WHERE DOES THE Antichrist Come From?

WHEN IT COMES TO THE ANTICHRIST, no one gets more airtime than he does when it comes to prophetic things. When it comes to where he comes from, there is much discussion with the popular belief that he comes out of Europe. I understand why he gets so much airtime. I do not understand why there is so much discussion about *where* he is coming from. The Bible is clear on this matter in Daniel 11.

When we look at Daniel 11, and how it has been fulfilled historically, there are few disagreements about its fulfillment. Most commentators and historians agree that after the three Persian kings rose up, a fourth, Xerxes, came into power. He invaded Greece and was defeated by Alexander the Great at Salamis around 480 B.C., which transferred world power to Greece. When Alexander's kingdom broke up because of his early death, his four generals took control of the empire. General Ptolemy controlled Egypt and the Southern kingdom. Seleucis, one of Ptolemy's leaders, separated from the Egyptian kingdom, went north, and developed a powerful kingdom identified as Syria. After the Syrian kingdom became powerful, Daniel 11:5-35 records the conflicts both nations had with each other. History and commentators have no problem identifying these as the Syrian and Egyptian empires.

NOW HERE COMES THE PROBLEM

We know the King of the North is Syria and the King of the South is Egypt. We also know that one of the later Syrian kings was Antiochus IV, who is seen by commentators as a type of the coming Antichrist (Dan. 11:21-35). We also know the final Antichrist is identified by commentators as being the last Northern king recorded here in Daniel 11:36-45. Because the Northern king has been identified as Syrian, and the Antichrist comes out of this Northern kingdom, directly following the sequence of Syrian kings, then we must recognize that the Antichrist is one of these Northern kings. This would make him Syrian. The prophets Isaiah and Micah also make this connection in Isaiah 10:12-14 and Micah 5:5. We can conclude from Daniel 11 that the Antichrist is not a Roman, nor does he come out of Europe. He is a Syrian coming out of the Middle East and the Northern kingdom specifically.

Though the Antichrist may rise up out of Syria, look Syrian, and behave and think Syrian, he may only have a Syrian body. In actuality, he originates from "up out of the earth" (Rev. 13:11). The

¹ Some have taught that Titus, the son of the 11th Caesar of Rome, who destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, may have been the Antichrist. Since he is a Roman, and the Scripture in Daniel is clear that the Antichrist is Syrian, he could not be Antichrist. It is also clear that Titus did not establish a seven year treaty with Israel nor did he set up an abomination of desolation in the temple.

final false prophet, rising out of the earth in Revelation 13, is identified as being the Antichrist. This means that he appears upon the earth from below the surface of the earth, which no doubt makes him a fallen angel. He cannot be the Devil since he is a separate personality who gave the Antichrist his power. Chances are he is presently on the earth preparing for the day he is permitted to take control.

When he appears, he will not be alone. Revelation 12:7-9 lets us know the Devil and his angels were cast out of heaven and "into" the earth. We know that one-third of the stars/angels of heaven rebelled with the Devil (12:3-4). We also know that there are "ten thousand times ten thousand" angels, which equals one hundred million, and then there are "thousands of thousands" more than these (5:11). This means there are more than thirty-three million angels under the surface of or "into" the earth, waiting for permission to come to the surface in full force with the Antichrist. No wonder the Apostle John became violently sick when he understood what was coming on the earth (10:8-10). The Alien invasion is definitely coming—and soon.

Here's a link to <u>Daniel Chapter 11</u> from the Amplified version of the Bible.