***Daniel 11:33-45 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. 34Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. 35And 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. 37He 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. 38But 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. 39Thus 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. 41He 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. 42He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43He 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. 44But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45And 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.***

We’ll finish Daniel 11 tonight. As we’ve agreed throughout our study, scripture often represents both a short term and a long term prophecy. It must be understood in both lights. Tonight, we’re looking at the short term prophecy of less than 1000 years with relation to Antiochus and the desecration of the temple, but this can also apply to long term prophecy as it relates to the Antichrist and end times. Realize that much that happened in the years leading up to the first coming of Christ will precede the second coming of Christ.

Verse 33 *And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many –* There will be those that understand God’s word, understand what is happening all around, and will be faithful in instructing others, even as the world disagrees. They will keep relationship with God and keep many from turning away from belief or renouncing their faith in God. *Yet for many days they shall fall by sword –* Just because they follow God, faithfully teach and instruct, exhort and encourage in the faith, this does not keep them from the suffering of the nation. Josephus writes that Antiochus was zealous in his persecution of the faithful, tormenting, scourging, and killing them. Some were nailed to crosses to die! This time of torment was 3 ½ years, according to Josephus, from beginning until the cleansing of the sanctuary.

Verse 34 *Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. Now when they fall* – God raises up help with perfect timing. The nation must reach a point of knowing their helpless estate. As Antiochus tormented and murdered, God raised up a man named Mattathias and his five sons. They resisted Antiochus and protected many Jews. *But many shall join with them by intrigue –* Many pretended to support Matthias, but were not zealous for God, but for gain. They served the flesh and not the Spirit. And so it will be in the end times as well. Many that appear to be serving God will be serving self.

Verse 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. And some of those of understanding shall fall –* similar to what verse 33 said, some of the righteous men will fall in persecution. God does not promise exclusion from suffering. *to refine them, purify them, and make them white –* Persecutions have a purpose. God does not bring suffering for no reason. God uses such times to refine and focus Faith, purge us of what we have set up as idols, draw us back to relationship with Him. The persecutions during the time of Antiochus and the persecutions that will come in the end times are designed to purge, refine, and make pure our focus on Jesus. *Until the time of the end –* God’s appointed time for the persecution to end. *Because it is still for the appointed time –* God appoints times, seasons. Times will last as long as God appoints, and not one second longer. His Will and Word will always be accomplished. We must be attentive to His prompting, changing as God instructs.

Verse 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. Then the king shall do according to his own will –* Antiochus, and Antichrist, will act from a place of evil and will meet a limited success. *He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god –* Antiochus raided and plundered any religious temple he found. He was a flatterer and a thief. He endeared himself by strategically giving to further his control. Still true today. *Shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods –* As the Antichrist will do in the end times, Antiochus acted and spoke in blasphemous ways against Almighty God. Secular writers record and the Maccabees records blasphemies done and spoken. *And shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished –* These things will continue until God’s wrath is satisfied. When this is accomplished, God’s anger will cease. *For what has been determined shall be done –* God, in His Providence and perfect Wisdom, has determined a period of time for the persecutions to continue. Nothing will alter the plan that God has fixed. This again applies to Antiochus and to the Antichrist.

Verse 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. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers –* Antiochus honored no gods, not even of his own country. He elevated Greek gods to pander and flatter. He blasphemed God and His Temple. *Nor the desire of women –* Antiochus spared no gender, respected no beliefs. He was known to kill mothers and their children for disagreeing with his rule. *Nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all –* Antiochus considered himself superhuman, one historian recorded that he thought he was able to command the waves of the sea and the stars of heaven. He was insolent and haughty.

Verse 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.**But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses –* This appears to be Mars, the god of war. *And a god which his fathers did not know –* Antiochus forced the Syrians to worship Greek gods, which they’d never known before. He believed this made him wiser than his fathers. He was, as the world would say now, WOKE. *He shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things –* The Hebrew word for pleasant things is used elsewhere in the Bible to mean ornaments used to decorate idols. Isaiah spoke of Baal-Semon, god of the Phoenicians, and this god would also have been unknown to the Syrian people.

Verse 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.**Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge.* Antiochus will introduce these strange gods into the Temple of Jerusalem. Jupiter, which we know he dedicated the Temple to Jupiter and desecrated the altar and the Holy of Holies. *Advance its glory –* He set up graven images to Jupiter on the altar of God. *And he shall cause them to rule over many –* Those that bow down to Antiochus and false gods will be placed into power. *And divide the land for gain –* These false priests and prophets will profit greatly if they bow the knee. This again is true of Antiochus and will be true of the Antichrist.

Verse 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.**At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him –* In God’s providential time, miseries will be brought to an end. Again, the king of Egypt arises and attacks Antiochus. *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.* Antiochus will attack suddenly and overwhelm the king of the South.

Verse 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.**He shall also enter the Glorious Land –* Antiochus will send his armies into Judea, as we also read in Daniel 8:9. A king is said to have entered a land when his armies enter. Apollonius, Lysius, and Gorgias all were known to have entered Judea and Palestine on behalf of Antiochus. *And many countries shall be overthrown –* Many countries surrounding Palestine and Judea will be overthrown. *But these shall escape from his hand - Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon –* Maccabees and secular historians report that these escaped because they allied themselves with Antiochus and persecuted the Jews. Not a good move by any nation against God and Israel.

Verses 42-43 *He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43He 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 stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape –* The countries surrounding Egypt and Egypt itself. Ptolemy Philometor was expelled from Egypt and his brother Physcon ascended to the throne.  *He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt –* In return for his support, Antiochus plundered Egypt. The historian Polybius records - *“Part of this he took from Egypt, breaking the covenant which he had made with Ptolemy Philometor.”* ***Also*** *the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels* – The Hebrew words suggest that these countries had been conquered and were forced to serve Antiochus.

Verses 44-45 *But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45And 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; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many –* Around this time, the Parthians and the Armenians declared war on Antiochus. The Parthians were in modern Iran, and at the height of their power at this time, defeating the mighty Roman army in several battles. Armenia, also at the height of its power at this time, is located near modern Turkey and Russia. These two would have certainly troubled Antiochus.  *And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain –* The royal tents will be set up to house his representatives and maintain a presence in Judea, the glorious land, between the Mediterranean and Dead seas. *Yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him –* God will cut Antiochus off and none will be able to help. Daniel 8:25 said – *He shall be broken without a hand.* When God sets His Face against wicked rulers, no one can stand and no one can help. Antiochus died while robbing a temple to pay the tribute exacted by the Romans.

And so ends this enemy of God, in God’s time and in God’s way. Daniel must be overwhelmed with this Scripture of Truth coming from Gabriel. I can only imagine the sadness he feels for his people, seeing their wickedness and rebellion and knowing the price that will be paid for turning from God. Likewise, there will be a price for our nation and a price at the end for the world as it turns from God to the Antichrist, deciding to serve Satan rather than God’s Son. Daniel remains faithful, focused, and fearless as he serves God. May we do the same in these times we find ourselves in.