



# Daniel 64 – Probing Defenses to Secure Victory

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Daniel 11:2-4



# Prologue: The Problem of Choice – Perception of Control {Strength}

- ▶ Choice implies one has Control to make **unbiased** decisions based on ALL factors; this is even beyond God
  - ▶ God is **biased** by His nature; He cannot do evil (Ja 1:13-17)
  - ▶ Satan rebelled against Christ, and Man, because he wanted Control apart from God; he did not seek God's grace (Is 14:12-15; Ez 28:14-18; He 1)
  - ▶ Man rebelled against God, and Christ, because he wanted Control apart from God; he ignored God when told to control sin {or seek God's grace} (Ge 4:6-7)
- ▶ Sin has no Control, which is why demons, sinners, tend to be out of control resulting in degradation, violence and death (Ga 5:17-25)
  - ▶ Sinners are under Control of Sin, even Satan (Ro 6:15-23)
  - ▶ Saved learn to be content with Christ's Control (Mt 11:28-30; Ga 5:22-23)



# Prologue: Factors to Know – Understanding this Vision

- ▶ Understanding this vision requires one to remember these factors:
  - ▶ God has Control to restrain Satan's forces from eliminating all hope (2Th 2:3-12)
  - ▶ God *allows* most people to believe they have Control, choice, to make a world without God: Violence and degradation (Ro 1:18-25)
  - ▶ The focus is not on Kings of the North and South; both are Hellenistic making most interpretations invalid: it is about Hellenism's influence then, and now – Rebellious
  - ▶ True focus is on the Jews; *False Jews* side with Hellenism, *True Jews* side with God even unto physical death
- ▶ Follows the pattern of Daniel
  - ▶ Influence of the world kingdoms building on each other to achieve THE Kingdom
  - ▶ Interspersed are personal decisions of faithfulness as believers witness to unbelievers by their faithfulness, even to death if required: Then and Now (He 11)



# Satan is *not* God: He Uses Scientific Process

- ▶ Satan is not God and thus does not have the attributes limited to God: Omniscience, Omnipotent, Omnipresent; yet always existent
  - ▶ Angels, including Satan are created beings whose responsibility entails serving the focus of this Creation: Man (He 1:14)
  - ▶ Man, made in God's *image*, is different from angelic nature, not elucidated; thus, Satan struggles learning to effectively Control Man (Ge 1:26-27; 1Co 6:3; He 2:5-7)
  - ▶ Satan hated Christ from His *monogenesis* which predated Creation to become necessary facilitator securing God's plan for Man: Salvation (Ge 1:3-5; Jn 1:1-5; He 1: 1-13)
  - ▶ Satan, demonic angels and Man share attributes of sin; Covetousness and Pride becoming slaves to death (Ge 2:15-17; Is 14:12-16; Ez 28:14-18; Ro 6:16; Ga 5:19-21; Col 3:5; 1Jo 2:15-16)
  - ▶ Satan builds one empire, discovers its shortcomings and replaces it with an *improved* empire and so forth; Daniel shows this process: externally and internally



# Understanding this Vision: History *Authenticates* the Message

- ▶ What follows in Daniel's vision has been thoroughly discussed and described historically as corresponding primarily to the Intertestament Era
  - ▶ Historians and Bible scholars debate which Persian king is envisioned and since God did not name him this debate is not important to understanding this vision
  - ▶ Obviously, the *strong* Greek commander is Alexander, the Great
  - ▶ The Kings of North and South are power struggles between Seleucid and Ptolemy kingdoms resulting in Antiochus IV's desecration of the Temple {Antichrist}
- ▶ These specifics authenticate the vision's truthfulness; however, they are not the vision's message
  - ▶ Our study will not detail the well documented history
  - ▶ Our study will focus on the methodologies Satan uses preparing for his Antichrist



# Military Axiom: Bigger is Good Until it is Not

- ▶ In the military it is an axiomatic that if you build bigger – it will fail
  - ▶ Medieval Period – Fortresses were nearly impregnable; until canons invented
  - ▶ Lincoln's War – Large attack formations were essential until rifled armaments
  - ▶ WWI – Europe relearned America's lesson; large attack formations decimated by *automatic* weapons and effective long-range artillery
  - ▶ WWII – Battleships became huge but surpassed by Aircraft carriers and their attack planes; machine gun and air-burst artillery fire neutralized by tanks
- ▶ Persia the epitome of power based on its easily written-learned alphabet; coinage and diplomacy: Largest empire up to that time period
  - ▶ Defensive might does not automatically translate into offensive success
  - ▶ Persia failed offensive operations against Greece because of its socialized, centralized command structure; holdover from the pre-collapsed Bronze Age



