

# Memory Verse

## ***2 Thessalonians 2:3-4***

Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

**History and Prophecy Pt 2**

**Antiochus and the  
Antichrist Pt 2**



**Antiochus** was born in Syria and ruled the Seleucid Empire. His life was prophesied in **Daniel 8**. He had problems with Rome and Egypt, and *took out his wrath on the Jews in Jerusalem*. He broke a commitment with the Jewish people, **forbade** Jews to follow the Law, or die. He slew a **pig** on the altar in the Temple, and put a statue of Zeus with his face on it, demanding to be *worshipped as God*. He died, probably by God's direct judgment.

# **A. The Biblical Foundation for the Antichrist**



***Daniel 11:21-35*** speaks of Antiochus Epiphanes.

***Daniel 11:21, 23*** - “In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue... After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small *force of people*.

***Daniel 11:31-32*** - Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. 32“By smooth *words* he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. - ***Verse 35*** ends with an *appointed time for Antiochus*. ***Daniel 11:36-45*** shifts to the *future antichrist*.

In ***Daniel 12:1-8***, more details are given. Michael the archangel is told to stop fighting and there will be a *time of distress or great tribulation*. There will be a *resurrection*, but before that is a time of **3 ½ years** or times, time and half a time of great *destruction* on the Jews. Daniel did not fully understand.

***Daniel 12:9-13*** - He said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the **end time**. 10“Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. 11“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the **abomination of desolation is set up**, *there will be* 1,290 days. 12“How blessed is he who keeps waiting and



attains to the 1,335 days! 13“But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* for your allotted portion at the **end of the age.**”

# **B. The Culture of the Antichrist**



The *culture of antichrist* will be **corrupt**. **1 Timothy 4:1-5** and **2 Timothy 3**, **Matthew 24**, and **Revelation** indicate that the time when the antichrist arises will be a time of pagan worship, apostasy, corruption, violence, apathy, wars, evil and more. Just as the world was corrupt during the time of Antiochus, the world be **more so** before the end. Just as there was *political intrigue* and *battles* taking place, so the same things will occur in the end, just as **Daniel 11** states.

# C. The Life of the Antichrist



## 1. Born in Assyria?

***Micah 5:5-6*** - This One will be *our* peace. When **the Assyrian** invades our land, when **he** tramples on our citadels, then we will raise against **him** seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.

**6**They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and He will deliver *us* from **the Assyrian** when **he** attacks our land and when **he** tramples our territory.

## 2. Magnify Himself

***Daniel 11:36-39*** - Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will **exalt and magnify himself** above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. 37“He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will **magnify himself** above

*them* all. 38“But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor *him* with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. 39“He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with *the help of a foreign god*; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him* and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

Like Antiochus, he will *do what he wants*, **exalt** or **magnify himself** above all the gods twice in *verses 36 and 37*. He will blaspheme God or "*speaking monstrous things against*" Him, like Antiochus. He will **not** follow the gods of his father's...

Antichrist may give lip service to the *god or gods of his (Islamic?) fathers*, but in the end reject them. He will **magnify himself above every god**, like Antiochus.



The phrase "*desire of women*" in verse 37 has caused a lot of discussion. It depends on translation. Some translate it "*desire of women*" and some he will be a homosexual. It can be translated "*desired by women*," meaning the object of desire. This probably refers to the *god or gods desired by women*, or that he will reject those gods too. That **fits the context** better.

### 3. Serve a False God

**Verse 38** tells us what kind of god he will honor - *a god of fortresses*. The Hebrew words refers to *a place or means of safety and protection*, and here *a place of protection under a heathen god*. He will honor this god with riches, in an *attempt to appease them and get on their good side*. Probably, he sets himself up as god, empowered by satan, because ***he worships satan***.

With this false god's help, he goes against the strongest of *fortifications or fortresses*. *This is mysterious* and will be clearer in the end. This is similar to Antiochus. He honored the *gods of Greece, with others*. Antiochus was influenced by Roman thought, which involved other gods, mostly taken from the Greek pantheon, but modified. Ultimately, *Antiochus served satan*.

