophet, Asaph saw beyond this period of peace during which ***Psalms 83*** was written, to a future time when Israel's multiple foes would seek the utter destruction of the Jewish nation.
- d. That time seems to be nearing. It's here ***that I want to make an important statement:***

NOTE: I believe we live in a time when we are seeing the conditions rapidly forming which will ultimately see the fulfillment of ***Psalms 83***.

- Therefore, I think we are all wise to gain a proper understanding of ***Psalms 83*** and what it reveals about events to come.

II. PSALM 83 AND IMMINENT PROPHETIC EVENTS

- A. Let me start with the high-altitude view of Psalms 83 and what it is saying.
 1. Who is this about? – It's about a group or a confederacy of 10 nations or people groups that are seeking Israel's complete and utter destruction (***PSALM 83:4***)
 2. What does this confederacy want? - The goal of this group is they want Israel fully wiped off the map.
 - They don't want any memory of Israel to remain.
 - They are seeking the complete annihilation of the Jewish state.
 3. How does this confederacy's objective relate to Scripture? – Let's be very clear here: one of the often-repeated stories in God's Word is the one where Israel's enemies want the destruction of the Jewish state and of the Jews as a people group.
 - a. I mentioned in this class not long ago that a hatred of the Jews is a passion that originates with Satan.
 - b. We can see this frankly expressed in the historical pogroms against the Jews, or in the details of The Holocaust during WW2.
 - c. We can also see this anti-semitism expressed in the heresy of Replacement Theology within the greater church.
 - Remember, the widespread momentum of Replacement Theology began with the reformers like Martin Luther and John Calvin.
 - The seeds of this heresy started even earlier with St. Augustine in the 4th Century.
 - It's a sad fact that Hitler credited Martin Luther's virulent anti-Jewish writings as being a key inspiration for Hitler's own campaigns against the Jews.
 - In the Reformed Movement today, which includes multiple denominations. We have well-known preachers and teachers like John Piper and RC Sproul who thinly disguise their sentiments AGAINST Israel and the Jews.
 - d. Politically-speaking, we are seeing a dramatic rise in anti-Jewish sentiments that are being expressed within our nation's own leaders.

- Recall the 2012 DNC where a motion was made to omit God and Jerusalem as Israel's capital from the Democratic platform.
 - There was a massive roar in the auditorium against Israel and against God from the thousands of attendees. Awkward live TV moment.
 - Recall also, Barak Obama's administration that referred to Benjamin Netanyahu as "chickens---" (rhymes with spit)
 - It's no secret that multiple members of the Democrat leadership today openly despise Israel.
- e. The operative point I am making is hatred of the Jews (and all the variations of that) are passions that originate with Satan.
- f. This confederation of 10 people groups that seek Israel's complete destruction in **Psalm 83** are no different.
- g. They are evil in their goals. Their agenda is anti-God (**Read vs. 5 "against you" – God**)

B. Let's move from the high-altitude view to the more granular information.

1. Who comprises this 10-nation confederacy?
 - a. This list of foes against Israel in this particular prophecy is given to us in **Psalm 83:5-8**, and these foes are nations and people groups which IMMEDIATELY SURROUND the Jewish state today.
 - b. Many of them, in fact, share a border with Israel or are otherwise proximal to her.
 - c. They have all be historic enemies of Israel (Let's read **vss. 5-8**)

"With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you—the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, Byblos [Geba], Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. Even Assyria has joined them to reinforce Lot's descendants."

- d. There is a bit of debate as to whether or not this list mentions 9 people groups, or possibly even 11, but I think the argument for ten distinct groups is the most sound.
- e. Now, we don't use these ancient names anymore, so WHO ARE THEY NOW?
- f. To get the answer, we need to look at the historical territories, lineages, and migration patterns of these groups mentioned in **vss. 5-8**.
- g. They can all be traced, and this gives us their identification: their modern-day equivalents. Here they are:
 - **Tents of Edom:** Palestinians and Southern Jordanians (focus on 'refugees' or having no territory of their own - - 'tents'). Notice they are listed first; that is always significant in some way.
 - **Ishmaelites:** Part of Saudi Arabia (Ishmael is the father of the Arabs)
 - **Moab:** Palestinians and Central Jordanians
 - **Hagrites:** Egyptians (Hagar is the matriarch of Egypt)

- **Gebal(Byblos):** Hezbollah and Northern Lebanese
- **Ammon:** Palestinians and Northern Jordanians
- **Amalek:** An Arabian Region of the Sinai area
- **Philistia:** Hamas of the Gaza Strip
- **Tyre:** Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese
- **Assyria:** Syrians and Northern Iraqis

NOTE: We don't have time to go through the rationale for including each and every one of these, but I would encourage you to explore Bill Salus' excellent writings on these matters. He gets into a very thorough discussion concerning this matter.

- C. I want to address a question that generally arises when this list is studied: "Doesn't Israel have peace treaties with some of these folks now?" (For example, Egypt and Jordan, or now even, the Saudis). I have four comments to think about:
- a. In the Middle East, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." Relationships there change very quickly as various developments are perceived.
 - a. And nothing needs to be perceived 'correctly' in order to start a major conflict.
 - b. The peace treaties are fragile, at best. It would not take much for any of these people groups to find a reason to violate political terms and a situation of relative peace in order to fan their flames of ancient hatred.
 - a. As a case in point, note all the Arabs in Israel that are frequently rioting, burning, looting, killing, etc. They are Israeli citizens, and beneficiaries of being a citizen and living in Israel, yet they quickly turn against the Jewish state when they sense an opportunity to express their greater hatred.
 - c. They are all Islamic foes of Israel. Make no mistake, Islam is NOT a religion of peace, not matter how much certain political figures try to paint it that way.
 - a. It is a destructive and violent religion that has fostered many centuries of hatred against the Jews.
 - d. These coalition folks want Israel's land for themselves. They are all on record stating this.
 - a. They didn't want it that much till Israel got it, and they didn't do anything with the land except let it go to ruin (Mark Twain)
 - b. But Israel has developed their land wonderfully. Israel is strong and the land that was once desert and waste is now green and productive. That conforms to **(vs. 12)**
 - c. It would only take one singular event, maybe even an unexpected one, to cause all these people groups to unify against Israel (I'll share my own thoughts on that one later).

