

“Daniel’s Prophetic Writings” (Daniel Pt. 2 – Route 66)

Let’s turn in our Bibles, this morning, to DANIEL CHAPTER 2... We’re about to have a CRASH-COURSE in Bible Prophecy... I said—LAST week—that I’ve BROKEN this study into a PART 1 & PART 2...

There is a VERY CLEAR DIVISION when it comes to the Book of Daniel... *“About half of [Daniel] is history, [the other] half is... is prophetic. The first half is narration, and the second [half]... is revelation...”*

Babylon invaded Judah on 3 separate occasions... And, DANIEL and his friends are taken to Babylon during the FIRST PHASE of the INVASION, about 605 BC... [when Daniel is BELIEVED to be about 20 years old]... And WHILE IN BABYLON...

Daniel and his friends PROSPER... About halfway through Chapter 1—in Verse 9—we read: **“God... brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.”** – Verse 17 says: **“God gave [Daniel and his friends] knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”**

So—LAST week we looked at events surrounding *“Daniel & His Friends”* (in Chapters 1—6)... This MORNING, we look at **DANIEL’S PROPHETIC WRITINGS**...

And, this is ONE of those studies where I just acknowledge—UP FRONT—that... I’m gonna move VERY **FAST**... I encourage you to LISTEN, and JOT STUFF DOWN, GO BACK and listen to the study AGAIN, and PRESS PAUSE, look up the cross-references...

I’m also **NOT GOING TO COVER EVERYTHING**... Just—in the interest of time—I’m gonna LIMIT our study to CERTAIN PROPHECIES of Daniel... There’s no NEED to say to me afterwards: *“You didn’t talk about THIS...”* or *“We could have talked about THAT.”*

I KNOW... For the sake of being able to **MOVE OUR OVERALL SERIES FORWARD**... We’re looking at **CERTAIN PROPHECIES**... And EVERY SINGLE ONE of them is **WORTHY** of a study unto itself...

But LET’S BEGIN in Chapter 2... When King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream... And Daniel provides the INTERPRETATION for his DREAM... All the way down in Verse 31... He says:

“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image!” – In Verse 32, he says: **“This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.”** – In Verse 34, he says...

“You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet... and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed... the wind carried them away... And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” – Daniel says, in Verse 36: **“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation”** of the dream. – Daniel SAYS to Nebuchadnezzar...

At the **END** of Verse 38, straight up—**“you are [the] head of gold...”** – Which is EXTREMELY HELPFUL, right?... David Guzik writes: *“Nebuchadnezzar”* (or Babylon) *“is clearly said to be the head of gold.”* – So, that’s our STARTING POINT...

“But,” Daniel says—in Verse 39—**“after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze... And [a] fourth kingdom... as strong as iron...”**

So, this STATUE that Nebuchadnezzar sees represents the DOMINATING EMPIRES that the WORLD HAS SEEN—**STARTING with BABYLON...** After Babylon comes the MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE (which is represented by the SILVER SECTION)...

Then came the GREEK EMPIRE (represented by the BRONZE)... And—AFTER THEM—the ROMAN EMPIRE (represented by the IRON)... **IRON**, by the way... is the STRONGEST of ALL these... That’s why Daniel says, in Verse 40:

“the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.”

One author writes: *“The [legs of iron] represent the Roman Empire—the largest, strongest, most unified, and enduring of them all. Babylon stood for 66 years; Medo-Persia for 208 years; the Greek Empire for 185 years, [but] the Roman Empire stood for more than 500 years.”*

Now, take note of something... This **“KINGDOM”** of the **“LEGS”**... **“EXTEND”** into the FEET & TEN TOES... So, a **CONTINUATION** of the 4th EMPIRE, right? – Our legs **AREN’T** our feet and toes, but they’re CONNECTED... They’re DIFFERENT, but CONNECTED...

Verse 41 says: **“Whereas... the feet and toes [are] partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron,”** this **“kingdom shall be divided...”** – Verse 42 says: **“as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.”**

There will be an “extension” of the ONCE-STRONG FOURTH ROMAN EMPIRE... that will have SIMILARITIES to the legs of iron—but **NOT** the SAME OVERALL STRENGTH...

