

DANIEL

Lesson 14: Daniel 8:15-27
When the Pieces Fit

- Applications from last week – the outgrowth of the fact that He knows all things, including the end from the beginning – **Trust Him, Follow Him, Ask Him, Hear Him, Become His Child**
- **We are your children; we trust you; we want to hear what you think we need; we will follow your counsel; we are asking you – give us what we need today to be ready for tomorrow.**

- How many of you in this room have heard the song: Chattanooga Choo-Choo? To you, this will make sense – it’s an old joke so you have probably heard it.
- Roy Rogers bought some new boots. But at night a mountain lion would chew on them.
- One morning, Roy got up early and shot the cat.
- Dale Evans later saw the cat and asked, “Pardon me, Roy, is that the cat who chewed your new shoes?”

- This joke makes a connection to a popular Glenn Miller song from 1941 (first 1 million seller for RCA).
- Like “a super-calloused fragile mystic hexed with Halitosis,” seeing this connection is key to “getting” the joke.
- This is part of **how prophecy works**. It makes an unexpected connection between words from the past and a future event.
- When the prophecy and event intersect, illumination!

- Chapter 2: Empire of man is presented as a prophetic sequence of 5 elements: Gold ► Silver ► Bronze ► Iron, then Iron & Clay ► Stone Not Made with Hands.
- Historical fit: Gold = Babylon; Silver = Medo-Persia; Bronze = Greece; Iron = Rome.
- The Stone Not Made with Hands will crush all the previous empires.

- This stone will become an everlasting kingdom and will replace and put an end to all the previous kingdoms of men.
- This has not happened yet – it is still future.
- The timing of the iron & clay toes (in chapter 2) is unspecified. But a later vision (in chapter 7) connects this phase of the empire of man to something yet future.
- Clock ticking – 2,600+ years and counting!

- Chapter 7: Covers the same 2,600+ year sweep of human history / same empires of men as chapter 2.
- But chapter 7 adds some additional detail, especially as regards the last kingdom of man.
- Lion ► Bear ► Leopard ► Dreadful Beast ► Son of Man Coming in the Clouds
- This we know from historical fit: Lion = Babylon; Bear = Medo-Persia; Leopard = Greece

- We are given additional information concerning this dreadful 4th beast. A king (a super horn) will rise to prominence from among the 10 horns.
- **This super-horn will declare all-out war against God's people and will prevail (until the coming of the Son of Man who destroys this evil empire)!**
- The super horn and coming of the Son of Man are still future.

- Chapter 7 helps us discern what to expect on the world scene as we near the return of Jesus.
- Last week, we looked at the first half of chapter 8.
- Chapter 8 harmonizes with chapters 2 & 7.
- But it only considers the middle two of the four empires of man, explicitly identified as Medo-Persia and Greece.

- Like the vision in chapter 7, chapter 8 also supplies significant additional detail.
- This detail concerns a king from the last days of Greece, an ego-driven ruler intent on dominating God's people.
- This added detail connects to a very dark chapter in the life of Israel which will test God's people but from which they will ultimately be delivered.

DANIEL'S ORIENTATION – 8:15-19

- Daniel, it seems, came up for air, but only briefly. He wants to understand what He has seen.
- He saw someone who looked like a man but is an angel by the name of Gabriel.
- Gabriel is instructed, presumably by God, to help Daniel get sorted out.
- Gabriel explains that this vision concerns an "end."

DANIEL'S ORIENTATION – 8:15-19

- Daniel drifts into sleep but is roused by Gabriel.
- Gabriel explains that he is going to provide in-depth analysis of a key moment called "the final period of the indignation" that concludes the era of Greek prominence. This is additional content.
- Gabriel's message is of coming hardship concluded by divine deliverance via "indignation."

DANIEL'S ORIENTATION – 8:15-19

- What is “indignation?” (Heb. *Za-am*)
- This term is almost exclusively used (20 of 22 times) to describe God’s response to those who defy Him.
- To Nineveh re: 612BC – Nahum 1:6 – *Who can stand before His **indignation**? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken up by Him.*

DANIEL'S ORIENTATION – 8:15-19

- To the Ammonites (Israel’s neighbors) after 586BC – Ezekiel 21:31–32 – *“I will pour out My **indignation** on you; I will blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and I will give you into the hand of brutal men, skilled in destruction. You will be fuel for the fire; your blood will be in the midst of the land. You will not be remembered, for I, the Lord, have spoken.”*
- Gabriel is going to put a spotlight on a key moment.

THE RAM – 8:20

- This key moment will be defined by God’s **“indignation.” This = an “enough” moment!**
- But first, Gabriel recaps what Daniel has already learned before zeroing in on this indignation.
- Gabriel makes it explicit: The Ram w/ 2 “unbalanced” horns is Medo-Persia
- Confirmation Points: (1) Capital was Susa.

THE RAM – 8:20

- (2) Bigger horn (Persia) grew second
- (3) Expansion started in West and North followed by South
- (4) No successful opposition in Cyrus’ 10 year campaign.
- (5) 200 years of self-proclaimed “greatness” followed.

THE GOAT'S BEGINNING – 8:21-22

- Gabriel explicitly identifies the “flying goat” as Greece. (This is almost 250 years prior!)
- What the ram did to others, the goat now does to him.
- Confirmation Points:
- (1) Alexander the Great (336-322BC) came from the west in a whirlwind of world conquest.

