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Antiochus

1V Epiphanes

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Antiochus 1V Epiphanes.

Antiochus Epiphanes spoken of in (Dan. 8:9-12) is a good example of the little horn, an antichrist, also called, the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) in the New Testament. He was a ruthless Syrian king who fits the description of the little horn, and the man of lawlessness perfectly. He was one of the four strongest generals to arise after the death of Alexander the Great, he was commonly called Epiphanes meaning, "the illustrious, and God made manifest," and by murder he seized the throne for himself.

It is recorded in history: that he took Jerusalem by storm and ordered his soldiers to cut down without mercy those who they met and to slay those who took refuge in their houses. There was a massacre of young and old, a killing of women and children, a slaughter of virgins and infants. In the space of three days, eighty thousand were lost, forty thousand meeting a violent death, and the same number being sold into slavery.

To consolidate his Empire and strengthen his hold over the region, he decided to side with the Hellenised Jews by outlawing Jewish religious rites and traditions observed by more orthodox Jews, and by ordering the worship of Zeus as the supreme god. This was anathema to the Jews and when they refused, he sent an army to enforce his decree, because of the Jewish resistance, the city of Jerusalem was destroyed and many were slaughtered.

Remaining Jews were forced to abandon the customs of their ancestors and to live no longer by the laws of God, they were to dedicate the temple in Jerusalem to the Olympian god Zeus, profaning the temple, and on Mount Gerizim build an altar to Zeus the hospitable. Things that were forbidden were brought into the temple so that the altar was covered with abominable offerings prohibited by the Jewish laws, and those who circumcised their sons were to be put to death.

A Jew could not keep the Sabbath or celebrate the traditional feasts, nor even admit that he was a Jew. At the suggestion of the citizens of Ptolemais, a decree was issued ordering the neighbouring Greek cities to act in the same way against the Jews. The surrounding Greek cities were to force the Jews to partake of the Greek sacrifices, and put to death those who would not consent to adopt the customs of the Greeks.

The rule of Antiochus IV Epiphanes king of the Seleucid Empire led to disaster and horror. Following is an example of two of these horrors:

1. Two women who were arrested for having circumcised their children were publicly paraded about the city with their babies hanging at their breasts and then thrown down from the top of the city wall.
2. Others, who had assembled in nearby caves to observe the Sabbath in secret, were betrayed and all burned to death.

The temple of God polluted: in 168 BC Antiochus Epiphanes dared to:

- Occupy Jerusalem.
- Enter the Holy of Holies, and desecrate the sanctuary by offering unclean animals upon the altar of burnt-offerings.
- Pollute the whole building by sprinkling it with water in which flesh had been boiled.

- Dedicated the temple itself to Jupiter Olympus.
- Erected the statue of Jupiter Olympus and plundered the temple treasures.

The abomination of desolation: Antiochus Epiphanes represents the type of the abomination of desolation foretold by the prophet Daniel, on the altar of the LORD in the inner court of the temple. Antiochus Epiphanes serves as a foreshadowing of the Anti-christ to come in the days ahead. Many Old Testament types pointing to end time fulfilments are first fulfilled in the natural and secondly in the spiritual, so we may see the Lord's spiritual temple defiled in the last days.

Coins during the era of Antiochus IV Epiphanes: the inscription around the throne on the face of the silver coin reads:

- Basileos Antiochou, Theou Epiphaniou Nikephorou meaning, of King Antiochus, God Manifest, Victory Bearer.

The inscription on the face of the bronze coin portrays:

- A bearded Antiochus as Zeus laureate himself, wearing the victor's wreath while the reverse side identifies the image of King Antiochus, God Manifest.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes is also found in (Daniel 11:21-35). The remaining verses indicate that the time covered by Daniel's vision do not end at the era of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, but by extension travel through time to the Roman Empire and continuing through to the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The following three titles all refer to the same character.

1. The little horn (an antichrist).
2. The man of Lawlessness (man of sin in KJV).
3. The son of destruction (of perdition in KJV) in (2 Thess. 2:3-8).

The following two titles refer to the same character.

1. The two horned beast like a lamb.
2. The false prophet.

TRAITS OF THE LITTLE HORN

- **Daniel 7:8:** I considered the horns (ten horns), and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This verse shows the little horn:

- **He arises up from amongst ten horns:** signifying ten antichristian beast nations
- **He had eyes like the eyes of a man:** signifying great worldly wisdom, perception, insight, awareness, and observation.
- **He had a mouth speaking great things:** signifying, he was a great orator and able to influence multitudes by his speeches and making great, but false promises as almost all politicians and world leaders do.

