

Daniel 06-05-21b

Let's resume our study now in the book of Daniel, chapter 11. We've been looking at this section that details one of the most prominent characteristics of the Antichrist, which is his opposition to God-belief. He raises himself up above God.

He regards neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, which is the again, not that he doesn't believe in marriage or anything like that, but the emotional side, the compassionate side of religion. It mentions the fathers and the women in the sense that you know, the fathers tend to be the reasonable kind and those who justify faith based on reason and those who justify faith based on compassion and on promoting peace and so on. Whether it is the desire of women or whether it is the fathers and tradition and so on, he's going to discount and supersede all of these manifestations of faith with himself.

He will not regard any God. He will exalt himself above all, above them all. He's got a better way.

He's got a superior system. We need to eliminate faith. We need to eliminate religion.

It is the source of the world's ills. Again, you would be amazed if you look into this. Many Christians are unaware.

Christians tend to move in sort of a germ-free bubble sometimes and just say, well, I know there are things out there, but I don't really want to address it. There are many believers who are a little bit afraid to look into arguments against Christianity because they're a little bit afraid that what I don't know might hurt me. Maybe my faith will be undermined.

Maybe my faith can't stand up to the rigorous scrutiny that rationalism and that science wants to put on it. I am here to tell you that being the sort of non-traditionalist that I am, it doesn't bother me as someone with an engineering degree, as someone who has kept abreast of science and archaeology and the findings of fossils and all of the other studies that science is doing in the area of DNA and evolution and all that. Believers, Christians, do not need to be afraid to look at science, to listen to criticism, and to evaluate it.

I think it is a goofy thing to have a faith that won't stand up under fire, that doesn't stand up to criticism. Why have a faith that you can only have by blinding yourself to reality, which is the accusation that is made? I am here to tell you, and many others are as well, that you can be aware of everything the world wants to throw at Christianity. You can listen to the best and the brightest philosophical arguments, rationalist arguments, scientific arguments, and you will find that the Word of God, the existence of God, the plan and purpose of God, are not in any way undermined or endangered by the cavils and the attacks and the abuse that is hurled at them by the unbelieving world.

You don't need to be afraid. You don't have to say, well, I don't really want to read that because

it might undermine my faith. If you want to read the Da Vinci Code, read away.

If you want to read Richard Dawkins and the Blind Watchmaker or any of these other things, some of these people who are interviewed in this movie I mentioned in the first session that's called The God Who Wasn't There, Sam Harris is an award-winning author. He wrote a book called The End of Faith, and it is an argument that is in accord with what the Antichrist is going to put forward. The end of faith.

Faith is no longer needed. We've risen above that. We've reasoned our way beyond it.

Robert M. Price is a fellow of the Jesus Seminar, right up there with J.D. Crossan and a bunch of these other guys in the Jesus Seminar, The Search for the Historical Jesus, that was started way back by Albert Schweitzer. Robert M. Price, who is one of the glowing lights of the Jesus Seminar, wrote a book called The Incredible Shrinking Son of Man. Alan Dundas is the professor of folklore at the University of California at Berkeley.

Well, can any good thing come out of Berkeley? Richard Carrier is a historian, an author. One of his recent books is called Sense and Goodness Without God. This is akin to the positive atheism.

A lot of people argue now that you don't need religion, quote-unquote, what they're really saying is you don't need Christianity to define a sense of morality. Our sense of right and wrong is firmly rooted in the Judeo-Christian ethic. Any philosophy class at the undergraduate level will tell you this.

That's where our sense of right and wrong comes from. That's why things like the Third Reich and totalitarianism and Stalin and a lot of these other things were heinous and objectionable and opprobrious to civilized men because we have a Judeo-Christian ethic. It was nothing to the Hittites.

It was nothing to the ancient Amorites. It was nothing to the Romans to rape, pillage, and plunder and to enslave. They thought it was perfectly right.

