

The Beast from the Sea The Beast from the Earth UNHOLY TRINITY

Two "housekeeping" issues from last session to deal with:

First, The doctrine of election

from our discussion about 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

THE ELECT

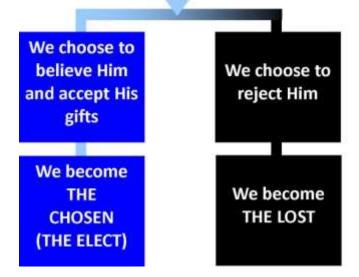
God Choses (Elects) Us FIRST (ALL)

God gives free will so we have a choice also

FREE WILL
CHOICE

God begins process. He desires that none are lost, but that all come to repentance (turn to Him, turn away from the world.)

There are two parties making a choice. God made His, we make ours (free will).



Our destination, and our "designation" is the result of our own choice.

By our choice, we are either chosen (elect) or lost.

Lots of questions that began, "But what about....?" (Pharaoh, Esau, etc.)

Best answer to any of these questions, since none of passages related ("what about?") can justify what is commonly referred to as "predestination," and scripture obviously tells us God desires none perish and gives everyone an opportunity to come to Him is....

GODIS SOVEREIGNI

He can and will do as He pleases,...

whether we understand it or not. That does
not change the fact that He calls everyone
to salvation.

Closely related to this is a question we encountered recently in our studies on Fridays (a statement that came out of Calvinism and the idea of predestination or *election* to heaven or hell)....

Is God's love unconditional?

- If, so, does that mean He loves everyone, no matter what they do?
- And if so, will everyone go to heaven?
- Why, or why not?
- How does this relate to "predestination?"



Revelation 13

Where we left off....

Daniel 11

- Verses 1-35 cover a vision given to Daniel of <u>consecutive time periods</u> from that moment in Daniel's timeline, until the end of the Greek Empire.
- There is an implied gap of time at verses 34-35, with the narrative beginning again in verse 36 after an unspecified length of time which projects these events into end times.
- Most believe this "king" is a direct reference and prophecy regarding the antichrist.
- We'll start at verse 35.

³⁵ And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

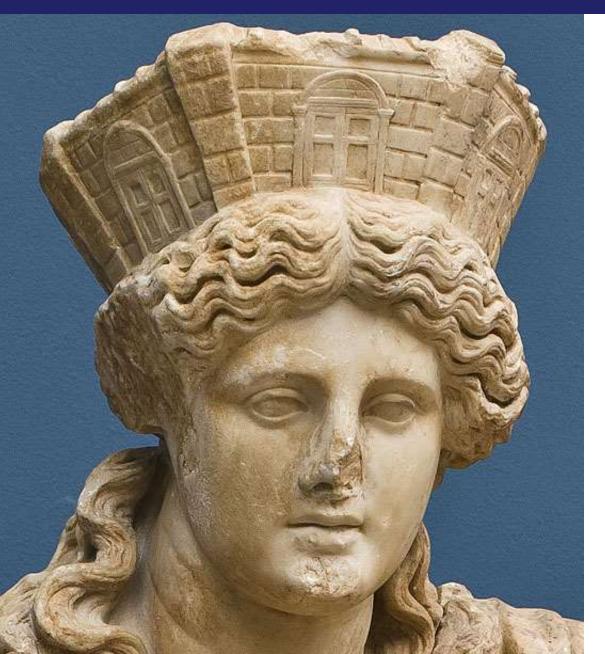
36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. 37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.

³⁸ But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. ³⁹ Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain. ⁴⁰ "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.

⁴¹ He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. 44 But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵ And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

38"But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39"Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

- "But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know..." Another source of much controversy and disagreement among commentators.
- "The God of forces" (in some translations) is more accurately translated "the God of fortresses."
- This passage states that the Antichrist will honor a god previously unknown to his ancestors – a god of fortresses.



