

1. Last week I exegeted Dan 11:40-45. As part of that study I taught the when, where, how and participants of the Armageddon Campaign.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will continue our study of the world's last and greatest military campaign.
3. First let's look at an expanded translation of Dan 11:40-45.

Dan 11:40 "Sometime near the middle of the Tribulation a Pan-Arabic block led by Egypt will break the peace established in the Middle East. These Axis powers will by their military might attempt to take over Israel; with mechanized infantry, they will start to move their forces overland through Gaza and into Israel. This political and military indiscretion will precipitate a response from the Soviet Union. The Union forces will storm out against the Pan-Arabic coalition with infantry, armour, air and sea power. From the Bosphorus will come a naval force and from the area west of the Caspian Sea will come a large contingent of armour and infantry with tactical fighter support. Russia will sweep through Turkey, Syria and Iran like a flood.

Dan 11:41 He will also invade Israel on his way south in blitzkrieg fashion leaving pockets of resistance in his path. Many countries will fall, but those countries east of Israel like Jordan and the Persian Gulf nations will be delivered because the Russian forces seem intent on staying as close to the Mediterranean as possible thus permitting maximum support from their naval armada sweeping down out of the Black Sea.

Dan 11:42 The forces of Russia will very quickly drive the Arab forces southward into Egypt.

Dan 11:43 He will gain control of Egypt and her north African allies, not just defeating them but taking all of their wealth as earned plunder. The Pan-Arabic block will be not just defeated but they are annihilated and militarily embarrassed.

Dan 11:44 Soon however while the King of the north is mopping up in the south an alarming report is given to the commander of the Russian forces; there, he is told, a large armada of orientals moving across the Euphrates and a naval force with marine expeditionaries are coming from Rome. This demands quick action on his part, so he orders his entire army northward back into Israel. His naval forces attempt to turn northward and return to the safe confines of the Black Sea; before the Russian naval expedition can return to base, the Antichrist's navy engages and defeats them in the Mediterranean.

Dan 11:45 The Russian ground forces however are successful in moving northward with a vengeance; they attack and defeat the remaining Israeli forces, ravaging and plundering as he goes. After securing all the surrounding country-side he establishes his command post just west of Jerusalem where he awaits further battle, he hopes to engage both the Antichrist's forces and the Oriental forces near Meggido just north, northeast of Jerusalem. While waiting the King of The North attacks Jerusalem forcing a remnant up against mount Moriah where in and around the Temple they make what appears to be

their last stand.

Before he can defeat the remnant the Lord Jesus returns with an angelic army at His Second Coming and the Russian forces are totally annihilated.

1. Just as God has used invading armies to punish disobedient Israel in the past, so the king of the North appears during the Tribulation to ravage the Land and destroy its people. His invasion of Israel assures his own destruction.

Dan 11:40 And at the end time the king of the South will collide [make war] with him [dictator of Palestine], and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen, and with many ships; and he [the king of the North] will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through."

2. The "king of the South," the pan-Arabic bloc, invades Palestine in another of his many attempts to seize that land. About the same time the "king of the North" advances toward Palestine. His main objective is to attack Africa by land. Therefore, the king of the North must move his army through Israel, the only land bridge between Russia and Africa.

3. The "chariots" of Daniel's prophecy would today be highly mechanized armored forces; "horsemen," would be highly mobile troops; and "many ships," a mammoth navy. This verse indicates a strategic double envelopment by the army and the navy of the king of the North with Palestine caught in the middle.

4. The king of the North's fleet sails out of the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and into the Mediterranean. The land forces cross the western end of either Iran or Turkey and continue on into Syria, Lebanon, Israel, the Negev, and Sinai toward Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Libya.

5. The area from Syria down through the Sinaitic Peninsula, from the standpoint of logistics, becomes vitally important. As the king of the North passes through, he makes a swift conquest of these countries and also defeats the king of the South.

6. "Overflow" is the rapid attack of armored forces designed to control the main arteries of travel. "Pass through" indicates the king of the North does not take time to consolidate his gains, but merely establishes control of the key strategic points in order to set up his logistical system.

