

A Biblical Profile of the Antichrist: PROFILE #7 – Military Force

In Daniel 11:37 of the NIV rendering, we have a description of the highly narcissistic and irreligious character of the Antichrist. Daniel 11:37 (NIV) reads –

“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.”

So his faith will not be in the God of the Bible or any other pagan god. However, the prophet’s oracle follows up with a significant assertion in regard to the object of Antichrist’s trust, affection and devotion, in Daniel 11:38-39 –

“But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.”

The Antichrist will place his trust in military strength. This will be his “god;” undergirded by the “foreign god” of v39, which could speak of the supernatural empowerment of the devil himself. This reliance on demonically infused military might is confirmed for us in Revelation 13:4, where we read the following –

“. . . they worshipped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?’”

So this begs the question: with whom will the Antichrist wage war? What warfare could cause the whole world to follow after the beast to the point of worshiping him (13:3-4)? This brings us to one of the most significant challenges in the chronology of God’s prophetic calendar, commonly referred to as the Magog invasion of Ezekiel 38/39. This incursion into Israel may occur just prior to the three and one half year mid-point of the Tribulation period (Ezekiel 38:10-11). As the Magog alliance of nations seeks to invade Israel, God intervenes and brings it to a destructive halt. Based on Ezekiel 38:17-23, it seems this intervention will be direct. Nevertheless, I believe the beast will take credit for it, causing the world to wonder in amazement: “who is able to wage war with him;” setting the stage for the abomination of desolation, referenced by our Lord in Matthew 24:15-16.