

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 5/15-16/2023 *Daniel 8:1-27*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

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OPENING PRAYER

Daniel - The Sovereignty of God – He Rules Over All; He Overrules All!

Chapter 8 Vision of a Ram and a Goat – vs. 1-14; Gabriel Interprets the Dream – vs. 15-27!

- **This prophecy in Daniel chapter 8 is dated** for us by Daniel as happening about 551 B.C., two years after chapter 7, which spoke of the final five ruling world empires – the fifth, that of Jesus Christ, will be last forever!
- **Two important factors mark Daniel 8** as the beginning of a new section. First, beginning with this chapter, the language returns to Hebrew instead of the Aramaic used by Daniel from 2:4 through 7:28. Second, the change of language is in keeping with the change in thought introduced by this chapter. From here to the end of Daniel, the prophecy, even though it concerns the Gentiles, is occupied with human history as it relates to Israel.
- **The first of Daniel's own visions recorded in chapter 7, is a broad summary** of the times of the Gentiles, with emphasis on the climactic events culminating in the second coming of Christ to the earth.

- **Beginning in chapter 8, Daniel's second vision concerns the empires of Persia and Greece**, with a special emphasis on the leader, Antiochus Epiphanes, which will come out of the Grecian empire, as they relate to Israel. Under Persian government, the Israelites went back to rebuild their land and their city, Jerusalem. Under Grecian domination, in particular under Antiochus Epiphanes, the city and the temple were again desolated.

Dan 8:1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.

- **This is the third year of the reign of Belshazzar**, the last king of Babylon. The vision given in chapter 7 was in the first year of his reign, two years earlier. We need to remember that chapter 8, the second of these of these visions took place, preceding the end of the Babylonian empire by twelve years; and more than two hundred years before the reign of Alexander the Great of the Grecian empire!

Dan 8:2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai (a 900 ft. wide canal, connecting two rivers, close to Shushan.)

- **Shushan. Daniel was translated in his vision to the capital of Persia even before** the Persians had conquered Babylon. Furthermore, his vision then prophesied the eventual defeat of Persia by Greece, as well as the still more distant break-up of the Grecian empire. It is not surprising that those who deny supernatural divine inspiration must try to assign the book of Daniel to a later period.

Daniel's Vision of the Ram (vs. 3-4) and the Goat (vs. 5-8)

Dan 8:3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.

Dan 8:4 I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

- **In his vision Daniel sees a ram with two unequal horns**, one higher the other, growing out of the ram last. As Daniel watches, he sees the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward; but no mention is made of pushing toward the east. This is precisely what happened historically, during the next two hundred years later, which makes this an amazingly accurate detail! God's preciseness and accuracy of the Word of God is always such a thrill! We just rejoice in God's glorious Word. The more we study it, the more excited we get over little details that God was careful to note, and you begin to realize their importance!
- **No animal could withstand him...or could deliver from his hand.** As Daniel summarizes it, *the ram does according to his will and becomes great.* We will see in the interpretation in ***Dan 8:20 that the ram is Medo-Persia***, with the two horns representing its major kings. The fact that the ram represents both the Median and Persian Empires in their combined states rather than as separate empires is another important proof that the prophecy is correct. Historically, it was the combination of the Medes and the Persians which proved irresistible for almost two hundred years, until Alexander the Great came on the scene.
- **The portrayal of the two horns representing the two major aspects of the Medo-Persian Empire**, that is, the Medes and the Persians, is exactly accurate, as the Persians coming up last and represented by the higher horn were also the more prominent and powerful. The directions which represent the conquests of the ram include all except east. Although Persia did expand slightly to the east, its principal movement was to the west, north and south, and in that order!

Dan 8:5 And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

- **Daniel did not know exactly what the goat was at that time.** His prophecy is two hundred years before this happened! It was interpreted for him later. So, coming with great rapidity as though not even to touch the ground, was the rapid progress of the goat from the west.

Dan 8:6 Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

Dan 8:7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage (in great anger) against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.

