# Daniel 11:36-45 – The King Will Do as He Pleases

Quiz: what is the 3rd of the 10 commandments?

“"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.” (Ex 20:7 NAS95)

What does that commandment mean? When I was young, I thought it meant bad language…cussing, swearing, profanity, etc. And I thought those words all meant the same thing, but I was wrong. Cussing is short for cursing, or asking God to bring his wrath on someone or something. Swearing is using your relationship with God to make a promise that they don’t believe you would keep otherwise. Profanity is unholy words. Now don’t get me wrong, those things are forbidden in scripture, Ephesians 4:29; 5:4, Colossians 3:8, and Proverbs 10:32 all forbid such language. The third commandment goes much further, to understand this command, we must understand what it means to take something in vain and what God’s name is.

The word vain means, “excessively bragging or producing no results.”

So, what is the name of the Lord? His name is not God, that is His title, it is His job description. Scripture gives one primary name for God the Father and two for the Son.

God the Father is told Moses his name is YHWH, also pronounced Jehovah which means “I am”. Sometimes there are modifiers to the name like Jehovah-Jirah (“I am” is our provider) or Jehovah-Rophe (“I am” is our healer). God the Father is also called other things such as El and its derivative Elohim (God) and Adonai (Lord), all of which, like the word God, describe His position. But the name “I am” indicates God’s self-existence. God never started to exist; He will never cease to exist, He needs nothing to allow Him to exist.

God the Son has the names Jesus (Yeshua – which means “I am” deliverer) and Immanuel which means God with us. Again, Jesus is given many titles: Christ, Lord, Logos, the Lamb of God, etc. Jesus Christ is not a first and last name, it is a name and a job description that refers to His role as the anointed sacrifice and King.

In the Hebrew culture a name is believed to indicate the essential nature of the one named. To take God’s name in Vain is to either declare His existence, His presence, or His salvation as meaningless. Alternatively, we can also take God’s name in vain by claiming the attributes of God independent of Him. If I claim to exist without God’s existence, that is a vain claim. If I claim to not need His salvation or claim I don’t need his presence, that too is a vain claim.

Unfortunately, people regularly claim to not need God or deny His existence, presence and salvation. Ultimately this type of vanity will show up in a final world leader known as the Antichrist. Last week we looked at some of the false assumptions of leaders who rely on their power, wealth, family or treaties, taking these examples from the history of the world during the Silent Years between the last book of the Old Testament and the birth of Christ. Now in verse 36 the focus changes and jumps forward to the End Times.

In Daniel 11:36-45, we see ways in which the Antichrist will claim to be the true God and ways in which he will fail in that claim. We see that He will claim to be God on earth and that he will claim to save the world. We also see that he will fail to save the world and that he will prove not

## Claim to be God on earth Daniel 11:36-37

“**36** "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. **37** "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.

This man will do as he pleases, initially, no one will try to control him in anything that he attempts. He will claim to be more important than any god and that he is god. He will also have the gall to deny God to His face. Rather than proclaim the grace of God, he will condemn God and His followers of every type of monstrous atrocity.

What he doesn’t grasp is that his claim to do things on his own power and authority is itself an offense to God. Take a look at James 4:13-16:

“**13** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." **14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. **15** Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." **16** But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.” (Jas 4:13-16 NAS95)

If God finds it boastful and arrogant to declare what you will do tomorrow, the Antichrist’s claim to do as he pleases will surely arouse God’s ire like a slap in the face.

We also learn more about his denial of God’s plan for the world. Apparently, he comes from a religious family or culture, but it says he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers. This could mean that he is an atheist and does not believe in God, or that he claims to acknowledge other gods that his family didn’t know, while still proclaiming himself to be god.

This person will also deny the desire of women. This has been interpreted in three main ways. Some claim that as he does not desire women that he is a homosexual. A second interpretation is that he will deny women’s rights and desires. The third option, which I find more likely, is that the phrase is referring to denying the one that women desire and that because the other phrases here refer to God that the desire of women refers to Christ. It may mean that he tries to position Christianity as a religion for weak women.

Do you fall into the same trap? None of us have the guts to claim that we are God, but do we make the claim that “I am” going to do this or that? Some of my friends reflexively throw in the word “if God wills.” So instead of saying, “I am going to the store tomorrow,” they say, “if God wills, I am going to the store tomorrow.” I don’t think God is telling us to use the phrase every time we make a plan, but I do think He wants us to live in that attitude. Are you flexible enough to let God change your plans?