The **“TEN TOES”** of this statue are BELIEVED to represent TEN RULERS, or LEADERS, who will come on the scene in the LAST DAYS... as an **“EXTENSION”** of the ROMAN EMPIRE...

In Verse 44, Daniel says: **“in the days of these KINGS”**—WHAT kings?—The **KINGS** represented by the TEN TOES... **“in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and... stand forever.”** – He says, in Verse 45...

“Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this.”

Daniel is speaking of things that **WILL** COME... THIS **HASN'T** HAPPENED YET... If we were reading this passage as **ONLY** something HISTORICAL, then we should have seen the fulfillment of God setting up His kingdom here on earth... But, we haven't...

One author writes: *“The stone cut without hands shatters a confederation of kings, represented by the feet of the image, and then God’s Kingdom will dominate the earth. Since Roman history provides no fulfillment of this federation of [ten] kings... this prophecy must still be in the future. This [passage] describes a single, decisive event... [and] Since the Church or the Gospel have not—in a single decisive event—shattered the reign of human kingdoms, this event is still in the future. The stone cut without hands is Jesus, not the Church. Therefore, the final superpower of the world is thought to be a **revival** of the Roman Empire, a **continuation** of [the legs of iron]. This will be the final world empire that the returning Jesus will conquer.”*

The QUESTION is... Do we SEE any kind of “revived” Roman Empire—or EXTENSION of the Roman Empire—in the world today? – I think we **ABSOLUTELY DO**... Just go **READ THE HISTORY of the European Union**...

It grew **LARGELY** out of the “**The Treaty of Rome**” (1957) & the “**Club of Rome**” (1968)... One article states: *“Rome’s historic prominence in the Mediterranean Basin and Europe has been invoked by [the European] states that came after it, **claiming succession to Roman authority** and to legitimate their rule over lands throughout the former Roman Empire...”*

ANOTHER article—in 2022—says: *“Vladimir Putin may have created a new superpower, and it’s not Russia. Since Putin invaded Ukraine, the European Union has changed. A recent New York Times opinion piece suggests the invasion has both united and militarized the EU. The EU governs more than 445 million people. That’s more than the United States. The EU’s gross domestic product exceeds \$15 trillion, putting it 2nd in the world after the U.S... If the EU continues to assert itself on the world stage, it could [soon] wield superpower influence. The European Union could revive the complex, decentralized power of the Roman Empire.”*

Now, with ALL of this in mind... Let’s go to Daniel Chapter SEVEN... HERE, Daniel has ANOTHER PROPHETIC REVELATION... and—THOUGH DIFFERENT—it SPEAKS OF the SAME THING... David Guzik writes:

“40 years later, Daniel has a vision describing the same succession of empires. Daniel saw it from God’s perspective, while Nebuchadnezzar saw it from man’s perspective. Nebuchadnezzar saw these empires as an impressive image; Daniel sees them as fierce beasts.”

In Daniel Chapter 7, Verse 3, Daniel sees: **“four great beasts [that] came up from the sea, each different from the other.”** – In Verse 4: **“The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings.”** – Verse 5: **“suddenly [there was] another beast, a second, like a bear.”** – In Verse 6, Daniel says: **“there was another [beast], like a leopard...”**

Then—in Verse 7—Daniel says: **“After this I saw... a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and**

trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.”

Now—RIGHT OFF THE BAT—there are SEVERAL SIMILARITIES between the BEASTS of Daniel Chapter 7 and Nebuchadnezzar’s DREAM of Daniel Chapter 2...

Nebuchadnezzar sees a **SINGLE STATUE** divided into **FOUR SECTIONS**... Daniel has a vision of **FOUR BEASTS**...

