

*A Study
on the
Second Epistle
to the
Thessalonians*

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Table of Contents

Preface

Bible Study Guides for the New Testament 1

Introduction

The Second Epistle to the Thessalonians 8

Chapter 1

Paul Testifies of Thessalonian's Faith 9

Chapter 2

The Timing of the Lord's Return 10

Chapter 3

Paul Asks For Prayer, and Gives Advice 15

Appendix

Questions from 2 Thessalonians 17

Antichrist In Daniel's Prophecy 18

Links to Other Books Available 31

Bible Study Guides for the New Testament

Writing a book was not on my mind when this effort was initiated some years ago. In fact, it began when a member of my Sunday School class commented that his son had talked about committing suicide the previous week. As a result, I felt an urge to see what the Bible had to say about hope, with a view toward helping his son cope with his suicidal feelings. The result of that effort was an article entitled: “Hope and the Miraculous Three Pound Computer,” located in Chapter 6 of the book [After the Big Bang](#). My next writing endeavor was a fallout from a Sunday School class discussion about temptations, or trials, and their purpose in our lives. An article entitled “The Trials of Job” located in Chapter 7 of the same book resulted from that effort. After this I began to feel a prodding from the Lord to continue studying and writing. The chapters in this book document what I subsequently learned about two of God’s greatest and most marvelous creations: earth and mankind, who He made to exercise dominion over it.

Some of the material presented in these New Testament Bible Study Guides conflicts with commonly held viewpoints, and differs as well on the definitions of some words used to explicate them. One thing I have learned through this effort is that the meaning of many of the words used in the Bible is not uniformly agreed to by expositors, and in many cases, not agreed to by the various versions of the Bible. For example, in the KJV of the old testament (OT), the word “soul” is used over 780 times. Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words notes that in over 400 of these uses, the Hebrew word used is misinterpreted. I mention this not to heap criticism on the KJV, for it is my personal Bible, and I love it dearly, but to point out the importance of consulting Hebrew and Greek sources, and good conservative lexicons, when trying to understand difficult scripture. The meaning of some words is not absolutely clear even then. Nevertheless, this is the process I have followed in this effort.

I am a retired engineer: my education and work experience sparked a great interest in details. I found that to understand the technical difficulties and problems that arise in the operation of complex machines, a good understanding of the details of the design is absolutely necessary. What is

presented herein is an analysis of important details in God's creation of the earth and man: his habitat and milieu. However, no description is completely adequate to portray the unbelievable complexity and efficacy of tripartite man. Scientists and engineers have tried to duplicate the various subsystems in God's design of man for years, with limited success. Part of the problem is that we do not understand many of the operational details, but the greatest impediment is probably the fact that man is composed of three parts: spirit, soul, and body, two of which (spirit and soul) are immaterial, and are thus largely beyond the scope of scientific and medical analysis. The third part, the highly complex body, is strongly influenced by these two immaterial parts. God has given mankind a great challenge in trying to understand tripartite man. What better model could we find for our study than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: spirit, soul and body in perfect relationship. When Jesus came to earth He emptied Himself, and was formed in the likeness and fashion of a man. Like us, He was a tripartite being, but without a sin nature. Thus, He was the perfect man, the ideal for all to emulate.

I read a book several years ago by Watchman Nee in which he made the observation that one of the primary ways God speaks to us is through our

intuition. After that I began to try to follow the guidance I received in this manner, and what is presented herein is largely a result of that attempt. I hasten to add that all readers will not agree with my conclusions. I have learned much about God's creation, and His design of man through this effort: that may be the primary purpose He had in mind. My hope is that readers will find new ideas in these words that drive them to the absolute authority: God's Word - the Bible.

As references I have used the King James Version (KJV), the New International Version (NIV), the New Living Translation (NLT), the Revised Version (RV), and Recovery Versions of the bible, as well as the Interlinear NIV Hebrew - English Old Testament (OT), and the Interlinear Greek - English New Testament (GNT). I have also used Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament, Moulton's Analytical Greek Lexicon, the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon, and Webster's New World Dictionary for word interpretation. Unless otherwise noted, scripture passages quoted are from the KJV.