7. This sudden overwhelming attack consists of massed armored forces moving with great rapidity. Motorized infantry then secures and holds various key checkpoints.

8. This blitzkrieg is followed by a force equipped to mop up any remaining pockets of resistance, and, if necessary, to move inland to wipe out any possible threat to the line of logistics.

Dan 11:41 He [the king of the North] will also enter [invade] the Beautiful Land [Palestine], and many countries will fall; but these [Jewish believers] will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

9. Since the first objective of the king of the North is the invasion of Egypt, he does not seek to control the entire land of Palestine. Therefore, the regenerate Jews who have been hiding in the hills (Mat 24:16) will continue to remain there in safety.

Dan 11:42 Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries [of North Africa], and the land of Egypt will not escape.

10. The invasion of North Africa by the king of the North's army is next on his agenda. Once he invades Egypt, he is joined by his fleet so that he has both sea and land bases for consolidating his conquest of Africa. His plan of attack is twofold: a strategic move toward Ethiopia, the heart of Africa; and a strategic envelopment along the Mediterranean coast of Africa.

Dan 11:43 But he will gain control [rule] over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans [western advance] and Ethiopians [southern advance] will follow at his heels.

11. He plunders the immense treasures of Egypt and seizes supplies from conquered countries along the way to provide logistics for his further conquest of the African continent. But all these well-laid plans go awry (Eze 38:2).

Eze 38:2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him.

12. Just as he is about to complete his massive drive into Africa, an unforeseen occurrence takes place.

13. And the sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east. (Rev 16:12)

14. How the angel dries up the river is a source of speculation, but regardless, the way is now prepared for the kings from the East to invade the Land. How extraordinary that these Asiatics should suddenly move in the direction of Palestine.

15. They have shown no interest in Palestine since the days of Genghis Khan. The Antichrist maneuvers his minions into position to destroy the Jews.

16. At this point, the king of the North receives disturbing military reports of a large army approaching from the east. With the Antichrist landing an amphibious force and the oriental army approaching, the King of the North decides to turn back through Palestine.

Dan 11:44 But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many."

17. The armies of the Pan-Asiatic bloc have crossed the Euphrates River and advanced as far as Idumea (Isa 63). The kings from the East force the Arabs back as they advance toward Jerusalem.

18. To the north, the armies of the king of the West have concentrated in the great Valley of Esdraelon. The position of these armies cuts off the king of the North's logistical supply.

19. The predicament of the king of the North is further complicated by news of the decisive defeat of his navy in the Mediterranean Sea by the king of the West.

20. He is now also separated from his supply line by sea.

21. With great wrath he turns his army around and heads north for Jerusalem. His rage is against the king of the West whose alliance with Palestine was a special bone of contention.

22. In his frustration his first objective is to take vengeance on the Jews in Jerusalem. Apart from a few pockets of resistance, he meets with little opposition.

Dan 11:45 And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

23. The headquarters of the king of the North are described as "his royal pavilion," a command post which befits the commanding general of a mighty army. The navigational fix of his headquarters is established "between the seas," the eastern Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, and Mount Zion, the western escarpment of Jerusalem.

24. If a line is drawn between these three points, it is clear that his headquarters are located just outside Jerusalem. Jerusalem becomes his 'Waterloo' (Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39).

25. In the history of Jerusalem there have been many sieges. Prominent among them is the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. and to Rome in A.D. 70.

26. Yet to come is the siege near the end of the Tribulation which is a part of the Armageddon Campaign. Joel chapter two describes the latter from the standpoint of unregenerate Jews.

As the dawn is spread over the mountains,
So there is a great and mighty people;
There has never been anything like it,
Nor will there be again after it
To the years of many generations. (Joel 2:2)

27. When "dawn" first breaks over the "mountains," many places are still in the shadows. But the sun's light gradually penetrates all hidden crevices until they are illuminated.

