

DANIEL (DARE TO BE GOD'S MESSENGER)
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SERIES: Daniel (Dare To Be God's Messenger)

TITLE: Program 49 – Apostasy Is Coming!

THURSDAY

OPEN

Have you heard beloved, have you read that the day of the Lord is coming, a day of darkness, a day of gloom, a day of distress that will come upon all the nations? All the earth will be affected. It's a day when the antichrist will take his throne. It is a day that will last for three and a half years. And what precedes that day? It's apostasy. And how can you and I know God so well that we will not turn from Him in the time of testing?

PART ONE

God is so good. He is so compassionate and gracious. He's not going to all of a sudden hit us with something so that we are just left spinning and we don't know what has taken place because there's been no warning. When you and I go to Daniel, chapter 11 and 12 and we look at this final vision and this understanding that God gives Daniel of the time of the end, and what leads up to it, what he does is he shows us in picture form, what is

going to happen at the end times by giving us a preview so to speak, through Antiochus Epiphanes. Now this is who we have been looking at. His name is not mentioned in the book of Daniel. But he was a ruler who was to come. And although God did not give us his name as He gave Israel the name of Cyrus, He still gave us a description of this man. I mean He put up all the stats so that we could see what he was going to be like. But He also showed us one other thing that is so important and that is that before the day of the Lord comes there is going to be a great apostasy. Now what do I mean by apostasy? An apostate is a person who once embraced something, held to it, said it's true, said it's right, lived by it and then all of a sudden they turn from it. They throw it away and they walk in the opposite direction. And this is what you see described for us so clearly in Daniel, chapter 11. Now I told you that Daniel 11:32b, the second part of the verse is one of my favorite verses. And many times when I'm signing whatever for people I will share this. I don't always sign the same verse because God leads me to give different verses. But let's look at Daniel 11, verse 31. It says forces from him, from Antiochus will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress. Now remember that's when they put up the statue of Zeus. Do away with the regular sacrifice. This is what we studied in detail in Daniel 8. So if you don't remember it go back and review it. And it says and they will set up the abomination of desolation, which is a statue of Zeus. That's what I want you to remember. And by smooth words. He, Antiochus Epiphanes will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant. Now to act wickedly toward the covenant means that these were Jews. They once embraced the covenant. They once held to that covenant. They said the law is the law and we are to live by it. But now they act wickedly against the covenant because in essence what they're doing is they're flinging truth to the ground. They're getting rid of it. They're saying oh no, we don't hold that anymore. Well look at the United States of America, at one time this nation, the nation that had the Declaration of Independence, the nation that

had the same constitution, same declaration that you and I have, taught their children how to read by teaching them the Ten Commandments. What have we done? We have apostatized and we have thrown that aside and we have said it does not matter and this is not what our forefathers want us to believe. That is tommyrot. It is straight out of the pit of hell. But people have acted wickedly toward the covenant. Now watch what it says. It says but, I love it, the contrast. The people who know their God will display strength and take action. And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, yet some of them will die; by captivity and by plunder for many days. In other words it's going to be war. And in war beloved, there are always casualties. It says now when they fall they will be granted a little help and many will join them in hypocrisy. In other words, they'll come along and they'll say here, let me help you, but they really don't want to help them; they're hypocrites. A hypocrite is a person that wears a mask. When you went into the theaters of those days, those Greek theaters and the people sat so far away and they didn't have television cameras and big screens; in order to show the emotion they would wear a mask with a sad face or they would put it down and they would wear a mask with a happy face. So that's what a hypocrite is. A hypocrite is two-faced person. It's a person that wears two different masks that are contrary to one another. So they're going to come along, but in hypocrisy. And it goes on to say and some of those who have insight will fall in order to refine and purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time. So I would put a time phrase over appointed time and I would color the end time red. What he's just told you is hey, this is not the end; this is not the end. I'm not a God that sneaks up on you. I have just given you a preview of things to come so that I might teach you, so that you might write it down, so that you might learn and you might be instructed for that great and terrible day of the Lord which is coming upon the whole earth, a time like this world has never ever