The John A. Dickson New Analytical Bible and Dictionary, Authorized King James Version, Chicago 1950, was a primary reference source. This Bible was given to my wife and I in 1957, and is one of my dearest treasures. It has been rebound once, and is in need of a repair job at the present time. Thus, the reader can appreciate the usage it has had over these 62 years, most of which has been during the last 25 years. The book introductions have been generally quoted from this source, with changes (mostly grammatical) made only when considered necessary.

Finally, I want to recognize the lady that takes everything I have written, and makes the necessary changes for placing it on the internet. Ms. Sandra Crosnoe is the daughter of two of my, and my deceased wife's, dearest friends, Ted and Jimmie Crosnoe (also deceased). When God moved us (my wife and I), to a Methodist Church in Pasadena, Texas, in 1962, Ted, Jimmie, and their two daughters were among the group of several families in the church that were touched by God in a mighty way that led to a weekly Bible study, that resulted in many changed lives. As the years passed by, and the families went in different directions, we were not able to maintain the close relationship we had in Pasadena. We settled in Lubbock, Texas, in 1982, and I got the call to start

writing on the Bible. Sometime after that Sandra was in Lubbock and we got together for dinner. When she learned of my involvement in writing on the Bible she immediately volunteered to help in making it available by publishing it on the internet. She may not have known what she was getting into, for God has not ceased from giving me Bible subjects to study and write about. This series on the New Testament has been our greatest undertaking, and Sandra's help (as always) has been essential. She has corrected my grammar, argued with me on interpretation, prepared the pictorial cover pages, and generally polished the appearance of the various books in ways that I could never have accomplished on my own. Without her help, this (and other) documents would never have been made available to the general public. I do so appreciate all her work. I believe Ted and Jimmie will give her a "well done" when she joins them in heaven. Her personal website is [Finding Gems and Sharing Them](#).

These bible study guides are available at no charge to read, print, download and share on a platform called Scribd (no membership is required to read/download). They are all listed and linked as a group in [Bible Study Guides by Jesse C. Jones on Scribd](#). Upon completion, most of them will contain study

questions in the Appendix. Other works available are listed and linked with [Books for Believers and Seekers](#). If you hit a pop-up page on Scribd asking you to become a member to read free, simply click the 'x' in the upper right corner to remove the pop-up and continue to our links on Scribd. My personal website is [Revealed by Fire - Jesse's Studies](#) if you wish to see my latest articles and updates.

It is my sincere hope that these works will guide you to a personal ongoing relationship with Jesus and a life led and anointed by the Holy Spirit.

JESSE JONES

The Second Epistle to the Thessalonians

From the John A. Dickson New Analytical Bible

This letter was not long in following the first, probably not more than a month or two. It would seem that a forged letter had come to this church purporting to have come from the apostle, which proclaimed that the day of the Lord was at hand. The second epistle was written to give the church more specific instructions on this point, to set their minds at rest and give them a sure, definite understanding of this matter. The reader is referred to the introductory statement preceding the first epistle.

Paul, Silas and Timothy are still at Corinth. In the first letter he refers frequently to the time when he was with this church, but does so rarely in this second letter. He would be more apt to allude to his visit in the first letter.

Paul Testifies of Thessalonian's Faith

We thank God always for you brothers because your faith continues to grow exceedingly, and the love of every one of you toward each other abounds. We ourselves glory in the church of God for your patience and faith in spite of all the persecutions and tribulations you endure. This is a token of the righteous judgment of God, that you might be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer. It is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you. You who are troubled should rest with us, for when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels He will take vengeance on those that do not know God, and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will be punished with everlasting destruction by the glory of the Lord's power when He shall come to be glorified in His Saints. Wherefore we pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of your calling to fulfill all goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our Lord.