- **What Daniel is seeing here with the goat is the Grecian Empire** as interpreted in (*Dan 8:21*) *And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king (Alexander the Great).* It is talking of the conquest of the Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great. He came close to the ram and broke the horns, leaving him powerless. He cast him down to the ground, stomped on him. There was none who could deliver the ram out of his hand. He was a military genius, one of the greatest. He could move a striking force by land more quickly than any man ever had.
- **All of this, of course, was fulfilled dramatically in history.** The forces of Alexander first met and defeated the Persians at the Granicus River in Asia Minor (Alexander's 40,850 men vs. 108,000) in May 334 B.C., beginning of the complete conquest of the entire Persian Empire. A year and a half later a battle occurred at Issus in Turkey (November 333 B.C.). The power of Persia was finally broken at Gaugamela near Nineveh (Alexander's 47,000 men vs. 120,000) in October 331 B.C.
- **There is no discrepancy between history,** which records a series of battles, and Daniel's representation that the Persian Empire fell with one blow! Daniel is obviously describing the result rather than the details. The prophecy is accurate! Here again, the correspondence of the prophecy to later history is so accurate that liberal critics attempt to make it history instead of prophecy.

Dan 8:8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

- **Notice this goat with his horn and while it was strong** the great horn was broken. Again, looking at history, we know that Alexander the Great conquered the world of that day in about three years. It was said that he kept asking his generals if there was any place else to conquer. He wept because there was no place else to conquer. He was a very brilliant and brave warrior.
- **There is an interesting book called,** "Alexander the Great," by Ludwig, the historian, which speaks about the conquest of Persia under Alexander the Great. Having no place else to conquer he became depressed, and he began to drink heavily. He was headquartered in Babylon, that beautiful city of Babylon still stood at the time of Alexander the Great. According to Ludwig's history, when Alexander the Great was just thirty-two years old, he was at a drunken party. It was raining quite hard, and he came home through the rain drunk as could be. He laid down on his bed and went to sleep in his wet clothes. He did not bother to put on dry clothes. As a result he contracted pneumonia and died when he was thirty-two years old. We see although Alexander could conquer his enemies on the battlefield, he could not conquer himself, dying as an alcoholic.
- **When he was yet strong his power was broken and the kingdom did not go** to either of his two sons, who of course were quite young, but the kingdom was then eventually divided among four of Alexander's generals. Thus, ***in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.*** In the west, Cassander took over Macedonia and Greece. Towards the north, Lysimachus took over Asia minor and Thrace. Syria and Babylonia were taken over by Seleucus. Egypt, Arabia, and the holy land was taken over by Ptolemy. Thus, the kingdom of Alexander the Great was divided into the four heads, four kingdoms. It took over twenty years to establish that government, much longer than Alexander took in his conquering!

Daniel's Vision of the Little Horn (Antiochus Epiphanes)(vs. 9-14)

Dan 8:9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.

- The “little horn” of this chapter is not the same as described in the previous chapter. There the little horn arises out of the fourth kingdom; here the little horn comes out of the third kingdom. This little horn is historical, while the little horn of chapter 7 is to be revealed in the future. The little horn being presently considered came out of Syria from the Seleucid dynasty. He was Antiochus IV, or Epiphanes (*a glorious manifestation*), which is a lens, down to the end of the age of the AntiChrist, who will desecrate the temple. The Jews referred to him as Antiochus Epimames (The Madman). He was a terrible man!
- **Antiochus came to the throne in 175 B.C.** and he made an attack on Jerusalem. It was against him that the Maccabees were raised up in Judah. Anti-Semitic to the core, he tried to exterminate the Jews. He placed an image of Zeus in the Holy Altar in the temple in Jerusalem! This was the first “abomination of desolation.” He also sacrificed a pig and poured swine broth over all the holy vessels and the temple area.

Dan 8:10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.