COMMENTARY: "We know from pagan mythology that both Cybele and Diana are variously represented as crowned with multitiered crowns, plainly setting forth the idea of fortification with turrets, battlements, and so forth" (Newell)

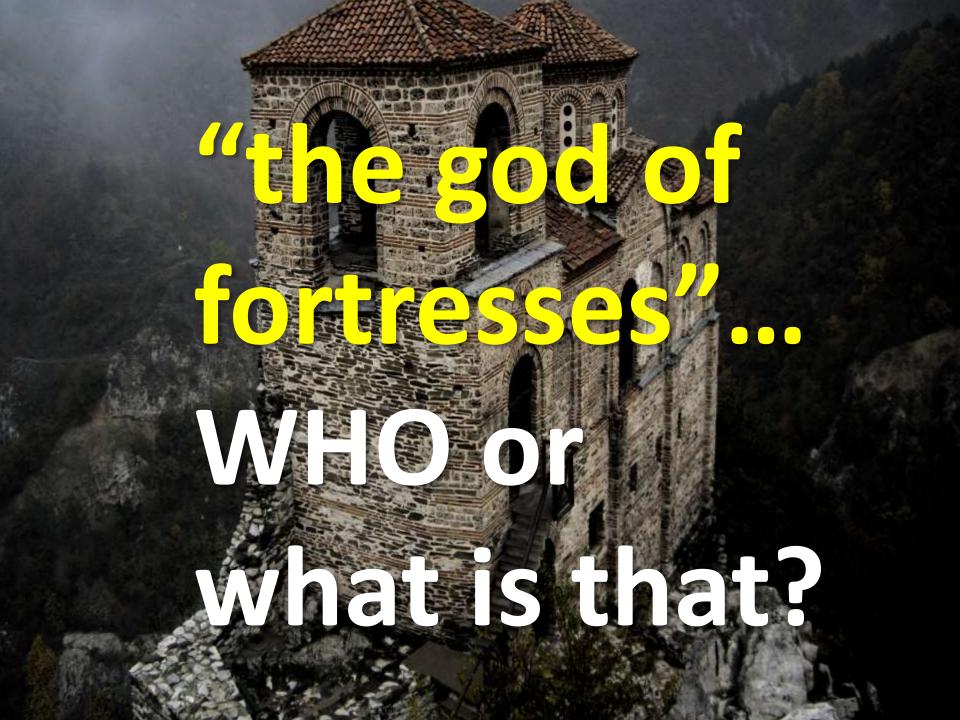
- McGee believes this "god of fortresses" is Satan himself. The enemy will empower this world ruler, and will give him power over the earth. The enemy will make the most of this short time. He knows his time is short, so he intends to do the most harm possible (Revelation 12:12).
- Some have interpreted this to be military force, that the AC will make such force his "god" which requires all his focus and all his resources.

- "...he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things..." Antichrist will be willing tool to completely do will of enemy, including amassing wealth of world for him.
- He will rule over many people and dispose of property as he pleases, all for the benefit of the enemy and himself. They are in league together. He will dedicate all he gets to enemy ("god of fortresses").
- Perhaps he will even openly worship the devil, and encourage others to do so. Occult activity and paganism are on the rise.

- "Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory;..." Even strongest earth powers cannot stand against this ruler, who has the backing, power and the opportunities given to him by this "foreign god" who most believe is Satan, the dragon of Revelation.
- He will even apparently "advance its glory" meaning that many others will also honor
 Satan (this "god of fortresses") in this time because of the Antichrist's activities.

2nd "housekeeping" issues from last session :

The "god of fortresses"



There are so many different interpretations and crazy speculation about this one single word/phrase in scripture it will make your head spin. The Hebrew word is...

mā·'uz·zîm - plural,

root word *maoz*, a fortified place, stronghold, defense

Daniel 11:38: "he shall honor a god of <u>fortresses</u>..." וְלָאֱלֹהַ ׁ מְ**עִדִּים** עַל־ כַּנְּוּ

King James 21st Century (KJ21) But in his place shall he honor the god of forces;

American Standard Version (ASV) But in his place shall he honor the god of fortresses;

Amplified(AMP) But in their place he shall honor the god of fortresses;

Common English Bible (CEB) In their place, he will worship a god of walled fortresses.

Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) But instead, he will honor the god of strongholds;

Contemporary English Version (CEV) and worship only the so-called god of fortresses,

Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition Bible (DRA) But he shall worship the god Maozim in his place:

Easy to Read Version(ERV) The northern king will not worship any god, but he will worship power. Power and strength will be his god.

English Standard Version (ESV) He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these.

1599 Geneva Bible(GNV) But in his place shall he honor the god Mauzzim,

GOD's WORD Translation (GW) Instead, he will honor the god of fortresses.

