

Is Antichrist in Chapter 8

It would seem natural to consider all of chapter 8 as having been fulfilled at the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, since there is no difficulty in finding definite correspondence between the known facts about this Seleucid king and most of the statements in the chapter, whether contained in the vision that Daniel saw or in the interpretation that he heard from Gabriel. Yet many writers have said that the chapter includes predictions about the Antichrist who is to appear shortly before the second coming of Christ, some even asserting that Antichrist is its principal subject.¹ It therefore becomes important to examine this question.

Since the first epistle of John designates many enemies of God as antichrists (1 Jn. 2:18), there is certainly a sense in which Antiochus Epiphanes, the great enemy of God's people described in Daniel 8, can be called an antichrist.

In recent years, however, the term "Antichrist" has come to be generally restricted to the figure that Paul calls "the man of lawlessness" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. As we have seen, this "Antichrist" is specifically predicted in Daniel 7. One reason for the idea that he is also predicted in Daniel 8 is the fact that in the KJV both chapters speak of a "little horn." Yet, as we have seen, the Aramaic phrase in chapter 7 and the Hebrew phrase in chapter 8 are quite different (as is apparent in the NIV rendering).²

A still more important reason for being careful not to confuse the two is the fact that the horn in chapter 7 comes out of the fourth kingdom, while the one in chapter 8