- According to Daniel’s account, the *little horn* emerges from one of the four notable horns mentioned in verse 8. The horn, though small in the beginning, grows “*exceeding great*” in three directions: toward the south, toward the east and toward the Glorious Land. The implication is that the point of reference is Syria, that “the south” is equal to Egypt, and “the east,” in the direction of ancient Medo-Persia or Armenia, and “*Glorious Land*” referring to Canaan (Israel), which lay between Syria and Egypt. The original for “*Glorious Land*” actually means “beauty,” with the word for ‘land’ supplied from Daniel 11. Actually, the meaning here may be Jerusalem in particular rather than the land in general.
- **These conquests, of course, are confirmed exactly as prophesied in the history** of Syria, especially under Antiochus Epiphanes, the eighth king in the Syrian dynasty who reigned 175-164 B.C. In his lifetime, he conducted military expeditions in relation to all of these areas. From Daniel’s viewpoint in this whole section, the important question is how the times of the Gentiles relate to Israel. The land of Israel indeed became the battle ground between Syria and Egypt, and the setting of some of Antiochus Epiphanes’ most significant blasphemous acts against God, which gives us such a picture of the coming AntiChrist of the Great Tribulation!
- **As a result of his military conquests, the little horn, representing Antiochus Epiphanes,** is said to grow great “*up to the host of heaven.*” He is pictured as casting *some of the host and of the stars to the ground and trampled them*, which seems to relate to the persecution and destruction of the people of God with its defiance of the angelic hosts who are their protectors, including the power of God Himself. We see stars signifying God’s holy people, considering the words that were spoken to Abraham concerning the numerical increase of the people of God in Genesis chapters 15 and 17.
- **To this may be added (Dan 12:3) Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.** Compare also (Mat 13:43) *Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!* If the world calls those men and women stars who excel in one or another department of human activity, why should not a similar statement be still more appropriate with reference to God’s people? That Antiochus blasphemed God and heavenly power as well as persecuted the people of Israel, the people of God, is all too evident from history. Now this of course is all taking place about 400 years later. We have moved in the prophecy from the Babylonian time that Daniel wrote this in 551 and now we are coming up about 400 years later when this fellow Antiochus Epiphanes conquered and went down towards Egypt. In chapter 11 we will get more details of this man and of the battles between the kingdom of Syria and the kingdom of Egypt until the time of the Roman Empire.

Dan 8:11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by (from) him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.

- **He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host;** that could be interpreted as the high priest, Onias III, who was killed.
- **By him, the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.** It would be stretching it a little bit to say that he cast down the place of the sanctuary. He certainly did desecrate it. He offered pigs on the altar, just as an affront against the Jews, having pig juice spread all over the temple, even the Holy of Holies. He also caused the ceasing of their daily sacrifices.
- **Was cast down** - The temple was not entirely destroyed by Antiochus, but it was robbed and rifled, and its holy vessels were carried away. The walls indeed remained, but it was desolate, and the whole service then was abandoned.
- **The obvious parallel between the cessation of the daily sacrifices** by Antiochus Epiphanes and that anticipated in *Daniel 9:27*, which occurs three and one-half years before the second coming of Christ, has led some expositors to find here evidence for reference to the end of the age and not simply to Antiochus. As far as this prophecy is concerned, however, it did have complete fulfillment in Antiochus.

Dan 8:12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.

- **Because of transgression of Israel, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices:** This was fulfilled in the terrors of Antiochus Epiphanes. The Jews, especially their leaders, invited God's judgment upon them through Antiochus because of their sin. Verse 12 is a recapitulation of Antiochus Epiphanes' activities against God. The statement that an *army* was given over to him (*the horn*) apparently refers to the fact that the people of Israel were under his power with divine permission. Antiochus was able to oppose the daily sacrifices and to substitute a heathen worship, permitting him to transgress against God! The result was that Antiochus *cast truth down to the ground*, that is, the truth of the law of Moses, practiced his wicked activities, and seemingly prospered. How we see that happening today!

Dan 8:13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?"

- **Having described the wicked activities of Antiochus Epiphanes,** Daniel now records a conversation between *two holy ones*, apparently angels, concerning the duration of *the transgression of desolation*, the profaning of the sanctuary. The question is, *How long will the vision be?*

Dan 8:14 And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

- **For two thousand three hundred days.** Taking all the evidence into consideration, the best conclusion is that the twenty-three hundred days of Daniel are fulfilled in the period from 171 B.C., the year Onias III the legitimate high priest was murdered, culminating in the death of Antiochus Epiphanes in 164 B.C. This prophecy may safely be said now to have been fulfilled, not having any further eschatological significance in the sense of anticipating a future fulfillment.
- **The Millerite Movement.** There is a fellow by the name of William Miller back in the middle of the 1800's who interpreted the twenty-three hundred days as twenty-three hundred years, juggling the scriptures saying it must have been twenty-three hundred years so that the Lord will come twenty-three hundred years after this profaning of the temple by Antiochus. He had a lot of people convinced that he had figured out the day of the rapture of the church, just like now people are doing days. Back there in Illinois the people gathered together and sold their farms and everything else. They put on white robes, singing hymns just waiting for the Lord to come. After a week or so when the Lord did not show up a lot of people became disappointed, discouraged and some became infidels as the result of his error.
- **Founding of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.** But Ellen White came to save the day. She came out of this Millerite movement. She said what happened was that the Lord went into a heavenly

sanctuary and cleansed the heavenly sanctuary in mid eighteenth hundreds. So, actually it was fulfilled only it was the heavenly sanctuary not the earthly sanctuary. Then, she began her whole prophetic scheme and founded the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It came out of the Millerite movement.

