

DANIEL

An Exile Longing for Heaven



GOD'S PURPOSES THROUGH TYRANTS - PART 3

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Outline of Chapter 11

Three Eras of increasing wicked rule:

I. 1-20 - Rule of Persia and Greece

II. 21-35 - Rule of Antiochus Epiphanes

III. 36-45 - Rule of the Antichrist

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Review from Last Time

Three Purposes of God worked out through wicked tyrants (first today):

1. The Humbling of Ungodly Nations (1-20)

a. Persia's lust for Wealth (2)

b. Greek lust for Power (3-20)

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Today's Focus

Today we look at point 2 of the Purposes of God through Tyrants

God uses severe persecution to work among His people

How does God use Persecution from Tyrants to Purify His People?

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How God Uses Persecution to Purify His People

a. To Cause us to Fight Sin

2 Corinthians 12:7

b. To Cleanse our Faith of Impurity

1 Peter 1:6-7

c. To Create a Greater Evangelistic Witness for Christ

Philippians 1:14

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2. Antiochus Epiphanes (21-35)

A Madman used to create Greater Commitment to God

Antiochus IV is a type of the antichrist to come

i. His Sinful Madness (21-27)

ii. His Satanic Campaign Against the Jews (28-35)

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i. His Sinful Madness (21-27)

a. A Culture of Corruption (21-24)

- 21- Antiochus IV Epiphanes came to rule in 175 BC – brutal oppression of the Jews
- His title “Epiphanes” means “like a god” – he was called “Epimanes,” meaning “madman”
 - The true heir, Demetrius I, was held hostage in Rome – Antiochus seized the throne for himself

Selfishness - his interest over others

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i. His Sinful Madness (21-27)

Strife - Establishing a Culture of Distrust (22)

- In the Jewish Priesthood
 - The Tobiad family paid to replace high priest Onias III with his brother Jason
 - Around 172 BC the Tobiads ousted Jason for Menelaus, with an even higher tribute

The priesthood – God's holy office – was bought and sold for power

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i. His Sinful Madness (21-27)

The Corruption of Antiochus

- 23 - A deceitful alliance with King Eumenes II of Pergamum helped Antiochus IV come to power
- 24 – He will do what his fathers never did: he plundered his own country

But God in His sovereignty limits this – “only for a time”

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i. His Sinful Madness (21-27)

b. Deception and Failure (25-27)

The Schemer get's Out-schemed!

- Creates an alliance with his nephew Ptolemy VI
- 27 Antiochus and his nephew Ptolemy VI met and traded deceitful treaties
- Antiochus pressured by Rome to withdraw from Egypt in humiliation

Sin is self-destructive – like a snake mistaking its own tail for prey and swallowing itself

Numbers 32:23

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ii. His Satanic Campaign Against the Jews (28-35)

a. His Persecution of the Jews (28-31)

Looting the Temple

- 28 – Passing through Judea on his way home, Antiochus entered the sanctuary and stripped the temple of its gold, silver, and treasures

1 Maccabees 1:18-19

Not getting what he desired - leads to unrestrained greed (Prov 13:11; 1 Tim 6:6)

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ii. His Satanic Campaign Against the Jews (28-35)

A Final Egyptian Defeat

- 29-30 – Ships of Kittim (Rome) will come against him
- In 168 BC, a Roman ambassador drew a circle in the sand around Antiochus
- Antiochus obeyed – the origin of the idiom “drawing a line in the sand”

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ii. His Satanic Campaign Against the Jews (28-35)

Profaning the Temple of God

- Disheartened by Rome, he will return and become indignant at the holy covenant
- Antiochus tore down the walls of Jerusalem, slaughtered thousands of Jews, and entered the holy of holies himself
- *Compromise among God's People*: favoring Jews willing to embrace his idolatry (Rev 13:17)

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ii. His Satanic Campaign Against the Jews (28-35)

- 31 – Mighty forces profane the sanctuary fortress and abolish the regular sacrifice
 - Antiochus turned the temple into a shrine to Zeus: Torah copies burned, Sabbath and circumcision forbidden, pigs sacrificed on the altar
 - The abomination of desolation (1 Macc 1:54)

Matthew 24:15 speaks of the Antichrist profaning a rebuilt temple in the same way

If we abandon pure worship to God, He may totally take it away in persecution

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ii. His Satanic Campaign Against the Jews (28-35)

b. The Jewish Rebellion against him (32-35)

- 32 – A Remnant strong in their walk with God!
- Many Jews abandoned the covenant – but the priest Mattathias refused, killing the officer who forced Israel to sacrifice to idols
- This began the Maccabean Revolt (167–160 BC) – 1 Maccabees 2:22-28

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ii. His Satanic Campaign Against the Jews (28-35)

- 33-35- Mattathias' sons Judas, Jonathan, and Simon led Judah's drive for independence,
- Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure
- until the time of the end, at the appointed time (last days)

1 Pet 1:6,7

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Looking Ahead

Next time... 3. The Final Antichrist (36-45)

- i. Description of the Anti-Christ (36-39)
- ii. Military Campaigns of the Anti-Christ (40-45)