## 4. Many will Follow Him

Just as with Antiochus, *many will follow the antichrist*. **Verse 39** says he will give great honor to those who follow him and give them to rule. He will give a portion of land to those whom he chooses, showing he has great authority, but also promises great blessing for those who follow him. This also may indicate he will have *sub-leaders*.

They will *do his bidding locally*, while he is doing other things. This is similar to *Antiochus*. Some took around statues of Antiochus and demanded that people worship it. *He didn't do that, but those under him did*. Antichrists henchmen will probably rule local areas, to make sure his bidding is done. Sadly, paralleling Antiochus, *many Jews will follow the antichrist*.

***Daniel 11:40-45*** give details about other end times events, rumors of wars and battles.

## 5. Empowered by Satan

**Revelation 13:1-8** - And the dragon [*satan*] stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a **beast** coming up out of the sea [*Gentile nations*], having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were **blasphemous names**. 2And the **beast** which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion [*conglomeration of empires with a leader or king*].

And the **dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.** 3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the **beast**; 4 they **worshiped the dragon** because **he gave his authority to the beast**; and they **worshiped the beast**, saying, “Who is like the **beast**, and who is able to wage war with him?” 5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and

**authority** to act for forty-two months [*Daniel 12:11 - 3.5 years*] as given to him. 6And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven. 7It was also given to him to make war with the saints (*faithful Jews*) and to overcome them, and **authority** over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8**All** who dwell on the earth will **worship him**,



*everyone* whose name has **not** been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

He will be **empowered by satan!** When there is such hatred towards Jews and Christians, the only way to describe it is **satanic empowerment**. Paul states he will be empowered by satan in *2 Thessalonians 2*.

Example: **Hitler...**

# **D. The Abomination of Desolation and End of the Antichrist**



We first read about the *abomination of desolation* of the antichrist in **Daniel 12:11**. Jesus refers to this event in **Matthew 24:15** - "Therefore when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through **Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place** (let the reader understand)..."

Some say this occurred in AD70 with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem...

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12** - Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the Day of the Lord has come. 3Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it [Day of the Lord]* will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the

son of destruction, 4who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out



of the way. 8Then that **lawless one** will be **revealed** whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9*that is*, the one whose coming is in **accord with the activity of Satan**, with **all power** and **signs** and **false wonders**, 10and with all the **deception of wickedness** for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.



**11For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.**



Some say this refers to Nero, but *Nero didn't go to Jerusalem in 70AD*. He was **dead**. Some events in *70AD parallel end times events*, there is still a *future man* Paul refers to as "*the man of lawlessness*," and "*son of destruction*." John calls him the **antichrist**.

**1 John 2:18** - Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist is coming**, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

***Daniel 9:24-27*** - “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.  
25“So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be*

built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. 26“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. 27“And **he will make a firm covenant** with the many for one week [7 years], but in the middle of the week he will put a

put a **stop to sacrifice and grain offering**; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

He will create a **covenant** or **agreement**. This may be a *new one*, or *one that was in place and is reaffirmed*. It is assumed to be an *agreement of peace*, which will be broken. It will be *broken half way through Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week*, the 7-year period at the *end of the age*. The antichrist will set up the *abomination of desolation in the Temple in Jerusalem....* The antichrist, like Antiochus, will *stop those sacrifices*, and *demand they sacrifice to him*.

**Revelation 13:11-17** - Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who **dwell in it to worship the first beast**, whose fatal wound was healed. 13He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14And he **deceives** those who dwell on

the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to **make an image to the beast** who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15And it was given to him [*false prophet*] to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the **image of the beast** would even **speak** and **cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed**. 16And he causes **all**, the small and the



great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be **given a mark** on their right hand or on their forehead, 17and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the **mark**, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name.



There will be an **image in the Jewish temple**, and **additional images** *people will be called to worship*. This happened *during the reign of Antiochus*, and it will happen again. We are *not told what the image is*, and we can only *speculate now*. But... as the abomination of desolation happened historically, it will happen again! But the *antichrist*, like Antiochus will be judged by God!

**Revelation 19:20** - And the **beast** was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; **these two** were **thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.**