

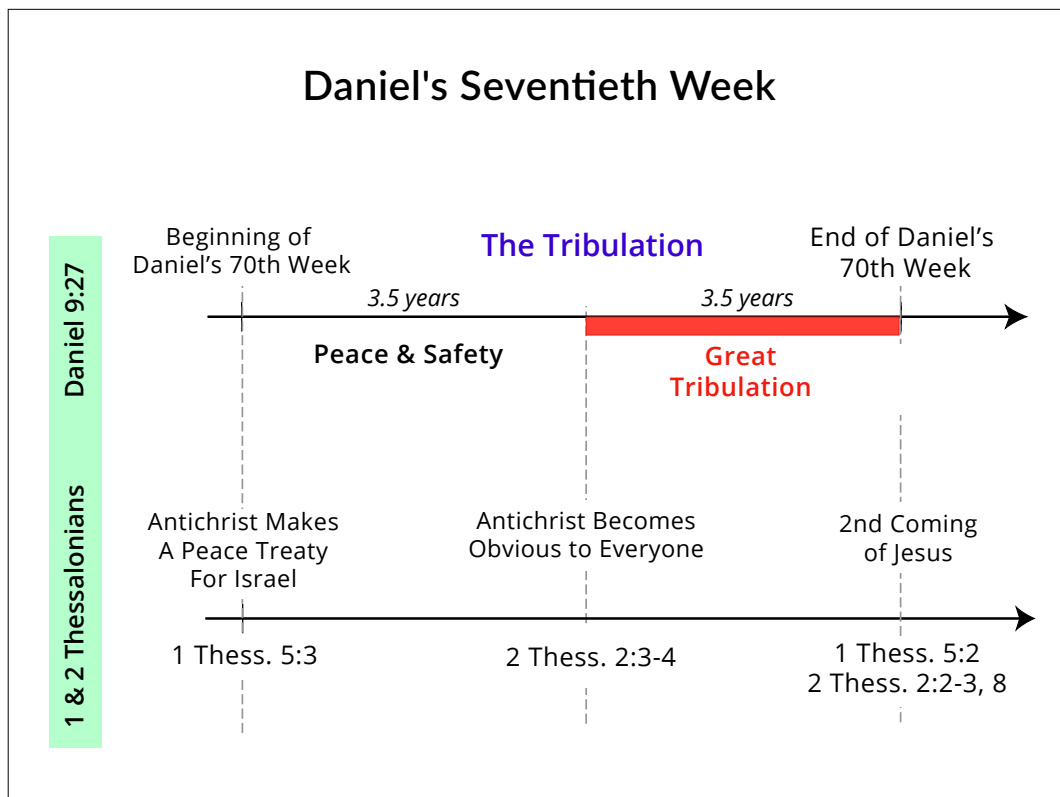
The Antichrist: Past & Future

Evil men and women exist everywhere. Each of us has an image in our mind of an evil man. For some of us, an evil man or woman is someone who has deeply hurt us. For a few of us, the world seems full of only evil people. Some consider politicians and military personnel to be evil. Our view of evil is often distorted and wrong. Even Adolf Hitler thought he was doing good when he said, "Today, I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator; by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord." What a distorted view of good! The problem was not with the Jews, but Hitler's heart. Adlai Stevenson said it well with, "There is no evil in the atom - only in men's souls." Evil exists only in the heart and our last study demonstrated that repeatedly.

PREVIOUS PROPHECIES. Our last study included numerous prophecies that spanned the reigns of the southern and northern kings of Ptolemy I and Seleucus I down to Ptolemy VII and Antiochus IV Epiphanes (316 - 168 B.C.). The southern kingdom was Egypt and the northern kingdom included the territories of modern day Syria and Iraq. We read prophecies about many evil people. Those prophecies about many

Medo-Persian and Grecian rulers were fulfilled hundreds of years later. Kings murdered women and women murdered women and babies. Cleopatra turned against her father in favor of her husband. Kings fought for power. Some won and others lost.

Evil took many forms: lies, greed, divorce, revenge, anger, insults, pleasure, laziness, and war. There were evil people on



Prophecies Were Given 223 to 371 Years In Advance

Passage	Kings of South and North	Fulfillment Dates (B.C.)	Time To Fulfillment (yrs)
V. 5	Ptolemy I & Seleucus I	316 - 312	223
V. 6	Ptolemy II & Antiochus II	250 - 246	289
V. 7-8	Ptolemy III & Seleucus II	246	293
V. 9-10	Ptolemy III, IV, Seleucus II, Seleucus II, and Antiochus III	240 - 221	299
V. 11-12	Ptolemy IV & Antiochus III	217	322
V. 13-15	Ptolemy IV, V & Antiochus II	212	327
V. 16-19	Ptolemy V & Antiochus III	193 - 187	346
V. 20-23	Ptolemy VI & Seleucus IV, & Antiochus IV	172-171	367
V. 24-28	Ptolemy VI,VII & Antiochus IV	170	369
V. 29-31	Ptolemy VI,VII & Antiochus IV	168	371

both sides and everywhere. God had a reason for giving us this chapter. He wants us to know that He is speaking to us. God has given us this remarkable prophetic section to encourage us to believe the Bible.