In Nebuchadnezzar’s DREAM, the **FOUR SECTIONS** represent **FOUR KINGDOMS**... Daniel 7:17 says the **FOUR BEASTS** **“are four kings... which arise out of the earth.”**

The **FOURTH SECTION** of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue—the **LEGS**—were **IRON**, which **“breaks in pieces and shatters everything...”** – The **FOURTH BEAST** of Daniel 7 has **“huge iron teeth... devouring [and] breaking in pieces...”**

The **FOURTH SECTION** of Nebuchadnezzar’s image extends into **FEET** with **TEN TOES**... The **FOURTH BEAST** of Daniel 7 has **“ten horns.”** – Daniel 2:44 refers to the **TEN TOES** as **“kings.”** – Daniel 7:24 says: **“The ten horns are ten kings...”**

Gleason Archer writes: *“There is... unmistakable correspondence between [the] horns” of Daniel Chapter 7 “and the ten toes of (Daniel Chapter 2), and the mention of iron in the teeth suggests the legs and toes of iron in that image.”*

Now, what **HAPPENS** to the **BEASTS** of Daniel Chapter 7? – Because—back in Chapter 2—Daniel saw **“a stone [that] was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet...”** – And, Daniel says **“the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and... stand forever.”**

Daniel says of the **BEASTS**, in Chapter 7: **“these beasts... had their dominion taken away... And behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven...”** – **“To Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom [is] the one which shall not be destroyed.”**

The **SAME OUTCOME** is **SHARED** of the **WORLD DOMINATING EMPIRES** of Daniel Chapter 2 as the **FOUR DOMINATING BEASTS** of Daniel Chapter 7... God **DESTROYS THEM ALL**, and sets up **HIS KINGDOM**...

So, Nebuchadnezzar’s DREAM... and Daniel’s **VISION** of the **FOUR BEASTS** are the **SAME THING**... Now... there is **SOMETHING DIFFERENT** about Daniel Chapter 7...

Back in Verse 8—when Daniel **DESCRIBES** the **FOURTH BEAST**—he says he was **“considering the horns... [and] there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them... And... in this horn,”** he says, at the end of the Verse, **“were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”**

In Verse 11, Daniel says: **“I watched... because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking... till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.”** – In Verse 19, he says: **“I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast... and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up... which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words...”**

In Verse 21, Daniel says **“[this] horn [made] war against the saints, and [prevailed] against them...”** – Verses 24 and 25 say this **“little horn” “shall rise”** from **“The ten horns [which] are ten kings... He shall be different from the first ones,”** and **“shall speak pompous words against the Most High, [and] persecute the saints of the Most High... the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”**

And what DANIEL sees here is a figure OFTEN referred to as ‘The Antichrist.’ – That specific term appears FIVE TIMES in Scripture...

- There is a **“SPIRIT of... Antichrist”** at work in the world... (1st John 4:3)
- John says there will be **“MANY antichrists”**... (1st John 2:18)...
- But there is coming one who the Bible refers to as **“THE Antichrist”**... (1 John 2:18)...

A FINAL WORLD LEADER who appears ON THE WORLD STAGE in the last days... who will UNITE MANKIND in a FINAL REBELLION against God...

Now, there is no **“ONE”** passage to which we look for a DESCRIPTION of the ‘Antichrist’... We build a COMPOSITE OF HIM by looking at SEVERAL PASSAGES...

In 2nd Thessalonians 2, Paul calls him **“the MAN OF SIN,” “the SON OF PERDITION”**—He says: **“The coming of [this] lawless one is according to the working of Satan... WITH all power, signs, and lying wonders...”**

In DANIEL, he’s referred to as: the **“king of fierce countenance”** in Daniel 8:23... The **“Prince that shall come,”** and the **“one who makes desolate”** in Daniel 9... The **willful king** of Daniel Chapter 11... And the **“little horn”** who speaks **“pompous words”** in Daniel Chapter 7...

Now, there is a COMPANION PASSAGE to Daniel 7... in Revelation 13... listen to how JOHN THE APOSTLE DESCRIBES the Antichrist... see if you notice any SIMILARITIES...

In Revelation 13:1, John writes: **“I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns”—THAT’s interesting... “and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”**

John writes: **“the beast which I saw was like a leopard... his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon”**—whom we KNOW IS Satan from Revelation 12:9— **“the dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”**

John says: **“All the world marveled and followed the beast... he was given a mouth speaking great things & blasphemies... he opened his mouth... to blaspheme [God]”** and **“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them... for forty-two months.”**

So, Daniel sees **FOUR BEASTS**... rising out of the **SEA**... One like a **LION**, one like a **BEAR**, one like a **LEOPARD**... and a **FOURTH BEAST** with **TEN HORNS** which are **TEN KINGS**...