Good News Translation (GNT) *Instead, he will honor the god who protects fortresses.*

Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) Instead, he will honor a god of fortresses—

International Children's Bible (ICB) The king of the North will worship power and strength.

International Standard Version (ISV) He'll glorify the god of fortresses,

Jubilee Bible 2000 (JUB) But in his place shall he honour the god of fortresses,

King James Version (KJV) But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces:

The Living Bible (TLB) Instead of these, he will worship the Fortress god—

The Message (MSG) Marching under the banner of a strange god, he will attack the key fortresses.

Modern English Version (MEV) But instead he shall honor the god of forces,

Names of God Bible (NOG) Instead, he will honor the god of fortresses.

New American Bible (Revised Edition)(NABRE) *Instead, he shall give glory to the god of strongholds;*

New American Standard Bible (NASB) But instead he will honor a god of fortresses,

New Century Version (NCV) The king of the North will worship power and strength,

New English Translation (NET) What he will honor is a god of fortresses—

New International Reader's Version (NIRV) In place of them, he will worship a god of war.

New International Version (NIV) *Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses;*

New King James Version (NKJV) But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses;

New Life Version (NLV) *Instead he will honor a god of strong cities,*

New Living Translation (NLT) *Instead of these, he will worship the god of fortresses*—

- **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)** He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these;
- Orthodox Jewish Bible (OJB) But in his place shall he honor the g-d of fortresses,
- **Revised Standard Version(RSV)** He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these;
- **The VOICE (VOICE)** *Instead of these, he will honor only the god of fortresses*—
- World English Bible (WEB) But in his place shall he honor the god of fortresses;
- **Wycliffe Bible (WYC)** Forsooth he shall honour (the) god of Maoozim in his place,
- Young's Literal Translation (YLT) And to the god of strongholds, on his station, he giveth honour;

Daniel 11:39: he shall act against the strongest fortresses..."

TWO words are used here, **MOOZIM** (or mahuzim), (the word used earlier in Daniel 38 we just looked at)
AND **mibtsâr**, meaning a fortification, castle, or fortified city; fortress, (most) strong (hold). The two words are combined together to yield "the strongest strongholds."

TWO different words implies a difference between the first use and the second. The first may be a name of a pagan god, or merely a word meaning fortresses. This combination implies something else, and many attempts have been made at translating this...

(CEV) With the help of this foreign god, he will capture the strongest fortresses.

Douahy-Reheims (DRA) And he shall do this to fortify Maozim with a strange god,

Geneva Bible (GNV) Thus shall he do in the holds of Mauzzim with a strange god

Good News (GNT) To defend his fortresses, he will use people who worship a foreign god.

Jubliee (JUB) And with the people of the strange god that he shall know, he shall make strong fortresses,

King James (KJV) Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god,

Living (TLB) Claiming this god's help, he will have great success against the strongest fortresses.

New King James (NKJV) Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god,

The VOICE (VOICE) When he attacks the strongest fortresses, he will call upon this foreign god for help.

Wycliffe (WYC) And he shall do that he make strong Maoozim, with the alien god which he knew

Young's (YLT) And he hath dealt in the fortresses of the strongholds with a strange god

- If you research this you will **find strong opinions** about the identity and concepts behind the "god of fortresses." And that's what they are OPINIONS.
- VERY LITTLE of this has any scriptural backup. IT IS PURE SPECULATION, loosely using contradictory interpretations of singular words, Hebrew construction (even that is open to interpretation) historical records, and personal opinions.
- Here are the most popular ideas, though there are many more out there.

- 1. It merely means "fortresses" or strong places of safety, and implies his (Antichrist's) goal is to be the strongest, most powerful. Military might, wars, threats, etc.
- 2. Implies a heathen god of sorts, speculation on who this is runs rampant. Many say the god Mars (god of war). Others, the god Antiochus Epiphanes honored in Temple, (abomination of desolation) (Jupiter Capitolinus [Roman], Zeus [Greek]). (or Diana, Cybele, etc.)



- 3. It is the **Catholic Church** and its establishment of a stronghold on the earth. Say the Catholic (meaning "universal") church honors fortresses. Some say "god of the dead" (as the Catholic church has sainted people and placed them as patron saints of nations, fortresses). Represents entire Catholic church and history, to be apostate during time of Antichrist.
- 4. Some say the word "Mohammed" is derived from this word (transliterated from a foreign god's name Mahomet, which was supposedly "mahuzzim" or moazim), and therefore has some Islamic implication.