The Timing of the Lord's Return

There had been considerable confusion among the Thessalonians about those that were dead when the Lord returned, as well as to when that great event would occur. In this chapter Paul tries to reassure them by outlining some of the things that must happen before the Lord returns.

It is the time of our Lord's return that all believers desire to know, but I believe that date has been purposely left as a mystery by God. He gives us many hints in the Bible, but I do not believe that important date can be determined through an analysis of these. Nevertheless, the timing of such an important historical occurrence can only be researched by relying on impeccable clues, from an absolutely reliable source: in this case the Bible, given to us by the only One that knows the answer. Accordingly, I have attempted to identify most of the Biblical clues God has given below:

Matthew 24

- False teachers claiming to be Christ.
- Wars and rumors of wars, nations rising against nations, and kingdom against kingdom.
- Famines, pestilences, and earthquakes.
- False arrests leading to affliction and death.
- Hatred of all nations for believing in God.

- Many believers will stumble and betray one another and hate their brothers in Christ.
- False prophets will rise and deceive many.
- Iniquity will abound and cause the love of many to wax cold.
- The gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.
- The abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place.
- Those that live in Judea will flee into the mountains.
- There shall be great tribulation.
- The coming of the Son of man will be like lightning coming out of the east and shine unto the west.
- Wherever the carcase (body) is there will the eagles be gathered together (Jesus comes in the clouds bringing the spirit/souls of believers that have died with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)).

Daniel 7, 8, 9, and 11

- There shall be a time of trouble such as never was.
- Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found in the book of life.
- Many that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- From the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination of desolation set up there shall be 1,290 days to the end.
- The antichrist arises from the embers of the fallen Roman Empire (7:8), from the Syrian/Babylonian section of the Northern kingdom of Alexander's divided empire (8:8-9).
- He rises to power by subduing three kings (7:24), and **may** remain in power for 6 years, 4 months, and 20 days (2300 days according to Daniel 8:13-14).
- He rises to power through intrigue and coercion (8:23).
- He makes a covenant with the Jews (and possibly others) for seven years, but breaks the covenant after three-and-one-half years by taking away the sacrifice and offering (9:27).
- He tries to change the times and the laws (7:25).
- The end time saints are under his absolute control for three-and-one-half years (7:25).
- He erects an image of himself in a wing of the Jewish Temple (the abomination of desolation), and requires (on penalty of death) that all people worship it (11:31-33).

Note: The prophecies in Daniel are described in more detail in Appendix A.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

- Jesus brings the spirit/souls of the dead in Christ with Him when He comes in the clouds.
- He descends from heaven with a shout from the archangel and with the sound of the last trumpet, and the dead will rise first.
- Then those that are still alive will be caught up together with the dead in Christ, to meet the Lord in the air, and join with their spirit/souls to be with the Lord forever.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 and 6

Believers are gathered together with the Lord Jesus Christ at some future time that will not come to pass until there is a falling away, and the antichrist (the son of perdition) is known. This will not happen until the restraining force holding him back is removed. There have been many suggestions about who or what this restraining force is, but the Thessalonians were said to know in verse 6. My personal belief is that it is the power of God acting through believers in that time. We know that the “falling away” that is prophesied at that time could respond to the statement in verse 7 that this force is “taken away,” and our common sense tells us that as the power of God is diminished, evil increases.

Philippians 3:21

Our Lord Jesus Christ will change our vile body so that it may be fashioned like His glorious body.

Isaiah 13:6 and 8

The Day of the Lord shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. And all men shall be afraid, they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth in birth.

Revelation 6:1-8, 10-11

- The white horse goes conquering and to conquer (for Satan).
- The red horse takes peace from the earth, and causes people to kill each other.
- The black horse spreads famine.
- The pale horse results in the death of one-fourth of the people on the earth with the sword, hunger, and death.
- The fifth seal gave John a vision of the souls slain for the word of God and the testimony they held. They were crying out to the Lord: why do you not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? He answered for them to wait until their fellow servants should be killed as they were.

