

“The Time of the End” 3

Daniel 11:36-45

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.

Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 20 other major languages. And our Bible teaching programs in several languages are available all the time and any time at the website, twr360.org.

In addition, thousands tune in to our radio broadcasts every week. Like this listener in the east African country of Ethiopia who gave this response to our Amharic language broadcasts.

In the past, I listened to Heralds of Hope Amharic program every Sunday morning before Church. Actually, churches are closed now due to the corona virus. So, your sermon and lessons from Bible comfort us as if we are attending Sunday worship. But the duration of the radio program is too short! Please do something to add more time - that will satisfy us. God bless you.

The statement that our *Hope for Today* programs are too short is one we hear often! Numerous listeners in different languages have asked us to increase the length of the program or at least broadcast more often. We strive to do the best we can with the resources God provides.

For the past few weeks on *Hope for Today* we’ve been studying from Daniel chapter eleven. Our study is titled “The Time of the End.” 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. It’s this time period that’s the focus of these ending verses of chapter 11 and the first few verses of chapter 12.

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

So far, we’ve learned that this time of the end will be led by a king who will have a very **singular focus**. Today, we’ll learn that this same king will have a very **singular finish**. So, stay tuned. Right now, I will read the text, **Daniel 11: 36 to 45**.

The second part of our text, verses 40 to 45, tells us that during this time of the end this king of the end will have a very **singular finish**.

The first verse of this section, verse 40, reiterates the words of verse 35, *the time of the end*. The military struggle that's mentioned in these verses will characterize this time period. You'll notice some familiar terms here in verse 40, such as *the king of the south* and *the king of the north*. In verses 2 through 35 the king of the south represented the Ptolemies of Egypt, while the king of the north represented the Syrian Seleucids.

While those empires have faded into oblivion in world history, the messenger who is giving this prophecy to Daniel gives no indication that these general identities have changed. The armies mentioned here come from these same geographic regions but are presumably, according to verse 40, much larger. They attack simultaneously in a pincer movement against the power and rule of this king of the end.

One question that arises in verse 40 is, who is the person referred to as *him* and *he*? It seems obvious that this is the same person spoken about in verses 36 to 39, the one we've identified as the Antichrist, the final ruler, or the king of the end.

Another question is, what is the relationship of this military struggle to the battle that's described in Ezekiel 38 and 39? In both texts a great military force from the north attacks Israel. Three times in Ezekiel 38 it describes Israel as living in a time of peace. Since its founding in May of 1948 the nation of Israel has been surrounded by enemies and has not truly known peace. But, when the Antichrist sets up his rule, he will make a covenant of peace with them – for 3 and a half years. He will break that covenant at the midpoint of Daniel's seventieth week, ushering in the time of great tribulation with his systematic extermination of the Jewish people. The details of our text seem to indicate a battle that takes place several years later than the one Ezekiel describes.

Notice that this king of the north will come *like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and many ships*. Most likely, this battle will be fought with modern military hardware, but using terms to describe those things would've made no sense to Daniel or his readers. If nothing else, the description of this attacking army indicates that the Antichrist is extremely powerful. And these attacks against him are perceived as a threat to his authority.

But this king of the end will respond quickly to the attack. He will *come into the countries* (the ones attacking him) *and shall overflow and pass through*. He will be like a swift-moving flood of waters, rising quickly, bringing destruction, and then passing on (a future *blitzkrieg*). His

enemies will not be able to stand before him much like the countries of Europe fell to the Nazi war machine in World War II. He will continue to dominate the world until his ultimate defeat by the second coming of Christ.

His conquest will lead him into the *Glorious Land*, verse 41. This is clearly a reference to the Holy Land as we indicated before. Is this when he breaks his covenant with Israel? Possibly. Many tens of thousands will fall before his onslaught, but interestingly, some will escape. The text specifically mentions Edom, Moab, and Ammon, peoples who occupied the land of what is now modern-day Jordan. We don't have an explanation for this, but it may be that he is eager to attack Egypt, because it's there that he will acquire great treasures of gold, silver, and precious things.

It's also unclear what the status of Ethiopia and Libya (or Cush) will be. Some think the king of the end will conquer them, and they will follow in his train. Others believe the phrase *be at his heels* simply means they will be behind him when he turns his attention from Egypt and heads north again. One thing becomes clear, the uncontested authority he exercised at the beginning of his reign is no longer intact.

As he leaves Egypt, he receives news from the east and the north about an imminent invasion. This conflict seems to extend over a period of time and is more than a single battle. It's possible that *the tidings out of the east* are referring to the vast army described in Revelation 9:13 to 21. There, an army of 200 million is described as crossing the Euphrates River and descending on the Holy Land. That may seem like a fantastic number, but the **May 1965** issue of Time magazine recorded China's claim to have a militia numbering 200 million. The population of Asia has increased exponentially in the last 50 years!

While this is happening there's another invasion from the north. Against both armies, the king of the end launches his furious counterattacks. The result is that many are destroyed, and he is able to establish his headquarters *between the seas in the glorious holy mountain*. This is clearly a reference to Jerusalem, situated as it is between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. Zechariah 14 indicates that the military struggle goes on right up until the moment when Christ physically descends to the Mount of Olives.

Yet, in spite of all his victories and all his wealth, verse 45 speaks clearly of his **singular finish**; *...he shall come to his end, with none to help him*. Revelation 19:17 to 21 describes the destruction of the beast and his armies at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Here's a quote from Dr. John Walvoord to close out this section. "Taken as a whole, Daniel 11:36 to 45 is a description of the closing days of the times of the Gentiles, specifically, the great tribulation with its world ruler, world religion, and materialistic philosophy. In spite of its satanic support, the world government fragments into sectional disputes and a great world war which climaxes with the second advent of Christ. This brings the time of the Gentiles to a close with the destruction of the wicked rulers who led it. Further details are added in the next chapter."¹

That next chapter is chapter twelve.

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. That email address again is, m-a-i-l@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 conclude our study, "The Time of the End." And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.

¹ Walvoord, John; Daniel, p. 280