Daniel 11:21 introduced us to a despicable person who is known in history as Antiochus Epiphanes. Here is the verse.

... a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred ... Daniel 11:21 (NASB)

Antiochus IV Epiphanes was a very evil person. He was more evil than all of the kings of the north who came before him. He was the Adolf Hitler of his time. He was a “horrible, evil, despicable man.” He was power hungry and he must have at least despised the Jews if he did not hate them. Ancient historians tell us that earlier in 174 B.C. Antiochus had already tried to radically influence the Israelites by encouraging them to accept Greek culture and to stop worshipping their God. He had changed their government from a God-centered government to a secular one. He had encouraged them to dress as

Greeks, adopt Greek culture and exercise naked. This form of exercise was unique to the Greeks. Some of the young priests joined in this form of exercise. It made many of the Jews angry.

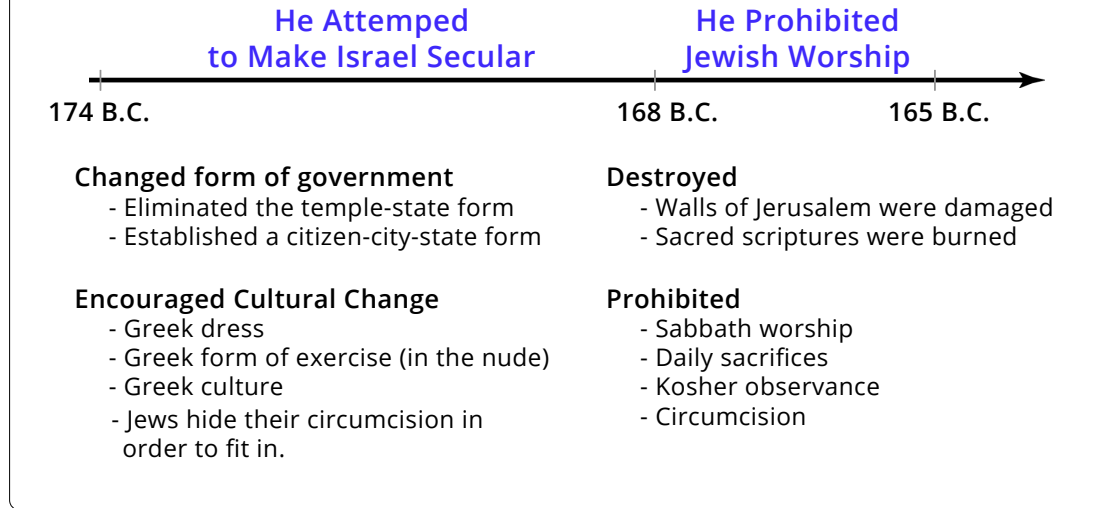
No other man or woman has been called despicable in the book of Daniel or on the pages of Scripture. For his behavior and abuse of other people was despicable. He became king by illegally seizing the throne of the northern Seleucid empire. He murdered thousands of Jews because he did get what he wanted from Egypt. He did not care about women or infants.

He attempted to change the culture of Israel because he liked the Greek culture and hated the Jews. Antiochus was a picture of the coming antichrist. This is an important point to remember later in our study.

ANGRY ANTIOCHUS. Our last study ended in Daniel 11:31. Antiochus IV Epiphanes had just attempted to defeat Ptolemy VI Philometor and Ptolemy VII Euergetes for making an alliance against him in 168 B.C. But a Roman emissary, Popilius Laenas, turned Antiochus away. How did this evil man react? He released his anger on the Jews - just like Adolf Hitler.

This study starts with Daniel 11:32.