Revelation 10:7

In the days of the seventh angel when he shall begin to sound his trumpet the mystery of God will be finished. Colossians 1:27 says, *“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”* I believe this is God’s message to believers announcing the rapture, and the judgment of those left on the earth. Notice that this event occurs when the last (seventh) trumpet begins to sound. In other words it occurs just before the seventh trumpet sounds, and the kingdoms of this earth become the kingdoms of our Lord, and His Christ, and they reign forever after (Revelation 11:15). Of course, this does not give us the hour, day, and year this occurs, but it does provide guidance regarding the events leading up to, and following this great event.

Revelation 13:14-15

The False Prophet orders the construction of the image of the beast (antichrist) on penalty of death. He had power to cause the image to speak, and to kill anyone who refused to worship the image. This was the abomination of desolation placed in the temple.

To continue with our Chapter 2 analysis, the antichrist is fully exposed at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, when he places his image (the abomination of desolation) in the temple and demands (on the penalty death) that all people worship it. He also requires that all people receive a mark on their body identifying them as followers of antichrist's regime and denying Christianity. Paul tells the Thessalonians he is thankful that they have been chosen by God for salvation through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.

He then closes this chapter by encouraging them to stand fast, and hold the traditions they have been taught by the word or his epistle.

Paul Asks For Prayer, and Gives Advice

He asks them to pray that they will have freedom in ministering God's word, and that they may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men, for all men do not have faith. We have confidence in the Lord touching you, and know that He will direct your hearts in the love of God, and into patient waiting and perseverance.

Now we enjoin you brethren, in the name of the Lord, to draw back from any brother leading a life that is not in agreement with the tradition you received from us. For you know that when we were with you we were not idle, but we worked to pay our own way so we would not be chargeable to any man. Remember that we gave you this guidance: if a man is not willing to work, he shouldn't eat.

We have heard that there are some among you that are disorderly and refuse to work. We command and exhort in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that they settle down and get to work, and earn their own living. But you brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man refuses to follow our

guidance have nothing to do with him so that he will be ashamed. Do not consider him an enemy but rather admonish him as a brother.

Now the Lord of peace give you peace always, and by all means. The Lord be with you all.

Questions from 2 Thessalonians

Chapter 1

1. Are we to expect persecutions and tribulations as indicated in verses 4 and 5?

Chapter 2

1. Who is the man of sin referred to in verse 3, and how will he be revealed.?
2. Who is it that withholds (or restrains) to keep the man of sin from being revealed before His time?
3. What is the strong delusion that God sends in verse 11.
4. How do believers escape the wiles of the man of sin?

Chapter 3

1. How can you explain that all men do not have the truth?
2. How do you feel about the command in verse 6?
3. How do you feel about the command in verse 10?

Antichrist In Daniel's Prophecy

I. The first time antichrist is mentioned in the book of Daniel is in the seventh chapter. Daniel 7:15-27 NIV gives the interpretation of the vision that Daniel received,

"I Daniel, was troubled in my spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth. But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever - yes for ever and ever. Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws - the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell - the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. As I watched this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the

kingdom. He gave me this explanation: The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.”

The four kingdoms mentioned in verse 17 correspond to Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome. All of these kingdoms have fallen by conquering armies, with the possible exception of Rome, which seems to have imploded, due to internal corruption, and inability to properly protect and govern its widely distributed holdings. The prophesy indicates that the fourth kingdom will control the whole world, and the Roman Empire certainly fits this description, for from 46 BC to 180 AD the empire

extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Euphrates River, and from the North Sea to the African desert (population 120,000,000). The Roman Empire began to decline in 180 AD and finally fell in 476 AD. No kingdom has arisen to replace Rome in ruling the world.

The Roman Empire was divided into East and West in 395 AD, and out of the ruins of the Western Empire arose the Papal Empire which ruled the world for an additional 1,000 years. The Papacy developed gradually, becoming a world power in the 6th century AD, and reaching the height of its power in the 13th century AD. The Papacy has been described as “the Ghost of the Roman Empire come to life in the garb of Christianity”(from Halley’s Bible Handbook). The Reformation (13th and 14th century) spelled the death of the ruling Papacy.