28. The analogy is to the king of the North when he first invaded the Land. There were places he did not take time to destroy; thus, the believers in hiding were protected from his invasion. But as he returns from Egypt, he seeks out the cities and remote regions for annihilation.

A fire consumes before them,
And behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
But a desolate wilderness behind them,
And nothing at all escapes them. (Joel 2:3)

29. The analogy changes in this verse from dawn to "fire." Just as a fire burns everything in its path, so the fierceness of the king of the North leaves devastation and destruction in his wake.

30. The third analogy indicates that the king of the North finds a place of magnificent beauty, a "garden of Eden," but he leaves behind a wasteland just as the invasion of Satan in the original Garden left it desolate.

31. "Nothing at all escapes" refers to the total destruction of Palestine.

Their appearance is like the appearance of horses;
And like war horses, so they run [assault and advance].
With a noise as of chariots
They leap on the tops of the mountains,
Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the
stubble,
Like a mighty people arranged for battle. (Joel 2:4-5)

32. This vivid description of the invaders organized for battle uses the vernacular of warfare of that day. The conquest is as certain as "a flame of fire consuming the stubble;"

Joe 2:6 Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale.

33. Before the conquering armies of the king of the North, Jews living in Palestine suffer mental anguish, anxiety, and paralyzing fear.

34. They had deluded themselves into thinking that anti-Semitism was a curse of the past. They considered themselves invulnerable by virtue of their alliance with the mighty king of the West.

They [the armies] run like mighty men;
They climb the wall like soldiers:
And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths.
They do not crowd each other [no confusion in ranks];
They march everyone in his path. When they burst through the defenses,
They do not break ranks.
They rush on the city,
They run on the wall;
They climb into the houses,
They enter through the windows like a thief [looting]. (Joe 2:7-9)

35. Led by a godless but brilliant general, the armies of the king of the North experiences stunning initial success. They advance to the attack with exceptional courage.

12. They are well trained; they move with perfect discipline and do not waver under fire. These forces charge through the barrage of enemy fireÑthey are unstoppable.

13. As perhaps the best trained army in all human history, they might have ruled the world but for one detailÑthe intervention of Jesus Christ. No man or group of people can progress further than God allows.

14. No army advances when God calls a halt. Jesus Christ controls history, past, present, and future.

15. Zechariah 12 discusses the siege of Jerusalem from the standpoint of believers. Here the frog demons of Rev 16:14 accomplish their task of gathering all nations in Palestine to make war against the Lord Jesus Christ and His army. (Rev 19:19)

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

16. Satan intends to use the forces of the king of the North for the annihilation of God's people. Truly, this is the "time of Jacob's distress." Never was the night so black for Israel as will be those closing moments of the Tribulation.

17. Yet the mighty coalition of kings that attack Judah in that day will besiege Jerusalem in vain, for Jesus Christ will make Jerusalem a "cup that causes reeling" to these gentile empires.

Zec 12:2 Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around [gentile empires]; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

18. Jesus Christ who is omnipotent in heaven, on earth, and among men brings to pass these events. Jerusalem is pictured as a cup filled with a strong intoxicant.

19. The intoxicant is divine wrath poured out on the armies that are besieging Jerusalem "in that day." The kings drain its contents and reel as drunken men.

Zec 12:3 And it will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples [the armies]; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

20. Even at the present time Israel is the center of world conflict. Jerusalem and Judah are a "heavy" weight which the nations cannot carry. Israel is a problem they cannot solve.

21. No international dictum of the United Nations or any individual nation can lift the weight. Again and again the issue flares up, threatening to engulf all nations in World War III.

22. This weight is intensified in the Tribulation as Palestine once again becomes the focal point for world conflict.

23. Three great confederations attempt the conquest, but even their greatest efforts are nullified by the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The One who conquers them, Jesus Christ, will rule the world.

24. Two other verses in Zechariah give a resume of the siege of Jerusalem which plunges the Land into a bloodbath and a scramble for plunder.

Zec 14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil [wealth] taken from you will be divided among you.

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