5. Others think the word, and how entire passage is crafted, means building self up as a fortress, a stronghold of sorts, the strongest, most worshipped. (not a heathen god, but making self god).

MAUZZIM (from Bible dictionary)

(ma`uzzim, "places of strength," "fortress"): Many conjectures as to the meaning of this word and its context have been made. The Septuagint (uncertainly), Theodotion, and the Geneva Version render it as a proper name. Theodoret adopted Theodotion's reading and explained it as "Antichrist." Grotius thought it a corruption of "Azizos, the Phoenician war-god, while Calvin saw in it the "god of wealth." Perhaps the buzz of conjectures about the phrase is owing to the fact that in the first passage cited the word is preceded by 'Eloah, meaning God.

(continued...)

MAUZZIM (cont.)

The context of the passage seems clearly to make the words refer to Antiochus Epiphanes, and on this account some have thought that the god Mars--whose figure appears on a coin of Antiochus--is here referred to. All this is, however, little better than guesswork, and the Revised Version (British and American) translation, by setting the mind upon the general idea that the monarch referred to would trust in mere force, gives us, at any rate, the general sense, though it does not exclude the possibility of a reference to a particular deity. In Dan 11:19 and 39, the word "Mauzzim" is simply translated "fortresses," and the idea conveyed is that the mental obsession of fortresses is equivalent to deifying them. (from 1915)

BOTTOM LINE ON MAOZIM...

We just don't know.

The people who experience these things will know. Until then, we can only speculate. It has been a source of continued debate since it was written over 2500 years ago. Perhaps soon, the mystery will be solved.

- "... and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain." Antichrist will obtain very quick power and popularity because he is going to have a great sounding plan for the world.
- When everyone else throws up their hands and wonders whether the world can get out of the mess it's in, this final world ruler will come on the scene and seem to have all the answers. But it will all be for his gain, not the good of the world.

COMMENTARY: "In his ingenious plans to reform the world's economy the Antichrist will win great popularity with his plans to redistribute the wealth of society. Early in this century the communists won initial popularity in their promises to divide the land of the rich to distribute it to the peasants. The rise of democratic socialism in Europe has prepared the masses for the promises of the coming world dictator to "divide the land for gain." A growing sense of entitlement in the citizens of the West is setting the stage for the economic system of the Antichrist. (Jeffrey)

- "At the <u>time of the end</u> the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through." (v 40)
- Quick note notice that "him" is NOT the king of the north OR the king of the south. This is a NEW person, the final world ruler. The earlier part of Daniel 11 highlights these two kings. Now, beginning in v. 36, we have a new player on the scene "at the time of the end."

- Initially, when Antichrist gains control over whole world and establishes his one-world government, the world will be grateful and will praise him.
- However, his true nature and true agenda will soon become obvious. Many will try to oppose him, but it will be too late.
- He will have to use more and more power and cruel strength to hold his government together, but he will remain in control.

- "At the time of the end ..." reminds us that we are not still dealing with the end of the Greek Empire and the Seleucid versus Ptolemaic dynasties. We are at the time of the end, the very last days of human government on earth.
- This refers to the end of the Tribulation period

 the end of the times of the Gentiles just
 before Jesus returns with His saints to set up
 His earthly kingdom.
- As the world realizes AC's nature and agenda, it will try to fight him more and more. He is going to have his hands full on every front.

- "...at the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him;..." The king of the South here is most likely Egypt, but not the Ptolemies at the end of the Greek Empire. This is Egypt of the final days, which may have vastly different boundaries (perhaps even most of Africa) than we know of today.
- May also indicate another African (south) country, or perhaps the head of a confederation, which will attack the Antichrist. All speculation.

- Egypt always been referenced as enemy to the south, but may just be launching point or part of confederation of states that are disgruntled with Antichrist.
- Perhaps, since the Antichrist will demand worship only of himself, those extremist Muslims in Egypt and elsewhere will take great issue with this and the Antichrist's desire for world domination. (Assuming AC is not also Muslim, though this could also be the case.)