- ***Then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."* This cleansing is celebrated in the Feast of Lights.** In (*Joh 10:22*) *Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.* This was one of the holy days celebrated at the time of Christ and which is still remembered by the Jews. It is a feast not mentioned in the Old Testament at all, because it was established in the intertestamental period between the Old and New Testaments. They commemorate that day, as the feast of Hanukkah.
- **So, it was twenty-three hundred days from the killing of the high priest Onias III unto the death of Antiochus Epiphanes in 164 B.C., twenty-three hundred days, literal days, literally fulfilled. God is precise! I love it. God is right on time! We are prone to think He is late. Don't we? God is only ever too late, according to our schedule. He is right on time according to His! He always comes through in His time! His time is really so much better than mine!**

Gabriel Interpreting Daniel's Vision (vs. 15-22)

(Dan 8:15-21) *Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. [16] And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." [17] So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end." [18] Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. [19] And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. [20] The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. [21] And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. [22] As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.*

Dan 8:15 *Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.*

Dan 8:16 *And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."*

- **Daniel had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning.** Daniel was puzzled by the vision, desiring to learn the meaning of it. In response to his desire, a personage stood before him described as *having the appearance of a man*, most likely an angel. In verse 16, the angel Gabriel is mentioned specifically, and a man's voice is addressed to Gabriel (first mention in the Bible) to instruct Daniel in understanding the vision. The man's voice may be that of Michael the Archangel or even the voice of God, but it is not identified in the text.

Dan 8:17 *So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end."*

- **Gabriel is one of the angels** (Michael and Lucifer are also named in the Bible), appearing in four passages of Scripture. With each encounter, he comes with a message. Twice to the prophet Daniel, then to the priest Zechariah (father-to-be of John the Baptist), and lastly, to Mary (mother-to-be of Jesus the Messiah).
- **Gabriel, one of the special angels that is named, will come up again** in the next chapter. Daniel will receive from him very precise information as to the time that the Messiah will come. It would seem perhaps that God put Gabriel in charge of getting the Messiah safely into the world. Gabriel was so excited about this particular task that God had given to him that he has a hard time keeping secrets, so he came to Daniel some five hundred years before it happens to give Daniel the time that the Messiah was going to show up. Then about five hundred years later he came to Zacharias to let him know that his wife, even though she is old and beyond the years of bearing, was going to have a son, who would be the forerunner of the Messiah!
- **The time of the end?** Now, Gabriel is the one commanded to explain to Daniel this vision that he saw. *Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.*" There are two possible

interpretations. One possibility is the end of time of the Grecian Empire, shortly after Antiochus Epiphanes and his horrible desecration, and the Roman Empire began to rise and conquer over the Grecian Empire. The second possibility refers to the end of time, the end of the whole Gentile period of reign, or the last days.

- **You will notice that there are several references here, (Dan 8:19, 23) And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. [23] "And in the latter time of their kingdom. When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.** The conclusion would be that we are now moving into a period of prophecy that moves out to the end of the time.
- **Most bible scholars agree that this little horn in verse 9 is Antiochus Epiphanes.** Also, that he is a type of the Anti-Christ, and so that there are parallels between him and the Anti-Christ, so that you can start with him, but you move into the description of the Anti-Christ!

Dan 8:18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

- **Notice the physical effect** of this vision upon Daniel.
- **But he touched me, and set me upright,** He joggled him out of his sleep, and took him, and raised him up, and set him on his feet or standing and so in a better posture to deal with what was about to be revealed unto him.

Dan 8:19 And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time (also v. 23) of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be!