It is a perversion of Christianity that justified slavery in the South. The KKK claims a scriptural basis for their view of the black man and they're just as wrong as they can be. It is a proper understanding of the Bible.

It is a proper understanding of the Christian faith that condemns oppression, that condemns the violation of freedom and privacy and property, those divine establishment norms and standards that are a part of the Judeo-Christian ethic. This is a widespread, deep-rooted assault. Now it has always existed.

There have always been skeptics. There have always been those who oppose belief in the God of Israel and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Son. It has always existed.

One of the most fruitful studies I think we've done in recent times was the harlot riding the

beast in the latter chapters of Revelation and realizing that that is not a unique phenomenon to the 70th week of Daniel. That spirit of Antichrist has been at work. That false religion and religion so-called that seeks to supplant and replace faith in God and in this age belief in the Lord Jesus Christ has always existed.

Even Christianity has been perverted into things like Roman Catholicism, like Mormonism, like the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a lot of other things. Cultish manifestations. You have your Jonestown people.

You have your Branch Davidians. You have all kinds of perversions of Christianity and these are then turned against Christianity as bad examples. All of this is the spirit of Antichrist which has been at work.

But nothing like we see in the modern day. We have never had the information age technology to push this kind of stuff. It's one thing to go down to Barnes and Noble or somewhere and buy a book that decries and lays a lot of bombast on Christianity.

It's something else to simply be sitting at your computer and click a link and have it all come up in your face. There is a missionary effort like you can't believe to discredit and undermine Christianity and there is an outrage motivated at its heart by fear that is behind all of this. It is decried in this movie, *The God Who Wasn't There*.

They think it is a horrible thing that 44 percent of Americans claim an expectation of the return of Jesus Christ. You don't hear that in your mainstream media. These people have to address it because it's a fact.

Better than 80 percent of Americans claim some sort of God belief and 44 percent believe in Jesus Christ and that he's coming back which implies a belief in the resurrection. We are still a largely Christian nation. All of these protestations and let's get God out of the classroom and the Ten Commandments out of the courtroom etc.

to the contrary. This is the reason we are still blessed as a nation. The reason we can still meet in freedom and privacy to study the Word of God together because these people with all of their pseudo dominance have not yet uprooted fundamental Christian faith in large portions of our country.

Your big city areas are where they've had a lot of inroads and a lot of success but the heartland of America and we are here in the buckle of the Bible Belt where there are a super abundance of churches that has not yet been overturned but believe me it is underway. Another assault on Christian faith is the influx of population from other parts of the world who no longer decide to become American and embrace American values and by extension the traditional American faith in God and in Christ. Now instead of people who come to this country and adopt America as their land and culture they bring their culture with them and with their culture comes their religion and when you look around the mall today and you see people wearing clothes that are

not traditional American clothes and you see people with scarves on their head and you know wispy silken looking robes and funny sandals and turbans and all the other strange stuff that they wear this is a statement.

People make statements with their appearance. If you see somebody with a lot of tattoos that's a statement. If you see somebody with a lot of piercings that's a statement.

If you see somebody wearing black leather all the time, if you see somebody wearing a gothic makeup that's a statement. They are saying something. When you see people come to this country and live here for years and not change their traditional customary dress that's a statement.

They're saying well I'm here because I like all the good things about your country but I'm also here to retain a lot of things that I think are good for my own country and many times that includes religion. This is why Islam is sweeping the United States just like it's sweeping Europe. This is why other forms of belief are taking root and it's just like and you know this is politically incorrect to say but it's like letting weeds grow up in your lawn and as they flourish and as they multiply the grass roots of America fundamental Christian faith is being replaced.

It's being supplanted and with this diversity comes the idea that well religions are just a smorgasbord pick one. They're all about the same. There's nothing unique about Christianity.

