

## Daniel 11:21-45

**Daniel 11:36 Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.**

Antiochus Epiphanes receives the attention we have observed in the Book of Daniel primarily because he is a type of the Anti-Christ who will come to power in the end times. God's message to Daniel through his dreams and visions is intended to demonstrate God's authority in all that has taken place in history as we look back on the empires that rose and fell just as Daniel prophesied and also to demonstrate that God is still at work in accomplishing His purposes and that He will see it through to the end. The prophecies concerning Antiochus Epiphanes take us from what is now a historical record of his atrocities in the 2nd century BC to the rise of the Anti-Christ and the even more extreme atrocities that he will be responsible for at the end.

In each one (Antiochus and the Anti-Christ) there is evident the activity and empowerment of the Devil. Jesus said that there would be many anti-Christ's and these

words were a witness to the devil's persistent opposition to God and to his agenda of destruction.

Notice that Antiochus came to power through deceit and intrigue. He used a small number of people to gain his power and then there was no stopping him. The deceitfulness of the devil is one of his primary methods. He will always tell you what you want to hear in order to gain trust and favor and then he will cast you aside after he has gotten what he wants. Flattery and promises that are directed toward your most closely held desires are dead give-aways that it is the devil who is enticing you. These promises always require a compromise of your values or the buying in to a short cut that will bring you what you desire.

Another characteristic shared by Antiochus and the Anti-Christ is utter ruthlessness. In v. 24, Antiochus enters peaceably and then disperses plunder, spoil, and riches (taken from whom?) Warfare is executed relentlessly in the pursuit of Antiochus' ambition. The Anti-Christ also overwhelms every enemy with tremendous loss of life.

Both Antiochus and the Anti-Christ have an anti-God agenda. In the case of Antiochus, "And forces shall be mustered by him, and

they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation..." The Anti-Christ will "do according to his own will, he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods"

For both, the attempt to control/destroy the faith of the people leads to their demise. Antiochus had the rebellion of the Maccabees and the Anti-Christ will be attacked from all sides. "He shall come to his end and no one will help him."

Notice the steps of temptation as it was experienced in the garden: 1) A sense of deprivation opened the door to temptation. 2) In looking over the forbidden attention was focused on the "promised" satisfactions rather than on any consequences that would follow. 3) The choices available to the one tempted were narrowed down to 2, Give-in or miss out. 4) The aura of secrecy suggested that no one else would know. 5) Under this pressure, warnings of harm or any moral questions were suddenly of no concern. 6) Having decided that they wanted to eat they did so. 7) The consequences of their action soon followed. They heard the voice of God and they ran and hid from Him