- **At God's appointed time the end shall be.** Now *the latter time of the indignation*, of course this was an *indignation*, the profaning of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes who actually had an altar for Zeus made in the temple, sacrificing unto Zeus! What a horrible profaning. We also know that *indignation* is an Old Testament word that is used often to describe the Great Tribulation period.
- **We know in the tribulation period the temple of God is to be profaned again. That the Anti-Christ will come to the temple of God** showing that he himself is god, demanding that he, Anti-Christ is to be worshipped as god. This is the abomination that will bring on the Desolation or the Great Tribulation period. We know from the words of Jesus, when He was giving them the signs in the end, He said, (**Mar 13:14-17**) "So when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, *standing where it ought not*" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. [15] Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. [16] And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. [17] But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! Do not even go home! Get out of there!" Thus, Jesus said, (**Mat 24:21**) *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*
- **This profaning of the temple by the false prophet and the Anti-Christ** will actually be the last straw that will bring upon the earth the fierce judgment of God. The pouring forth of His wrath and *indignation* upon the nations of the world for their blasphemy against Him! So, indignation can refer and does often refer to the period of the Great Tribulation!

Dan 8:20 The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.

- **Now know at this time that Greece was almost unknown.** It will be two hundred years in the future before they will become a major power, yet here is the clear prediction that the king of Greece is going to destroy the Medo-Persian Empire.
- **The male goat is labeled the king of Greece, and the large horn** is the first king, Alexander the Great.

Dan 8:22 *As for the broken horn, (Alexander's death at an early age) and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.*

- **That is exactly what happened! The Grecian kingdom was divided into the four generals** (Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy). None would have the power of Alexander.

Gabriel Interpreting Daniel's Vision Concerning the Latter Time (vs. 23-26)

(Dan23-26) "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. [24] His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. [25] "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means. [26] "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future."

Dan 8:23 *"And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes!*

- **The "little horn" is Antiochus Epiphanes of the line of the Seleucids that took Syria.** The only adequate explanation of this verse and of the facts of history is that this man was demon possessed. In this respect he is also a picture of the coming Anti-Christ. The Lord Jesus made reference to him when He said, *(Mat 24:24) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

Dan 8:24 *His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.*

- **Up to this point it fits Antiochus Epiphanes quite well,** but here is where we see the time period as also fitting into the Great Tribulation period. *His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive.* In other words, he is acting under supernatural power, the power of Satan, demonic powers. *He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.*
- **Is there a dual fulfillment of this prophecy of Antiochus Epiphanes and of the AntiChrist** of the end times during the Great Tribulation? Taken as a whole, the principal problem of the passage when interpreted as prophecy fulfilled completely in Antiochus is the allusions to the end of the age. These are hard to understand as relating only to Antiochus in view of the larger picture of Daniel 7, which concludes with the second advent of Christ. It is for this reason, as well as for the many details in the passage, that many expositors believe the interpretation goes beyond the vision. *(Dan 9:27) Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."* “

Dan 8:25 *"Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes (and that would have to be Jesus); But he shall be broken without human means!*

- **It may be concluded that this passage apparently goes beyond** that which is historically fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes to foreshadow a future personage often identified as the world ruler of the end time. In many respects this ruler carries on a persecution of Israel and desecration of the temple similar to what was accomplished historically by Antiochus. This interpretation of the vision may be regarded as an illustration of double fulfillment of prophecy or, using Antiochus as a type, the interpretation may go on to reveal additional facts which go beyond the type in describing the ultimate king who will oppose Israel in the last days. He indeed will be *broken without human means* at the time of the second advent of Jesus Christ.
- **In concluding the interpretation, Gabriel makes plain that the vision will not become** immediately understandable to Daniel and that its fulfillment will occupy many days.

- **Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule.** His cunning schemes were laid and managed so artfully and craftily in the execution of them, that he commonly succeeded; as in getting the kingdom of Syria from his nephew. Under a pretense of peace and friendship, and to defend Ptolemy VI Philometor king of Egypt, a minor, and by large promises to the nobles of the land, made himself master of it; and by deceitful methods, he prevailed in Judea.
- **He shall exalt himself in his heart.** He shall be lifted up with pride, or esteem himself of great consequence, over all mortals, and equal to God Himself, calling himself, Epiphanes, meaning “a glorious manifestation”! Yes, as his antitype, Anti-Christ exalts himself above all that is called God! Just imagine that he thought he could command the seas, weigh the mountains in scales, and reach heaven itself!
- **He shall destroy many in their prosperity** under a pretense of peace enter into countries and destroy the inhabitants of them, as in Egypt and Judea; or, by leagues and treaties of peace, outwitting those he made peace with; so some political princes do themselves more service, and their enemies more hurt, by treaties than by battles: or "in peace, when they are in peace and tranquility; coming upon them unexpectedly, when they did not so much as dream of war. (**Dan 9:27**) *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate. (Zec 13:8-9) And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: [9] I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'*
- **But he shall be broken without human means.** That is, without the hand of man, or by no visible cause. Antioch Epiphanes shall be overcome by Divine, invisible power. "But the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, smote him with an incurable and invisible plague, or as soon as he had spoken these words, a pain of the bowels that was remediless came upon him, and sore torments of the inner parts, eaten by worms, which was much like that of Herod's, (**Act 12:23**) *Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.*

Dan 8:26 "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future!"