That's why we're taking time out on Tuesday nights to address specifically why Christianity, why the Bible. Is there any good reason or is it just another faith? Well and we'll save the remainder of my comments for that study but it's important to see this is a sign of the time of the end. Paul says in the latter days men will be lovers of themselves.

It's all about me. Lovers of money. What can I gain? And this is the gospel of the Antichrist.

It began after World War II in this country with prosperity that people didn't know how to handle. That they handed to their kids and did not teach them the values that they themselves had grown up with. It went into the libertine and standardless culture of the 60s and 70s.

The Pepsi generation. The me generation. Instant gratification.

Give me what I want in 48 minutes plus commercials and it continues to the present day and we have a rootless godless generation growing up that discounts religion, discounts Christian faith and believes what it reads on the internet. We're now in the iPod generation. I want to listen to music and listen to the lyrics of music.

God used to be mentioned a lot in popular music. This silly song. I don't particularly care for the song but you know this song about I was out with my baby in the car and I swerved off the road and I've got to be good so I can see my baby when I leave this world.

That never raised a blink of an eyebrow. Nobody thought twice about that song which was

wildly popular. It went up into the top ten when it came out back in the 50s or 60s whenever it was.

People talking about their blessings and talking about God. God bless America being sung prayers in stadiums. Nobody thought twice about that.

Now it almost startles you to see God mentioned in a public venue, to hear a prayer in a public venue because of this overturning, because of this uprooting. Well I say all of that to say this. This is the last time.

These are the end days and this is the foundation. If you can get this to fly in in America, in the United States which is the most Christian country in the world. If you can push this through the mainstream media, if you can push it over the internet, if you can make it a mocking offense to be a Christian and push Christianity off the center stage, out of the mainstream and make it sort of a fool's belief, you have set the stage for the Antichrist.

Because when he comes, he is going to preach a better way. He's going to say, you know, it's been recognized for years now that faith and religion are the problem. Here's a better way.

How's he going to get that across? The foundation has already been laid. The assumption is already being accepted by millions and millions of people that, you know, this religion thing really is a problem. Look at all of the recent wars.

They're all religious. It's all one faith against another, ostensibly. If you look at it closely, you find out that it's actually political and these are just labels that people use.

Do you think the Irish are really trying to defend Catholicism? No. It has nothing to do with Catholicism, but they're all Catholics and it's convenient to label it that way. In their place, verse 38, Daniel 11, he shall honor a God of fortresses.

Fortresses is not the best translation of this word. This word is maoz. M-A-O-Z.

Now oz is the word for strength. Maoz takes it and makes it something else. You know, you can take a verb and put a name in front of it and make it sort of a noun.

You can take a noun and put a name in front of it and make it a concept. And that's what's happened here. This is a place of strength.

That's how they get the translation fortresses. What it really means is the concept of protection, the concept of refuge, the concept of safety. He is going to preach in the place of God, in the place of religious faith, safety.

It's the same thing it says in the New Testament. When they say peace and safety, destruction is going to come on them suddenly. He is going to be preaching a gospel of safety.

What we really want is a safe world for our children. We want a safer world. We want to

eliminate war.

We want to eliminate this terrorism business. It's all the religious people who are the terrorists. Religion is the problem.

God belief is the problem. We've got to get past that. In their place he will honor the God of safety.

He's going to preach the religion and the gospel of refuge. Ma'oz ra'osh is a phrase used in the Bible for a helmet. In Psalm 60 and in your English Bible it's verse 7. In the Hebrew it's verse 9. You have ma'oz ra'osh and it's a helmet or it's a piece of armor that protects your head.

What is the helmet for a believer? It's the helmet of salvation, isn't it? He's going to preach a different salvation. He's going to have his own helmet that he's putting out there for people. It's not belief in God.

It's not trust in Christ. It's not salvation. It is a different kind of deliverance, a different kind of safety.

So this is going to sell. It's going to be popular. A God which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold, silver, precious stones, and pleasant things.