John sees a **SINGLE BEAST**... rising out of the **SEA**... with **TEN HORNS**... (Revelation 17 says these “are ten kings”)... and it is like a **LEOPARD, a BEAR, and a LION**...

BOTH DESCRIBE a FIGURE—an INDIVIDUAL—with “a MOUTH” who speaks “pompous words against the Most High...” – John says: “**he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies... against God...**”

Daniel says that he makes “**war against the saints, and [prevails] against them...**” – John says: “**It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them...**”

JOHN and DANIEL... are SEEING THE SAME THING. – Now, there is **ANOTHER SIMILARITY** between these two prophecies which is not **AS IMMEDIATELY APPARENT**...

Daniel says that “**the saints shall be given into [the] hand**” or this “**little horn... for a time, times and half a time**.” – John says he is “**given authority to continue for forty-two months**.”

These verses **ACTUALLY** refer to the same **PERIOD OF TIME**... It is the **SECOND HALF** of what we often call ‘*The Great Tribulation*.’ – **JESUS** mentions this in Matthew Chapter 24... **JOHN** speaks of it in Revelation 7:14...

The **IDEA** is of a **FINAL, SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD** on earth... which initially begins as a time of **PEACE** and **PROSPERITY** (under the leadership of the Antichrist)... but **TURNS INTO** a time of persecution and judgment... **immediately BEFORE** Jesus **RETURNS** to set up His Kingdom

Now, **WHERE** do we **GET** the idea of a **FINAL 7-YEAR PERIOD**? – It **ACTUALLY COMES** from the Book of Daniel... In Daniel Chapter 9, we have **ANOTHER somewhat** “famous” passage of scripture known as “**Daniel’s Seventy Weeks of Years**.”

In Daniel 9:24, the angel **GABRIEL** tells Daniel: “**Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city...**” – So, this is a prophecy that relates to the **JEW**S—who are Daniel’s “**people**” and for his “**holy city**,” or **Jerusalem**... **ALSO**...

The idea of **WEEKS** in this passage is not **LITERAL**... In Hebrew, the term “weeks” refers to a **UNIT OF SEVEN**. – David Guzik writes: “*There is almost universal agreement among Bible scholars... that this [passage] refers to seventy sets of seven years, or ‘weeks’ of years.*”

So that would be **FOUR HUNDRED and NINETY YEARS**... that are **SET ASIDE—or DETERMINED**—for dealing with, or relating to, the **JEWISH PEOPLE** and **JERUSALEM**...

In Verse 25, Gabriel says: “**Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem... UNTIL Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks... and sixty-two weeks.**”

So, SEVEN WEEKS (or period of seven years) plus SIXTY-TWO periods of seven years... So, that's a TOTAL of **SIXTY-NINE PERIODS** OF SEVEN YEARS... **OR** FOUR HUNDRED and EIGHTY THREE YEARS...

THAT WILL PASS between the GOING FORTH of a COMMAND to RESTORE and REBUILD JERUSALEM... **UNTIL** Messiah, the Prince...

Now, MANY PEOPLE take... the **“UNTIL Messiah the Prince”** to be a reference to the Triumphal Entry, that ONE OCCASION in Scripture when Jesus actually presented Himself as MESSIAH... That happened on April 6th, 32 AD... Now, here's what's amazing...

In 445 BC, King Artaxerxes makes a decree, and gives Nehemiah permission to REBUILD JERUSALEM (we read about it in Nehemiah Chapter 2)... If **THAT** IS THE STARTING POINT—we should be able to COUNT 483 years **UNTIL** the arrival of Messiah...

And, in his book ***“The Coming Prince,”*** Sir Robert Anderson DEMONSTRATES how—if we use a 360-day calendar (which Israel would have used in Daniel's day)...

If you take 483 years TIMES 360 (days **IN** a year) = that's 173,880. He shows how—from the EXACT DATE of Artaxerxes' decree to REBUILD JERUSALEM (March 14th, 445 BC)...

ALL THE WAY UP till the DATE of Jesus' Triumphal Entry—April 6th, 32 AD... it is EXACTLY 173,880 days... It's INCREDIBLE!