Antiochus Against The Jews



And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.
(NASB) Dan. 11:31-32

It is 168 B.C. and like an angry little child, because of the Roman emissary's demands, Antiochus IV vented his anger on the Jews. He sent General Apollonius along with 22,000 soldiers into Jerusalem on a "peace mission." They purposely arrived on a Sabbath day when the Jews would be at rest. It was a surprise attack. The troops killed a great number of the Jews and took many of them as slaves. St. Jerome says he plundered the temple in order to pay Rome the tax they demanded because of the tribute that to be paid to Rome for Antiochus' failed invasion of Greece in 191 B.C.¹ The book of 1 Maccabees documents the atrocities of Antiochus IV Epiphanes' army. Some claim that Antiochus ordered a pig to be sacrificed on the temple altar as part of the Feast to Dionysus. Others say he setup place an idol of Greek god Zeus, that is, the Roman god Jupiter. Today, some think he place sacred stones in the temple. The truth is that Scripture does not tell us, nor does the book

of 1 Maccabees identify the abomination of desolation. The walls of the city are either destroyed or partially damaged. But Antiochus was not finished.

A man known as Menelaus was the high priest in Israel at that time as the result of a bribe. He had earlier bribed Antiochus in order to obtain the position. Consequently, Menelaus helped Antiochus with his plan. The Sabbath was the perfect day to attack. Antiochus ordered the Scriptures to be burned, and he stopped the daily sacrifices. Antiochus demanded that the Jews worship the idol he had installed in the temple. Some did, but others did not, choosing to remain faithful to their God (1 Maccabees 1:61-62). The prophecy predicted that "the people who know their God will display great strength and take action" and they did.

CAUSE TO PAUSE. History records that the priest Matthias Maccabee and his five sons refused to offer sacrifice to the idol. When Matthias was ordered to worship the idol, he killed Antiochus' representative and the Maccabean revolt followed (1 Maccabees 2:31-38; 2 Maccabees 2:42; 7:1-23).

And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days. Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in

1. Gleason Archer, translated Jerome's Commentary on Daniel. Wipf & Stock, 2009, p. 134.

hypocrisy. And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time. (NASB) Dan. 11:33-35

After Matthias Maccabee died, his son Judas Maccabee continued the guerilla warfare. Many Jews died. In 165 B.C. Antiochus retreated and allowed the Jews to start worshipping again as they desired. Peace had finally returned. Three years and about three months had passed or 1,150 days.

I wonder how many of the Jews willingly followed Antiochus' new high priest Menelaus? How many Jews compromised? The passage says those who had "insight" suffered. Those who could sense that Menelaus was not real suffered. How many of the Jews reluctantly obeyed Antiochus? The passage says, "... many will join with them in hypocrisy ..." Many of the Jews pretended to be godly, but they were not really godly. Did any of them think, "Surely God will not care if we obey Antiochus! Our lives are more important. If we die, we will not be able to worship God or do anything for Him. Would you be willing to die for Jesus? What would you have done? God calls us to be faithful even unto death.

ANOTHER JUMP IN TIME. The vast majority of biblical scholars and the critics all agree that the details of this chapter are accurate and true to history. However, the critics do not believe that Daniel 11:5-35 is fulfilled prophecy. They want us to believe that it is recorded history. But as we have already discovered, Daniel was written before these events occurred.

Everyone agrees that the events recorded in the rest of this chapter, verses 36-45, have not occurred yet. This is a wonderful fact. If the prophecies between verses 5 and 35 were accurate and fulfilled, then the prophecies described in the rest of the chapter will be fulfilled too! But how do we understand verses 36-45? The clue is contained in verse 35 after we are told that God's children will continue to suffer "... until the end time ..." The words that follow that statement are, "... because it is still to come at the appointed time." This is a future event.

As we saw earlier in Daniel 11, the prophecies have jumped hundreds of years between verses on occasions. A jump of 130 years occurred between the Medo-Persian King Xerxes and the time of Alexander the Great. God did not even talk about the other Medo-Persian kings. After Antiochus IV Epiphanes,

God did not mention the remaining Egyptian or Seleucid kings. A jump occurred between Daniel 9:26 and Dan. 9:27. This is normal in scripture.

ANTICHRIST - HIS CHARACTER. The next verses introduce us to the antichrist. Antiochus was a foretaste of the future antichrist. Daniel 11 jumps in time from verse 35 to verse 36, from Antiochus to the antichrist, because Antiochus IV Epiphanes is like antichrist. Here is verse 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. Daniel 11:36 (NASB)

The third word is another clue that we have jumped in time. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was not a "king." Remember that he was not of royal blood and had no right to the throne. He stole it. Also, Daniel 11 did not ever call Antiochus a king.

Since ancient historians tell us that Antiochus believed in his gods, it is important to notice the antichrist will be godless - an atheist - because it says, "... he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods ..." He will not respect any god. He has made himself a god.