He's going to finance this. He's going to have websites. He's going to have media presentations.

He's going to sell this worldwide. This is how he's going to come to promise. Why is the Antichrist popular? Why will he take over and become the world ruler? He is going to pitch a gospel that is so compelling that people will say, yes, that's what we need.

The foundation is already being laid. The spirit of Antichrist is already at work. And it is in this dismissal, in this opposition to faith.

Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign God which he shall acknowledge and advance its glory. The strongest fortresses he will advance against them. So once again, these are the Ma'uzim, the places that people look to for refuge, the places that people look to for safety.

He's going to assault them with this foreign God. He's going to drive out the vestiges of faith. This is why it's going to end up being a criminal offense to believe in God in the latter half of the tribulation period.

If you don't accept his mark, if you don't accept his system, you are going to be outcast. You won't be able to buy and sell. You'll have to flee and hide in the mountains and get your living in some other way because it is going to be a criminal offense to have God-belief.

He will advance its glory. He shall cause them to rule over many and divide the land for gain. Those who are his apostles, those who are his prophets of this new... Remember, some of us

are old enough to remember when 7-Up started their ad campaign and they said we're the un-cola? That was back in the 70s.

That was so ubiquitous and was so popular a phrase that an enterprising midshipman in my wing at Navy started selling t-shirts that said, Navy, the un-college, because we were so different from what college was like in the 70s. Well, this is going to be Antichrist, the un-religion. It's going to be the religion that is not a religion.

It's going to be the faith that is not a faith. It's going to be the God that is not a God, which he acknowledges and advances. And those who embrace it and those who become his proselytes and his apostles, his proselytizers and his prophets, he's going to advance.

And they are going to rise up and be the spokesmen and the interpreters of this new un-religion. And he's going to reward them. He's going to divide the land.

They are going to be under shepherds, under rulers. And it's going to be a pseudo-religion. They will be the pseudo-bishops and the pseudo-pastors, the pseudo-elders.

Well, verse 40 makes this explicit that it is the time of the end that we are talking about. The king of the south will rise up against him. This is clearly in the second half of the 70th week.

It's interesting that in verses 40 through 45 here, this next section, there are 14 occurrences of he and him. There are seven occurrences of he and there are seven occurrences of him or his. And this is the perfecting, this is the coming together, the perfect manifestation, if you will, of the Antichrist and the spirit of Antichrist.

It's in the 70th week. It is the prelude to the seventh millennium of human history. And you have seven references here to the Antichrist.

He occurs seven times, him occurs four times and his occurs three times here. He has made this covenant for seven years with the people of Israel that they can continue to worship. But as a part of this agenda, he's going to break that and say, you know, this is inconsistent with my gospel of the un-God, my un-salvation, my un-faith, my un-religion.

And so he's going to break that covenant halfway through. The king of the south is going to come up and attack. Earlier in chapter 11 verses 5 through 35, the king of the south was clearly the Ptolemaic ruler down in Egypt.

So this king of the south is likely also going to be represented by Egypt and Egypt itself is mentioned in verse 42. He stretches his hand against the land of Egypt. And again, it's mentioned in verse 43, over all the precious things of Egypt.

So this king of the south seems to be an Egyptian ruler. He is going to invade and he's going to be joined by the Libyans and the Nubians. Again, as you find this, the Ethiopians mentioned in verse 43.

And they're called Put and Kush in other places, these nations. But this is probably a confederation of Arab nations that, just as they have in the past, are going to join together against Israel. And along with this king of the south that is going to come up and attack, the king of the north will come against him like a whirlwind with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships.

Interestingly, it seems that this Antichrist is going to set himself up in Jerusalem. Although he's the ruler of the revived Roman Empire, why would he set himself up in Jerusalem, why do you think? What is the one city on the planet that is the center for multiple faiths? Mecca is the center for one faith. Rome is the center for one faith.

But in Jerusalem, you have the center for three different major faiths. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. You have the Dome of the Rock there.

