

“Absolute Power”

Daniel 11:36-39; Revelation 17:1-17

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Lord Acton-- *“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”*
- Diffusing of power in the branches of government
- Lord Acton-- *“Great men are almost always bad men”*
- Review of the “Great Conflict” of Daniel 11

“Absolute Power”

- Daniel 11:36-39-- *“Then the king shall so according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper until the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above all. But in their place he shall honor the god of fortresses; and a god which his father did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.”*

A. Resides in “The KING”-- 11:36

1. Not Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- a. Time markers in 11:35,40; 12:1-2-- clearly “End times”
 - Daniel 11:35-- *“And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.”*
 - Daniel 12:1-2-- *“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. At that time, 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, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.”*
- b. Distinction between “king of the north” and “The King” in v. 40
 - Daniel 11:40a-- *“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind...”*
- c. No historical fulfillment by Antiochus IV

2. But the Antichrist

B. Realms of ABSOLUTE POWER

1. POLITICAL POWER

- Daniel 11:36 -- *“Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.”*

2. RELIGIOUS POWER

- Daniel 11:36-37-- *“Then the king shall so according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper until the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above all.”*

a. **Antichrist uses religion to come to power**

- Revelation 17:1-6—*“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.’ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her I marveled with great amazement.”*

1) **Biblical description of the “Harlot”**

- a) *“the great harlot”*—describes a false or apostate religious system
- b) *“sits on many waters”*
 - Revelation 11:15-- *“The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues”*
- c) *“kings of the earth have committed fornication with her”*
- d) *“sitting on a scarlet beast”*—the Antichrist (Revelation 13:1)
- e) *“On her head is written: ‘MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND THE ABOMINATION OF THE EARTH.’”*
- f) *“She is drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”*

2) **Identity of the “Great Harlot”**

- Revelation 17:5-- *“And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”*
- a) **All false religions are derivatives of the Babylonian Mystery Religion**
 - (1) Babylon is the source of false religions beginning with the building of the tower of Babel. Genesis 11
 - (2) Nimrod was the founder of Babylon and Nineveh. He was married to Semiramis, the founder of the secret religious rites of the Babylonian Mystery religion.
 - (3) Semiramis had a son by miraculous conception—a virgin birth—and was given the name Tammuz.
 - (4) Tammuz was the embodiment of his father, thus the *“father becomes the son”*
 - (5) Religious practices connected to the false Babylonian religion include the recognition of the mother and child as god, creating an order of virgins. Tammuz was killed and raised to life. All the statutes depicting Semiramis shows her holding her infant Tammuz. Semiramis is worshiped at the *“Queen of heaven”*
 - b) **Israel as a nation turned their back on Jehovah and worshiped these pagan gods.**
 - Jeremiah 7:18-- *“The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.”*
 - c) **The connection between the Mystery Babylonian Religion and the church today**
 - (1) It’s journey from Persia to Pergamum to Rome
 - (2) The doctrinal differences between Roman Catholicism and Protestants today
 - (a) Different doctrines: Baptismal regeneration, veneration of Mary, bloodless sacrifice of the Mass; Separation of the Priests from laity and the establishment of religious orders; Confession to a priest who has the power to forgive; Extreme unction or last rites; Praying to dead saints and angels; Purgatory; Holy water;

Sign of the cross; The worship of images and relics; the canonization of dead saints.

- b) None of the above are taught in the Bible but are built on tradition! Council of Trent (1545 AD) declares that tradition has equal authority with the Scriptures.
- c) What "tradition"? Adaptation of the ancient Babylonian Mystery religion

3) **Once the Antichrist is firmly in control, at the middle of the tribulation period, he will turn and destroy the ecumenical church.**

- Revelation 17:16-17-- *"the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, and eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.*

b. **The Progression of the Antichrist to Ultimate Religious Power**

- Daniel 11:36-37-- *"Then the king shall so according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper until the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above all."*

1) "exalts himself" —the ultimate egotist

2) "magnifies himself above every God"

- 2 Thessalonians 2:4-- *"Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*

3) "neither regards the God of his father"

a) Will the Antichrist be Jewish?

- (1) "God of his father" is used in the OT of the God of Israel. Daniel 2:23
- (2) If the Antichrist is Jewish, sheds light on the Jews entering into covenant with him

b) But the antichrist could also have come from a "Christian" home

4) "nor (regards) the desire of women"

a) Jesus Christ is the "desire of all nations"

- Haggai 2:7-- *"And I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, 'says the LORD of hosts.*

b) The "desire of women" was the hope of all Jewish women to be the mother of the Messiah

5) "Have no regards for any gods"

3. **MILITARY POWER**

- Daniel 11:37-38 -- *"But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain."*

a. Honors the "God of Fortresses"-- Military Might

b. The Ultimate Materialist --a kin to modern day communism