And 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. Daniel 11:37 (NASB)

This man will have no respect for anyone superior to himself, including God. He will be arrogant and proud. Maybe the most surprising information in this verse is that the antichrist will not be interested in women. He may be a homosexual since it says that he does not have a desire for women. It is also possible that he is a single man without a sexual appetite.

ANTICHRIST - HIS LOVE. The next two verses reveal that antichrist will love something besides himself. He loved the things of this world. For Scripture says,

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. And 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 he will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price. Daniel 11:38-39 (NASB)

He will love military fortresses or power, and wealth. Does that sound like a ruler of any nation you know? This leader will be very powerful. He will have the power of a great nation. His actions will be more powerful than anyone before him. He will have help from a foreign god - Satan. He will be someone to fear.

ANTICHRIST - LAST BATTLE. Revelation 13:4 introduces the antichrist and reveals that Satan will empower him. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 reveals that Satan will support this world leader in a significant way during the last half of the Tribulation Period. At the end of the Tribulation, a group of Arab nations from the south (Egyptian, at least) and north (Syria, at least) will militarily move against the antichrist. Revelation 16:13-14 indicates that demons will deceive the kings of the world and consequently they will move militarily to the Middle East. It appears that the deception motivates them to militarily challenge the antichrist.

Then after all the kings have come to the Middle East, they discover that the real war will be against God. That is a quick overview.

The military maneuvers revealed in Daniel 11:40-45 reveal the first set of nations to militarily challenge the antichrist. Confusion exists as to when these military maneuvers will occur. Some

think they will occur in the middle of the tribulation when the antichrist breaks the peace treaty that started the seven-year tribulation (Daniel 9:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:3). Others believe these military maneuvers will occur at the end of the tribulation. Some think that verses 40-43 occurred near the middle of the tribulation and the maneuvers in 44-45 describe the military activities during the battle of Armageddon. While we cannot be dogmatic, since Scripture is not more definitive, it appears that verses 40-45 describe the military activities that will occur the end of the tribulation during the battle of Armageddon. This seems to be correct since Ezekiel 38-39 describe the military activities of nations such as Russia and other surrounding nations in its influence in the north. Since the descriptions of Ezekiel 38-39 are best placed during the battle of Armageddon it seems that Daniel 11:40-45 describes the military maneuvers of the battle in Ezekiel 38-39. They are all part of the battle of Armageddon.

Verse 40 reveals the military maneuvers of an alliance of Arab nations from the south (Egyptian, at least), led by Egypt, and an alliance of some from the north (Russia, Syria, at least) will occur at the very end of the tribulation. Verse 40 states,

And at the end time the king of the South will collide with him,

and the king of the

North will storm

against him with chari-

ots, with horsemen, and

with many ships; and

he will enter countries,

overflow them, and pass

through. Daniel 11:40

(NASB)

There are several important points to be considered. One is that the "him" in verse 40 is the king mentioned in Daniel 11:36. In verse 36, we discovered he is the

Daniel 11:40 – Option 1

Antichrist Is Based East of Jerusalem In Babylon



antichrist. Another point is that for some reason, which is not explained, an attack will be coordinated by these two alliances of nations against the antichrist. A third point is that there is some uncertainty in the military maneuvers described here. Therefore, a number of two options exist, but we will only consider two options.

1ST SKIRMISH —

OPTION 1.

The first military option is that the king of the South and the king of the North will attack the antichrist in the city of Babylon which is in Iraq. We should also notice that the city of Babylon is referred to in Revelation 17:14-18 as the capital of the world. Apparently, this is the headquarters of the antichrist. If this is correct, then the city of Babylon is the location of the antichrist. Thus the king of the North must be Russia and its allied nations (Ezekiel 38-39). Therefore, the king of the South and the king of the North attack the antichrist in Babylon.

Then verses 41-43 reveal that the antichrist will militarily defeat the kings

Daniel 11:41-43 — Option 1

Antichrist Is Based East of Jerusalem In Babylon



of the North and the South.

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. Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. 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.

Daniel 11:41-43 (NASB)

Apparently the antichrist will move down into Egypt in the process. However, the ancient lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon will be spared. These ancient lands are now occupied by Jordan and Saudi Arabia,

1ST SKIRMISH—

OPTION 2. The second military option is that the king of the South and the king of the North will attack the antichrist Jerusalem in Israel or some other city near Israel. The antichrist

Daniel 11:40 — Option 2

Antichrist Is Based West of Jerusalem



defends Israel from the west by entering Israel from the Mediterranean Sea.