You have all of the Christian-related sites. And you have the Wailing Wall of Jerusalem, and it's the capital for the Jews. So what better place to stamp out and put an end and supplant and replace religion than Jerusalem? So the Antichrist is going to set himself up in Jerusalem.

This is why the abomination of desolation is associated with him. He's going to set it up in Jerusalem, where the temple ought to be, or where the revived temple worship is located. So while he is there, the King of the South is going to attack him, and the King of the North is going to come against him like a whirlwind.

His confederation is going to start to fall apart. You remember the harlot who rides the beast. The beast turns around and starts chewing on the harlot.

There in the latter chapters of Revelation, this is what's going to happen. His peaceful confederation is going to last three and a half years, and then it's going to come unglued, it's going to come unraveled. And he's going to be attacked.

So the King of the South attacks him, the King of the North should come against him like a whirlwind. The King of the North, and if you people who are prophecy nuts, and you try to decipher all of this, will try to say that this is Gog and Magog, because in Ezekiel 38, it talks about how God will come from the far north. There's people are all over the map on this.

The question basically ties back to what we've seen in the earlier part of the chapter. Who was the King of the North in the first part of Daniel chapter 11? It was the Seleucids. They're located up in the Roman area, and the King of the South is located down in the Egyptian area.

And this is seamless from the point of view of prophecy, and so you would expect these armies to be located in the same area. You could imagine that the King of the North, some or all of the European Union coming down. So this is going to be a European force coming from the Greco-Roman arena, massing their forces and coming down.

The King of the South is going to be Egypt and the Arabic associates, the Arabic allies coming

together to attack. Chariots, horsemen with many ships. Of course in the modern day, we know what chariots are.

This is mechanized, mobilized forces. These are your armor, your artillery, and so forth. Horsemen, cavalry, this is once again your tracked personnel carriers, your rapid movement of troops.

Our cavalry units today are airborne. You have ships, of course you've got the navies of the world. I will never forget watching naval bombardment of targets many miles inland in Lebanon back in the early 80s, and actually controlling some of that fire myself.

And each of these gigantic 8-inch shells passing overhead and sounding like a car flying through the air and impacting and creating a city block at a time, destruction every time one of them hit. This is the ships, and it says, He shall enter the countries, overwhelm, and pass through. The King of the South and the King of the North are going to fight against the Antichrist.

Israel is going to be occupied. The Jews are going to flee once again. Those who have been assembled there, who have been centered there, who have gathered there for worship under this covenant, are going to flee.

This is mentioned in Revelation chapter 12 verses 14 through 16. The woman is given the wings of an eagle that she might fly to the wilderness where she is nourished for a time, times and half a time from the presence of the serpent. And you had that spewing out of the flood and so on, but the earth helps the woman, opens its mouth and swallows up the flood.

Well, this is the flood of influx of armies and so on, but something is going to hamper them. You think about World War II and the mud that hampered the armor and so on, prevented tank movement and that kind of thing. Evidently, something in the nature of physical conditions is going to prevent these forces from going up into the mountains and into the places where the Jews are going to flee.

And those who heed the words of the Lord Jesus, when you see the abomination of desolation set up, flee to the hills. Don't go inside to take your coat, because as soon as he sets himself up, this is going to incense the king of the north and the king of the south. And they're going to come rushing in and you'd better get out of the way or you're going to be caught in the crossfire.

You're going to be targeted. You're going to be, if you don't flee to the mountains, you're going to be consumed. That flood is going to eat you up.

So the woman, and this is the woman who gives birth to the child, and this is faithful Israel. These are those who believe in God. It was believing Israel.

It was Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth and Zechariah and those like Anna and Simeon who were

the faithful remnant watching and looking for the deliverance of God who recognized Christ, who when he came to his own actually did recognize him. And those disciples and others who accepted Christ for who he was, that faithful remnant, that's who is the woman. And the faithful remnant is going to flee.