But THAT'S only 483 years... We said there were 490 years... Ah! – That MEANS... there is **ONE** PERIOD of SEVEN YEARS still left... *See where we're going—???*

Daniel 9:26 says: **“after the sixty-two weeks”**—which, remember, was after the original SEVEN weeks (so 69 **“weeks”** in total)—we read: **“Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself...”** – That's the CRUCIFIXION... Jesus **“was wounded for OUR transgressions.”**

Daniel writes that: **“the people of the prince who is to come”**—that's a reference to the Antichrist— **“shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.”** – **“Then HE”**...

Which is the **“prince who is to come”** in Verse 26... the Antichrist... **“HE shall confirm a covenant with many for”**—HOW LONG?—**“one week...”** – What's a WEEK? – It's the REMAINING PERIOD OF 7 YEARS! – The **“FINAL WEEK”** of Daniel's 70-Week Prophecy...

Think of it THIS way... God has established a **“PROPHETIC STOP-WATCH”** ...with the nation of Israel... And, He says: *“When you see a DECREE to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince”*... (MAKE TICKING SOUNDS)... The clock has started... *“483 years.”*

Now, **ONCE MESSIAH COMES**... God CLICKS the stop-watch... and the countdown **PAUSES**... WHY?

Because right now—because of Jesus—God is NO LONGER **JUST** dealing with the Nation of Israel... We live in the **“time of the Gentiles.”** – BUT a time is coming...

When the **“FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES”** will be saved (Paul talks about this in Romans Chapter 11)... and God ONCE **AGAIN** TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO ISRAEL, and RE-STARTS THE CLOCK... (ticking sound)... and there will be SEVEN MORE YEARS...

The RE-STARTING OF THE CLOCK is SIGNIFIED when the Antichrist enters into a Covenant with the Nation of Israel **“for one week”**—a FINAL PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS...

If you want to have your MIND-BLOWN, several Islamic hadiths say that their coming Mahdi—which is their “Messiah”—will reign for 7 YEARS... (It’s pretty fascinating... But that’s a SEPARATE STUDY!)... Here, we read: **“in the middle of the week,”** the Antichrist brings **“an end to sacrifice and offering.”**

This is referred to **SIX TIMES** in the Book of Daniel... It’s called *‘The Abomination of Desolation’* by Jesus, in Matthew 24 and Mark 13... Jesus points to it as a **“THE sign... of the immediacy of His return...”**—Daniel says the Antichrist will...

“take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.” – And, what MANY people (myself included) believe... is that the Antichrist will go into a REBUILT JEWISH TEMPLE in Jerusalem... Which we KNOW EXISTS from the Book of Revelation...

Paul says in 2nd Thessalonians 2, he will **“exalt himself above all that is called God... so that he sits AS God in the temple OF God, showing himself that he IS God.”**

Now, WHY is the reference to the Antichrist bringing an end to sacrifice in the **“middle of the week”** significant? – Because, if ONE WEEK is a PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS... how much is HALF of SEVEN? – That’s THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS, right?

How many MONTHS is 3-1/2 years? – It’s FORTY-TWO MONTHS... How many DAYS is that? – If we USE the 360-day calendar, 3-1/2 years is 1,260 days...

- * Revelation 11:2 says the **“holy city [will be] trampled underfoot for forty-two months.”**
- * Revelation 13:5 says the Antichrist **“[is] given authority to continue... forty-two months.”**
- * Revelation 11:3... the 2 witnesses minister for: **“one thousand two hundred and sixty days”**
- * Revelation 12:6 says the Jews FLEE **“into the wilderness, where [they have] a place prepared by God... [for] one thousand two hundred and sixty days.”**

Daniel 12 says: **“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation...”**

The **GREAT** TRIBULATION, Jesus says, **“such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time...”** – Daniel says:

“...it shall be for a time, times, and half a time...” – We saw that phrase EARLIER in Daniel 7:25, when **“the saints shall be given into [the Antichrist’s] hand for a time, times, & half a time.”**

If we break it down THIS way: A **“time”** refers to ONE YEAR... **“times”** refers to TWO years... and **“half a time”** refers to HALF A YEAR... That’s 3-1/2 years... the SAME time-frame as the 42 months, or 1,260 days... These ALL refer to the same thing...

