

1. Last week I continued our exegesis of Dan 11:40-45. As part of that study we have seen the when, where, how and participants of the Armageddon Campaign.
2. When time expired last Sunday I had just begun a review of three plausible scenarios for the end time battles just preceding the return of Christ.
3. Before we return to that study, I want to provide 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. The King of the North 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.

4. As you can see from my expanded translation of verse 45 I have concluded the King of the North, after defeating the King of the South returns to Israel and establishes his command post just outside Jerusalem.

5. There, while waiting an encounter with the Antichrist's forces and the Kings of the East located at Megiddo, he attacks Jerusalem; just before totally annihilating Israel the Lord returns and destroys his entire Army.

6. The Lord then moves north and destroys both the Antichrist's forces and the armies of the Kings of the East. Later as we learned from Isaiah the Lord will also at His Second Advent destroy certain armies located in Edom.

7. The Scriptures do not clearly delineate the maneuvers and the participants leading up to the last battle of Armageddon; I have just posited one such alternative.

8. I want to review the positions of three very prominent Bible teachers concerning these maneuvers.

9. The three I have selected are R. B. Thieme, John Walvoord and Dwight Pentecost. So here we go:

10. R. B. Thieme from his book *Armageddon*:

10.1 "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. But, his invasion of Israel assures his own destruction. Dan 11:40

10.2 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 ...

10.3 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 ... As the king of the North passes through, he makes a swift conquest of these countries and also defeats the king of the South. The King of the North has established his command center between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean Sea.

10.4 "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." (Dan 11:41)

10.5 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 in Edom (Mat 24:16) will continue to remain there in safety.

10.6 Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries [of North Africa], and the land of Egypt will not escape." (Dan 11:42) ... Just as he is about to launch his massive drive into Africa, an unforeseen occurrence takes place.

10.7 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)

10.8 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 ... In maneuvering his minions into position to destroy the Jews, Satan has overlooked this one major pawn. God has countered Satan's moves with the kings from the East.

10.9 At this point, the king of the North receives disturbing military reports: "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." (Dan 11:44)

10.10 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 (the King of the South) back as they advance toward Jerusalem. 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 ... Understandably agitated by his severed arteries of supply and desperate to reopen them, he can only return by land. "With great wrath" he turns his army around and heads north for Jerusalem ... In his frustration his first objective is to take vengeance on the Jews in Jerusalem ... "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." (Dan 11:45)

10.11 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 ... his headquarters is established "between the seas," the eastern Mediterranean and the Dead Sea ... just outside of Jerusalem ... the armies of the king of the North experiences stunning, initial success. They advance to the attack with exceptional courage.

10.12 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). Satan intends to use the forces of the king of the North for the annihilation of God's people ...

10.12.1 Never was the night so black for Israel as will be those closing moments of the Tribulation. 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.

10.13 The king of the West and his ten-nation federation ... are operating out of the Valley of Megiddo ... The kings from the East, the pan Asian block are moving up into Jehoshaphat's valley (a valley in southern Judah west of the Dead Sea).

10.14 With the largest concentration of armies in the history of the world encompassing one small section of the city of Jerusalem, the situation is completely hopeless for the Jews. Yet these hostile armies will suffer the most decisive and devastating defeat ever known in military history ... The Lord will cast the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire."

10.15 As you can see Col. Thieme in his book Armageddon hedges somewhat as to the exact maneuvers and players involved in the attack on Jerusalem - 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). Satan intends to use the forces of the king of the North for the annihilation of God's people ... The how to of all of that is left up in the air because the Scripture does not clearly tell us. Leaving it up in the air may be just the way to handle it.

11. Now I want to read to you how John Walvoord closes his analysis of chapter eleven in his book *Daniel The Key To Prophetic Revelation*.

11.1 "Against the Kings of the North, South and East, the forces of the Antichrist launches counter attacks which result in many perishing; he succeeds in establishing his tent-palace "between the seas in the glorious holy mountain," best understood as being a reference to Jerusalem situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea.

11.2 Actually, many believe the struggle goes on without cessation right up to the day of the second advent of Christ based on Zec 14:1-4. Daniel does not dwell upon the details in the climax of this struggle.