And the faithful remnant is going to be preserved to the extent that they heed the words of Christ, even though the serpent spews water. And notice it is the serpent who is spewing this flood to try to consume. And it is a satanic, you think, well, now isn't Satan working against himself? Isn't Satan motivating and operating the antichrist? And yet here's the king of the north and king of the south.

But notice in verse 36 when it said the king shall do according to his own will. And human volition cannot be coerced. You can comply and you can agree and you can go along with.

And if Satan comes, you can agree with Satan. But evidently even the antichrist is, Satan is going to have the same problem with the antichrist that God had with Satan. God empowered and elevated and honored Satan and put him in a place of great responsibility.

And then Satan decided to go his own way. And it is ironic in the extreme that as Satan energizes and sets up and empowers the antichrist, halfway through the 70th week, just when everything is going so well, the antichrist is going to go his own way. He will do according to his own will.

And Satan is going to be frustrated because there is no demon that can override human will. Why do you think the Gerasene Demoniac, with a thousand demons, still ran toward Christ and fell at his feet? Demons and Satan himself cannot stop human choice, for better or for worse. And the antichrist himself is going to have this power go to his head and is going to start running counter to the plan and program of Satan.

And Satan is going to have to reject him, just like he was rejected by God. And Satan is going to create this flood from the north and flood from the south. He can still motivate and control, or influence to his advantage, the king of the north and the king of the south.

And he's going to have to come against his own guy. And there's going to be disarray in the satanic plan halfway through. And the irony of it is just very rich.

Because Satan himself is going to have the problem with the antichrist that God had with him. You can't override volition. You can't stop choice.

It's free. It is unfettered. So, when the king starts doing according to his own will and exalts himself, this is what Satan did.

The five I wills. I will ascend. I will go up.

I will be like the most high. This is what the antichrist is going to do. And Satan is going to be

gnashing his teeth because after all the trouble he's gone through, he finally got the world the way he wants it.

Finally got it all under one guy. This guy is going to go his own way. And that's when Satan will truly have a red face.

He will truly have a red epidermis. And he's going to have to go to the king of the north and the king of the south and try to come in there and bring the antichrist into line or supplant him with somebody who will conform and comply. So, the king of the south attacks him.

The king of the north attacks him. We know from Revelation chapter 12 that it is the serpent who brings this flood into the land. And he's got a two-pronged objective.

He's got to do something about this antichrist that has gone his own way. And he's going to try to wipe out the Jews in the process. The serpent spews water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman to cause her to be carried away by the flood.

So, it says, he shall also enter the glorious land and many shall be overthrown, but these shall escape from his hand, Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. So, when the antichrist sees this invasion coming, he's going to move his army, which has been in Europe, but here comes the king of the north after him. So, he's going to move his army, sweeping through many countries like a flood.

He's going to move quickly and he's going to consolidate his position in Israel. He's had his capital there in terms of his influence and his presence, but now he's going to locate his army there. He's going to bring his loyal forces down there like a flood and he's going to strike against Egypt.

Verse 42 and 43, he's going to stretch out his hand against the countries and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He's going to counterattack. These came up and tried to take him in his political capital.

It wasn't yet his military capital in Jerusalem. So, he's going to make it his military capital. He's going to reinforce it.

He's going to bring his loyal armies down there. He's going to sweep in like a flood and he's going to push back the king of the south and Egypt is not going to escape. But, because he's concentrating on the north and the south and on pushing back this two-pronged attack, he's not going to go east.

And so, Edom and Moab and Ammon are not going to be targeted. And this may be one of the places where these are the mountains. Remember the mountains of Edom where we saw in Job where this was a seat of wisdom? Has wisdom departed from the mountains of Edom? These who escape Israel are going to end up over in Moab and Ammon and Edom just as they did in ancient times.