Ten kings (or rulers) apparently arise from the embers of the Roman Empire, and following them, the horn with “bad eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully” (antichrist), subdues three kings (Daniel 8:24, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10, Revelation 13:1-10). Notice that it is not clear that these ten kings will be in power when antichrist arises, for the prophesy states that he arises “*after*” the ten kings; however, three kings are in power at this time for antichrist “*will subdue three kings*”. The prophesy then goes

on to state that the saints will be under antichrist's control for three-and-one-half years, after which antichrist's power will be given to the saints forever.

2. The second vision in the book of Daniel concerning the end times is documented in chapter 8. The vision is interpreted in Daniel 8:19-26 NIV:

“He said, I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end. The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king. The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by

human power. The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future.”

The shaggy goat referred to in this scriptural passage is the third gentile world power, the kingdom of Greece. The large horn between his eyes represents Alexander the Great, the mighty king referred to in Daniel 11:3, who conquered Media-Persia (the two-horned ram). After conquering a large part of the world, Alexander died at age 33, in 323 BC, leaving no apparent heir. After 22 years of fighting four men assumed rule over four sectors of the Grecian Empire: 1) Cassander - Macedonia, 2) Lysimachus - Thrace, 3) Seleucus - Syria and Babylonia, and 4) Ptolemy - Egypt and Arabia.

The prophesy states that in the latter part of their (the four rulers) reign, a stern-faced king, who is a master of intrigue, will arise. This is the part of the prophesy that leads many expositors to conclude that the king referred to (in the first fulfillment) is Antiochus Epiphanes, who arose from the Seleucus controlled Syrian and Babylonian part of the empire and ruled from 175 BC until 164 BC. He devastated Jerusalem in 164 BC, and defiled the Temple by offering a sow on its altar, and in many other ways persecuted the Jews. This led to the Maccabean revolt in 165 BC, and the cleansing and purification of the Temple.

Many of the prophecies of the old testament have more than one fulfillment, and this prophecy is thought by some expositors to have two fulfillments: one through the actions of Antiochus Ehipanes, and the second and complete fulfillment through the actions of antichrist at the “*time of the end*”. There are two important points to be made here: 1) Daniel 8:8-10 says that the horn that came out of one of the four horns starts small but grows very powerful until it reaches the host of the heavens and actually throws some of the starry host to the earth, and 2) Daniel 8:14 indicates that the period of time for the vision to be fulfilled is 2300 days.

3. The 9th chapter of the book of Daniel includes the most well-known of Daniel’s prophecies: the prophecy of the Seventy Sevens. Daniel 9:26-27 NIV say that:

“...The people of the ruler that will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm the covenant with many for one seven. In the middle of the seven he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

That this passage refers to antichrist can hardly be doubted due to the mention of the covenant made with many for seven years, and the subsequent breaking of the agreement in the middle of the seven year period. The erection of the abomination of desolation (described in Revelation 13:14-15) is further evidence that this is the action of antichrist at the end of time.

4. Much of chapter 11 of the book of Daniel is given to wars between the king of the North (Antiochus Epihanes in Syria) and the king of the South (Ptolemy in Egypt). After Alexander's death, and the dividing of his kingdom into four parts, there were continuing wars between the rulers of these kingdoms, as well as with other rulers in surrounding territories. The kings of the North and South finally gain preeminence and chapter 11 focusses on their encounters after verse 5. These two kingdoms bounded Israel on the North and South and as they battled over the years, Israel suffered greatly from their excursions, which continued for hundreds of years, back and forth. This time is described in Daniel 11:5-35. Daniel 11:36-45 NIV returns to focus on the end times and the antichrist:

“The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard of things against the God of gods. He will be successful

until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers, or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price. At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the north will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab, and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Cushites in submission. But reports from the east and north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.”