11.3. The armies which had assembled to contend against each other but had united in opposition to Christ in His second advent are destroyed.

That the time of the Second Advent is in view is brought out clearly in the next chapter where the time of the end is made definite to include the great tribulation and the resurrection of the dead described in Rev 20:4-6.

11.4 Taken as a whole, Dan 11:36-45 is a description of the closing days of the times of the Gentiles, specifically, the great tribulation with its world ruler world religion, and materialistic philosophy.

11.5 In spite of its satanic support the world government fragments into sectional disputes and a great world war which climaxes with the second advent of Christ. This brings the time of the Gentiles to a close with the destruction of the wicked rulers who led it. Further details are added in the next chapter."

12. Now let me read from Dwight Pentecost's book *Things To Come* for another interpretation:

12.1 "With the King of the South defeated by the armies of the Beast and the northern confederacy defeated by the Lord upon the mountains of Israel, we find two opposing forces drawn up in battle array the armies of the Beast and the armies of the Kings of the East.

12.2 Before this battle can be joined there appears a sign in the heavens, the sign of the Son of man (Mat 24:30).

Mat 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

12.3 What this sign is, is not revealed, but its effect is. It causes the armies to turn from their hostility toward each other to unite to fight against the Lord Himself. John says: "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." (Rev 19:19)

Rev 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

12.4 Such is the picture of the closing hostilities given in Zec 14:3; Rev 16:14; Rev 17:14; and Rev 19:11-21.

Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.

Rev 16:14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Rev 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

Rev 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Rev 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Rev 19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Rev 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,

Rev 19:18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

Rev 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Rev 19:21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

12.5 It is at this point that the armies of the Beast and the east are destroyed by the Lord (Rev 19:21)."

12.6 In conclusion Pentecost writes: "As we survey the whole campaign of Armageddon we observe a number of results:

- The armies of the South are destroyed in campaign.
- The armies of the northern confederacy are smitten by the Lord.
- The armies of the Antichrist and the east are slain by the Lord at the Second Advent.

- The Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the lake of fire. (Rev 19:20)

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

- Unbelievers are purged out of Israel. (Zec 13:8)

Zec 13:8 In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

- Believers are purged as the result of these invasions. (Zec 13:9)

Zec 13:9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

12.13 Satan is bound (Rev 20:2).

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

- Thus the Lord destroys every hostile force that would challenge His right to rule as Messiah over the earth."

13. Now let's see what we can learn from Daniel chapter twelve. First I want to give you several introductory points:

Introduction:

1. The material described as the fourth vision of Daniel beginning in chapter 10 has its climax in the great tribulation and the resurrection described in the early verses of chapter 12.
2. This is also the high point in the book of Daniel itself and the goal of Daniel's prophecies relating both to the Gentiles and to Israel. It is comparable to Revelation 19, the high point of the last book of the Bible.
3. All commentators agree that the chapter division at this point is unfortunate as the narrative of chapter 11 naturally extends through the first three verses of chapter 12.

3.1 As Porteous expresses it,

"The first four verses of chapter 12 are the completion of the long section which began with chapter 10. They give in remarkably brief compass and restrained language the writer's expectation of what the divinely appointed end would be like. It would be climax of which Israel would be the center as is shown by the fact that Michael, the patron angel of Israel, is to play the decisive part on God's behalf. The great tribulation will come to a head but Israel will escape, all those in Israel, that is to say whose names are written in the book of life. God already knows His own."

4. Added to the previous revelation are these important disclosures:

- that the time of the end has a special relationship to "the children of thy people," that is, Israel,
- that Israel will experience at that time a special deliverance to be realized by regeneration, and
- that the "resurrection" which climaxes the time of the end is the special hope of those who are martyred

5. The entire section from Dan 11:36 to 12:3 constitutes a revelation of the major factors of the time of the end.

Dan 11:36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

Dan 11:37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

Dan 11:38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.

Dan 11:39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

Dan 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

Dan 11:41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.

Dan 11:42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape.

Dan 11:43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission.

Dan 11:44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.

Dan 11:45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.



Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book-- will be delivered.

Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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