**Sermon Notes January 30, 2022**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: Daniel – The North vs. The South

**Scripture**: Daniel 11

**Summary**: Daniels final vision focuses on the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the intertestamental period (331-160 BC). After the division of Alexander, the Greats empire, this prophecy traces the future conflicts of the “king of the South” (Egypt), with the “king of the North” (Syria), culminating in a detailed prophecy about a “vile person” (Antiochus IV Epiphanes) who will rule with “intrigue.”

**Read**: Read Daniel Chapters 10-12

Prophecy is history written in advance, and Daniel 11 is so accurate and detailed in its prediction of what would happen that some critics claim that it could never been written in Daniel’s lifetime. The accuracy with which Daniel writes about 325 years of Middle Eastern history is astounding. To me this is just further proves that we serve the One True God.

1. **Divisions of Chapter 11 (Historical)**
	1. Section One (v.2-20)
		1. The Persian Empire
			1. Daniel 11:2
			2. Daniel revealed this revelation in 536 BC
			3. The fourth King that would follow Darius is Xerxes (485 – 465 BC)
				1. Married the Hebrew Girl, Esther
				2. Instrumental in saving the Jews
		2. The Greek Empire
			1. Daniel 11:3-4
			2. When Alexander the Great’s died his empire was divided four ways by his generals.
			3. Greece, Turkey, Syria and Egypt
				1. North of Israel – Seleucid Empire (Syria) – Gen Seleucus
				2. South of Israel – Ptolemaic Empire (Egypt) – Gen. Ptolemy
	2. Section Two (v. 21-35)
		1. Historical Interpretation
			1. Antiochus Epiphanes – foreshadows the Antichrist
		2. Future Interpretation
			1. From v.21 to the end of the chapter we study references and foreshadowing of the coming Antichrist
			2. Antichrist most likely coming from Lebanon, Syria or Northern Iraq
			3. 10 kings – represented by the 10 toes of the Colossus
				1. Currently 10 nations in the territories of the kingdom of the North.
	3. Parallel Verses
		1. Section two and three contain numerous parallel verses
		2. In our next study we will begin to connect these verses to gain a greater understanding of End Times events
		3. We will look at the first 42 months or the first half of the Tribulation period.
2. **The Mahdi**
	1. Muslim apocalyptic beliefs
		1. I believe the Antichrist will be of Muslim origin
		2. The Muslims believe one of the signs of End Times is the appearance of the Mahdi (messianic figure)
		3. Shiites believe the Doctrine of the Twelve
			1. 11 known Caliphs (Leaders) 1 Unknown
			2. The final “prophet” is expected to appear during the last days.

It’s not a far stretch to believe that the Muslim Mahdi could very well be the Christian Antichrist.

This list compares and contrasts the two positions.

* The Mahdi will come at a time of confusion, intense disputes, and violent death.
	+ The Antichrist will come at a time of wars between countries and cultures and religions. We find that in Matthew 24:4-7; Daniel 12:1.
* When the Mahdi comes there will be earthquakes and times of famine.
	+ Matthew 24:7 and Revelation 6 tells us that there will be famines and earthquakes in diverse places.
* The Mahdi will be a man of war who will fight many battles and gain great wealth for Islam.
	+ The Antichrist will be a man of war who will plunder the enemy and gain great wealth and power, Daniel 11
* The Mahdi is believed to arise from somewhere in Iraq.
	+ The Antichrist will come from Lebanon, Syria, or Northern Iraq, Daniel 8 and 11.
* The Mahdi will reign for 5, 7, or 9 years depending on which tradition you read.
	+ The Antichrist will reign for a period of 7 years, Daniel 9:27
* The Mahdi will unite the Muslim world.
	+ The Antichrist will bring 10 kings under his submission, Revelation 17:12.
* The Mahdi will punish with a sword those who do not follow or convert to Islam.
	+ The Antichrist will behead those who do not worship his image or take his mark, Revelation 6:8, 20:4.
* The Mahdi will come riding on a white horse.
	+ The Antichrist will come riding on a white horse. Revelation 6:2.

These are just the most significant points. There are too many “coincidences” here.

How can we not connect the dots from these few parallels? My opinion stands I believe the Antichrist of the Bible will be the Muslim’s Mahdi. And there are many more parallels in Christian and Islamic apocalyptic beliefs.

**Application / Next Steps**

We need to continue our diligent approach to the study of God’s Word. Are we actively seeking Him in our daily journey? We do this through reading His Word… this is how we get to know Him. Are we seeking His ear through prayer… this is how we talk to Him?

Jesus has called us to live in the now, pursuing Him and speaking the truth about His kingdom here on Earth today. Jesus also reminds us to be mindful of the future. We need to know what is coming so that we can ensure that we are doing all that we can to be living, righteous, holy lives.

How do we do that?

Call upon the Lord… confess Him as Lord and Savior…repent of your sin… be baptized into new life and follow Christ with all your effort? This is how we take ownership of the free gift of eternal salvation.