This portion of the prophecy describes the end time fulfillment of God's plan for Daniel's seventieth week. Being filled with the spirit of Satan, antichrist will curse God and magnify himself. With Satan's help he successfully attacks many countries and appoints rulers over the people. Edom and Moab are protected from antichrist's onslaught. Edom (also Idumea) is the land originally settled by the descendants of Esau. It stretches along the sides of Mount Seir, a rocky ridge, the center of which is Mount Hor, where Aaron died and was buried. Of interest to Daniel's prophecy is the fact that the location of Idumea's chief city, Petra, is thought to be the "*wilderness*" referred to in Revelation 12:6,14 where the remnant of Israelites flee to escape antichrist's slaughter. Moab lies just to the north of Idumea. This area was settled by descendants of Lot's older son Moab. They were closely related to the Ammonites, who were descendants of Lot's younger son, Ammon. At the time of the end antichrist is under attack from the north and south, and seemingly about to be attacked from the east.

The difficulty in interpreting Daniel chapter 11 is related to understanding what portion relates to Antiochus Epiphanes, and what part refers to antichrist. The added difficulty is that some parts of the prophecy in chapter 11 relate to both of these evil people. Some things are clearly documented by

early historians like James Ussher. The fact that Antiochus came against the king of the South in 168 BC, and was turned back unsuccessfully by pressure from a fleet of ships from the western coastlands, dispatched under the authority of the Roman Empire, is recorded in history as well as in Daniel 11:29-32. History also documents his return to Syria through Palestine, and his great persecution of the Jews, including forbidding the sacrifice and placing a statue of the god Zeus in the Temple (Daniel 11:30-31). His ferocious persecution continued until 164 BC, when he was struck down by an incurable disease of the bowels. Before he died he realized that God had cursed him because of his fiendish actions against the Jews, and he tried to make amends. Before he died he is recorded as saying “It is appropriate to be subject to God, and a man who is mortal should not proudly think of himself as if he were God.”

Because of Antiochus’ death in 164 BC, four years after his humiliation in Egypt, and the successes of Judas Maccabaeus in reconquering Jerusalem in 165 BC over Antiochus’ forces, we conclude that the portion of the prophesy in Daniel 11:36-45 does not refer to Antiochus Epiphanes, but to the actions of the antichrist during Daniel’s seventieth week. This does not eliminate the

likelihood that earlier verses in Daniel 11 refer to antichrist, but it does eliminate Antiochus Epiphanes as a factor after 164 BC.

5. Daniel 12:11 NIV says,

“From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.”

This indicates that the antichrist reneges on his covenant one month prior to the middle of the seven year period. All those that survive the Great Tribulation, and God’s wrath that is poured out on the earth, will be blessed by entering the millennium prior to the first death. Apparently, it will take a period of 75 days (1335 - 1260), to judge the nations and organize the millennium government.

Summary

We see from this analysis that the vision of the end times given to Daniel was delivered in stages. Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 11 describe different visitations of the messenger of God to Daniel, and each visitation provides additional information about antichrist, and his precursor Antiochus Epiphanes. This remarkable prophesy provides background information about antichrist not available in any other part of the bible:

1. He arises from the embers of the fallen Roman Empire (Daniel 7:8), quite possibly from the Syrian/Babylonian portion: the Northern kingdom of Alexander's divided empire (Daniel 8:8-9).
2. He rises to power by subduing three kings (Daniel 7:24), and **may** remain in power for 6 years, 4 months, and 20 days (2300 days according to Daniel 8:13-14).
3. He rises to power through intrigue and coercion (Daniel 8:23).
4. He makes a covenant with the Jews (and possibly others) for seven years, but breaks the covenant after three-and-one-half years by taking away the sacrifice and offering (Daniel 9:27).
5. He tries to change the times and the laws (Daniel 7:25).
6. The end time saints are under his absolute control for three-and-one-half years (Daniel 7:25).
7. He erects an image of himself in a wing of the Jewish Temple (the abomination of desolation), and requires (on penalty of death) that all people worship him (Daniel 11:31-33)

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