seen. Now, let me go back and show you what happened. What happened in this time; remember it was the Greek period. And Antiochus Epiphanes was a Greek ruler. He was ruler; he was the king of the North. Well, after he went back, after he desecrated the sanctuary and he went home he sent his soldiers throughout the land to gather the people to make sacrifices to the gods, not to our God. And so he was going through and he got to the town of Modin. Now Modin is halfway between Jerusalem and Joppa. And he goes into this town of Modin and all the people are required to come. And there is an altar that this man has put up and they are going to sacrifice an animal on this altar. Now this is forbidden to the Jews. And they call Mattathias and Mattathias is an older man. He has five sons and they say to him you will sacrifice on this altar. And he looks at that soldier of Antiochus Epiphanes and he says no I will not. And this young Jewish man steps up and he says I'll do it. Now you talk about apostasy. Here's a Jewish man, he has an example of a godly older man. But you know, he's young; he knows it all. He wants to be part of it, this new government, this new regime, this new Hellenistic culture and empire. I'll do it. And so Mattathias reaches in under his robe; that old guy, I love him, he pulls out a knife and he kills the young Jewish boy and he kills Antiochus' soldier. His sons rise up and they flee to the caves and others join them. And what you have is you have the Maccabian Revolt. And three years, after that statue of Zeus is put up it comes down broken and dragged out of that temple and that temple is cleansed and you have the celebration of Hanukkah. How did that come about? The people who know their God will be strong and they will take action. Now Mattathias was too old to run this group, so his son Judas steps up. And they called him Judas Maccabeus. Maccabeus means the hammer and man was he skilled at, at guerilla warfare. I mean he was superior at it. And along came these Hasidim or Hasidim, however you want to pronounce it were the religious Jews that kept the law, that embraced the law, that did not cast it away, that did not apostatize and said we are standing with you.

And so they became part of that force. But once the temple was set up and once temple worship was restored and, and we have this period of independence that last from 167 to 63 B.C. So it's a little bit over a hundred years when the Jews are ruling their own land. And then what happens? The ships from Rome that said to Antiochus Epiphanes, you're not going to take Egypt. Now Rome rules over Israel. And it's because of all sorts of corruption. If you have the New Inductive Study Bible, go to the back and read the history. It is absolutely fascinating. If you have an apocrypha, which it's full of stories. It's not biblical, but it has the book of Maccabees in it and so you might want to read those two books. And just catch what is happening. It's not the verbally inspired Word of God, but it's like a history book. It's like an account. Or you could read Josephus. In the Essential Writings of Josephus. It's condensed and it's in good English and it's easy to understand and it's fascinating to read about this inter-testament period. Now watch the awesome thing that happens in this chapter. In verse 36 it says then the king will do as he pleases and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things about the God of gods; and he will prosper until, time phrase, the indignation is what, finished, completed, over, for that which is decreed will be done. What happens between verse 35 and verse 36 is monumental. Because what happens is this: we move from an end of a historical account of what, is coming in the future, because this was written before it ever happened, but we come to the end of that, and from verse 36 all the way through the end of chapter 12 of Daniel, what we have beloved, is something that has no historical fulfillment. Now remember, I was showing how God has told us what is going to come to pass so that we know it. And when He lays it out, He lays it out with accuracy. Everything has come to pass up to this point. But this hasn't. Does that mean that this is false? No. It means that it is future. And what does the future hold? We'll talk about it right after we come back.