David Guzik writes: *“Taking all these together, we are obviously dealing with the last half of Daniel’s seventieth week (the Great Tribulation)...”*

Now, we have said before, when it COMES TO BIBLE PROPHECY, there is OFTEN a “near/far” aspect to it. Daniel Chapters 8 & 11 provide MORE DETAILS about the Antichrist.

And MANY ELEMENTS of these prophecies HAVE BEEN fulfilled... PAST TENSE—specifically—in a historical figure known as Antiochus Epiphanes... Quick history lesson...

Antiochus Epiphanes was one of the SUCCESSORS to Alexander the Great, and he RULED in Syria and Israel during the Seleucid dynasty—which was a GREEK STATE in Western Asia—from 175 to 164 BC... Now *“Epiphanes”* was not his NAME...

“Epiphanes” is a TITLE (which he took to himself) which means *“illustrious one,”* and he COMMANDED WORSHIP of himself... In fact, the COINS of his day were inscribed with the phrase **THEOS EPIPHANIES**, which means *“God manifest.”*

One author writes he was: *“an accurate & dramatic fulfillment of [Daniel’s] prophecy in history...”* – He was also a NOTORIOUS PERSECUTOR of the Jews...

Some estimates say that he murdered more than 100,000 Jews... *“[selling] another 40,000 as slaves... [robbing the temple] of approximately \$1 billion by modern estimates.”*

In 168 B.C, Antiochus set-up an image of ZEUS in the Jewish Temple and desecrated the altar by sprinkling PIG’S BLOOD on it... This caused the temple sacrifices to stop...

Greek historian Diodorus wrote Antiochus: *“sacrificed a great swine at... the altar of God... and sprinkled them with the blood of the sacrifice. He commanded that the books... should be sprinkled with broth made of the swine’s flesh.... he put out the lamp... which burns... continually in the temple. Lastly, he forced the high priest and other Jews to eat swine’s flesh.”*

This caused a revolt known as the **Maccabean Revolt**... it’s described in the Books of 1st & 2nd Maccabees (in the Apocrypha)... *“Scholars of Second Temple Judaism... sometimes refer to Antiochus’ reign as the ‘Antiochene crisis.’”*

LISTEN to this description from Daniel Chapter 8 that WAS fulfilled in Antiochus... and WILL BE FULFILLED in the coming Antichrist... Daniel writes:

“A king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and... the holy people. Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.”

Now, Jesus speaks of **“the ‘abomination of desolation,’”** which was **“spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”** as being **STILL FUTURE**...

So, I believe—as David Guzik writes— that: *“Antiochus Epiphanes is... an historical **preview** of the [coming] Antichrist. This is why so much space is given to describing the career of one evil man in Daniel – **he prefigures the ultimate evil man.**”*

And, I think this goes back to something JOHN writes... That **“many antichrists have come”** – We could say NIMROD was an ‘antichrist’... HITLER or STALIN... David Guzik writes: *“Antiochus [was like a] ‘trailer’ released well-before the **FEATURE** of **THE** [final] Antichrist.”*

All-told, the Book of Daniel provides MUCH INSIGHT into **UNDERSTANDING** END-TIMES, the Book of Revelation, and the coming world leader known as the Antichrist...

In Chapter 12, Daniel is told to **“shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end”** when **“many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”** – Which is INTERESTING... because it CERTAINLY describes the day-and-age in which we live...

Daniel says: **“Although I heard, I did not understand.”** – So, he asks: **“My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”** – And the answer comes: **“Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”** – **“Go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”**

One author writes: *“[Daniel’s] prophecies [will] be less mysterious at the time of the end... The incredible development in [our] understanding of Biblical prophecy in the last 150 years should make us see that we truly are at the time of the end.”*

So, there you have a **CRASH-COURSE** of **Daniel’s Prophetic Writings**... NEXT week, we’re gonna look at the Book of Esther... which takes place during the TIME of the Persian Empire...

Now, it TECHNICALLY falls between Chapters 6 & 7 of the Book of Ezra... But—since we’re currently **WITH** Daniel in Persia—I think it MAKES SENSE for us to insert it HERE...

BEFORE we start looking at the Jews returning to their land AFTER Harvest Fair... So, READ AHEAD into the Book of Esther this week... And then COME BACK NEXT SUNDAY...

That’s our next stop... When Route 66 continues!