COMMENTARY: "Today, Egypt is a target for some of the most dangerous terrorists in the world. Muslim fanatics are desperately trying to take over the government and turn Egypt into a staging ground for attacks on Israel. If they succeed, something will have to be done to protect Israel. This is not a good sign, but it is interesting to watch Bible prophecy being fulfilled." (God's Word for Biblically Inept)

 This commentary is chilling, especially since it was made years before the recent coups in Egypt and the fall of its president, Hosni Mubarak. The world thought this country wanted democracy, but instead it is getting the rise of Islamic law. The Muslim Brotherhood has moved into Egypt, and it is likely they, or some other Muslim power, will control this country. Their only wish for Israel is her destruction.

- February 2011 beginning of massive
 Egyptian revolution, not yet completed.
 Egypt is changing rapidly, very likely will fall into Islamic hands, subject to the ultimate goals of Islam to eradicate Israel.
- Should note Egypt not only Arab power going way of Islamic law. <u>Revolts in many</u> <u>Arab countries</u>. Syria, Yemen precarious, among others. Changes daily.
- Frightening to watch but in line with scripture.

- World (including so-called "Christians")
 moving away from Israel, as Zechariah said it
 would ("And it shall happen in that day that I will
 make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples;
 all who would heave it away will surely be cut in
 pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered
 against it." Zechariah 12:3), and is promoting a
 violent Islamic agenda.
- The stage is being set before our eyes for a fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39.

- "...and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships;..." In addition to the coming "king of the south," a future "king of the north" will also come against this end time world ruler.
- In previous section of Daniel 11, Seleucids considered kings of the north. Antiochus Epiphanes called the king of the north. But no longer speaking of that time.

Territory (former Seleucid Dynasty) now identified with several Middle Eastern countries (including Persia) and Russia. Most scholars agree king of North most likely Russia, and perhaps a confederation of nations. Soviet Union crumbled into many disjointed states. Russia itself on the rise, with current ruler (Vladimir Putin) who intends to become the next tsar (Russian for "Caesar"). Has intent, passion, and opportunity to do so.

- Most believe there will be a future Russian invasion of Israel.
- Some think passages in Ezekiel 38 and 39 are merged here with Daniel 11 and that these are the same invasion.
- Others show differences between the two passages and say it means two invasions.

- Timing of prophecies in Ezekiel hotly debated. First invasion could be one described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 in which most likely Russia's army and air force would suffer a decisive and divine defeat.
- Second invasion could be the one here in Daniel 11, in which Russia's navy would be defeated.
- Might explain why Persia, Gomer and Togarmah mentioned in Ezekiel but not in Daniel, and why the Antichrist is mentioned in Daniel but not in Ezekiel. SPECULATION!

- The first invasion would be a Russian/Arab alliance, in desire to wipe out Israel, and the second would be to oppose Antichrist.
- Some very interesting thoughts, but again, all speculation.
- Keep our eyes open, understand what is happening in our world, and compare everything to what scripture says will happen.

- "...and he shall enter the countries,
 overwhelm them, and pass through."
 Seems those who oppose AC will not win.
 He enters (probably militarily) those
 nations and overwhelms, then passes right
 on through. This reveals that all resistance
 will be futile. ("Trekkies," remember the Borg?!)
- Always a great deal of controversy over all end time prophecies. Major points, however, are clear.

 Sort through the controversy and don't get hung up on any one position, unless it is clearly Biblical. If it is a matter of speculation, fine, but don't hang your hat on it -

yet! As they say,...

"all will be revealed!"

41"He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. 42"He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³"He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.



- "He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; ..."
 "Glorious land" is Israel. Entire world will suffer under Antichrist, but Middle East will be major hot spot.
- Antichrist and others in league will want to destroy Israel (the people, not the land).
- AC will want to be worshipped in Temple.
 Other nations will want to take Israel (for religious reasons, but also for vast deposits of oil and gas recently discovered), but AC wants it for his own, will fight anyone who tries to take it away.

- Many countries and nations, if they still exist as such, will fall, including the king of the north and the king of the south. Anyone who opposes AC will be overpowered.
- "...but these shall escape from his hand: Edom,
 Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon...."
 Apparently a little wrinkle in AC plan of
 world domination. Very interesting
 statement. Edom, Moab and the leaders
 (prominent people) of Ammon is a reference
 to three areas located in the nation that
 today we call Jordan.