## Claim to save the world Daniel 11:38-39

**38** "But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. **39** "He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

This end time ruler will honor the idea of being safe. He will pour wealth into things that he claims will make us safe. Governments love to take control and one of the easiest ways to take control is to promise safety. Benjamin Franklin once said: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." History shows that most people willingly give up liberty for increased security. The Chinese secret police is called the Public Security Bureau. Don’t be surprised if the Antichrist calls his police Public Safety Officers.

While he is building up his own fortress in the name of safety, he will also attack the “strongest of fortresses”, most likely claiming that he is attacking to preserve the peace. The strongest of fortresses could refer to a strong nation that opposes him. To me it is more likely that it means that he will attempt to attack the security we have in God. We join King David in proclaiming that God is our fortress.

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (Ps 18:2 NAS95)

When the choice comes between safety and peace in the world and safety and persecution in God’s will, which will you choose?

## Failure to save the world Daniel 11:40-44

**40** "At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through. **41** "He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. **42** "Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. **43** "But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. **44** "But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

Rather than saving the world and introducing peace, the actions of the Antichrist will bring war. The Antichrist will be attacked by kings from both north and south and in defending himself, he will retreat into and conquer Israel and most of the surrounding countries, but he will not be able to conquer the area of Edom, Moab and Ammon, the area that we today know as Jordan. Eventually he will regain strength and conquer Egypt, at which point Ethiopia and Libya will join him to avoid being crushed. He will then turn back to strengthen and expand his northern borders.

Because of the Antichrist’s actions, the world will explode into a world war that makes our past wars seem small. It is interesting that organizations intended for peace usually lead to war. In the short term, the treaty agreements stop some of the fighting, but they don’t make peace and alleviate tensions. Eventually, when the unresolved tensions get to great, things explode. The League of Nations was supposed to prevent any future wars, but its policies led directly to World War II. The United Nations aims to bring peace to the earth, but each year there is more tension between member states as differences get buried instead of resolved.

How many times have you seen conflict in your family and tried to resolve it only to have both people involved mad at you? The more we try to bring peace by our own strength, the more we will be drawn into conflict. Instead of relying on ourselves, we should look to God’s formula for lasting peace.

“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.” (Heb 12:14 NAS95)

## Failure to exist by himself Daniel 11:45

**45** "He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.” (Da 11:36-45 NAS95)

Perhaps at this point the Antichrist will say to himself, everything has failed, but at least I have my life. But then even that will end. In spite of all the power he amasses, the Antichrist will come to an end. Neither the people he persecuted, nor those he claimed to help will come to his aid and his end will come alone.

If we humble ourselves before God, we realize we cannot bring salvation, we are not God on earth and we cannot exist by ourselves, instead we will seek Him for salvation, recognize Him as God over ALL and be grateful to him for our existence. We do this by placing our lives at His disposal. If you wish to keep your life in your control, you will fail, and the cost of your inevitable failure will be far higher than any possible reward for success.

“**35** "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. **36** "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? **37** "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mr 8:35-37 NAS95)

## Only God

Only God lives up to His name. Only He exists without need for anyone else. But He also chose to love you even though He doesn’t need you. Only God can save and only through Jesus is God with us. But none of that will happen, unless we trust in Him.

Ultimately no human can do as he pleases. He can only do what God allows. The time that the king does what he pleases is limited by God’s will. In contrast, the King of Kings will ALWAYS do as He pleases.

# Daniel 11:36-45 – The King Will Do as He Pleases

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God the Father told Moses his name is YHWH, also pronounced Jehovah, which means “\_\_ \_\_\_\_”.

The Son is named: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Yeshua – which means “I am” deliverer) Immanuel (which means God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us)

## Claim to be God on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 11:36-37

God finds it boastful and arrogant to declare what you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do  
 James 4:13-16

Are you flexible enough to let God change your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

## Claim to save the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 11:38-39

While building his fortress, he will attack the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of fortresses”.

We join King David in proclaiming that \_\_\_\_\_\_ is our fortress  
 Psalm 18:2

When choosing safety & peace in the world or safety & persecution in God’s will, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will you choose?

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Instead of relying on ourselves, we should look to God’s formula for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ peace. Hebrews 12:14

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## Only God

Only God lives up to His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Only He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ without need for anyone else.

He chose to love \_\_\_\_\_\_, but He doesn’t need you.

Only God can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Only through Jesus is God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us

The King of Kings will ALWAYS do as \_\_\_\_ pleases.