- **Which was told is true** Now several times there is this affirmation when prophecies are given there is the affirmation that this is true. We can say, "Yes, it sure was." We saw through history how these things came to pass in precise order. If you considered the mathematical probabilities of these things happening, you would find that they would be astronomical that Daniel could tell you of the Medo-Persian Empire rising, the second horn coming up last but becoming more powerful, and how Alexander the Great would come with the Grecian forces. You could not just make these things up out of your head. They would never be, and yet they came to pass!
- **Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future.** In the twelfth chapter when Daniel was given these visions, he was told to seal it up. It was not given to him to understand. It is for the last days. In the last days knowledge will be increased, then they will begin to understand. How knowledge is presently increasing!
- **This is why the book of Daniel becomes so exciting for us** because now that so much of it has already happened, now as we look at it, we have such an understanding of it, as we are approaching the return of Jesus Christ. The Lord is just opening up this area of prophecy in such a glorious way! It is thrilling to read now with the understanding, the knowledge that we have in these days, having seen so much of it already come to pass, now we can actually see the picture, now that the puzzle is almost all together! There are just a few pieces left. We can hardly wait!

Daniel's Condition Following Gabriel's Interpretation (v. 27)

Dan 8:27 And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

- The physical and psychological effect of this vision upon Daniel was devastating. God was

beginning to mesh the “times of the Gentiles” into the history of the nation Israel. That was the thing that must have puzzled Daniel at the first and still puzzles a great many people. How can God mesh His program with Israel into His program for the Gentiles in the world? Today, God is calling out a people to His name—called “the church.” When that is concluded, and the church is removed from the earth at the Rapture, then He will again turn to His purpose with Israel and the Gentile nations.

- ***I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.*** Not, until later will we have complete understanding. Even yet there are portions that we do not understand fully. There are still areas where we see through the glass darkly, but one of these days we will know even as we are known when we see our Lord face to face and the whole thing has come together! Then we will look back and say, “Oh, yes, so true!”

SUMMARY:

- **Daniel’s prophecy in chapter 7, which is remarkable proof** that the Bible was inspired by God, further clarified in *Revelation chapters 13, 17*, concerning the “*little horn*” of the end times (during the Great Tribulation) – The Anti-Christ, coming out of the revived Roman Empire!
- **Daniel’s prophecy in chapter 8, continuing in remarkable, exacting, detailed clarity describes the “little horn”** which will come out of later part of the Third Beast (Greece), which is Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of the Anti-Christ, who will greatly persecute Israel, causing a desolation of the temple, ending of sacrifices, defiling by sacrificing a pig in the Holy Place, spreading pig broth around the temple. He is a forerunner type of the Anti-Christ to come forth during the Great Tribulation!
- **Today we can look back, seeing the exact fulfillment** of Daniel’s prophecy of the little horn, Antiochus Epiphanes, as it came to pass, which gives us such assured confidence that the prophecy of the coming Great Tribulation, the Anti-Christ is just as certain!
- **It is absolutely phenomenal the things that Daniel writes about!** They give proof that this book the Bible, was inspired by God. Jesus said, (*Joh 14:29*) *"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.* When we see the tremendous accuracy with which Daniel spoke of the future events, we will look at history and see where these things took place just exactly as Daniel prophesied, realizing that surely God is the author of this book!
- **We need to “Watch and be ready and working” as that day of Jesus’ return is coming upon us so quickly! Great are You, LORD!**

CLOSING SONG:

GREAT ARE YOU LORD *All Sons and Daughters - (4:04/4:07)*

You give life, You are love You bring light to the darkness You give hope, You restore Every heart that is broken And great are You, Lord It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise We pour out our praise It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise to You only (2X)

It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise We pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise to You only

And all the earth will shout Your praise Our hearts will cry these bones will sing Great are You Lord (3X)

It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise We pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise to You only (2X)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read Chapter Nine!