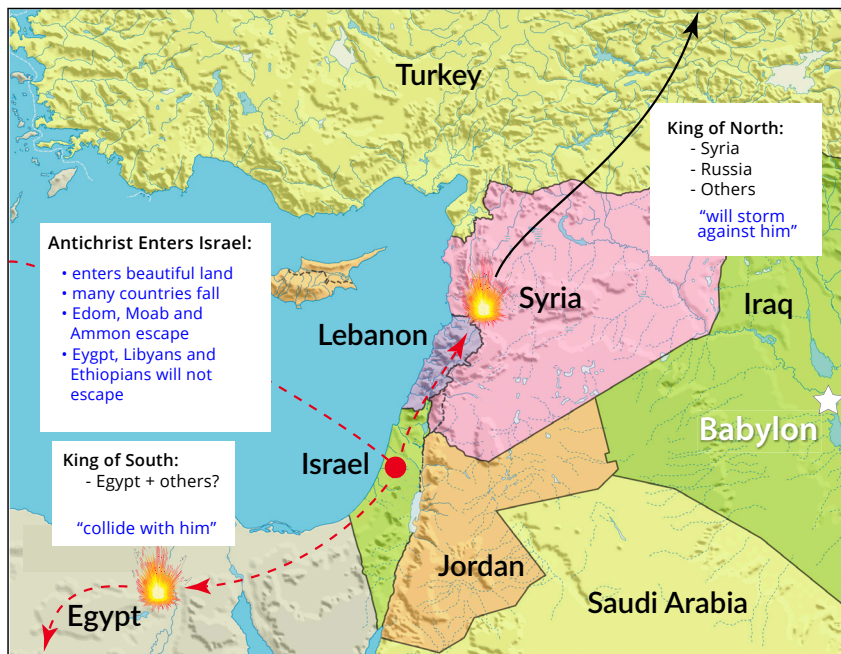
FINAL SKIRMISH. In both options the antichrist enters other countries to establish his power base. But the nations of Edom, Moab, and Ammon will be rescued from him. Today, these nations would be Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The antichrist will move down into Egypt and move into Africa.

Then the antichrist will hear that a very large army from the north and the east is coming after him. This eastern army include Iran, Afghanistan, and China. Some think the army in Revelation 9:16 refers to China, but it appears that the two million army is demonic (Revelation 9:13-21). Revelation 16:13-16 reveals that all of the armies of the world will be engaged in this battle (Joel 3:1-3, 9-16; Zechariah 14:1-2). Therefore, we could list all of them. Whoever, it appears that Daniel 11:40-45, Ezekiel 38-39 are referring to the primary nations.

This may sound bad, but this is all part of the plan - the

Daniel 11:41-43 – Option 2

Antichrist Is Based West of Jerusalem



deception. The antichrist moves to the Valley of Jehoshaphat of the Plain of Megiddo for the Battle of Armageddon.

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. And 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. Daniel 11:44-45 (NASB)

Ezekiel 38:14-16 reveals that Gog will join the final battle of

the world. These nations will be allies of Russia. Together they will come against the antichrist. The location of the antichrist's military position is between two seas: the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. The mountain referred to in Daniel 11:45 is Mount Zion. Zechariah 14:4 indicates that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, initially descends on the

Daniel 11:44-45

Antichrist Is Finally Defeated and Killed



Mount of Olives and then moves over to Mount Zion (Ezekiel 43:3-5; Joel 3:16). This is the reverse of His departure from Jerusalem just before the Babylonians invaded the southern kingdom, Judah (Ezekiel 11:23).

It is Jesus who will reign on David's throne forever. In order for that to occur, Israel must exist as a nation; and God has promised - prophesied that Israel will be rescued in the end. Then Jesus will reign on the throne for eternity. Praise God.

You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. Zechariah 14:5-9 (NASB)

According to the prophecy of Zechariah 14:1-8, nations will come against Jerusalem to make war; but God will arrive and defeat them. Notice that Daniel 11:45 ends with a strange statement, "... he will come to his end." The "he" refers to the antichrist. The passage does not say that the antichrist will be defeated by the armies of the nations because he will be defeated when Jesus Christ returns at Armageddon (Joel 3:2-12; Rev. 16:13-16; 19:11-21).

From what nation will the antichrist emerge? Scripture does not tell us, but it appears that he does come from a Middle Eastern nation.

CONCLUSION. God will rescue Israel when the invading Northern and Eastern nations have invaded half of the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be on the brink of destruction - from what appears to be certain elimination from the face of the earth. At that moment Zechariah. 14:3-4 reveals that God rescues Israel and the nations of the world fight against God. That appears to have been the goal of the deception.

God will be faithful to His chosen people. God promised King David that his kingdom would exist forever and it will.

Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever;
your throne shall be established forever. 2 Samuel 7:16 (NASB)