

The prophecies in the Book of Daniel clearly describe the wicked Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes as an Old Testament type of the Antichrist. The writer wants to make this clear by designating the title *little horn* to them both. Speaking of the future Antichrist Daniel wrote:

I was considering the horns, when another horn appeared, a little one coming up among them; to make room for it, three of the earlier horns were plucked up by the roots.

(Daniel 7:8)

And speaking of Antiochus Epiphanes Daniel says:

Out of them came another horn, a little one, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the beautiful land.

(Daniel 8:9-10)

What makes these two individuals similar is their mad passion to exterminate the people of God and prevent true worship. In Daniel chapter eleven we are given a description of Antiochus and his failed attempt to do this. We are told:

Forces sent by him shall occupy and profane the temple and fortress. They shall abolish the regular burnt offering and set up the abomination that makes desolate. He shall seduce with intrigue those who violate the covenant; but the people who are loyal to their God shall stand firm and take action.

(Daniel 11:31-33)

This happened in the year 168 B.C. Antiochus had failed to accomplish a military mission in Egypt and was mad with rage and disappointment as he returned to Syria. As it was necessary to pass through Israel on his way, he decided to take his anger out on the Jews. And according to those same prophecies in Daniel, the Antichrist will do the very same thing at the close of history. We are told:

He shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall make sacrifice and offering cease, and in their place shall be an abomination that desolates, until the decreed end is poured out upon the desolator.

(Daniel 9:24-27)