

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

"The Fierce King"

Dan. 8:1-27

Introduction

1. There will be several who will oppose God in the last days. The chiefest of these will be the Antichrist. He is a personal aggressor against God Almighty and His Christ.

2. The person of antipathy who comes from the north, by virtue of his extended fulfillment of Antiochus Epiphanes, is from the Grecian empire. He is apparently supported by northern forces which will probably be centered in Russia.

3. The description of this individual is given in our text. Under the following characteristics he is given specific designation:

1. His ROYALTY. v. 23.

His designation as a "king" connotes that he will fulfill all that this term signifies. A kingdom of some sort must therefore rise in the situation with which he is associated. No point to look for him personally until this happens politically!

2. His PERSONALITY. vv. 23, 24.

Several items are listed here for us:

a. His countenance.

The adjective employed here is "fierce" and connotes something harsh, stern. Cf. Deut. 28:50.

b. His understanding.

The word "dark" has the thot of trickery or enigmatic. Hence, this person will be one skilled in using puzzling methodology. Few will understand him. One is reminded of modern dialectical approaches as employed by the communists and many liberal theologians.

c. His power.

It is interesting that he is at first described as "little," but his abilities rise. This might, however, is not attributable to his

own prowess. The source of his strength comes from outside himself!

d. His pride.

He will magnify himself in his heart is his vital connection with Satan.

3. His ACTIVITY.

The word "policy" means prudence and the term "crafty" means deceit. It is with this sort of spirit he carries on his activity.

a. Destruction.

The adj. "wonderfully" points out that this shall be extraordinary destruction! Some of this is seen in v. 24 that he shall destroy the "mighty and the holy people." This is a direct reference to his movements against the Gentiles and Israel.

b. Extension.

His movements will gain momentum and success. The verb "practice" notes that he will accomplish his purpose. Not fully, but to a point.

c. Pacification.

It is the unsuspecting who fall prey to the enemy. Hence, this one will promote peace, but at heart be diabolical. The reference may not be to any moderns, but the examples we have today are too true to be ignored.

d. Opposition.

Here is a major effrontery to the Lord of Glory. The Prince of princes can be none other than Christ Himself. This does not mean direct contact, but rather against His purposes.

Conclusion. The Word teaches that this personage will be broken to pieces. The verb means to shiver to pieces. Used also of child breaking out of womb, hence a proper breaking of this king's enterprise. This all should not hinder us, for we need to keep on doing the king's business (cf. v. 27).

NOTES