# Satan Tests His Innovations {Science}: Satan Pits Persia against Greece

- ▶ Additional military axioms:
  - ▶ You fight like you train; if you do not train effectively, you cannot fight effectively
  - ▶ You train for the last war; thus, military plans work until enemy engagement
- ▶ Satan owns all world governments; experimenting with various forms as he prepares for his Antichrist; and Armageddon (Mt 4:8-10; Re 12:9-12; 16:12-16)
  - ▶ Persia represented a massive continuation of Bronze Age Control with modernized improvements: Roads; Communications; and Coinage
  - ▶ Persia's pride in strength violated another military axiom: Know your enemy (Pr 16:18)
  - ▶ Satan had developed different tactics in Greece combining force with mobility
  - ▶ Forces were not conscripts but citizens with vested interest in victories



# Hellenism Vastly Improved: Centralized Personality a Failure

- ▶ Alexander was successfully used by the demonic general against Persian forces but Alexander's excesses were not effectively Controlled
  - ▶ Alexander adopted Persian and Hellenized titles of deity and opulent Oriental forms that offended his army and supporters back home: Be as god (Ge 3:5; Pr 16:18)
  - ▶ Alexander exhibited classic displays of uncontrollable lusts exhibiting the qualities of Satan: Violence and Degradation even against his own forces-friends (Ez 28:14-18)
  - ▶ Alexander ruled through force of personality, when immersed in Oriental excesses his personality turned on his supporters to his death (Ga 5:19-21)
- ▶ Alexander's empire fell apart on his death; Vision details two parts:
  - ▶ Seleucids eventually HQ in Syria but retained Hellenized practices
  - ▶ Ptolemies HQ in Egypt adopting Egyptian practices; copied Alexander's mistakes





# What Do We Learn?

## Satan Works Via Wars; not Peace (Mt 24:6-13)

- ▶ In broad brush strokes this vision reveals generalized events that bring about the rise of the Antichrist of which Antiochus IV is a type
- ▶ Historically, there is a diminishing of the *old ways* by the *new ways* through violent conflict; however, I am not sure that specific events can be given though I will provide relevant historical examples for elucidation
  - ▶ Roman Catholic medievalism decayed into the Renaissance {Rise of Humanism}
  - ▶ Renaissance segued into the Reformation; both of which led to the development of the modern nation-state over ancient-type kingdoms
  - ▶ Enlightenment saw nation-states overpower older centralized kingdoms in a long series of politico-religious wars culminating into two different *types* of revolutions
  - ▶ American Revolution est. centralized-decentralized control{ish} with religion
  - ▶ French Revolution replaced religion with *religious* Reason: Centralized Control
  - ▶ Both revived ancient Greco-Roman empire preparing for Antichrist via more wars



# American Revolution: Deism – Natural Rights

- ▶ American Revolution built on the English Deistic philosophical writings of John Locke among others
  - ▶ God, Natural Rights {Not Biblical}, justified superseding centralized control of government – Built on religious framework to maintain societal structure
  - ▶ Began with a *loose* confederation of States but quickly adopted stronger central government that *warred* against the States to become dominate power
- ▶ Greek city-states ruled by *citizens* over non-citizens; warring with each other
  - ▶ City-states vied against each other but came together to defeat Persia {Science}
  - ▶ Athens forced other city-states into its centralized control until defeated by Rome
  - ▶ Even its philosophers preferred philosopher-king central control over rule by the people; Democracy {Plato and Aristotle}



# French Revolution: Man {Reason} Replaces God

- ▶ French Revolution built on French philosophers who elevated Man over God, epitomized in works-based religions: Basis for Socialism
  - ▶ Man viewed as corrupted by religious society but needing society supposedly controlled by a Social Contract;
  - ▶ Man's Reason, Science, is the measure of Truth even though Reason was enshrined as Greco-Roman goddess
- ▶ Rome became an empire over other societies ruled by personality worship
  - ▶ Rome absorbed desirable traits from Hellenism and traded its culture for power
  - ▶ Roman Empire diluted by absorbed cultures and disintegrated
  - ▶ Greco-Roman forms become the basis for Medieval governments with Roman Catholicism filling the emperor worship power vacuum; until rejected



# 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Warfare: Struggle Between Two Revolutions

- ▶ Modern history details Satan's *scientific* centralized governmental control
  - ▶ Franco-German governmental socialism relied primarily on force: Failed because poor source of moral guidance; man demands morality beyond self – Religion
  - ▶ English governmental socialism relies primarily on persuasion, backed by force *prn*, to secure agreement of the governed to their own enslavement (2Th 2:3-12)
  - ▶ The European {World} wars of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries mirror Seleucid-Ptolemy wars
  - ▶ As Antiochus IV mirrored Antichrist, Napoleon's rise to power out of war's crises mirrored how Antichrist will be embraced by people as the *savior of peace*
- ▶ I do not say these modern examples complete the meaning of this vision
  - ▶ These examples mirror truth of how Satan works: His goal never changes (Ec 1:9-11)
  - ▶ These examples will repeat until Antichrist's appearing; each cycle bringing the world ever closer to embracing Antichrist and the False Prophet (Re 13)