

“The Time of the End” 2

Daniel 11:36-39

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing.

For the past few weeks on *Hope for Today* we’ve been studying from the closing verses of Daniel chapter eleven and the opening verses of chapter twelve. Our study is titled “The Time of the End.” I remind you that this section of verses deals with the final week of Daniel’s vision of the seventy weeks. This is the final period of time leading up to the establishing of Christ’s eternal kingdom. The early church father, Jerome, wrote that the Jewish people believed that the verses we’re studying were a reference to the Antichrist.

During our last visit together, we barely got through the introduction to this section. So, today, we’ll get into the main part of our teaching. I hope you can stay with me. Right now, let me read for you **Daniel chapter 11, verses 36 to 39**.

According to Daniel’s vision in chapter nine of the seventy weeks, or seventy sevens, the first 69 weeks end with the cutting off of Messiah the prince (verse 26). That leaves the final week, the 70th one, yet to come, according to the last verse of the chapter. This is the final period of time leading up to the establishing of Christ’s eternal kingdom. And it is this time period that is the focus of these ending verses of chapter 11 and all of chapter 12.

The early church father, Jerome, who authored a commentary on the book of Daniel stated that “the Jews believe this passage (here in end of chapter 11) is a reference to the Antichrist.” Jerome, like many in his day, saw Antiochus as a type of the coming Antichrist.

The first part of our text tells us that this time of the end will be led by a king who will have a very **singular focus**.

So, who is this king of verse 36 who *shall do as he pleases*? Is this the ruler of a revived Roman empire, the *little horn* of Daniel chapter 7, who persecutes the saints of the Most High for 3 and a half years? Or is it *the beast out of the sea* in Rev. 13:1 to 10 who holds sway over all the earth? According to Revelation 13:7, this ruler is given absolute authority over every *tribe and people and language and nation*. Chapter 12, verse 1 indicates the events of our text take place

during the time of the great tribulation, unprecedented in human history. Jesus Himself referred to this time in Matthew 24:21, 22 and 29-31 by saying there has never been a time like it before and there will never be a time like it afterward.

Not only will this strongman do as he pleases, but he will also exalt himself above EVERY god! And according to Revelation 13:15, he will execute anyone who refuses to worship him. Even though he speaks blasphemous words against God, he is allowed to continue until *the wrath or indignation has been accomplished*. In other words, God has a specific amount of time allotted for the punishment and purification of His ancient, chosen, earthly people. This will happen because what God has determined He will fulfil!

Furthermore, this king of the end will pay no attention to the gods his forefathers worshipped. Some have taken this statement to mean that the Antichrist will be a Jew. I guess that's possible, but I believe whoever brings peace to the nation of Israel and gives the Jewish people permission to rebuild the Temple will be worshipped as Messiah.

The word translated as god is (*elohim*) and can refer to false gods or idols. This fact alone assures us that the person being described is not Antiochus. He was very much a worshipper of the gods. He filled Jerusalem and Judah with idols and even set up an idol of Zeus in the Temple! He killed the Jewish people for refusing to worship his gods.

This king won't pay any attention to *the desire of women*. What do we make of this? A couple possibilities: this king of the end will be lacking in natural affection or desire (sodomite perhaps?); or *the desire of women* could refer to the Jewish Messiah, Jesus. Supposedly, the supreme desire of every Jewish maiden was to be the mother of Messiah. The Antichrist will be stridently opposed to Messiah! He is, after all, Satan's counterfeit of the true Messiah. I think both of these interpretations could be valid without being exclusive.

Ultimately, this king of the end will exalt himself above all gods just as Paul says in Second Thessalonians 2:2; "...[he] opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." What he really worships, according to verse 37 is, power – his power. He will consider himself to be THE final authority.

He will honor the god of fortresses, in other words, he will worship military power in a way that none before him has ever done. Remember, Jesus said that where your treasure is, that's where your heart will be. This king of the end will demonstrate his worship of military power by

offering to it *gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts*. Whatever makes him more powerful will be highly valued and honored. This is his **singular focus!**

This foreign god, this god of forces, will enable the king of the end to conquer many nations and peoples. Those who cooperate with him will be *loaded with honor* and will receive prime political assignments. Even the conquered lands will become a means of financial gain for him. Everything is directed toward this goal of unmatched military power!

You know, when I think about the acceptance and promotion of Marxist/socialist thought, especially in the western world, it's easy to see how the world is hurtling down this path toward destruction. We have several generations of people who have been educated from a strictly humanist world view. Humanism makes mankind the measure of all things and completely denies the possibility of the supernatural. This worldview has led to the deaths of tens of millions in China, Russia, and beyond.

To the humanist, God is a crutch for the weak, a source of security for the insecure. In reality, that conclusion is true; it's just that we acknowledge our weakness and our insecurity, and we find that need met in God through Christ. Humanists claim to have answers, but only lurch from one manmade crisis to the next: global warming, climate change, a global pandemic whose proposed treatment becomes more deadly than the disease; what's next? In all of this, the desire is for control, for power. And one of the easiest ways to seize power is to control people with fear!

At the beginning of the 21st century, it seemed like the move toward global government was unstoppable. The global elite had big plans for world utopia. But what has happened in the last decade? Many nations have pulled back from the globalist agenda and have become much more nationalistic. They suddenly realized that without enforceable borders they would ultimately lose their national identity. In many countries, the forgotten people, the local citizens, have felt the economic and social pain of globalism and have said "no thank you." They've elected leaders who are much more populist, who at least seem to care about the little people.

So, do these developments mean that a one-world government is unattainable? Has God's timeline been interrupted? No. My personal opinion is that this is just a temporary pause in the downward trajectory of humanity bent on rejecting God. In fact, the violence, the anarchy, the fragmentation that's happening now could ultimately set the stage for a strong world leader who would promise peace – and then deliver a false peace. Remember what I said earlier about fear? A

powerful leader who controls the economy and especially the food supply would have most people doing whatever he demanded of them.

I don't presume to know God's timetable for this king of the end, but this I do know, the world is being prepared to embrace this fanatical, godless, dictator.

CLOSING

My friend, I hate to interrupt, but we're almost out of time for today's broadcast. Lord willing, we'll be back in one week to continue this study. If you'd like an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "The Time of the End."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "The Time of the End." I'd be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study, "The Time of the End," from Daniel chapter eleven. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.