PART TWO

I'm glad you're back beloved. What we want to do is we want to see now the shadow that Antiochus, or Antiochus, you can pronounce it both ways, that he is cast as a forerunner of the antichrist. As a forerunner, now listen carefully, of the little horn of Daniel, chapter 7. Remember the little horn is the horn that comes out of the fourth empire. What we are about to look at in Daniel, chapter 11, verse 36, is the ruler of that fourth empire at the very end of time. Now we know that that fourth beast is dreadful and terrifying and it has iron teeth and it crushes and it tramples down all the rest. We know that it has ten horns on its head. We know that a little horn comes up among those ten; he takes out three of the horns. He conquers those. He has the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. We know that that little horn becomes a ruler and from Daniel, chapter 7, those last verses, we know that he magnifies and he exalts himself as God and he seeks to change seasons and times and he tramples down and rules over the whole earth and over the saints for times, time and half a time, which is three and one half years. Now he's taking us to the very end of time, just before the day of the Lord and including the day of the Lord so that we can see God setting up His kingdom. So Daniel, chapter 11, verse 36, all the way through verse 45, describes to you now the antichrist, the one who is the little horn of Daniel, the one who magnifies himself as God. All right let's look at it. Daniel 11:36: He will do as he pleases. He exalts and magnifies himself above every god. He speaks monstrous things against the God of gods. In other words, against the God of heaven. And it says and he will prosper until the indignation is finished. So you can know this: That that little horn of Daniel is going to continue to prosper and expand his kingdom until the indignation is finished, and then what you see is you see the fulfillment of Daniel 9, the one that causes horror will be absolutely destroyed. Desolations are determined on him. So it says in verse 37: He will show no regard for the god of his fathers or for the desire of women. Now the desire of women in

Jewish thinking is every woman desired to be the mother of Messiah. So it could be that he has no desire for Messiah whatsoever, which in a way may indicate that there's some Jewishness in this man. But it says, in verse 37, nor will he show regard for any other god. In other words, this man is a pure atheist, for he will magnify himself above all. He's an atheist, except when it comes to him and he looks at himself as god. But instead he will honor a god of fortresses. This is a man of war. A god whom his fathers did not know. He will honor him with gold, silver, costly stone and treasures. In other words, this god of fortresses is something that he buys. It's something that is of power. And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god. And he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him. Now this is exactly what Antiochus Epiphanes did. He will cause them to rule over the many and he will parcel out land for a price. You want to rule over that part or that territory, then give me money, you know. Everything is money because he's a god of fortresses. He's got this costly stones; he's got these jewels, etc. Verse 40: Now he's taking us through this rule to the end time. At the end time and you mark this in red, the king of the South will collide with him and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots. Oh, what have you just found out? He has just told you that he is not Syrian and he is not Egyptian. But he is the ruler that has come up in this fourth empire and now you have Syria colliding with him; you have Egypt colliding with him. And they will storm against him with chariots and with horsemen and with many ships and he will enter countries and overflow them and pass through. I mean he'll just take them over. He will also enter the Beautiful Land. Now the Beautiful Land was first mentioned in Daniel, chapter 8, verse 9. Then it was mentioned in Daniel, chapter 11. Now it's being mentioned again in Daniel, chapter 11. He will enter the Beautiful Land, Israel. Many countries will fall, but these will be rescued out of his hand; this is so interesting, Edom, Moab and the four most sons of Ammon. If you were to go to the east of the Dead Sea and

you were to go north and you were to go south, what country would be over there today? Present day Jordan. So when he's making his conquests, for some reason we know that Jordan escapes out of his hand. In other words he doesn't demolish Jordan or Ammon, Moab and Edom. It says then he will stretch out his hand against other countries and the land of Egypt will not escape. What is he doing? He is going forth conquering and to conquer. He will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. I mean he'll just take that part of Africa and they will just follow him. And it says but, rumors from the East. Now what's the East? Iraq. Rumors from the East and from the North. And North is beyond Syria, what's up there? Russia will disturb him and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. I mean this is a man going forth to conquer. This is this kingdom, I mean showing itself; taking over and this is the little horn. Now remember that kingdom has ten horns. That kingdom has ten kings. Some are weak and some are strong as we saw in Daniel, chapter 2 and in Daniel, chapter 7. But those ten align themselves with this little horn. He takes out three and it's apparently because they don't cooperate. Verse 45: And he will pitch his tents, the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain. Now what do you have? Israel is on the Mediterranean Sea. Israel has the Dead Sea. He's going to pitch his tent between those two and the beautiful Holy Mountain. What is there? That's Jerusalem. What is going to happen? I cannot wait to tell you in our next session. It is the time of the end and the apostasy.