- I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. (Dan. 7:11).

This verse shows the little horn:

- **Speaks great words:** signifying he was a great orator and able to influence multitudes by his speeches and making great, but false promises as almost all politicians and world leaders do.
- **Will be killed by fire:** perhaps, signifying he will be killed by weapons of war.
- **Daniel 7:20:** And about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.

This verse shows the little horn:

- **Arises up from amongst ten horns:** signifying an amalgamation of ten powerful antichristian beast nations. This does not necessarily mean this beast empire will be limited to ten nations, for ten signifies completion, so it may carry the idea of the final powerful antichristian beast empire that will bring about the completion of Gods plan for this world as we know it.
- **The horn had eyes:** signifying great worldly wisdom, perception, insight, awareness, and observation.
- **Spoke great things:** signifying he was a great orator, and able to influence multitudes by his speeches and make great, but false promises as almost all politicians and world leaders do.
- **Greater than its companions:** signifying he was greater than the leaders of the other ten beast nations.
- **Daniel 7:21-22:** It makes war with the faithful and conquers them, until the Ancient of Days comes, and judgment is given to the faithful of the Most High, and they possess the kingdom.

This verse shows the little horn:

Makes war with the faithful: signifying his hatred for Israel and those who proclaim Christ.

Conquers the faithful: signifying persecution, but only until Christ returns and judges all antichristian beast nations.

They possess the kingdom: signifying Christ establishing God's Kingdom on earth and all the Kingdoms of the world becoming the Kingdoms of the faithful.

- **Daniel 7:24-25:** It arises-up out of the ten kings and is different from the ten in that he speaks words against the Most High; thinks to change the times and the law and the faithful are given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

These verses show the little horn:

- **Arises-up out of the ten kings:** signifying the heads of the ten antichristian beast nations

Is different from the ten in that he speaks words against the Most High: signifying, that the heads of the ten beast nations had no intention of stirring others up against God, until the little horn stirred them up to do so. Much like the chief religious leaders stirred up Rome to crucify Christ.

Thinks to change times and laws: most likely laws opposed to God's laws and the Christian faith.

The faithful are given into his hand: signifying, he will subdue Israel and persecute Christians.

A time, times, and half a time: signifying, his reign will only be for a short time.

- **Daniel 7:26-27:** Its dominion will be destroyed and all the greatness of the kingdom and the dominion will be given to the people of the Most High for an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions will serve and obey them.

These verses show the little horn:

Its dominion will be destroyed: signifying, no matter how great his empire becomes it will all end in ruin.

His kingdom and dominion will be given to the people of the Most High for an everlasting kingdom: signifying, his entire empire will become the inheritance of all who reign with Christ during his glorious millennial reign.

All dominions will serve and obey them: signifying, all kingdoms and empires of the world will obey Christ and his government ruling on earth.

- **Daniel 8:10:** It (the little horn) (Antiochus Epiphanes) grew great, even to the host of heaven, and some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them.

This is said in allusion to Antiochus Epiphanes, and his subduing the third part of the principalities, kingdoms, and empires of the known world, but prophetically suitably fits the man of lawlessness that will arise in the latter days.

Overview of the little horn:

- He arises up from amongst ten antichristian beast nations
- He has great worldly wisdom, perception, insight, awareness and observation.
- He was a great orator and able to influence multitudes by his speeches and making great, but false promises as almost all politicians and world leaders do.
- He will most likely be killed by weapons of war.
- He was greater than the leaders of the other ten beast nations.
- He has a hatred for Israel and those who proclaim Christ.
- The heads of the ten beast nations had no intention of stirring others up against God, until the little horn stirred them up to do so. Much like the chief religious leaders stirred up Rome to crucify Christ.
- He is opposed to God's laws and the Christian faith.
- He will subdue Israel and persecute Christians.
- His reign will only be for a short time.
- No matter how great, successful, and powerful his empire becomes it will all end in ruin.

- When Christ returns, he will judge him and his antichristian beast nations, after this judgment his entire empire will become the inheritance of all who reign with Christ during his glorious millennial reign, and all nations will obey Christ and his government.

Though all of this is said in allusion to Antiochus Epiphanes (the little horn), and his subduing a third part of the kingdoms and empires of the known world at that time, all that is said, prophetically fits the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) spoken of in the New Testament, that will arise in the latter days.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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