THE GOAT'S BEGINNING – 8:21-22

- (2) ATG was mad at MP for a Xerxes campaign (480 BC) against Greece. Payback!
- (3) ATG died at a young age in 323BC in Babylon! (He intended to make this his empire capital!)
- (4) Upon His death, his empire was divided among his generals into four districts, the four horns.

THE GOAT'S END – 8:23-26

- Gabriel then focuses on a “little horn,” the last of ATG’s successors
- This is Antiochus Epiphanes, 8th Seleucid Ruler from 175-164 BC.
- He controls “the Beautiful Land,” a reference to Israel.
- He defeats “hosts” and “stars.”

THE GOAT'S END – 8:23-26

- Lots of debate on hosts and stars. Simple solution:
- Hosts = armies: Exodus 12:51– *And on that same day the Lord brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt **by their hosts**.*
- Antiochus will defeat armies.
- Some armies – hosts of heaven – fight for God.

THE GOAT'S END – 8:23-26

- Some of these armies are connected to false gods or “star-gods.”
- Amos 5:25–26 – *“Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel? You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyun, your images, the star of your gods (your star-gods) which you made for yourselves.”*

- Promotes himself as an equal with the commander of God’s armies.
- Sacrifice to God halted / sanctuary torn down and “repurposed.”
- Some from Israel complicit in his advance.
- Truth doesn’t matter. Getting what he wants.
- 1150 days until restoration of the temple and associated practice.

GABRIEL’S ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

- Antiochus Epiphanes – 175-164 BC
- “When the transgressors have finished”
- ✓ **His reign ends when transgression climaxes and is dealt with.**
- “Insolent and skilled in intrigue”
- ✓ **He was 4th in line but adeptly maneuvered to secure the throne.**

GABRIEL’S ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

- “mighty but not by his power”
- ✓ **His success (he is successful) is not the product of military might but sneaky.**
- “destroy to an extraordinary degree”
- ✓ **Expanded empire from Syria into Egypt – albeit ordered by Rome to exit in 168BC. Spiritual life destruction is extreme.**

GABRIEL'S ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

- Daniel 8:25 – *“And through his shrewdness he will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; and he will magnify himself in his heart.”*
- ✓ **Antiochus succeeded through guile, even to a point of compromising many without the use of force. He self-assessment was exceedingly positive.**

GABRIEL'S ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

- *“destroy many while they are at ease.”*
- *“destroy” could also be translated “corrupt.”*
- Exodus 32:7 – *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have **corrupted** themselves.”*
- ✓ **Many will be compromised or destroyed in a time of ease.**

GABRIEL'S ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

- *By 169–168 BC, he had convinced many Jews in Jerusalem to accept Greek ways, had gained control of their high priesthood, and had taken money from the temple treasury to help finance his wars in Egypt – House, P. R.*
- *By 167 BC, the tide turned when Antiochus decided to make Israel a Hellenistic buffer zone against Egypt.*

GABRIEL'S ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

- *“oppose the Prince of princes”*
- *Antiochus does not see himself as accountable to God. He is god: Antiochus IV adds Epiphanes (= The Manifest God)*
- ✓ ***In December, 167, he makes worship of God illegal, sets up an idol of Zeus and himself in the temple, and commands that sacrifices be offered there to Zeus and himself.***

I Maccabees 1:54–64 – not Bible / historical

Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side; And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets. And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire.

And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death. Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities. Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God.

At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised. And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them. Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing.

Wherefore they chose rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died. And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

BROKEN

- “broken without human agency”
- ✓ ***On an expedition to Babylon, Antiochus died suddenly from a nervous disorder.***
- ✓ ***Antiochus set up the pagan altar on Kislev 25, 168 B.C. The sacrifices were rebegun on Kislev 25, 165 B.C., approximately 1,150 days later.***

DANIEL’S RECOVERY (8:27)

- For Daniel, participating in the vision and Gabriel’s presentation was thoroughly draining.
- He was instructed to “keep the vision secret” which means protect it like treasure. This is what makes it accessible to us.
- Daniel would not be able to see what we do because we can make historical connections.

APPLICATION

- God has your back! When you are on the receiving end of animosity toward God, recognize that God will intervene when the time is right.
- Recognize that the season of Antiochus IV is a preview of conditions yet future for the saints.
- Just as Israel was called to see and draw encouragement from knowing the end, so are we!

APPLICATION

- God has got your back and nothing the world or Satan throws at you can change the fact that you are loved by God and He has a great plan for your future.
- Romans 8:31–39 – *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

APPLICATION

- *Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

APPLICATION

- *Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

APPLICATION

- **HOPE – Look!**
- Rev. 1:7 – See Him coming with the clouds.
- 3x Behold (2:10; 3:8, 9) – compromise will have consequences (2:10); our faithfulness prompts Jesus to open doors (3:8); Jesus will provide protection, vindication, and affirmation for those who stay true to Him (3:9).

APPLICATION

- Rev. 2:10 – Do not fear (present, imperative) imminent trials.
- Rev. 14:1 – See the lamb on Zion plus the 144K.
- Rev. 16:15 – See Him coming like a thief.
- Rev. 22:6-7 – See Him coming quickly.
- Rev. 22:12 – See Him coming quickly.