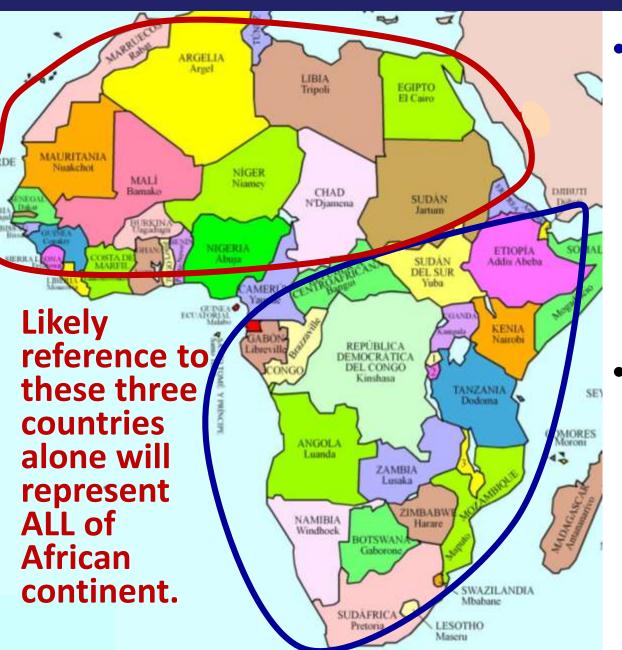
- Capital of Jordan is Amman, a name derived from Ammon. This area apparently will not come under control of AC. Interesting, since ancient city of Petra in southern Jordan, and may likely be place where many Jews will flee for protection during last half of Tribulation (see Revelation 12).
- If this is true, seems God is keeping the area from the Antichrist. He will protect His people.

 "He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape...." Direct reference to Egypt, will also fall under Antichrist's power. May be some early resistance (reference to king of south who opposes him but is overthrown) but eventually AC wins power over Egypt.

 "He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt;..." AC will control wealth of world.

- Egypt referenced in scripture and history as major treasure house throughout history.
 Amassed great treasure during glory days, even stole treasures of other nations.
- At time of end, AC will control all treasures of world, including once vast treasures of Egypt (archeological treasures of Egypt today worth billions.)
- May even refer to new deposits of literal gold and silver that may be discovered. Whatever the wealth of this nation and others, <u>all of it</u> will come under control of AC.

- "...also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels." When we read names of nations in scripture that still exist under those familiar names (such as Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, etc.) must remember current boundaries are not ones referenced in scripture.
- To understand territories referenced, must do research to determine what was under control of those nations during Biblical times.
- Areas once referred to as Libya and Ethiopia will be overwhelmed by AC, and will apparently follow and aid him in his pursuits.