Where did Ruth come from? Where did her husband's family come from? The family of Naomi, her husband and her sons. They fled the famine in Israel and went to Moab. And many times when they had to flee bad news in Israel, they would head east and south and go into Moab, Ammon and Edom.

So that's where they'll go and these are going to escape. And Jews who know their Bible are going to know where to go when they leave and they flee to the mountains. It's not going to be enough to flee to the mountains of Judea.

They're going to have to flee to the mountains of Edom and Ammon and Moab. He shall have power, verse 43, over the treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt. Remember, he's got the information technology under his grip and when these come in and try to oppose him, he can electronically evaporate their bank accounts.

He can take away their money. How are they going to get fuel? How are they going to have the wherewithal and the resources to continue to attack him? If all banking and commerce is electronically controlled and he's got the keys, this is the equivalent in earlier forms of warfare of cutting the supply lines. Anytime a general would overextend his supply line, somebody could flank him and cut those supply lines and isolate them.

The Antichrist is going to do this electronically, I think. He's going to do it with information technology and he has power over the treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt. The Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels.

So he's going to gain control and when he stops these attacks from the north and the south, he's going to suddenly, in verse 44, get an alarming message. News from the east and the north will trouble him. The biggest and most immediate threat is from the south, Egypt and the Arab allies.

You can imagine that this is the most likely avenue of attack and approach. So he's going to deal with that and he's going to cut them off at the pass. But now he hears that, well, this king of the north thing is lighting up and now there's going to be an attack from the east.

This is not the southeast of Edom, Moab, and Ammon. This is the northeast from the Euphrates River. We know from Revelation chapter 9 and verse 16 that there is a 200 million man army coming from east of the Euphrates, from the east and from the north.

So this is a new threat and he is fighting sort of on interior lines. He's pushed toward the south and he's dealt with that and he's cut Egypt off and eviscerated them. They can't come back.

Now he's got to move around and handle this threat from the north and from the east. So he is going to set out to go with great fury to destroy and annihilate many and he will plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain. Now what sits between the seas and the glorious holy mountain? What is there between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean Sea? It is the valley of Armageddon.

You've got a 200 million man army coming down and you're going to pitch your tent and you're going to, one of the advantages of fighting on interior lines is you have some choice over your ground. You can choose where you're going to meet the enemy. If he's busy marching down and you're sitting in place, well you can set up your defenses and try to funnel your attacking enemy into a particular place where you can deal with him.

So he's going to set his headquarters up in between the holy mountain and the seas, yet he shall come to his end and no one will help him. And this of course is the resolution of the battle of Armageddon because as Armageddon is taking place, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to come in and change the entire complexion of that battle. But we're left hanging on that at verse 45 because our attention is directed once again to the spiritual realm.

The people of Israel, your people, the same thing we saw in chapter 9 verse 24 and chapter 10 verse 14, Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people. There will be a time of trouble such as there never was, since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

Now this is national deliverance. Who is written in the book? Who is found written in the book? Your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

Who do you suppose is written in the book? What did we learn about books when we studied Revelation? There are a lot of different books, but the book that we are interested in is the book of the overcomers. Who is going to be delivered in terms of Israel? Who is going to be delivered from Gentile domination? Who is going to be delivered from being trodden underfoot and ruled over by the Gentiles? In the millennial kingdom, all Israel shall be saved. Israel is going to be raised.

Some are going to be in the nation and in Jerusalem and in the land, and others are going to be outside. Jesus told the Pharisees this many times. Those who are written in the book will be qualified for citizenship in that kingdom, for direct rule under David and so on.

Many shall sleep in the dust of the earth. Some shall awake to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the firmament.

Well, we'll look at this in detail next time, but at that point when Armageddon is resolved and the kingdom of Christ has begun, those who are written in the book are going to be in the kingdom, the others are going to be outside. We'll look at that in detail next time. Father, thank you for the privilege of studying your word.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will minister these things to our hearts. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.