D. Let's get back to the intentions of the text of Psalms 83 - - what is Asaph's goal?

- e. He is pleading to God for victory, and for the perishing and disgrace of Israel's foes (see vs. 9-18)
 - a. I believe the Bible makes the case that Israel is not only victorious in a major way, but there are resulting benefits to Israel from this conflict
 - b. Israel will emerge far safer and more secure than she was before this conflict
 - c. Her enemies that have hassled her and fought her for centuries – and which have attacked her multiple times since her Independence in 1948 – will be eliminated in this prophetic **Psalms 83** conflict.
 - d. Eliminated? How do we know this?
 - **Psalms 83:9-11.** These historical examples which are provided here (i.e. the Midianites, Sisera, and so on) involved the utter destruction / ending of oppression of Israel's enemies in each example.
 - There is the graphic picture of fire consuming a forest, or as chaff disappearing in the wind (**Psalms 83:13 and 14**)
 - These things together paint a picture of complete annihilation
 - e. I believe these events will result in Israel gaining the conditions of **Ezekiel 38:11-12** (NOTE: This is Gog's rationale at this future point in time....)

"I will go up against the land of unwallled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates, to seize spoil and carry off plunder..."

- f. Israel will gain several things from this **Psalms 83** conflict:
 - Security (this is affirmed in the **Ezekiel** Passage)
 - Spoils (this is affirmed also in the **Ezekiel** Passage as well as **Ezekiel 38:13**). Israel has always improved her land, resources, etc.
 - Moreover, Israel is rapidly becoming the Middle East's powerhouse for energy reserves. Israel may rescue Europe from its foolish dependence on Russian oil.
 - Space (land – **Cf. Daniel 8:9, Matthew 24:16, etc.**). I believe Israel will take ownership of the land which they acquire in these conflicts. As they should! Just like the Golan Heights.

IMPORTANT: That means that Israel will gain the territories known as Edom, Moab, and Ammon (Regions within modern-day Jordan). That also means these areas will be Israeli territory when the antichrist seeks – and FAILS – to conquer them in **Daniel 11:41**.

- NOTE: All these things will set up the conditions for the War of Gog and Magog which will be subsequent to this **Psalms 83** conflict

- This is IMPORTANT to understand. Many folks are currently obsessing about the *Ezekiel 38 and 39* conflict, but *Psalms 83* happens before that.
- f. What's significant right now is the fact that the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) are publicly saying Israel's next major conflict will be a regional one where she will face a withering and unprecedented attack from all sides.
 - a. They specify all the Jewish state's foes which essentially share a border with her. Their list of foes they are concerned about conforms to the same list as mentioned in *Psalms 83*.
 - b. For that matter, these same adversaries of Israel are predicting the very same scenario. It's the current news agreeing with the Bible.
- E. And now we get to the great debate: Some people feel Psalms 83 has already happened (1948, or 1967). I am not one of those, but let's look into why this is a shaky notion.
 - 1. The historical foes of Israel which were listed in vss. 9-11 disappeared after their conflict with Israel.
 - a. That's why Asaph is pleading with God to make these nations "like" those....and to cause them to "perish in disgrace" as nations before did
 - If 1948's War of Independence was fulfillment of this prophecy in *Psalms 83*, then not only did none of Israel's foes from that time disappear, they also got much stronger.
 - None of them "perished." They are all still here.
 - Further, some of the foes listed in *Psalms 83* did not exist till AFTER the War of Independence in 1948 (the first-listed tents of Edom, for example)
 - This is easy to see. The world's great outcry against Israel has been that the Palestinian dilemma occurred after the Jews got Israel back
 - The Palestinians are largely from Jordan, originally. Notice the large groups of so-called Palestinians rioting against Israel are FROM Jordan in recent days.
 - As for the claim that *Psalms 83* was fulfilled in the 1967 "Six Day" war, only a portion of the ten members listed were involved in that war.
 - The "Six Day War" does not conform to this end-time prophecy.

Conclusion: That coalition which is listed in *Psalms 83*, is – today - united under the common hatreds and motives which define Islam.

- They all share a border with Israel or they are proximal to the Jewish state.
- They are all influenced by Iran, or are actual proxies of Iran.

- In other words, today's times fit this prophecy's requirements like no other point in history.

There are also six conditions which exist now for this ***Psalms 83*** event which have only existed since 1948 (NOTE: From Bill Salus):

1. Israelis being in the land (***Psalms 83:3***)
2. The Nation of Israel being an official nation (***Psalms 83:4,12***)
3. An Israeli Defense Forces; the IDF (***Psalms 83:9-11***)
4. Palestinian Refugees; i.e. the tents of Edom (***Psalms 83:6***)
5. An Arab League that is mutually cooperative (***Psalms 83:6-8***)
6. A unified and passionate Arab hatred of Israelis (***Psalms 83:3***)

Presently all six of these prerequisites are in place, making ***Psalms 83*** an imminent event.