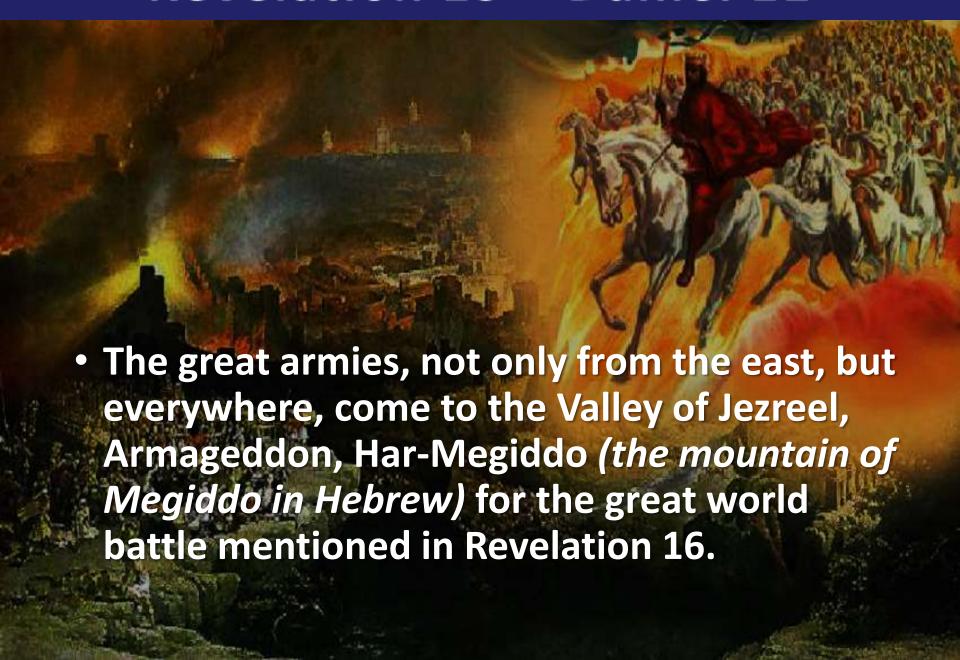


- Ancient Ethiopia covered most of southern Africa, and ancient Libya, along with ancient Egypt, covered most of northern Africa.
- No one, with exception of the three areas inside Jordan today, will escape his control.

44"But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45"And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

- "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; ..." Something happens during AC's military outings of conquest to trouble him. This news comes out of east, and north.
- Many believe this refers to the great army out of east mentioned in Revelation 9:11 -"The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number."
- and Revelation 16:12-16: ARMAGEDDON

"The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. Revelation 16:12-16



- The "north" is also involved here. Could be continuing reference to armies of east, which are, from Israel, also in northerly direction.
- Or, could be another reference to Russia.
- Could also be regions of Turkey, Syria and Lebanon, <u>all north of Israel</u>.
- Whatever it is (speculation and good guesses!) shows activity that bothers AC.
 Perhaps even north and east have joined forces against him. At any rate, whatever happens here worries the Antichrist.

- "...therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many..." Perhaps AC is infuriated at mounting opposition to him and sets out to slaughter them all.
- May or may be not be implying battle of Armageddon, which might come later.
- However, last verse here indicates he "comes to an end." Don't know when that is, at time of this campaign against opposition, or time of Armageddon, if they are separate events.
 May be one and the same.

- "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain;..." Speculation headquarters for AC will initially be in Babylon.
- However, toward end, appears he moves
 headquarters to Israel, establishes presence and
 palace in Jerusalem (between Mediterranean Sea
 and Mount Moriah, Zion, in Jerusalem).
- Will be his final stand. Here he proclaims himself god and causes second abomination that causes desolation.
- Apparently, he will also die here during the battle of Armageddon, and be relegated to the lake of fire. (see Revelation 19:19-20)

COMMENTARY: "When the nations that are gathered together against Jerusalem see the Lord's armies in heaven coming after them, they will forget about the fact that they are at war with each other. They will all get together and decide that they are going to fight against the Lord. All the armies with their military leaders and advanced technology won't have a chance. After the Antichrist is captured, and the False Prophet too, the two of them will be thrown alive into the Lake of Fire." (Jeremiah/Carlson)

- Many details up for speculation, since these events have not yet unfolded in history. When they do, however, people living through these times will have concrete information here and will not have to speculate about what things will happen. They will know.
- The information about the final world ruler, and the final world kingdom, presented in Daniel, Revelation, Zechariah and several other places will serve as guidelines, markers, and encouragement for those who must live during these times. Speculation will be past. In those days the fulfillment of these events will be clear.

- Interesting note about Armageddon, for all the world's hype (even unbelievers know what this means), the Battle of Armageddon is really quite anti-climactic – as are the last few words of this chapter: he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.
- No human can come to AC's rescue, and the Messiah triumphs over them all with merely a word. ("... whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming." 2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- The way Daniel writes this last verse is almost like God just wipes them all out without fanfare. He merely comes to an end here. Good news!

Why did God gave these precise prophecies to Daniel, <u>at that time</u>? A few reasons:

- 1) Initially recorded for **comfort, encouragement of people of God** who live through days described (near fulfillment, historical part, AND those who will live through end time horrors)
- 2) To show those who follow God His plan, especially for end times, so we can be aware and watchful.
- 3) For all generations <u>as testimony that God knows end from the beginning</u>, and has it all in His hands. Precision with which these prophecies were (and will be) fulfilled **proves His existence** and Sovereignty.
- 4) God is who He says He is, and His Word is true. These prophecies, both near fulfillments at time of Daniel to end of the Greek Empire, and final fulfillments at the end of time VALIDATE and AUTHENTICATE God. All prophecy given by God is primarily for this reason. It is to convince mankind that He is indeed God.